Board of Governors

At its recent meeting, October 7, the Board discussed plans for proper observance of the Library's fiftieth anniversary in 1973. One event is definitely scheduled and is under way. From McGregor Fund in Detroit a grant has been received to cover the cost of publishing a short history of the Library. Present thought is to make it more valuable by presenting briefly opportunities for research here by noting the source material we have in printed and manuscript form on a variety of topical subjects. The booklet would be mailed out to other libraries, to academic history departments, and to our Associates.

Another event being shaped is a gala banquet for Associates and friends climaxing a fund raising campaign in 1972-73. It would be a combined birthday dinner and victory celebration. The speaker is to be a person of national or international importance, perhaps a foreigner with American connections. Readers will hear more of this affair as plans develop.

It is hoped that a symposium of scholars may also meet in 1973 at the Library. The financial obligations of this kind of gathering are being investigated.

Ideas on all aspects of this Golden Anniversary will be happily received from our Associates.

Our Own Revolution

 Mention was made in the last Quarto of our co-sponsorship with the Rhode Island Historical Society of a multi-volume publication of the papers of Gen. Nathanael Greene. Most of the cost is being underwritten by the Society, the National Historical Publications Commission, and Rhode Island groups. This is but one of our contributions to the coming Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

The second contribution will be a series of ten small volumes founded on manuscript material from this Library, all relating to the Revolution. Each volume will have a distinguished editor, this cost being provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Jerome Ozer, Inc. of New York will publish the volumes at the rate of two a year, starting in 1974. Copies will be sent free to our Associates; the bulk will be marketed by the publisher.

The third contribution will be a statistical study of the American Revolution in three parts: the number of casualties in each engagement, the varying size of the Continental Army month by month, and the number of men who bore arms. The first two aspects of this research will result in two publications. The third might appear to be merely a lone total number, and that is what we seek (it has never been known), but to find that total of participation we shall have to compile an index of all the soldiers and sailors by name. The total number of enlistments in the Revolutionary forces was said to be 396,000, but most of our forebears served more than once, or two to five times. Hence, if we are to count bodies we shall have to use names.

This latter significant investigation is being funded by a two-year grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and will utilize help from graduate students in the East in the summers of 1972 and 1973. A part-time co-ordinator and a fulltime typist will work in our Library under the direction of three professors in the History Department and Mr. Peckham.

Perhaps we should sell raffle tickets on guessing the total number of soldiers and sailors we will ultimately find. We are not guaranteeing that we can finish this part of the investigation in two years, but we will be far enough along to know how much more time may be needed.

These three projects will put the Clements Library in the forefront of Bicentennial activity as the anniversary approaches. They will demonstrate that a quiet library can be a dynamic institution.
The Extraordinary Contributions made by our Clements Library Fellows last year gave us significant purchasing power, and the Board of Governors wisely decided that these monies should be reserved for certain special acquisitions ordinarily beyond the reach of the Library. Accordingly two early and rare books were finally acquired with Fellows funds.

One harks back to the time when Bermuda was first settled and administered by the London Company as part of Virginia. A group of English colonists bound for Virginia was shipwrecked on Bermuda in a great storm in 1609. They stayed there during the pleasant winter, built a new ship, and many of them continued on to Virginia the next year. A few remained on the island. One was Sylvester Jourdain, who wrote Plaine Description of the Bermudas (London 1613) recounting this experience. His narrative of the storm is believed to have suggested to Shakespeare the setting of The Tempest. Only five other copies are found in this country.

The other book was a sermon delivered in London in 1622 entitled Virginia's God Be Thanked. It was in thanksgiving for "the happy success of affairs in Virginia this last year." The minister quoted extensively from descriptive letters of Virginia settlers—not knowing that a few days after he spoke the first hostile Indians would sweep over the colony and in one day kill more than a quarter of the inhabitants! This copy is one of nine known in this country.

From regular Associates' funds the Board bought a little known anonymous book, written by an Englishman, entitled Political, Commercial and Statistical Sketches of the Spanish Empire in Both Indies (London 1809). The title hardly suggests its importance, for it discusses in particular the controversial right of free navigation of the Mississippi River. This was bound up with the current embargoes of the Napoleonic wars and the rights of Spaniards and British since the U. S. purchase of Louisiana. The matter was not clearly resolved until we purchased East and West Florida. Only one other copy of this work could be located.

Virtuous Heroine

Our Growing Collection of early American fiction has just been enhanced by the addition of an extremely rare 1816 Philadelphia imprint, The Invisible Monitor; or, Memoirs of the D'Alvara Family. The author was a Mrs. Shepard, whose identity is otherwise unknown but who was apparently a Philadelphia resident. She speaks in the preface of sending the book into the world and trusting it to "the candour which has ever distinguished the people of Philadelphia." She also mentions that she was only seventeen when she first conceived the plan for the book.

The plot, which is laid in Cartagena and Puerto Rico, is typical of early nineteenth-century melodrama, involving a wicked step-sister, a virtuous younger sister, an attempted forced marriage to an elderly nobleman, an elopement, and the inevitable happy ending and triumph of virtue.

