Open House

ABOUT EIGHTY ASSOCIATES and their guests enjoyed a membership tea at the Library on May 15 (between showers). Some notable books were on display, a few extraordinary maps were laid out on two tables, and some remarkable manuscript letters were shown in the Rare Book Room. Staff members called attention to various items and offered explanatory background for appraising them.

Several persons from a distance attended. It is hoped that new friends were made, as more people learned about the Library's holdings and its aims.

Board of Governors

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS convened at noon on May 15 and heard a report on membership and finances. Although the Associates now count 493 members, down from last year, 37 of them are Clements Library Fellows. Their generous support has replenished the treasury that was nearly exhausted by the last Streeter sale, and in anticipation of future events the Board decided to maintain a healthy reserve. A special appeal to enlist more Fellows was discussed for fall action.

Mr. Peckham showed some books under consideration and briefly explained their significance. The Board voted to buy nine titles for $1686, a real boost to the Library. Two were architectural books and three were Indian captivity narratives. They will be described in the next issue of The Quarto.

Best-sellers

THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY has acquired two scarce and notable early American novels. Hannah Webster Foster's novel, The Coquette, or, The History of Eliza Wharton, published in Boston in 1797 was the more popular of the two. Supposedly, the melodramatic story was based on the misdeeds of a relative of the author who published the book anonymously. It was a best-seller in its day, second only to Susanna Rowson's Charlotte Temple.

In the manner of Richardson, it tells in epistolary form a tale of seduction and tragedy. Yet it would be an error to judge this just another of the many sentimental and emotional novels of its era. In character creation, in sharp delineation of the ethics of social form (particularly those social forms having to do with courtship, engagements, and marriages) she is closer to the school of Jane Austen than to the sentimentalists. Like some of Jane Austen's girls, Eliza Wharton is a rebel against the restrictive behavioral patterns imposed upon women, and her rebellious nature contributes to the tragedy.

The other one, The Inquisitor, Philadelphia, 1794, was the second novel written by Susanna Rowson soon to be more famous for Charlotte Temple. It was first published in England in 1788 where the family then resided after dispossession by the American Revolution.

It shows resemblances to English examples, particularly Sterne's Sentimental Journey. The author used the device of a charmed ring placed upon the finger of the chief character to render him invisible. Thus disguised he is able to observe encounters and listen to conversations at will. Through fictitious names, Mrs. Rowson draws upon the happenings of her acquaintances as well as her own, all set down in the fashionable sentimental and moralizing manner.

In 1798 the budding authoress returned to America and became a genuine career woman. Besides writing, she continued her stage career, conducted a girls' school and was active in charitable causes. The Library is pleased to add another of her titles to its collections, especially during this year of the centennial of women's education on the Michigan campus.
Two Losses

We are sorry to record the death of James K. Watkins, '09, '11JD, of Detroit. An athlete and Rhodes Scholar, he was a constant credit to his alma mater, just as he was a faithful supporter of this Library in particular. As a founding member of the Associates, he served on the Board of Governors from 1955 until he declined reappointment in 1966.

Many of our readers will remember Henry D. Brown, director of the Detroit Historical Museum, who addressed the Associates last fall. He too was an alumnus, a veteran of the Navy, and a distinguished museum manager who had accomplished wonders in making his institution an integral part of Detroit's culture and consciousness. On February 2 he was stricken with a fatal heart attack, and Detroit and Michigan educational circles are the poorer for his passing at the height of his vibrant career.

Revolution Revisited

When the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania united their duplicates of Revolutionary War material and offered them for sale at auction in January, they played to our strength. Nevertheless, we were disturbed to find that we lacked a baker's dozen of the titles, which we remedied in good part by purchasing eight. Occasional items brought extremely good prices, and the general level was high.

Just before the shooting started, two Pennsylvanians gave their opinions of the widening gulf with England. Jabez Fisher in Americanus Examined commented extensively on a newspaper article written by conservative Joseph Galloway warning against lawless proceedings. Fisher reinforced Galloway's arguments and declared they were not incompatible with what the Whig leaders advocated. Richard Wells offered A Few Political Reflections recommending non-importation of English goods as the most prudent means of opposing a despotic ministry. Non-exportation, on the other hand, would hurt America primarily, he said. He also chided the colonies for their continual assertions of the right to liberty in a land that tolerated slavery, one of a few persons to perceive this inconsistency.

