50th Year Coming Up

In another month you will receive not the customary printed notice that contributions are due for the 1972-73 year of the Associates, but a letter from the Board of Governors heralding the fiftieth anniversary of the Library in 1973.

It will be a year of significant events. A history of the Library is being prepared for publication next spring, a grant of money having been received to cover its cost. A gala banquet with a distinguished speaker is planned for next May. Opening night of a special exhibition, with a descriptive bulletin, is projected for next fall. Associates will be in on all these.

To celebrate the long and fruitful partnership of the Associates and the Library and to insure the steady growth of the latter, the Board is calling for a fund raising effort with a goal of "$50,000 for the Library's 50th birthday." The campaign will run only this fall and winter, but spreading over two calendar years to help you with two income tax deductions. There will be special persuasions for your pledges of support.

Six Literary Years

The Western Messenger was a monthly periodical started in Cincinnati in 1835 that ran for six years. Although published by the Western Unitarian Association, it carried as a subtitle the explanation: "devoted to religion and literature." Because of the emphasis on poetry and criticism, it was more truly a literary magazine, and one of surprisingly high order.

The first four of Ralph Waldo Emerson's poems to be published appeared in this magazine. Similarly, John Keats' Ode to Apollo made its first appearance here, because his brother George lived in Louisville and knew the editor. The periodical was also a vehicle for western writers and preserves their best work. Literary criticism was exceptionally well done. Called "a runaway child of New England," it probably never reached a circulation of a thousand. It was this financial struggle that finally ended its days.

Complete runs were very scarce and costly eighty years ago. We were happy to be able to add it to our group of literary periodicals, most of which were short lived.

Moose Island

The British Navy brought the War of 1812 to American soil in 1814 by launching attacks on northern New England and on the Chesapeake region. Repulsed at Baltimore, the enemy did capture Washington, D.C. and burn some of the government buildings. This event is well known, partly because of the fire and partly because of the composition of The Star Spangled Banner. Obscured is the first land operation undertaken that year at Moose Island, or Eastport, Maine.

On July 11, 1814, H.M.S. Ramilles and two transports bearing 600 men appeared off Eastport. The British commanders, Lt. Col. Pilkington and Capt. Sir Thomas Hardy, ignored the refusal of Major Perley Putnam and the 80-man garrison of Fort Sullivan to surrender and took possession of the island. The Americans had no choice but to work out some mode of capitulation. We have just obtained the signed manuscript Articles by which the Yankee defenders were allowed to "march out of the Fort with the honors of War and pile their arms." Assurances were given that "every respect will be paid to private property found on Moose Island belonging to the Inhabitants thereof."

At the conclusion of the war, Eastport was retained by the British, who claimed that the territory had actually been part of Nova Scotia all along! The United States finally regained possession in 1818.
THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES of The University of Michigan

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Excelsior Ye Maps!

THE PHOTOGRAPHER FROM G. K. Hall and Company has arrived to initiate another stage toward the publication of the Clements Library map catalog. All catalog cards are being photographed in the same arrangement of 21 cards per page in which they will appear in the published catalog. The finished map catalog will fill four printed volumes and sell for $195.

We anticipate that the published catalog will be of more value than a mere list of our maps of America. We expect it to become a valuable reference work to historians, cartographers, librarians, bibliographers, and collectors. It will be titled, The Research Catalog of Maps of America to 1860 in the William L. Clements Library, and is the first exclusive list of maps of America in any major map archive since the 1901 publication of the Library of Congress catalog.

The arrival of the photographer was preceded by several months of catalog preparation. Douglas Marshall, Curator of Maps, has been responsible for editing the catalog. He estimates that 3,000 cards have been replaced in this process, with additions or corrections to several thousand more. The huge metal cases in the map room which contain about 1,800 flat maps have been searched to uncover uncataloged or improperly cataloged maps. Within the card catalog, whole geographical designations have been revised or eliminated to provide an efficient reference system. The staff of the Book Division, under the competent guidance of Mrs. Georgia Haugh, has greatly aided this project by recataloging over one hundred atlas volumes with the use of modern cartography. The published map catalog is scheduled for release in early 1973, when it will take its place beside our printed book catalog.