Only one other copy of the novel is known, and it sold at auction three years ago. Our copy was added to the Library through the Harper Fund.
Poor Harriot, or Hannah, or Jane

From Time To Time the Library has a second chance at a book auctioned off at the Streeter sales of Americana. Such an opportunity was presented recently when a scarce edition of an Indian captivity originally sold in 1967 reappeared at another auction. Mr. Streeter's own notes are written on the fly leaf.

The Narrative of the Captivity and Sufferings of Mrs. Harriot Lewis (Boston 1821) apparently enjoyed the usual popularity accorded these exciting stories. First published in 1817 it was reprinted several times with the hapless lady referred to variously as Hannah, Harriot, and Jane.

Supposedly, the harrowing event, if indeed it took place, occurred near St. Louis in 1815. Her husband James was killed immediately, and then she with the children, a son of 16, a daughter of 10 and the usual infant in arms, began a forced march. Finally, after two years of gruesome bondage, Hannah and the son, now adept in Indian ways, escaped to return to St. Louis. They could not save the two younger children.

A crude but vivid double-page woodcut shows the unhappy family, guarded well by two Indian braves equipped with tomahawks, as they journey through the woods. Only two other copies are located, both in New England. We purchased ours from the James Shearer Memorial Fund.

New Manuscripts Man

John C. Dann of Williamsburg, Virginia, has been appointed head of the Division of Manuscripts, to assume his duties on January 1. A native of Delaware, Mr. Dann did his undergraduate work at Dickinson College, earned his master's degree at the College of William and Mary, and will receive his doctorate in colonial American history there. He has done some teaching during his graduate career as well as some editorial work, but he prefers to work with manuscripts and enjoys research. He is married. His recommendations were most enthusiastic, and we have high hopes for him.

William L. Joyce, who has been acting head although not a fulltime staff member, will continue his parttime work while pursuing his degree. Miss Mary Beechy, who has been halftime assistant, is leaving to prepare for doctoral examinations. These two have accommodated readers, answered mail inquiries, organized three new collections, and catalogued. A respite will be welcome while the new man becomes acclimated.

Mission Accomplished

Douglas Marshall, Head of the Division of Maps and Newspapers, has returned from his participation in the IV International Conference on the History of Cartography in Edinburgh. His travels took him to several of the major libraries and map collections of England, including not only the British Museum and Public Record Office in London, but private visits to the Duke of Bedford's library at Woburn Abbey and the Duke of Northumberland's map collection at Alnwick Castle. Mr. Marshall's tour included introductions to the established book and map dealers of London and a research trip to the Royal Engineers' Institute library at Chatham.

He made several important map acquisitions for the Clements and secured a promise to publish his bibliography of Capt. John Montresor's maps of America. Montresor was the most prominent and prolific British engineer in America before and during the American Revolution, a twenty-four year period, and Mr. Marshall confirmed the fact that we have the largest collection anywhere of his extant maps, even though he unearthed some previously unknown Montresor maps. He was invited to spend an extended visit at the home of the descendant of this remarkable family of military engineers.

Early in November he read a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries at Yale University.

Foreign Trade Risks

The term "supercargo" is not calculated to make a man's eyes grow misty with visions of romantic, far-away places. For the uninitiated, the term "supercargo" refers to an officer on a merchant ship who has the responsibility for the cargo and the commercial interests of the voyage. It is a decidedly unromantic occupation.

But the life of a supercargo in the early nineteenth century seems to have been filled with adventure. William Law, a nephew of musician Andrew Law (whose papers we have), was supercargo for the New York Quaker merchant firm of Minturn and Champlain. Among the extensive William Law papers recently acquired by the Library are accounts of his voyages as supercargo to the Far East and Batavia in the Dutch East Indies. To protect the cargoes during the Napoleonic wars, Law had to evade British naval vessels, bribe customs men and naval officials around the world, and cope with severe weather and capricious privateers.
Law's success in seeing cargo to its appointed destination led to his promotion in 1810 to agent for Minturn and Champlin in Europe. He was responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of goods caught in the maze of trade restrictions enacted during the Napoleonic Wars and during the prologue to the War of 1812. The great bulk of this collection concerns Law's efforts on behalf of Minturn and Champlin in the period from 1810 to 1816. Among the 1800 loose letters, 18 account books, and 12 letter books found in this collection are the records of Law's complicated dealings with both merchants and government officials in New York, London, Copenhagen, Riga, St. Petersburg, and elsewhere. They show the risks assumed by early U.S. exporters.

Collectors' Prize

What is considered to be the first true atlas came to us last summer as a gift from Mrs. John G. Winter, a Clements Library Fellow. Abraham Ortelius was a map seller in Antwerp who conceived the idea of putting together a matching series of maps with an accompanying text for a patron who had trouble finding the separate maps in his collection because of failing eyesight. From this beginning, Ortelius decided to produce a printed version which would consist of 35 leaves of text and 53 maps in uniform size and bound. This brainchild reached the press in May of 1570 and sold so well that a second edition was printed three months later. By the time of Ortelius' death in 1598, the popular atlas had been published in 28 editions and five languages. The Clements Library has ten of these editions, now capped by the prized first edition of the series.

Our Fellows Rally

We welcome the following old Fellows and new ones for their generous support. They confirm the on-going purposes of the Library and deserve our warm gratitude.

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