Manchester Papers

An exciting opportunity to acquire a manuscript collection which we felt "belonged" in the Clements Library was seized in July, and with outside help the purchase was made.

The setting must be understood to realize the value of the collection to us. Early in 1782 in England the ministry which had been trying to suppress the Revolution in America gave up the effort, and Lord North resigned. The opposition came into power under Lord Rockingham (who soon died) and Lord Shelburne. They were ready to make peace with the colonies even if they had to recognize their independence. The new British ambassador to France was Fitzherbert; but Lord Shelburne also utilized a personal negotiator named Richard Oswald, who knew Franklin. The American commissioners in Paris were Franklin, Adams, and Jay. Thus negotiations began and by November 1782 a preliminary treaty of peace had been hammered out. All of this business is detailed in this Library because we have both the Shelburne papers and the Oswald papers.

But when the treaty was laid before Parliament for ratification, Charles James Fox spoke against it, declaring that Shelburne had been too generous and that he (Fox) could do better. The treaty was rejected, and Shelburne had to resign as prime minister. A Fox-North coalition took over. They sent a new ambassador to France, the Duke of Manchester, and Fox likewise used a personal envoy, David Hartley, another friend of Franklin. The treaty making started over again and ended in September 1783 with almost exactly the same document as had been rejected. This time Parliament approved of it, so did our Congress, and the War for Independence was officially concluded.

This Library also has the correspondence of David Hartley. But as we lacked the Fox papers (to be found chiefly in the British Museum) or the Manchester papers, we did not have the fourth side of the British square. Abruptly, a catalogue from Sotheby's in London announced the forthcoming sale of the Duke of Manchester's correspondence for 1783-4! We jumped out of our chair. Here was our chance!

The problem, as usual in such circumstances, was money—quick money. We obtained a rough idea of how much it might take and felt we must have a safe margin. Fortunately, Vice President Allan F. Smith readily understood the opportunity and our need and made an extra sum available. A longtime Associate, who wishes to remain anonymous, made a matching grant. So we plunged. Our successful bid exceeded the combined grants, but our Associate increased his gift to meet the whole balance needed—about two-thirds of the total cost. It was a magnanimous and truly thoughtful gesture, and if we can't thank him publicly we have in private.

The Manchester papers are here, and we have been savoring them. They consist of four letter-books containing copies of 426 letters and enclosures of Manchester to Fox along with some of the earlier Fitzherbert letters. Manchester was dealing with France, Spain, and Holland, but working closely with Hartley on the Americans. Then there are 275 loose letters to Manchester from Fox, from the French foreign minister, from the Spanish and Dutch ambassadors in Paris, from other British ambassadors around Europe, etc. We see the treaty with the new U.S. within the frame of other treaties to restore peace in Europe. The new fiscal year is off to a magnificent start, we feel.

Shed a Tear

We have waited a long time, but now we have the first American edition of Charlotte Temple, Philadelphia, 1794, by Susanna Rowson. It is not a great novel, but since Mrs. Rowson is considered an American writer, it is one of our earliest and follows the epistolary form originated in...
England. More important, it was for decades a best seller in this country. Eventually it was overtaken in popularity by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, but 160 editions were published before 1905!

Mrs. Rowson had her novel printed first in London in 1791, but three years later published it in Philadelphia. Then it was called simply *Charlotte. A Tale of Truth*, because it was based on a tragic romance which she knew. Soon the heroine's full name became the title. We bought it from the Harper fund.

By coincidence we earlier had picked up at an antique show a broadsheet or handbill, advertising *Charlotte Temple* in 1875. It was then being sold door-to-door by itinerant agents moving from town to town! Our handbill was first distributed to all houses, then picked up again by the peripatetic salesman on his second round with the book in hand. It began: "The beautiful and accomplished Charlotte Temple, an account of her elopement with Lieutenant Montroville." The emphasis of the advertisement was on its claim that the novel would produce tears.

On turning over the handbill we found another book highly recommended that intrigued us as much. The long title summarized its contents: "The Maiden Mother, or Eugenia, the Guiltless, being a thrilling account of the life of Miss Eugenia Harford, a young lady of refined education and rare beauty and virtues; who, while lying in a trance, became the unconscious victim of the only son of an U.S. Senator of Louisiana. The earnestness with which the beautiful and unfortunate victim affirmed her innocence, and the fearful trials and sufferings she endured, are herein touchingly and thrillingly narrated by the late Professor of Obstetrics, Dr. Charles Zornow." Say no more, Doc.

