Postal Markings

We Acquire Manuscripts for their historical value as messages, for what they say. It is the text that is important, and just as we pay no attention to the watermark in the paper, the composition of the ink, or the style of penmanship, we are not concerned about the postal markings or stamps on the address leaf. But an Associate in Ann Arbor has been examining our manuscripts for rare postal markings and made such important discoveries that we have had an exhibition all summer of some 30 items he selected for display. Frankly we were astonished by what he pointed out in the labels he prepared.

Dr. Thomas Kingsley, a local intern who has now left Ann Arbor, found a 1720 postage marking from Boston, which in anybody's collection is mighty early. Then he uncovered a letter of George Washington from New York dated July 1776 with both his free frank and signature and a stamped "N. York" and "Free" on it.

It seems that our colonial post offices as they broke away from the British postal system during the Revolution developed new markings. Hartford is considered the first, but our letter is three years earlier than the first known Hartford mark! That isn't all. Postal history in Ohio has long been considered to begin at Marietta in 1794—except that we have a cover dated 1789 and marked "Marietta." An excited Ohio collector drove up to see the unbelievable.

When Julien Dubuque established a settlement at his lead mines just across the Mississippi, it was not in any organized territory. A post office was opened, and letters as late as 1835 were marked "Dubuque's Mines, Upper Mississippi," a previously unknown marking. There are four known postal markings of this kind—and we have them all!

Consider the Toledo business. For a few months it was claimed by Michigan, and we have a letter bearing the rare stamp: "Toledo, M. T." Before the city was organized in January 1835, there were two other settlements near the mouth of the Maumee which had post offices, both a part of Michigan Territory. One was called Tremaineville and the other, Port Lawrence. There are six known Tremaineville markings, and we have five; there are four known Port Lawrence cancellations, and we have three.

We had no intention of setting the stamp collecting world on its ear, but Dr. Kingsley has given a new dimension to our manuscript collections.

The West Indies

Two of Our Clements Library Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. David F. Upton of St. Joseph, have inaugurated an interesting acquisitions project. Instead of settling an endowment fund on the Library, they have committed themselves to a sizeable annual gift for purchases. So that the results may exhibit some unity, we asked in what area the acquisitions should be made. Since they have a summer home in Jamaica, they favored books on the West Indies. As we have never focused on that region, we are glad to have the means to strengthen our holdings on the colonization and development there.

Already we have been able to add seven source books on the region. One was the History of the Caribbean-Islands (London 1666) by Charles de Rockefort, a French Protestant minister who had lived for several years on the islands. Then we obtained an English nobleman's Observations on Jamaica (London 1727), three French titles on their islands in the eighteenth century, a work on Cuba of 1842, and a souvenir of the Lesser Antilles of 1818. As opportunities occur, our source materials on the West Indies will assume greater importance. Not only were the islands colonized before the mainland, but they remained of greater significance in the empires of Spain, France, and England.
The Greene Papers

As the States prepare for observance of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, the role of the Clements Library becomes more clear and, we might add, more prominent.

In addition to our own independent plans (to be discussed in a later issue of The Quarto), we will join the Rhode Island Historical Society and the prestigious National Historical Publications Commission as co-sponsor of a letterpress edition of selected correspondence of the Rhode Island General, Nathanael Greene. It is expected to be a multi-volume publication which will include our extensive collection of Greene Papers. Much work remains to be done; in cooperation with the Society, we are in the process of submitting a budget to the Commission. After that, filming of our collection will commence and an editor will be chosen to find other Greene letters in scattered depositories and among private collectors.

Our Greene Papers bulk to about 90 volumes. They provide a rich record of the fortunes of the Continental Army, especially in the South when from 1780 to 1782 Greene conducted his brilliant campaign against the British. Publication of the most significant of the Greene Papers will be a boon to students of the American Revolution and a most auspicious contribution of the Clements Library to observance of the Bicentennial.

That Last Day

The Quest For personal salvation in ante-bellum America produced some peculiar phenomena and some remarkable personalities. Among these was William Miller, a New York farmer and deist who was converted in 1816 after a mighty spiritual struggle. Miller became an inveterate student of the Bible in an effort to refute the gibes of his deist friends. He investigated biblical prophecies and satisfied himself that the Bible revealed the Second Coming of Christ would occur in 1843. He continued to study the Bible and his convictions deepened.

