Committee of Management

The Committee of Management, meeting on February 5, heard a report on recent acquisitions and gifts, and on security measures and air-conditioning of the building. The University has been making engineering studies for cooling the building in summer (so that windows may be kept closed), but has asked the Library for help on the cost. Although bids have yet to be taken, it is hoped this desirable modernization can be funded.

Two ideas for observing the approaching bicentennial of the American Revolution were discussed. As of this time, the Committee favors finding ways and means to publish annual volumes of our manuscript source materials on the war, starting in 1973 or 74 and running through 1980 or 82. These would be permanent contributions toward the understanding of that period. The idea of an annual journal or yearbook to contain articles by historians of the Revolutionary period has interest, but doubts were expressed over whether it could pay for itself on a continuing basis.

Summer research grants to scholars wanting to use this Library were considered. Once we were able to provide two a summer, until the grant from a foundation was used up. Other sources for funds will be explored.

A tentative schedule of events that might be arranged for 1973, when the Library observes its fiftieth anniversary, was reviewed. Again the question of the costs involved must be faced as the deciding factor in how much can be planned; perhaps one major event sponsored by the University jointly with the Library offers a partial solution.

New Fellows

Since our December issue, we are proud to list additional names as Clements Library Fellows. These persons have been especially generous to the Library and joined their interest in collecting to our enthusiasm. We gratefully acknowledged the following:

- Roscoe O. Bonisteel, Ann Arbor
- Mr. and Mrs. Bly Corning, Flint
- Arthur Ehrlicher, Pekin, Ill.
- William McPherson IV, Howell
- Paul H. Townsend, Metamora
- University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor
- Miss Mary Ann Wales, Birmingham
- Frederick Bernays Wiener, Washington

Lewis Cass

Decades ago the papers of Lewis Cass were divided. As a result the Burton Collection of the Detroit Public Library has a large collection of more than a thousand letters, and so do we. For the last thirty-five years Roscoe O. Bonisteel, of Ann Arbor, an Associates Governor and member of the Library's Committee of Management, has been picking up Cass letters one or two at a time, adding printed speeches and engraved portraits of Cass, without quite realizing what a valuable collection he was forming.

As a kind of Christmas present, Mr. Bonisteel has now given the Library all his Cass material. It breaks down into 218 manuscript letters, most of them from Cass, 69 printed items and 5 broadsides, 32 engravings, and 30 photostats. The letters are not the polite, non-committal epistles refusing or accepting invitations, as sometimes occur in collections, but meaty discussions of events and opinions. Cass was one of those able figures whose talents were formidable but did not carry him quite to the top. His colleagues, Jackson, Clay, Calhoun, and Webster, earned more notice, yet he was active in many events of his day.

Born in New Hampshire, he had good schooling, removed to Ohio to practice law, and served
in the Ohio state legislature. He raised a regiment of troops for the War of 1812, found himself included in Hull’s surrender of Detroit, but broke his sword rather than surrender it. After his exchange he distinguished himself at the Battle of the Thames in October 1813, and was appointed Governor of the Territory of Michigan, serving seventeen years. President Jackson appointed him to his cabinet in 1830 as Secretary of War, and late in 1836 sent him to France as minister. Cass resigned in 1842 and returned as a champion of the Democratic party. Michigan sent him to the U.S. Senate in 1845, where he favored the war with Mexico, the revolutions in France and Hungary, and encouraged railroad building. His party nominated him for President in 1848 and he would have won had not factionalism weakened the Democrats. Subsequently he served as Secretary of State from 1857 to 1860 and favored the Union in the Civil War. He was nearly 84 when he died in 1866. He was a Michigander by adoption and wrote of the state’s early history.

Cass letters are scarce and expensive now, by virtue of the collections in Detroit and Ann Arbor. We hope to add additional items, although Mr. Bonisteel’s generous gift has enlarged our holdings by twenty-five percent and provided us with a significant archive on the man.

More Sheet Music
BLY CORNING, the true “Music Man” of Flint, and his wife have added significantly to the Corning Music Collection in the Library by a gift at Christmas time of additional pieces of early American sheet music.