Fall Lecture

KEEP THE DATE of September 28 open. The annual Associates Assembly is set for that night, when you will hear a lecture on early American humor by Assistant Professor Benjamin Franklin of the English Department. We expect a lively evening. The Board of Governors will meet in the afternoon.

George Fox in America

NOT MANY PERSONS are aware that the founder of the Society of Friends, George Fox, visited America, in 1671–72. While here he looked after his adherents, quarreled with Roger Williams, and protested Puritan exclusion of Quakers from Boston. Some time after his return to England he wrote two tracts. One is called Answer to a Letter, the epistle being from Gov. Leverett of Massachusetts in 1677. Fox berates the governor for driving visiting Quakers out of Boston on threat of death. The other, in similar vein, is Answer to a Law, passed in Massachusetts in 1679, which prohibited Christian meetings in the colony unless a group obtained a license. He declared it contrary to English law, and it probably was.

These two Quaker tracts of special American interest are not in the Library of Congress or in more than three other libraries in this country. We now have them.
One of our Revolutionary Bicentennial projects is going great guns. All summer long we have had graduate students in history working in the archives and historical society libraries of the original thirteen states, plus Vermont and the District of Columbia. From them have come a stream of cards recording casualties in battles that occurred in each state, and references to returns, or strength reports, of the Continental Army. Microfilm and Xerox copies of relevant statistics are coming in.

We will need the fall and winter to digest all this raw material and determine where the gaps in our information are. We hope to be able to fill those gaps by one means or another. Then we will be on our way toward two significant publications. The summer of 1973 we expect to turn our squad on to muster rolls and individual names, in order to compile a list of everyone who bore arms. This lengthy study is financed by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Here at the Library are two industrious and devoted part time workers on the project: Charles Lesser, who has co-ordinated and supervised the summer workers, and Joan Gittens, who has been busy with typewriter, adding machine, and pen. Both are candidates for doctoral degrees in American history, and we feel lucky to have their services.

Ground Breaking

We were pleased to witness the ground breaking last month for a new building on North Campus for the Michigan Historical Collections. This crowded unit occupies several storage areas and needs to have its valuable modern manuscripts on Michigan located in one spot and made serviceable. The dream of a building has been realized by several years of fund raising, climaxd by a half-million dollar gift from Mrs. Alvin Bentley, widow of the former Regent and Congressman. We congratulate our colleagues on this auspicious occasion.

The Michigan Alumnus for September carries a story on the Library on the eve of its 50th anniversary. We shall see that all of you receive reprints of it. The pictures and text reflect the development of the institution.

Handsome Gift

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sweeney of Grosse Pointe Park have just presented to the Library a group of fifteen manuscript letters and documents pertaining to the British troops in America before and during the Revolution. Seven of the letters and documents originated with Gen. Thomas Gage between 1764 and 1770, while he was in New York as commander-in-chief. Five other documents pertain to provisions at the various British posts in North America between 1764 and 1769. Another is a draft on Gage for money in 1773 by John Stuart, superintendent of Indian affairs in the South. The remaining two letters are from Lord George Germain, colonial secretary, to his peace commissioners in New York, 1781; and from Gen. Frederick Haldimand in Canada to the secretary of war, 1782, about the peace negotiations.

Such a valuable gift enhances our manuscript collections and adds to our research value. We are most grateful.