By 1831 he accepted an invitation to interpret publicly his prophecies. Combining profound literal knowledge of the Bible with strength of conviction, Miller soon became a popular preacher. He published in 1836 a series of lectures which outlined his belief regarding the Second Coming. Baptist, Methodist, and Congregational churches were thrown open to Miller's influence and hundreds were converted in the revivals which accompanied his preaching. Adventist newspapers began to appear; a great tent was used for a tabernacle as Miller toured the country warning people to prepare themselves to meet the Lord.

Pamphlets and illustrated broadsides began to appear to support Miller's views. One such broadside, recently acquired by the Library, enumerated Miller's beliefs and supported them with quotations from pertinent biblical prophecies. Apparently printed in 1843 it conveys something of the sense of urgency which stirred Miller's growing body of followers. Miller predicted the coming would be sometime between March, 1843, and March, 1844.

As the appointed time drew near, Miller's adherents fell into a frenzy. Signs in the heavens were observed; crops went untended, stores were closed, jobs ignored. Some Adventists, like Pentecostals, were thought to be speaking in tongues.
Some of Miller's more extreme followers were accused of donning "ascension robes" and gathering in cemeteries and high places to await their Savior.

After the designated year passed without a Second Coming, Miller consulted the biblical prophecies once again and recalculated the date. Millerites now looked for the appearance of their Savior on October 29, 1944. Anticipation once again swept the country, but Miller and his followers were disappointed. He continued to preach the imminent Second Coming of Christ, but declined to set a date. Protestant opposition forced the Adventists to withdraw and form their own church. Miller, who rose to national prominence in three short years, was the nominal head of the church but died in 1849 in the obscurity from which he had risen.

Save Thursday night, October 7, for the Associates Assembly. Harlan Hatcher, president-emeritus of the University, will speak on a historical topic. His intimate association with the Library as former chairman of its Committee of Management is well known. The usual social hour will follow. Invitations will go out later.

Helps To Building

Four Exciting Books of architecture came our way during the summer. Two are English, and two American. Batty Langley's Gothic Architecture (London 1747), with 64 plates, is a high spot in eighteenth-century architectural publishing. It was utilized in this country, specifically for the design of Gunston Hall, preserved as a masterpiece today. William Pain's Carpenter's Pocket Dictionary (London 1792) was so widely used in America that this edition was reprinted in Philadelphia later. It was a manual for carpenters inexperienced in quantities of lumber to order, the trussing of girders and partitions, and other practical steps.

The two American titles included another Pain volume, The Practical House Carpenter, reprinted in Boston in 1796 with 148 plates; and John Hall's Series of Select and Original Modern Designs for Dwelling Houses (Baltimore 1848), with 24 plates. He said his plans were "adapted to the style of building in the United States"—whatever that meant then. Our holdings in architecture are distinguished beyond a doubt.

Highlights of the Past Year

The 1970-71 Annual Report will reveal the total expenditures on the Library of the Associates since their organization 24 years ago. They have raised and spent $317,910 on acquisitions! This total includes the special fund raising campaign extending over three years for the Streeter book auctions. This is a remarkable record. It equals a dozen years of University appropriations for acquisitions; moreover, the contributions came at moments of special opportunities to purchase, which if lost would not have recurred. Almost every purchase made by the Associates has increased in monetary value, and of course they are of permanent scholarly value.

Research visits to the Library rose to 1267. About half of them were visits to our Division of Manuscripts, a heavy increase for it.

The Library has been luxuriating in air-conditioning this summer, enabling us for the first time to keep windows and doors closed against dust and fumes. Research workers thought it was wonderful, and so did the staff.

After being printed this fall, the Annual Report will be mailed to every Associate.

Mission to Britain

As This Issue of the Quarto reaches you, at least one member of the staff of the Clements Library is temporarily expatriated. Douglas Marshall, head of the Map and Newspaper Division will represent the Library at the IVth International Conference on the History of Cartography at Edinburgh during the week of September 19.