The latest addition falls into three categories: more than 330 songs about the Civil War and written during the war, with some fifty of the covers in colored illustrations. There is a strong strain of Victorian sentimentalism running through them, but it is probably that emotional feeling that kept the war going, when cooler, more objective minds might have agreed to a compromise. Added to the 120 Civil War songs we already have, this part of the collection is wonderfully representational.

Another category is made up of nearly a thousand pieces about Negroes, published from the 1840’s to 1900. They are sympathetic, sad, descriptive, comical, and joyful. Some were written by Negroes, but the bulk illustrates the national recognition of musical talent in Negroes and the popularity of Negro themes in music.

The third lot is related to the second. It is made up of 248 pieces used in minstrel shows and sung by minstrel groups. This form of entertainment is distinctly American and is often associated with river showboats. The singers, dancers, and jokesters were usually white performers, while the songs are about Negroes but written principally for show use.

These three lots have social implications for historians, of course, but they are also illustrative for students of music. They reflect the tastes of their times, and a few of the songs remain in favor as American classics.

Founder’s Day
KEEP WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, April 1, clear for our observance of Founder’s Day. We anticipate an unusual and fascinating program of interpretive reading from an eighteenth-century American play that was popular in its day. Plus the usual good fellowship and refreshments.
A Little Pretty Pocket-Book

An unusually fortunate purchase was the

An unusual Thomas printing of a book for children,

A Little Pretty Pocket-Book, published in 1787

in Worcester, Massachusetts. Children's books

were usually "read to pieces" by their small owners, so one in fine condition, as is this copy, is rare indeed. Luster is added by the pedigree of "firsts" claimed for this little book. The original edition was the first juvenile issued by the London publisher, John Newberry. No copies of his 1744 edition are known to exist. Two earlier American editions were issued, but this 1787 edition is the earliest known survivor. And finally, A Little Pretty Pocket-Book contains the first American mention of baseball, with a wood-cut showing boys playing the game.

The book, "intended for the instruction and amusement of Little Master Tommy and Pretty Miss Polly," instructs in the letters from A to Z, by little moralistic verses and wood-cuts of children at play. Additional moral precepts are offered in two letters purporting to be from Jack the Giant-killer (one to Tommy and one to Polly) who must have exerted somewhat the sway offered to a modern child who might get a letter from Beattle Ringo Starr.

The authors, fearing that some child might miss the moral lessons in the game portion of the book, included "Rules for behavior" in the closing pages. Here children were admonished to "Go not Singing, Whistling, nor Hollowing along the Street," and "Stuff not thy Mouth so as to fill thy Cheeks, be content with smaller Mouthfuls."

The book, of shirt-pocket size, has a full page frontispiece and sixty-four woodcuts to illustrate the verses and moralistic aphorisms.

Negro Loyalists

At a London auction we picked up the annual report of the Sierra Leone Company for 1791, a British corporation concerned with colonizing a piece of Africa.

Americana, you ask? Hold on, please, while we spin a yarn.

During the American Revolution the desperate British saw a way of weakening American resistance by appealing to the Negro slaves. They promised freedom to the slaves who would run away from their masters and join the British Army. Exactly how many did so, we are not sure, but between 15,000 and 20,000 went behind the British lines for protection. Nevertheless, the Americans won the war, and the British were now in a dilemma about what to do with their Negro friends. Thousands were shipped to Jamaica and the Bahamas to begin life as freemen. There was no use transporting them to England because they would only face unemployment.

More than 1200 were enrolled in the military force, and they were taken to Halifax and kept in service, but this was a temporary and expensive solution.

The Sierra Leone Company had been organized partly as a philanthropic and partly a business enterprise. It was intended to transport 400 or so destitute free blacks in London back to Africa and help them develop a colony that would be self-supporting and might yield a profit to its sponsors. In 1790 it was suggested that the Company receive the black troops from Halifax. The London Negroes and the ex-slaves were far more civilized than the bush natives in Sierra Leone and could take the lead in developing the agriculture of the primitive country. So the black Loyalists were transported to Africa and given a new start in civilian life. The Company's annual report relates this migration and is optimistic about the future. It was a model for American development of Liberia later. The item ties up one of the loose ends of the Revolution.

Introducing—

DOUGLAS W. MARSHALL has been appointed librarian in charge of the Division of Maps and Prints, as of January 1. With a master's degree in American history from the University, he comes to us from a background of alumni development work and of teaching. He is a native of Kalama-zoo, Michigan. We expect to make full use of his talents. An article of his on the Scioto Company map will be found in an adjoining column.