In the search for military guide books, Major Lewis Nicola translated for Continental officers a French Treatise on the Military Service of Light Horse and Light Infantry, which was published

Disrupted Schedule

Turmoil on campus late in March in the wake of a strike against classes led by the Black Action Movement prompted an invasion of the Library's front room by about two hundred students. They held an inconclusive meeting, did some damage to ornamental items, and then departed. The front door was locked then until the end of the strike, although readers were admitted.

Meanwhile, Founder's Day was almost upon us. After considerable reflection and consultation, we cancelled the tea and program of April 1, being able to notify most of the guests who had accepted. We regret that such action seemed prudent. However, the program — readings from the early American comedy, The Contrast — was not lost; it will be offered at the fall gathering of Associates and friends.

Since our March issue, two more Associates have become Fellows: David Kendall of Detroit, and Eli Lilly of Indianapolis. We are grateful for their substantial support.
at Philadelphia in 1777. It joins similar treatises we have.

When the Carlisle commission came to the United States in 1778 seeking peace terms, one of the members foolishly sought to bribe Joseph Reed, a member of Congress. Reed scorned it and related the episode, after George Johnstone tried to explain his attempts in Parliament, in Remarks on Governor Johnstone's Speech in 1779. Most Englishmen agreed that Johnstone had bungled, and Reed emerged as something of a hero.

Vermont was born out of the quarrel between New Hampshire and New York over the land between them. We have the statements of their rival claims to it. Meanwhile, the few occupants of the Green Mountains wanted to become a separate state, and now we have their Public Defence of the Rights of the New-Hampshire Grants ... to Form Themselves into an Independent State, printed at Dresden, Vermont, in 1779. By great persistence and stubbornness they ultimately succeeded.

Matters did not go smoothly in our diplomatic team at Paris. Franklin took along his nephew, Jonathan Williams, who apparently misused American funds. At least Arthur Lee, who suspiciously of Franklin, published an expose in 1780 entitled Observations on Certain Commercial Transactions in France to lay the matter before Congress. An official investigation was made but nothing was proven. A minor flurry, perhaps, but only four other copies of Lee's attack are known.

A different financial question intrigued William Barton, rebel son of a Tory father. Cognizant of Congress' problem in raising revenue, he proposed in 1781 a national bank that would issue paper money redeemable on demand from specie to be raised by a lottery. His scheme attracted considerable attention, because it looked easy, but was opposed by sound money men. A bank founded on a lottery? Heavens!

Finally we obtained the Minutes of the Convention of Pennsylvania (1787) which discussed and adopted the proposed Constitution of the United States. We have the similar proceedings for only Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. We should like to have the minutes of all 13 ratifying conventions.

Cards into Books

The G. K. Hall Company of Boston has photographed all the author and title cards for our books dating before 1861—the heart of the Library—and will publish those cards (21 to a page) in book form early in 1971. In addition the chronological card catalog running through 1860 will be published. In all there will be seven large volumes, costing $375. It is the first catalog of early Americana to be offered in this form.

Triple benefits will be attained. The Library obtains a kind of insurance protection on its card catalog. To be sure, there are notes on the backs of many cards which were not photographed, but in the main nearly fifty years of work would not be lost in case our cards should be burned or vandalized. Secondly, the Library's holdings will become known to scholars in detail at perhaps a hundred or more other libraries which buy this published catalog for reference use. It will even help the owning libraries in cataloging any copies of the same rarities which they may acquire. Finally, if the sale of the books is extensive, some royalty revenue will accrue to the Clements.

The Committee of Management thought this project a good one all the way around.

Unknown Revolutionary War Map

We RECENTLY ACQUIRED a rare and previously unknown map published in France immediately following the surrender of Cornwallis. It is believed to be the first printed map to record the American victory at Yorktown.

The map pictures the eastern half of the North American continent, with an inset of Florida and the West Indies. It is a smaller replica of the famous Mitchell map used at the 1783 peace conference. Place names and boundaries correspond precisely with the French edition, taken from Mitchell's English original of 1755. However, the West Indies inset was probably patterned after an engraving by another Englishman, Thomas Jefferys. The inscription on our new acquisition credits "several English authors" without designating the exact extent of the cartographic legacy.