At the Thursday session, Marshall will deliver a paper entitled, Research Perspectives on John Montresor and the British Engineers in America: 1755-1783. The subject concerns the duties and organization of British military engineers assigned to America until the end of the Revolutionary War. Although supplemented by officers from other branches, less than fifty engineers in the whole period were responsible for fortifications, roads, maps, and the supervision of construction. At that time maps were considered the personal property of the commander, and with the letters of Generals Gage and Clinton, the Clements Library also came to possess their maps. This material was used extensively in the preparation of this address.

While in England, Marshall will do further research on the subject of the British Engineers
in America at the British Museum and the Public Record Office in London. Both institutions are endowed with significant collections of material relating to this topic. He has also been invited to spend a week at the home of Colonel John Montresor, descendant of the former Chief Engineer in America of the same name, during the American Revolution. Colonel Montresor has accumulated a large collection of manuscripts of his ancestor. Another highlight of the trip will be a visit to Alnwick Castle to see the maps of the Earl Percy, commander of the British troops sent from Boston in 1775 to relieve those under fire and retreating from Lexington and Concord. This opportunity is the result of a very generous invitation from the present Duke of Northumberland.

At the conclusion of his trip abroad, Marshall will return to present a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries at Yale. His topic concerns the military exploration of America and the cartographic legacy which it produced. Then it will be back to work at the Clements.

**Bill Ewing Retires**

The Library regrets to announce the early retirement of William S. Ewing, head of the Division of Manuscripts. His departure was at his request, of course, after nineteen years in that position. During that long tenure he has served hundreds of scholars in their research, and his polite and knowledgeable help has been acknowledged in scores of prefaces to scholarly books.

Bill was on the staff of the Detroit Public Library before the war. After service in the U.S. Coast Guard, he returned to the University Library in reference work, but transferred to the Clements Library in 1951. Here he found his real love and challenge. He earned a splendid name in his work and the affection of his colleagues.

Bill was extraordinarily industrious, too, generally keeping up with his curatorial duties in sorting and arranging new manuscript collections, cataloguing them, and getting them on to the shelves in proper order and protection. The Director and staff knew him as invariably agreeable, a person ready to take on any extra job that cropped up.

All these qualities are difficult to replace, and we have not succeeded in doing so yet, although some prospects are in view. Meanwhile, Bill's associate, William Joyce, a graduatae student in history, has been carrying responsibility for the Division, with a halftime assistant, Mary Beechy. They have been confronted by unprecedented use of manuscripts and the recent addition of three new collections.

**How to Revive a Horse**

Veterinarians and ranchers in Texas currently are combatting an outbreak of equine encephalitis among the Lone Star state horse population. They can regard themselves as fortunate that they can use methods of treatment infinitely more scientific than those available in early nineteenth-century Texas. Whether the results are any more impressive is a debatable point.

One of the most influential books on early Texas was David B. Edward's The History of Texas; or, The Emigrant's, Farmer's, and Politician's Guide (Cincinnati 1836). Among its encyclopedic information, he offered treatments for sick horses claimed by the author to be remarkably effective. Modern readers will find the treatment simply remarkable. Ever mindful of our Associates' needs in town and country, we offer his remedies.

Edward related the tale of one very fat American horse which seemed one hot day to be overcome by heat. Observers gave up the prone horse for dead. However, Edward went into action. He had a bunch of tobacco leaves torn up and immediately “torrefied” to a “snuff state.” Two “table spoonfuls” were added to a quart bottle filled with warm water and whisky, half and half. This concoction was poured down the throat of the helpless beast. As if this were not enough for his resurrection, a long-handled iron pot full of cotton was ignited and placed near the horse's nostrils. The smoke inhaled by the animal on top of the mixture poured down his throat was alleged to bring him to his feet! Whatever ailed him, no doubt it did.

Edward related another incident in which his veterinary talents were required. One of his horses was “seriously affected with the foot evil.” On the advice of a friend, Edward applied boiling hot tallow mixed with tar to the sore foot. This remedy was guaranteed effective, provided the poor horse was kept in a dry stable and the remedy applied every twenty-four hours. Even if tar was not handy, Edward counselled “tallow itself will kill the humor [if not the horse] and deaden the flesh to the preservation of the foot.”