Fall Assembly

About 135 Associates and guests turned out for the Assembly lecture and reception early last month. Henry D. Brown, director of the Detroit Historical Museum, described the special problems and approaches of museums to the general lay public as distinct from research libraries. Museums, of course, deal in three-dimensional objects which must be interpreted, in contrast to books and manuscripts offered by libraries.

The occasion was used by the dean of the College of Engineering to present an alumni award to James Shearer II, class of 1908E, for his faithful attachment to the University and his generosity to several divisions of it. The College took pride in such an alumnus, said Dean Van Wylan, in reading the citation.

The social hour was graced by the presence of Mr. Clements’ daughter, grandson, and great-granddaughter.

Board of Governors

James S. Schoeff of New York City was re-elected chairman at the meeting of the Board on November 6. Three helpful and respected members asked to be relieved this year: they were William T. Gossett, Hoyt E. Hayes, and S. Spencer Scott. As they were all generous supporters of the Library, their request was reluctantly granted. Two other Associates were nominated for Regental appointment: Edward W. Bowen of Bay City, and John R. Dykema of Detroit. Other names are under consideration.

The Board heard a final report on the long campaign to raise money for the seven Streeter auction sales, just concluded. They ordered this report circulated to the membership. In brief, the Associates started in 1965 with a balance of $2,200, and raised over $200,000. The Library put more than $47,000 of its money into the sales. All of the money—over $258,000—was spent, except for a balance of $23, in acquiring 130 Streeter books plus five other items. Members should feel highly gratified both with the successful campaign and the happy results achieved.

Ideas for next fall’s Assembly were offered and discussed. The chairman observed that a number of suggestions had been received for marking the Library’s fiftieth anniversary in 1973, and that these would be sorted and arranged for a program and submitted for Board approval. A sample copy of the Prentice-Hall translation and reprint of Pigafetta’s account of Magellan’s voyage (bought in the first Streeter sale) was shown. Plans were initiated for an open house at the Library next spring to which Associates (at least those within driving distance) will be invited to bring a guest. Object: a good time and perhaps increased membership.

Final Streeter Sale

The seventh and last auction of Mr. Streeter’s books was smaller and of less interest to us than the others. A large part of the offerings were his bibliographies, of which we had the ones we wanted. Our expectations of the topical areas were disappointed. We bid on ten or eleven items and obtained seven.

Four of the titles have to do with education. William Smith, a newcomer to America, wrote a pamphlet in 1752 to encourage the founding of a college in New York. It was entitled Some Thoughts on Education, intended to arouse the colonial assembly to act. One of his arguments was that in case of another war with France, America should be prepared with educated sons to govern itself in case Britain should be defeated. He also argued that the money already raised for a college should not be spent on a building, but on two professors who could begin teaching in rented quarters. A year later Smith
presented a Utopian plan for a college called *A General Idea of the College of Mirania*. His innovation was to recommend the inclusion of vocational training, when all other colleges taught the classics only. Benjamin Franklin was impressed by his plan and hired him to head the new College of Philadelphia.

The president of Yale, Thomas Clap, had to defend the right of the college in 1755 to hold church services for its students, because it was receiving financial aid from the colony and Connecticut supported the Congregational Church. This was the dispute which led to loss of all state aid for Yale. At the opening of Phillips Exeter Academy in 1783, the Rev. David M'Clure, who was a trustee, declared in his *Oration* that education would increase the useful knowledge and the virtue of the rising generation, to the ultimate benefit of America. The charter of the academy is printed at the end.

One of our earliest playwrights male or female, Mercy Warren wrote two political satires in dramatic form before the Revolution (which we own). During the war she produced another—*The Motley Assembly* (Boston 1779)—which satirizes the changes in sides by persons in Boston after the British decamped. It is a splendid addition to our dramatic literature.

For our Shaker collection we obtained a very early and extremely scarce critical piece. The author, Benjamin West, had joined the Shakers and then found their teachings to be contrary to the Bible. He withdrew and published *Scriptural Cautions Against Embracing a Religious Scheme* (Hartford 1783). It did not seem to discourage growth of the sect. His explanation of their dancing is penetrating.

Out of the multitude of reforms projected in the 1830’s and 1840’s, health fads were frequent and intense. The only one who made any sense was Sylvester Graham, who advocated use of a coarse bran flour instead of bleached flour. He urged more making of bread in the home in his *Treatise on Bread and Bread-Making* (Boston 1837) and railed against bakery bread. For his pains he was mobbed in Boston by the bakers’ guild. Maybe they threw rolls instead of stones.

