Committee of Management

Meeting on October 30, the Library's Committee of Management endorsed a statement that will be issued by several rare book libraries jointly on standards for facsimile reproduction of scarce original volumes. An application for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a cataloguing project was answered by an offer of half the sum wanted, on condition that the Library supply the balance. As this was not possible, the offer was declined.

Consideration was given to microfilming the manuscript collections as a safety measure and in lieu of insurance. Investigation of cost was requested. Several ideas for the proper celebration of the Library's fiftieth anniversary in 1973 were discussed. Two or three major events are contemplated, involving different constituencies.

The Library's annual report for 1969-70 is being printed and will be mailed at the end of the month.

Board of Governors

At the meeting of the Associates' Board of Governors on October 29, James S. Schoff was re-elected chairman. Members heard an encouraging financial report on new Fellows, produced by a special mail appeal, and plans suggested by the Development Council to approach tenured faculty members and to meet alumni in groups in surrounding cities. Other ways and means were discussed.

The secretary showed the Board a variety of books on approval, and members voted to buy almost $2000 worth, consisting of one newspaper run, one very rare novel, three early architectural works, and an account of Brazil. They are noted in adjoining columns.

The Board is being kept aware of tentative plans for marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Library in 1973 and will participate, of course.

Bad Night; Good Fun

Outside it was a miserable night—cold, rainy, slippery leaves on sidewalks—but inside it was warm, bright, cheery. That was the first contrast. Such was October 29, when more than 110 loyal friends turned out for the Fall Assembly of the Associates.

They were well rewarded, for Prof. LaMont Okey's graduate class in interpretive reading offered a shortened version of The Contrast, Royall Tyler's comedy of 1787, the first play by an American ever to be performed. Alternately summarizing scenes and reading parts, the ten students and their director gave the audience a splendid taste of this homespun comedy. There was talent galore. The cast even made special program folders for the audience.

As one guest remarked, "You can hear a lecture almost any place, but where could you find this kind of entertainment?" Our gratitude goes to Professor Okey and his class for this "exercise."

Clements Library Fellows

We are pleased to welcome the following persons as generous, interested Fellows for the year 1970-71. Many of them are members of the Presidents Club who have included this Library in their warm concern for the University:

Baldwin, Mr. & Mrs. M. D., Grand Rapids
Becker, Roger, Evansville, Ind.
Bonisteel, Roscoe O., Ann Arbor
Bowen, Edward W., Bay City
Briggs, Robert P., Elk Rapids
Casgrain, Wilfred V., Grosse Pointe
Cierzniewski, Robert J., Bay City
Cole, Edward N., Detroit
Corning, Mr. and Mrs. Bly, Flint
Cress, Earl H., Ann Arbor
Currie, Gilbert, Midland
Dow, Alden P., Midland
THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
of The University of Michigan

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
(Appointed by the Regents of the University)

Carl W. Bonbright, Flint
Roscoe O. Bonisteel, Ann Arbor
Edward W. Bowen, Bay City
Robert P. Briggs, Elk Rapids
John R. Dykema, Detroit
William C. Finkenstaedt, Detroit
David W. Kendall, Detroit
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James Shearer II, Chicago
George H. Tweney, Seattle
Mrs. David F. Upton, St. Joseph
Lee D. van Antwerp, Glenview, Ill.
Howard H. Peckham, Director of the Library, SECRETARY

Frenzel, Peter M., Middletown, Conn.
Frisinger, Mrs. H. H., Fort Collins, Colo.
Gault, Mr. & Mrs. E. H., Ann Arbor
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Hicks, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert, Ann Arbor
Jahn, M. D., Chicago
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. G. Lawton, Lyme, N.H.
Jung, Mr. & Mrs. C. C., Chicago,
Kahn, Dr. & Mrs. Edgar A., Ann Arbor
Kendall, David W., Detroit
Klein, Lawrence R., Lexington, Ky.
Kneebone, Robert, Houston, Tex.
Kremers, Ernest, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Kunstadter, Mr. & Mrs. Sigmund, Chicago
Lilly, Eli, Indianapolis
Long, Thomas G., Detroit
Lunn, Charles, Boca Raton, Fla.
McCobb, H. W., Southport, Conn.
McPherson, William, IV, Howell
Mellon, Paul, Upperville, Va.
Middlebush, Dr. & Mrs. Frederick, Englewood, Fla.

Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Alex, Cleveland
Miller, Dr. J. Duane, Grand Rapids
Neubauer, Mrs. E. Ted, New York
O'Hara, Mr. & Mrs. John P., Detroit
Pollard, Dr. & Mrs. H. Marvin, Ann Arbor
Roby, Douglas, Ypsilanti
Rosenthal, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel, Chicago
Quaife, Mrs. Donald L., Dearborn
Schoff, James S., New York
Scott, S. Spencer, Scarsdale, N.Y.
Sessions, L. William, Greenwich, Conn.
Shearer, James II, Chicago
Shirley, Mrs. Albert, Bloomfield Hills
Sink, Mr. & Mrs. Charles A., Ann Arbor
Spaulding, Col. Thomas M., Washington, D.C.
Thomas, Mrs. Leo, Troy, O.
Townsend, Paul H., Metamora
University Microfilms, Inc., Ann Arbor
Upjohn, Dr. & Mrs. E. Gilford, Kalamazoo
Upton, Mr. & Mrs. David F., St. Joseph
Watling, Mrs. John, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Wells, Mr. & Mrs. Ben H., St. Louis, Mo.
Winter, Mrs. John G., Ann Arbor

Premier Map Discovery

The year's most exciting map acquisition came to us in the form of John Montresor's 1775 reconnaissance drawing of Boston. The opposing American and British lines are clearly delineated on this colored manuscript of the harbor and countryside surrounding Boston.

John Montresor was a captain in the British engineers at this time and was later to command all royal military engineers in America. He was also something of a diarist and it is unfortunate that his journal for this period did not survive. But we do know that Montresor was attached to the British headquarters staff, was included in the highest war councils, and is reputed to have been the last British soldier to flee Boston in March, 1776.

His map was previously unknown and yet it provided the inspiration for two other manuscript and two printed copies. One manuscript map is in the Library of Congress, unsigned, but wrongly listed anonymously. The other is dedicated to the Earl Percy, signed, and was recently discovered in the collection of the Duke of Northumberland. In addition, two printed copies were engraved by Faden in London in 1777 and 1778. The earlier was credited to Montresor's subordinate, Lt. Thomas Page, who returned to England after being injured on
Banker Hill. Montresor is mentioned only in a secondary context and is overlooked altogether on the similar but larger 1778 map.

Thus, our new acquisition unravels an unwhet genealogy in the provenance of Boston Revolutionary War maps. A reproduction of it is featured in the latest Annual Report of the Library.

Freedom of the Press

Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson wanted to fight the influence of Alexander Hamilton and other conservative cabinet members who were celebrated in the establishment press of the day. So he hired a poet and journalist named Philip Freneau in 1791 as a translating clerk in the State Department with the admonishment, “The salary indeed is very low . . . But also it gives so little to do as not to interfere with any other calling the person may choose . . .” The Clements Library Associates recently purchased 119 issues of this “other calling.”

It was titled the National Gazette as an implied slur against the aristocratic Gazette of the United States. During its brief two-year existence, Freneau’s sparkling wit accomplished the intended purpose so well that Hamilton was forced to buy space in the paper to refute the damaging charges. Freneau’s democratic enthusiasm eventually incurred the wrath of even President Washington, who bitterly complained to Jefferson of “that rascal Freneau.”

But the ultimate demise of the paper was caused by its own uncritical support of the radical French ambassador, Citizen Genet. Freneau seemed unable to control his zeal toward all aspects of the French revolution. A decline in revenue, quickened by the yellow fever epidemic, ended the paper in October, 1793.

Freneau’s accomplishment was to succeed, beyond any other editor of his day, in mobilizing the democratic spirit of the new republic. We are hopeful we can soon acquire the first 87 issues to complete our file.

Shortly before acquiring the National Gazette we also managed to procure three runs of Boston newspapers in the years between 1814-1818. Two, the Yankee and the New England Palladium, did not survive long beyond 1820. But our third new acquisition, the Independent Chronicle flourished as a semi-weekly for 100 years between 1776 and 1876. The anecdote usually associated with this paper is the spurious “Supplement” of March 1782, printed in France by Benjamin Franklin. It was designed to influence British opinion by containing a fictitious account of a consignment of scalps sent by the Seneca chiefs to Canada.

Altogether the addition of the three Boston papers boosts our holdings by 500 issues. It also duplicates 150 issues we previously held, including a nearly complete run of the 1815 Independent Chronicle. Any buyers?

