



# WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

## CLEMENTS LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

The William L. Clements Library issues a variety of publications to advertise its collections to the University of Michigan community and the general public. Our semi-annual publication, *The Quarto*, provides essays that contextualize items and collections; the *Clements Library Chronicles* blog advertises events and collections; and our occasional books and bulletins offer a variety of additional collection-related resources. This newsletter, intended for the information of University of Michigan faculty, staff, and students, advertises recent acquisitions, under-utilized collections or subject strengths, and new

access-related resources. We encourage your feedback and suggestions related to the form and content of the newsletter ([clements-reference@umich.edu](mailto:clements-reference@umich.edu)).

## NEW MAP DEPICTS ST. DOMINGUE PLANTATION IN 1753

An increasing number of scholars are becoming aware of the Clements Library's strong holdings relating to the Caribbean and West Indies. This wealth of material may be found across the Library's divisions. The book collection includes contemporary published accounts and histories of

the West Indies, especially the British and French possessions, as well as works on sugar production and trade. The Manuscripts Division holds numerous related collections, notably the Tailour, Tousard, Vaughan, and Coote papers, which document



commerce, military and naval affairs, and slavery. The Graphics Division has prints and original drawings of West Indian topography and scenery, some showing slaves at work. The map collection can provide cartography for most islands of the Caribbean, many bearing evidence of the production of sugar and other crops by enslaved labor. The West Indies remains an important collecting priority for the Clements. It was with much excitement, then, that the Map Division recently acquired a manuscript plan of a plantation in St. Domingue (Haiti) drawn ca. 1753 by one M. Delagrené. Titled "Plan de l'habitation de Sr. Fleuriau . . . ", it represents a property in the Canton de Bellevue, plaine de Cul-de-Sac, near Port-au-Prince. Aimé-Benjamin Fleuriau (1709-87) had acquired this plantation in 1743, and our "Nouveau Plan" was made some ten years later.

The plan has been little studied so far, but it appears to document the transformation of a sugar plantation into one growing mixed crops—including lemons, oranges, and indigo. The various crop fields are identified, crisscrossed by roads and irrigation canals, and renderings of the façades of houses, outbuildings, and a sugar mill illustrate the farm complex. Two parallel rows of neatly spaced rectangles, sketched in pencil, suggest the tantalizing possibility that they represent slave quarters.

Acquisitions such as Delagrené's plan are made to strengthen the Library's collections, particularly in areas of current scholarly interest. This and many other pre-1900 maps are easily accessible for study on campus at the Clements Library.

### **COLLECTION STRENGTH: COOKING SCHOOL COOKBOOKS**

When the Cooking School movement started in England in the last third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was of a piece with other reforms meant to better the lives of the urban poor, teaching and exhorting them to eat well within their means. In America, reformers and cookbook writers soon took up the cause, but as the movement took hold overseas, its focus shifted. Concerned with unemployment, American reformers began to hold classes

designed to teach unemployed women skills that would allow them to find work as household servants. Such classes turned out not to pay the rent, however, and before long the schools featured courses aimed at a middle class audience, alongside classes for domestics.

Cookbooks published by cooking schools were an established phenomenon by the mid-1880s. We have excellent examples of this genre and the related one of textbooks for cooking classes in the public schools. Through them we can peer into the schools' pedagogical process, with lesson plans and question sets making it explicit what students were supposed to take away. They also give us a window into the social stratification of food and cooking in Gilded Age America and show us the movement's project of rationalizing cooking and making it into a scientific area of study. Moreover, we see in them the rhetoric used to support the establishment of cooking classes in public schools, the perceived need for "manual training" in the schools, and the contemporary preoccupations that drove the movement.

Through our cooking schools materials, visiting researchers can explore a fascinating chapter in the history of cooking as a daily necessity, an element of home life, a public good, a debated educational priority, and a site of performance of class and gender.

### **RECENTLY CATALOGED: PORTRAIT PRINTS**

The Clements Library has completed the cataloging of its excellent collection of portrait prints. This group of about 2,550 items from the 16th to the 20th centuries can now be searched in the University's Mirlyn catalog by subject, publication date, author, keyword, and other terms.

This collection offers far more than just illustrations of what somebody famous once looked like. It provides opportunities to study the development of American visual icons, heroic myth-making, commemoration and memory, allegorical and symbolic representations of nationality, and American print culture.

These often beautiful portraits relate to other visual collections such as portrayals of historic events, caricature, photography, as well as the books, manuscripts, and maps in the Clements collection.

To locate these materials in the online catalog, navigate to [www.mirlyn.lib.umich.edu](http://www.mirlyn.lib.umich.edu), use the advanced search mode to search the William L. Clements Library for subject = name or subject = portraits, then look to the column on the left for the format link to "Visual materials." The actual prints may be studied in the Clements reading room.

### RECENTLY CATALOGED: GERMAN AMERICAN TUNEBOOKS

The Book Division has finished cataloging the Dr. John Schwarz Collection, given to the library by Walter L. Powell in November 2009. Dr. Schwarz was a musician, educator, and musicologist who collected 19<sup>th</sup>-century American tunebooks, hymnals, instrumental music, and related works.