Mileage

The Introductory Part of our 1968-69 Annual Report, dealing with what the students consider "relevant" studies, has been getting around. First, it was quoted in AB Bookman's Weekly. The chairman of the board of the Eli Lilly Co. used it as part of his year-end message to employees and stockholders. From this The Indianapolis Star reprinted it. The librarian of Trinity College used it in his Newsletter to faculty and library friends.
Map of the Compagnie du Scioto

Congress saw several advantages in giving land grants to the old soldiers of the Revolution. It would discharge a large part of its outstanding obligation in Continental certificates, the soldiers would be benefited, and an actual settlement northwest of the Ohio River would commence. The Ohio Company was formed for this purpose on January 10, 1786. However, attached to the final contract was an agreement to accept five million acres on speculation. Title to this new area was not purchased, but instead options were to be secured by revenue from the sale of the land. Congress was to receive payment in six installments. This new venture was to be called the Scioto Land Company. Its success was to be dependent on the ability of the subscribers to market these options in Holland and France. On the surface, this plan had much to recommend it. In those countries, large amounts of United States securities were held, which being almost worthless on the market, could be exchanged at par for fertile Ohio land.

Joel Barlow was selected to represent the interests of the Scioto Land Company in France. After ten months of discouraging work by himself in Paris, 1789, he unwittingly chose as his associate an unscrupulous Englishman named William Playfair. Together they recognized the difficulty of selling a mere preemption on the land. So a separate company was formed—the Compagnie du Scioto—to grant deeds to the purchasers. The principals in America remained the same but the change was successful in deceiving the public. It also put Playfair in an excellent position to siphon money into his own pocket. To entice initial settlement, one hundred huts were erected on the site of the present Ohio city of Gallipolis. It was later learned that this land was not even a part of the Scioto tract, but belonged instead to the Ohio Company.

At least two maps were printed to assist the sales effort in Paris. In both, the geography was distorted, and the description of the country quite misleading. Lead and coal mines and salt springs were indicated. One of these, presumably the later edition, depicted the location of the huts, a fort and village on the Muskingam (sic) River, where Marietta now stands, and colored areas to demarcate the boundaries of the various land companies. A copy of this map, engraved by P. F. Tardieu, has recently been acquired.

At first, sales in Paris boomed, owing in part to the unsettled political conditions and a prospectus which grossly exaggerated the condition of the countryside. Six hundred prospective settlers sailed from Havre in January, 1790 and arrived at Alexandria, Virginia, on May 1. In the meantime, all the French money had been entrusted to Playfair, the American investors had defaulted, and consequently the land titles were worthless. The emigrants were quite distraught upon learning of these events, and the issue magnified in their minds when the promised reception committee failed to meet their arrival. Eventually a delegation was arranged to transport the French to the log cabins at Gallipolis. Many settled on the Eastern seaboard and others who made the journey were so discouraged by the surroundings that they quickly left. The hundred who remained faced the prospect of Indians, unfamiliar forms of agriculture, and paying again for land they had supposedly purchased. Congress compensated the survivors in resolutions of 1795 and 1798 with land in present Scioto County on the Ohio River opposite the mouth of Little Sandy Creek. Only a handful ever settled there, most preferring the relative comfort and familiarity of Gallipolis.

Telling It Straight

Today Horace Mann is regarded not only as a pioneer educator, but as one with great vision and comprehension. His devotion to public schools, first in the Massachusetts state legislature, then as secretary of the state board of education, and finally as president of Antioch College, entitle him to the highest regard. We have a Catalogue of Antioch College (Cincinnati, 1856) containing the regulations of the college, which Mann prefaced with an address to new students. It is full of good advice, but we quote only part of one paragraph:

"We wish, in the outset, to warn you all against one enormous and fatal error which often infests Schools and Colleges and which, wherever it prevails, destroys their usefulness and inflicts disorder, pain and shame upon all who adopt it. This disastrous error consists in the idea that Teachers and Scholars come together with different objects and different interests, and hence they are natural opponents, rather than co-workers, and enemies of each other rather than the most endeared of friends . . ."