New Endowment Fund

A generous endowment gift from Associate Frederick S. Upton of St. Joseph has provided the Library with a fund the interest on which will be used to acquire books of technological interest—that is, books that reflect technical advances in economic production. They will illustrate not merely American “know-how,” but presage the big industrial development that characterized the period after the Civil War. The use of water power and steam, the inventions that created new factories, the mechanical improvements, the new means of communication are some of the factors that shaped our life and work. We are excited by the prospects of building a collection in this significant area.

Rare Books Conference

“Midwestern Scholarly Resources” was the topical theme at this year’s annual conference of the Rare Book and Manuscripts Section of the Association of Research Libraries held in Chicago in June. Mrs. Georgia Haugh, who represented the Library, reports that about 135 participants spent an intensive two days learning about the resources of special libraries in the Middle West through papers and tours. Visits had been ar-
ranged to the Newberry Library, the Chicago Historical Society, the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, and the new libraries of Northwestern and the University of Chicago. Social occasions were sponsored by three of the libraries.

The Sage

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE of more than sixty years of research in history and philosophy, Will Durant, now 87 and author of the Story of Philosophy and the more recent multivolume Story of Civilization, made some exceedingly wise remarks in a recent interview with Derek Gill. In an election year he warned:

"Too many take politics too seriously. Too many expect to reform government before they reform human nature—before reforming themselves. We are seeing in America a Hegelian synthesis of capitalism and socialism, and we are taking the virtues of each. I am persuaded that the merger will be more productive of goods and happiness than the communism of Russia or the capitalism of the not very gay nineties."

The academic community might ponder this: "In these modern times, too little stress is put upon character, too much on intellect. History warns of the danger of sharpening our wits while weakening our restraints. When I was a young man, I used to talk about the bondage of tradition. But now, as an older man, I distrust the fetishism of novelty. We exaggerate the value of newness in both ideas and things. It is much easier to be original than wise. We would do well to remember that the customs, traditions, conventions and creeds of mankind are the harvest of trial and error."

Coming closer to us, he said that he and his wife "are children of the libraries. They are the home and refuge of our heritage. All that is good in our history is gathered in libraries."

Try It, You'll Like It

FROM OUR NEW YORK EVENING POST, December 31, 1829: "The French papers state, that in one of the cantons of Switzerland an edict has passed inflicting severe punishment on all females detected in reading novels. The reason assigned for this act of severity is that numbers of women have recently become deranged from the effects of reading romances."

Institute for Editing

OUR CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS, John Dann, was awarded one of twenty intern fellowships for a two-week Institute for the editing of historical documents, held in Washington and in Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 14-25. The days were spent in intensive study of the theory, practice, and problems of historical editing. Among the lecturers were the editors of the Adams, Madison, Washington, Laurens, Calhoun, Grant, and John Marshall papers.

Mr. Dann found the conference to be rewarding, and the Library will be able to draw upon his experience with the preparation of our Bicentennial publication projects. He also became acquainted with those persons presently engaged in editorial work and with those younger scholars who will be undertaking such work in the future. Sponsors of the session were the Ford Foundation and the Center for Textual and Editorial Studies in Humanistic Sources.

Armenian, Anyone?

SINCE THE NEW WORLD was claimed and colonized by European powers, with the debatable exception of Russia, the early maps we have were published in Western Europe. In fact, it is surprising when they are not. Nevertheless we have two of different origin.

Recently we purchased a curious specimen with the title and place names in the Armenian alphabet. The map shows both continents of the Western Hemisphere, with an inset polar projection of the Arctic. Unless you know Armenian, however, the lettering is pretty meaningless. This map was actually printed in Venice in 1787 for the Christian community within the Persian and Turkish empires. Although printing presses were established in Isfahan, they were unable to produce engravings.

We also have a slightly later map of the United States in the Turkish language. It is based on English cartography, like the Armenian map, but the watermark reveals it was definitely a native product of Constantinople.

Fire Alarm

AS FURTHER PROTECTION of the contents of the Library, the University has installed an elaborate fire alarm system in the building. It is triggered by any combustion that gives off heat or smoke.