All of these acquisitions were made from the Associates’ funds.

**The Captain and the Doctor**

Two recent acquisitions involve persons made famous by the American Revolution. Anything about John Paul Jones, the intrepid navy commander, is not only scarce but expensive. New to us was *Elegiae Epistles on the Calamities of Love and War* (London 1780) which contains a long poem on Jones’ victorious battle with the Serapis the year before. The unknown poet tried to be as accurate as possible.

The other title was simply *The Times, a Poem* (Boston 1765), by Dr. Benjamin Church. A prominent physician in Boston, Church did not use his name on this publication because it was a satire on the Stamp Act. Ten years later his thinking had changed and far from opposing British measures, he was secretly a Tory, or Loyalist, but openly a patriot serving a hospital for American troops besieging Boston. We have a couple of his letters giving information to British General Gage. His treason was discovered, he fled into Boston, and after the British evacuated the city in 1776 he took ship for the West Indies but perished en route. His political judgment was better in 1765.
Magellan Sails Again

Shortly after the Associates purchased the eye-witness account of Magellan's voyage around the world by Antonio Pigafetta, published at Paris in 1525, we were approached about reprinting it, since it was one of seven known copies. The Library signed up with Prentice-Hall, Inc., which proposed a facsimile reprint of the original with an English translation, an historical introduction, and maps, all in a well-designed format. At last the book has appeared.

The original book was photographed page by page here, and the reproduction is very good, printed by Edwards Brothers of Ann Arbor. Opposite each page of French text is the English translation, done by Paula Spurlin Paige, a former Ann Arbor girl, the daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Paul Spurlin. The introduction was prepared by Mr. Peckham. The title-page mentions the Clements Library, and there is a further complimentary note about the Library on the back of the dust jacket. The hard covers carry a Renaissance design, and the end-paper map shows Magellan's route as it was known at the time.

Prentice-Hall offered a royalty to the Library which has been substantially beneficial. We have no hesitation in recommending the book to our Associates at the price of $14.95. It is good reading all the way, an important book, and an attractive one. It should be available at your bookstores. The Library will achieve the kind of publicity it likes to have.

It is a confusing coincidence that Yale University should publish right now a manuscript copy of Pigafetta's journal which was given to Yale in 1964. It tells the same story of Magellan's voyage, of course, and is reproduced in facsimile, with an English translation and an introduction. One difference in the two productions is the price: the Yale book is $100. This manuscript is not the one from which our book was printed.

Clements Library Fellows

The following persons by contributing one hundred dollars or more this year to the Associates have been designated as Clements Library Fellows:

Mrs. John Alexander, Ann Arbor
Edward W. Bowen, Bay City
Robert Briggs, Elk Rapids
Wilfred Gasgrain, Grosse Pointe
Robert Cierzniewski, Bay City
Dr. Robert Crawford, Mansfield, Ohio

Earl Cress, Ann Arbor
Peter Frenzel, Middletown, Conn.
Mrs. Hubert Frisinger, Fort Collins, Colo.
Robert M. Fuoss, Cincinnati
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gault, Ann Arbor
William T. Gossett, Bloomfield Hills
Miss Allison Hale, Ann Arbor
Harry Hawkins, Ann Arbor
M. D. Jahn, Chicago
James Kidston, Chicago
James Klancnik, Chicago
Lawrence Klein, Lexington, Ky.
Thomas Long, Detroit
Paul Mellon, Upperville, Va.
Proal A. Paris, Hudson Falls, N. Y.
Mrs. Miller H. Pontius, Bronxville, N. Y.
H. Ripley Schemm, Grosse Pointe
James S. Schoff, New York
S. Spencer Scott, Scarsdale, N. Y.
Morrison Shafroth, Denver
James Shearer II, Chicago
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sink, Ann Arbor
Colonel Thomas M. Spaulding, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. David Upton, St. Joseph
Mrs. Renville Wheat, Grosse Pointe

We renew our thanks to this group of generous and committed supporters. They are receiving complimentary copies of the reprint of Pigafetta's Magellan with their names stamped on the cover.