The most interesting feature is a seven-line commentary placed on the map at the entrance to Chesapeake Bay, which reads, "A York et Gloucester le Général Cornwallis a été fait prisonnier avec son armée, par les Américains et les Français, aux ordres des Généraux Washington et Rochambeau le 19 Octob. 1781". The title lists 1781 as the publication date and news of the battle could not have reached France before November of that year. The ascribed date is probably accurate as a map dealer's attempt to
post-date the time of publication for marketing purposes.

The title also indicates that this map was intended to be a part of the “Theater of War” series begun by Brion de la Tour in 1777. It is inscribed “M. Phelippeaux, Ingénr.-Géographe”. Research into his background has proven fruitless. Perhaps he is the same man who designed a map of North America on a very different model in 1783 and signed it, “R. Phelipeau geographe, Professeur de Mathematique de l’Ecole Royale Militaire de Londres.”

The mystery of the 1781 map remains unsolved. It was obviously printed in limited quantities, as none of the traditional sources had knowledge of its existence. It is of traditional atlas size and appears to have been bound in one. It was exhibited with related maps at the Clements Associates reception on May 15.

Croker Additions

Back in 1924 Mr. Clements purchased a considerable collection of John Wilson Croker papers, comprising 7500 letters received by Croker and 17,500 copies of letters which he sent out. He was longtime Secretary of the Admiralty, from 1809 to 1830, concerned with naval policy toward America, and he was also a literary critic.

Several lots of his voluminous correspondence passed into other hands at that time. At another Sotheby sale in London in February of this year, certain of these lots were offered again. The Clements Library was fortunate in securing more than 3100 additional items. They are mostly letters from various persons to Croker, but frequently are accompanied by drafts of his replies. Written in the period from 1809 until his death in 1857, many of the letters give an interesting picture of the British Navy at the time. The correspondents include naval officers, cabinet ministers, and other government officials. An especially interesting series of 48 letters is from Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton when he was commander at Portsmouth, England, from 1812 through 1814. The new addition also ties in with the Library’s large collection of Melville papers, as Lord Melville served on the Board of Admiralty.

George Bourne and The Book

George Bourne is one of those men either you immediately identify or you haven’t the foggiest notion who or what he was.

Bourne was an Englishman who migrated to the United States in 1804 when he was twenty-four and married. He settled in Baltimore as a newspaper publisher and then in Virginia as a Presbyterian minister. In both states he first met slavery and learned its workings and its effects. He didn’t understand how anyone who professed to be a Christian could own a slave. Slavery was a personal sin; he called it “manstealing.” It was as clear and simple as that. He soon got in trouble with his congregation.

In 1816 he wrote a book called The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable setting forth his judgment. His religious denomination threw him out. Bourne turned to teaching, was restored to the ministry in 1824, served a Congregational church in Quebec for five years, then returned to New York City to edit a periodical named the Protestant.

Up in Boston William Lloyd Garrison was coming on the scene as an antislavery exponent. He began publishing the Liberator in 1831. Garrison had read Bourne’s book and made liberal use of its arguments and examples in the first year’s issues of the Liberator—but without credit. Statements that enhanced Garrison’s reputation were taken from Bourne. Yet in 1833, when Garrison went to Europe for six months, he persuaded Bourne to contribute a weekly essay on slavery. The American Antislavery Society was organized that year and began its thirty-year struggle.

One person who knew about Bourne and his early writing was the Rev. John Christie of Delaware. The reason he could evaluate Bourne so well was that he had a copy of The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable (Philadelphia 1816) and he could locate only three other copies! He thought it should be reprinted with an appreciation introduction. Working with our own Prof. Dwight L. Dumond, an authority on the whole antislavery movement, the two men produced a hundred-page essay on Bourne and his influence which now introduces a complete reprint of The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable, published jointly by the Historical Society of Delaware and the Presbyterian Historical Society. We recommend it highly.

It was our privilege to become acquainted with the venerable Mr. Christie, who favored our efforts to build a significant collection of antislavery literature. Dr. Dumond was a powerful advocate. We are proud to announce that Mr. Christie saw the wisdom of letting the Clements Library preserve his copy of this extremely significant and scarce book.