**Rare Newspaper**

**UNIONTOWN, MARYLAND,** is not exactly a metropolis and never was, but Charles Sower chose it as a place to start a weekly newspaper in 1813, while the nation was at war. He was the son of a Tory printer and great-grandson of the famous Germantown Bible printer, Christopher Saur or Sower. Charles named his paper, *Engine of Liberty and Uniontown Advertiser*. In his initial announcement he explained:

"Where the press is free, there Liberty resides. The unrestrained license of the Press makes a people factious, but the Press under proper management is the advance guard of Liberty. The subscriber being an American by birth, and professing himself a disciple of the School of Washington, it will be his constant study to inculcate and spread the salutary doctrines which that sainted patriot so successfully taught and practised."

In other words, he was a Federalist and not a supporter of the war, although he faithfully printed news of the campaigns and battles. Our file includes eighty issues, running to June 1815, the longest run known anywhere. It should be, because it is the editor's file and descended to Prof. W. Randolph Taylor of our faculty, who generously presented it to the Library.

**Purchases by the Associates**

At their last meeting the Board of Governors selected a medley of nine books to purchase for the Library. Two were architectural works enormously influential in this country, both published in London, one in 1738, the other in 1798. Two were little known Indian captivities: one by Mrs. K. White (who had a lot of other adventures too) printed in 1809, the other by Henry Bird (who...

The last one included an account of the origin and completion of the Erie Canal, author unknown, but published in 1825, the year the canal opened. Another was Madison's declaration in 1812 and setting forth his reasons. Place of printing is not known, and only one other copy exists. The final title was a fascinating essay by Noah Webster about words which he considered to be distinctively American contributions to the English language. He identified this trend in 1817.

We are grateful to the Associates for these additions.

Map Exhibit

"Early Maps of the Great Lakes" was the title of our summer exhibit, on display since the end of May. It chronicles the development of knowledge about the area, from the first crude guesses based on Indian legends and explorer's reports of 1540 to the relative sophistication of county surveys at the time Michigan became a state in 1837. The maps also show the record of the early explorers: Cartier, DeSoto, Champlain, and the Jesuit missionaries. In all, seventeen maps were displayed, most from the Renville Wheat collection which we acquired in 1968. They are a colorful and pictorial view of the Old Northwest.

On the subject of Great Lakes maps, we also made a recent acquisition of importance. In 1677, Giovanni Giacomo de Rossi published a map of North America, unashamedly copied from the Frenchman, Guillaume Sanson. But ten years later he published another map with the same title and using the same engraved plate, with the interior of America completely rearranged. The Great Lakes are now drawn with western boundaries, but in peculiar shapes, and Michigan is undistinguishable. Most unusual is the Mississippi River which is disjoined by lakes and emptied into the Gulf of Mexico at a point well within the present state of Texas. Despite all it inaccuracy and confusion, Carl Wheat, who wrote the multi-volume Mapping the Trans-Mississippi West, calls this map, "a landmark." For it was probably the first printed map to be made using the manuscripts of Minet, La Salle's engineer. De Rossi's contribution to the history of cartography has been overlooked, perhaps due to the prominence of his Italian peer, the Franciscan monk, Vincenzo Maria Coronelli. In any case, we are pleased to complete our collection of De Rossi maps of North America, with this handsomely colored addition.

Fall Assembly

Save the evening of October 29, a Thursday, for the annual Fall Assembly of the Clements Library Associates. Our program will be the one scheduled originally for last Founder's Day: readings from the early American comedy, The Contrast, by graduate students in speech under the direction of Professor LaMont Okey. Invitations will be mailed out later. The Board of Governors will convene in the afternoon.

Best Wishes

Looking through an autograph album of the 1880's, we came across a few gems of friendship that may be new to you:

"May our friendship always spread
Like Butter on hot ginger bread."

Perhaps you prefer the frank confession:

"There's nothing original in me, except original sin."

Or the girl who knew where happiness lay:

"Florence is your name,
Single is your station;
Happy be the little man
Who makes the alteration."