New Orderly Book

The Library continues to supplement its impressive holdings of materials relating to the War of 1812. Recently we acquired at auction a manuscript orderly book of the 41st Infantry Regiment, stationed at New Utrecht and Fort Green in Brooklyn. The orderly book covers the period from 1 November 1814 to 31 May 1815, containing a daily record of garrison, division, brigade, and regimental orders in addition to tables of provisions, clothing, and supplies. It also includes a full account of regimental courts martial.

Orderly books for this period are hard to come by and we can only regret their scarcity. They provide a rich mine of information into the daily lives of the soldiers. This particular one opens on a grim note; a garrison order required troops to witness the execution of a soldier convicted of desertion. But a lighter side of army life is also depicted by charges brought against a ten-year-old black in the service of an adjutant after the youth was cited for riding the
horse of a brigade commander “ridiculously dressed intending to personate a reviewing officer Whereby Odium and disrespect Was Evidently Meant to be Shewn to the Officers and Soldiers of Said Brigade.” After his temper cooled, the commanding officer of the unit dropped the charges.

An additional attraction of the orderly book is found in the fact that several of the orders were signed by Christopher Van Deventer, assigned as adjutant to the unit shortly after his release as prisoner of war in Quebec. The library, through the efforts of Associate James Shearer II, recently acquired the papers of Major Christopher Van Deventer.

*Those Baptists*

**Hard on the heels of the last Streeter sale came a sale of books and manuscripts from the Sir Thomas Phillips collection. One title in particular caught our eye, an early Massachusetts imprint.**

The Puritans were the earliest Garbo’s; they wanted to be let alone, which is one reason they left England. Hardly had they nicely settled in Boston before some Quaker missionaries invaded the town to convert them. The Puritans threw them out repeatedly but did not have much effect until in exasperation they hanged three of them. Things were quiet for awhile, and then came the Baptists, with their peculiar ideas about immersion. The Rev. Joshua Scottow translated a French tract which assailed the denomination and it was printed as *The Rise, Spring and Foundation of the Anabaptists* (Cambridge 1668). It discredited the sect and united the Puritans in opposition to the interloping denomination.

The Associates made it possible for us to acquire this early American imprint.

*Spy Reports*

**Thirty-seven intelligence reports by a British agent located in Paris were acquired at the recent sale of items formerly owned by Sir Thomas Phillips, called “the greatest collector of manuscripts the world has ever known.” The reports, covering the period from March 21 to December 21, 1780, give information on the French and Spanish fleets from intelligence obtained especially in Brest, Cadiz, and Madrid. It is known that Lord Stormont had spies placed in a number of French ports, and the intelligence may have been garnered for him by his agent in Paris.**

The intelligence dated 5 July 1780 reports “All the French Ships are to join the Spanish Ships at Cadiz—The Combined fleet is to be commanded by D’Estaing—The 12 Ships at Brest are to let no opportunity escape for their going to Cadiz.” Giving information on movements of fleets as well as listings of ships in a number of different ports and on various services, these items are of research value in the logistical study of the American Revolution. They fit nicely into all the manuscripts we have on the British side of the war.

*The Rifleman*

**Tim Murphy was a legendary character of the American Revolution. Irish and illiterate, he became an expert rifleman, to put it modestly. Joining a Pennsylvania regiment, he served at the siege of Boston, on Long Island and in New Jersey, then at Saratoga, where his sharpshooting came to general notice. He is reputed by some persons to have picked off the British General Simon Fraser at 500 yards.**

Be that as it may, he was sent against the Indians in the Mohawk Valley and went on Sullivan’s expedition. He was captured by the Indians once, but with a companion they killed their captors one night and escaped. He was at the Middle Fort in the Schoharie Valley in 1780 when Sir John Johnson attacked it with Tories, regulars, and Indians. The American commander decided he must surrender. When he sent out a white flag, Murphy fired on the carrier and he returned. The commander tried to arrest Murphy, but some of his buddies protected him, and the officer decided simply to raise a white flag inside the fort. Murphy threatened to shoot the man who raised it. While this hullabaloo was going on, Johnson decided he couldn’t take the fort and moved off.

Murphy rejoined the Continental Army and fought under Wayne at Yorktown. He was a good guy to have around, if you were not punctilious about discipline. After the war he was a farmer and miller in Pennsylvania, continued to display his marksmanship, and died in 1818. Stories grew up about him. In 1839 a biography by one Sigsby was published in Schoharie which is today very scarce. We have just acquired a copy.