Emerging

The air-conditioning of our building, which involved a new heating system as well, has finally been completed—as much to the relief of the workmen as to us. For six months, instead of three, we have endured noise, dirt, dust, open doors, shifting of furniture. The new system seems to work in keeping the building warm; we can’t test the cooling until next summer.

Now a general cleanup is in order. The litter has been removed, but dust is so pervasive that a thorough cleaning of furniture and paneling is requisite.

Outside the building we have eight feet of ivy cover on the ground behind the structure and four new flowering crab trees. Seven new lamp posts along the rear and both sides add light on the building. A replacement hedge probably must wait till spring.

Exhibitions

All fall the Library has been exhibiting some of its early American novels, dating before 1810. This show is to be followed in December by an exhibition of Bibles and biblical commentaries. Selections from our Duke of Manchester papers will be shown in January. A descriptive bulletin, prepared by William L. Joyce, will accompany this exhibition and be mailed to Associates.

Skinner Memorial

Again Mr. and Mrs. David Upton of St. Joseph have given the Library money in memory of Mrs. Upton’s father, Clarence O. Skinner. Since we bought some early American novels last winter with the previous gift, we did not hesitate to add three more rare novels from the present fund.

A surprising number of our first novelists were women, although they almost never signed their names. Susan DeWitt was the author of Justina,
Women’s Liberation through Virtuous Reading

RECENTLY, THE LIBRARY HAD the good fortune to acquire a best seller published in Boston in 1794 which was written with female readers in mind. This romance, The History of Constantius & Pulchera, Or Constancy Rewarded: An American Novel was indeed well named. In its 99 pages of melodrama, the author manages to initiate and happily conclude an unshakable love which endures through fatherly disapproval, rich rival suitors, duels, kidnappings, disguises, shipwrecks and rescues, rigorous hardships, disappearances and miraculous rediscoveries.

The publishers dedicated “to the young ladies of Columbia, this volume, intended to inspire the mind with fortitude under the most unparalleled misfortunes: and to represent the happy consequences of virtue and fidelity.” That the “happy consequences of virtue and fidelity” should occupy women’s minds, rather than the tumultuous politics of the time is seen in a further pronouncement: “Party spirit has created, and will create many emotions in the political world; how much better then would it be were we firm in mind, respecting Politicks, whilst acting for the amusement of the Fair Sex.”

Two former feminine owners have affixed their ownership marks—one with a stamped name, the other with a chaste printed bookplate. Their copy was a handsome contribution from the Clements Library Associates to our shelves. Only two or three other copies of this rarity are recorded, and this addition brings our total of pre-1800 American novels up to twenty-six, not all of which were designed mainly for female diversion, we might add. The popularity of the story is attested by the fact that other publishers brought out eight further editions of it as late as 1831.

Forman Papers

ANOTHER MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION has been added to our holdings, this one of business interest.

It is the correspondence of the Forman family of Kentucky in the first half of the nineteenth century. The father and sons were involved in down river commerce. Along the Ohio River they bought corn, hogs, bagging, rope, etc., transported them down the Mississippi, and sold them in New Orleans. They survived the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, but the Civil War by interrupting this traffic ruined the business.

The collection contains nearly 500 letters and twice that number of bills, receipts, notes, deeds, and other business documents. They detail the nature of this elongated trade, its considerable risks, the curse of bank failures, the dangers of weather and shoals to shipping, and the inevitable bad debts.

Acquisition involved making the acquaintance of two delightful sisters living in an attractive old house in a historic town. The number of families retaining old family correspondence grows steadily smaller.

Early Architecture

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY’s collection of early architectural books continues. They are of two general kinds: foreign works which were owned and used here and influenced colonial building, and the first works of American origin.

The new acquisitions include Anderson’s American Villa Architecture (New York 1853), showing plans in color for the new style of Italianate house; Perry’s Art of Stair Building (New York 1855); and Thomas’ Working-man’s Cottage Architecture (New York 1848), showing plans for cheap Gothic and Tudor style houses. We also obtained the third edition of Lalever’s Beauties of Modern Architecture (New York 1839) which showed the carpenter how to make the beautiful details that render a building distinguished; and Lewis Joy’s Carpenter’s Assistant (Worcester 1851), a review of the various styles of architecture then in vogue.

All these books are profusely illustrated with façades and floor plans, full page and half page. They are a factor in making the books expensive. The first three were purchased by the Associates.