New Setting

For three years we have been hemmed in by a wooden fence close to our rear entrance and disturbed by dust and noise from construction work on the General Library in back of us. This summer, with that addition completed, the fence has been removed, sixteen linden trees have been planted between the two libraries, a grassy plaza developed, and a new driveway to our back door paved. All parking space at the rear has been lost, and new shrub plantings are pending. We are relieved to be emerging from this construction period.

Inside the building, work is progressing on air-conditioning the library and re-piping the water lines. These improvements are mighty welcome, although we have felt no benefits yet. No doubt some patching and repainting of walls will be necessary later.

Out in front we are less happy about a cut in the curbing to accommodate a University bus stop. We look forward to new landscaping.
Early Novelists

If you were asked to name some American novelists before the Civil War, you would probably recall James Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, and—and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Four only? Someone might add Eden (actually E.D.E.N.) Southworth's sentimental novels of the 1850's, which are no longer read, and possibly John Esten Cook. The names we remember of this period—Emerson, Longfellow, Bryant, Irving, Lowell, Holmes—are not those of novelists, but of poets and essayists.

Yet there was a score of other novelists in the late eighteenth century and first half of the nineteenth. Not great writers, and too imitative of British models, they performed a function: they helped make the reading of novels respectable, they accustomed more people to reading, and they helped shape a more discriminating taste for literature. We are interested in these minor novelists as part of the picture of emerging American culture. Late in the spring we were able to buy a dozen examples of the 1830's by such authors as Robert M. Bird, Charles F. Briggs, James Hall, Susan Sedgwick, Hannah Lee, Joseph C. Neal, Eliza Leslie, Catherine Sedgwick, Frederick M. Thompson.

A gift from Associates Mr. and Mrs. David Upton, St. Joseph, in memory of her father, Associate Clarence O. Skinner, made possible the acquisition.

The Age of Reform

Only once before in the history of the Library has it happened. Customarily we buy one book at a time. But just before Christmas we concluded a deal with a historical society by which we bought in one lot (we had to take all or none) more than 3100 pamphlets dating from 1800 to 1865. In this mass of material we found 1100 duplicates, leaving 2000 new titles to add to our collections. The other duplicates will be sold. The Library will acquire depth in a field that is rich in research opportunities.

The pamphlets reflect the enormous upsurge of benevolence in the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. Reform was in the air; man was perfectable; good works were his salvation and were the meaning of the Christian faith. Social problems could be solved by exertion of organized effort. The millennium was at hand!

Between 1815 and 1840 various reform societies were organized, and here are found their appeals, their activities, their warnings and criticisms. The American Bible Society, founded in 1816, aimed to put a copy of the Bible in every home. The American Tract Society, 1825, was going to educate everyone to moral self-improvement by distributing brief sermonettes—65,000,000 in its first six years, in fact. Foreign mission societies were about to convert the world. The American Colonization Society, 1816, was going to send the slaves back to Africa, but was superseded in 1833 by the American Antislavery Society, which was going to emancipate them and leave them here. The Magdalen Society, 1830, was lifting fallen women. The Temperance Society, 1826, was going to outlaw liquor. The Peace Society, 1828, would abolish war by unilateral action. The Education Society would spread our public school system. There were other organizations to promote observance of the Sabbath, to end capital punishment, to reform our prison system, to improve hospitals, orphanages, and almshouses. There were fervent warnings against Unitarianism, Roman Catholicism, crime, divorce, dancing, revivals, poverty, suicides, wildcat banking, instrumental music in church. There were exhortations to philanthropy, reverence, racial integration, Thanksgiving, patriotism, and to study in college. Since 75% of the workers in benevolent activities were Presbyterian, there are minutes of synods and the general assembly. Exhausting, isn't it?

In sorting all these publications, we could help but be amused—and we wondered why. The reason is that these reformers and their organizations offered simplistic solutions to ancient and complex problems of human existence. The Bible Society really believed that a new day would dawn as soon as everybody had ready access to a Bible. The prison societies were certain they knew how to rehabilitate the criminal. The Temperance Society was sure that drink was the primary curse of the land. Another group was convinced the country was doomed unless the Postmaster General stopped the movement of the mails on Sunday. We don't believe that man is unregenerate or reform hopeless. But neither is simple to accomplish and salvation will not be achieved in one generation or by abolishing one sin. If nothing else, these rows of pamphlets can teach us perseverance, discrimination, and patience.