His collection of nearly two hundred books is an excellent addition to the Book Division, increasing the Clements Library's holdings of early American music books by approximately 30%.

One of Dr. Schwarz's main interests was German American music, and he made a particular study of *Die Union Choral Harmonie*, a Pennsylvania German bilingual tunebook compiled by Henry C. Eyer. With the addition of Dr. Schwarz's collection, the Clements Library now holds ten copies of different editions and printing variants of this book, first published in 1833. *Die Union Choral Harmonie* was largely based on the

*Choral Harmonie*, a German-language tunebook published by the Reverend Isaac Gerhart and Henry's father, Johann Frederick Eyer.

Henry C. Eyer's working copy of the 1822 edition of the *Choral Harmonie*, now held by the Clements Library, contains numerous manuscript notes pasted into the book. Most of them are English translations of the German tunes, which Henry intended to include in his own bilingual collection. He frequently added meter information, a tune title if lacking, and composer's name if known. This unique copy gives fascinating insight into the process of compiling and translating a tunebook, one of a large number of German American tunebooks published in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

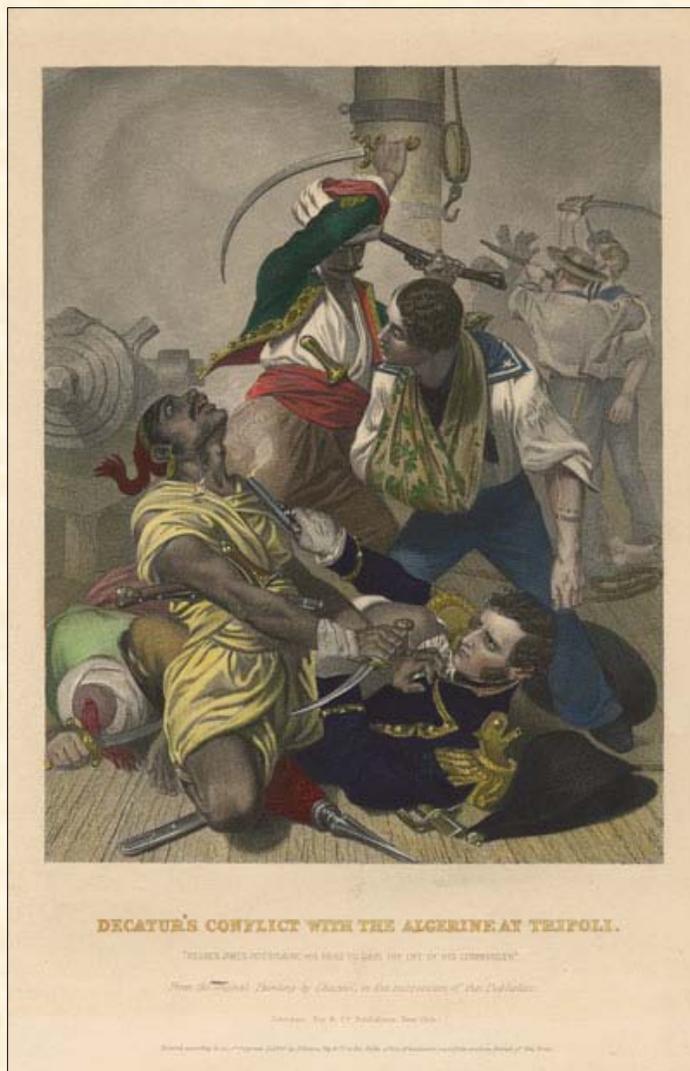


### ONLINE EXHIBITS: BARBARY WARS AND NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Manuscripts Division staff have produced two new online exhibits that call attention to our strength in Native American History and our less frequently publicized resources on the Barbary Wars. *Native American History at the Clements Library* highlights the great range and depth of the Clements Library's collections related to Native American history. Books, maps, manuscripts, prints, and photographs illustrate different types of cultural encounters over the course of American history. The exhibit features printed

accounts of early encounters between indigenous peoples and European explorers, manuscripts and maps that record a long history of warfare and diplomacy, wampum and trade silver, peace medals, portraits of native leaders, and photographs of Indian schools.

The *Barbary Wars at the Clements Library* exhibit features manuscripts, books, maps, and engravings that document the United States' first interactions with the Arab world and the early days of the U.S. Navy. The heart of this material comes from three spectacular manuscript collections: The Tobias Lear Papers, the John Rodgers Papers, and the Isaac Chauncey Papers. Together, these collections document the highest level of naval and diplomatic decision-making during and after the wars. The exhibit includes items from additional manuscript collections that contain discussions of and references to early American activities in the Mediterranean. The Clements' collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Barbary captivity narratives - books that informed and inflamed the American public on the home front - is also showcased. We hope that the exhibit will draw attention to an often-neglected episode in American history and inspire researchers and enthusiasts to pursue new discoveries at the Clements Library.



## **LINKS:**

Online exhibits are located at: <http://www.clements.umich.edu/exhibits-online.php>

The *Clements Library Chronicles* blog is located at: <http://theclementslibrary.blogspot.com/>

Back issues of *The Quarto* are available at: <http://www.clements.umich.edu/Quarto/quarto-back.php>

For information on beginning research at the Clements, please our website at:  
<http://www.clements.umich.edu>



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