

The Quarto

ISSUED QUARTERLY FOR THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

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The Birthday Party

ASSOCIATES, UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, and library friends to the number of about 350 gathered at the Michigan League ballroom on May 8 for a banquet, sponsored by the Associates' Board of Governors, to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Clements Library. It was a bright and happy occasion, in spite of inclement weather, and was graced by the presence of Mr. Clements' daughter and three of her children.

Robert P. Briggs, chairman of the Board, presided. Announcement was made by Edward W. Bowen, Board member from Bay City, of the success of the Associates' fund raising campaign for the benefit of the library (see adjoining column). Other governors and Library staff served as table hosts.

President and Mrs. Fleming were hosts at a reception for the governors, the speaker, and a few other guests at their home before the dinner. Open house was held at the Library during the afternoon, with a special exhibition of memorabilia relating to Mr. Clements and the Library's dedication in 1923.

Carlisle H. Humelsine, president of Colonial Williamsburg, was the speaker of the evening. He expressed his gratitude to the Library for the information found here when restoration of Virginia's capital village began forty years ago. He went on to illuminate the recent national movement for preservation and restoration of landmarks and buildings, emphasizing the dependence of such efforts upon research libraries like the Clements. Mr. Humelsine charmed his audience with vivid examples of the educational work being performed in arousing public interest through living museums.

Mr. Peckham responded on behalf of the Library with warm thanks for the splendid banquet and the extraordinary success of the fund raising among the Associates. Members who were

unable to be present missed a glorious anniversary occasion.

Over the Top

THE NINE MONTH'S campaign by the Associates to raise a birthday fund for the Library has succeeded beyond the Board's fondest hopes. The goal was \$50,000, as appropriate for the 50th anniversary. A few very generous donors among the hundreds of contributors pushed the total amount raised to \$59,085. James Schoff, who served as campaign chairman, unfortunately could not be here for the victory dinner.

The speaker generously declared his intention to donate his honorarium from the University to the campaign fund, Mr. Peckham announced. The Board of Governors now is in a position to acquire a significant collection of material or participate heavily in an important auction.

A few gifts were ear-marked for special purposes, entirely acceptable to the Board. The campaign demonstrated that a University asset whose appeal is primarily intellectual, rather than visual or auditory, can yet win support from alumni and friends. Associates are to be congratulated on catching the vision of what a historical library of this type can be. The experience was reassuring, as everyone looks forward to a fruitful 51st year in the institution's growth.

Mr. Clements as a Collector

WE HOPED AGAINST HOPE that a pre-view copy of the new book on Mr. Clements would arrive in time to be shown at our 50th anniversary banquet, but the publisher could not quite make it. It will appear before our next *Quarto*, so notice of it is appropriate in this issue.

The book was ably researched and written by



THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
of The University of Michigan

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

(Appointed by the Regents of the University)

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Mrs. Margaret Maxwell as a doctoral dissertation in the School of Library Science. She has revised it for publication by N. Israel in Amsterdam, who has specialized in books for bibliophiles, under the title *Shaping a Library: William L. Clements as a Collector*.

Mrs. Maxwell traces Mr. Clements' birth and education in Ann Arbor, his move to Bay City to enter his father's industrial plant, and his meeting with Aaron Cooke, an American history buff. In 1903 Mr. Clements bought Cooke's holdings and began collecting in earnest, guided by dealers, historians, and bibliographers. Other collectors move across the stage. Mr. Clements was elected a Regent of the University in 1908 and was appointed to the Michigan Historical Commission. By 1922 he had filled up his house with books and decided to give them to his alma mater and erect a suitable building for them.

Along the way he encountered many problems, but everything worked out satisfactorily for the library he founded.

The story does not stop there, but takes up his search for a director, his growing interest in British manuscript collections, and his further gifts to the library before his death in 1924. A final chapter appraises his accomplishments. The book is well written and profusely illustrated. We believe that many of our Associates will enjoy reading it, for it shows that the Clements collection did not just happen. Associates received advance notices from the publisher, but if you did not act then, his address is Nico Israel, Keizersgracht 526, Amsterdam 1002, The Netherlands.

Technology

IT IS GENERALLY conceded that the United States became an industrial nation after the Civil War. Individual craftsmanship and family manufacturing declined rapidly. The factory and the corporation grew up quickly together. It was all the result of invention, technological improvements, available power, capital to lend, and business enterprise. Industrial development is beyond our scope in time, but the beginnings of technology reach back into the eighteenth century and show up repeatedly in the first half of the nineteenth. By means of the Frederick S. Upton Fund we are picking up those technological books that presage our emergence as an industrial power.

For instance, we acquired James Renwick's *Treatise on the Steam Engine* (N.Y. 1830). Written by a Columbia University professor, this was the most comprehensive treatise on the subject produced in America, and of course the engine was one of our great sources of energy. Some other titles of the 1830's we acquired dealt with improvements on locomotives, the control of rubber, and a mechanic's manual. We look forward to further growth in this area.

Mormon Reflections

IN 1829, WHEN Joseph Smith was establishing the new Mormon sect at Palmyra, New York, there was a weekly periodical called *The Reflector* being published in that village by an Obediah Dogberry (a pseudonym?) The journal,

which we have recently purchased, consists of short articles on science, history, and biography, and of current news and local gossip. It would probably have been of little interest to the Library except for its frequent references to the new religious group.

The editor initially appeared to feel no hostility toward the Mormons, and in fact was critical of so-called liberals who made adverse comments about them. The early issues of *The Reflector* printed several chapters from the *Book of Mormon* before they were even published in book form. By the summer of 1830, however, the editor was taking a distinctly less friendly tone. He now satirized the *Book of Mormon* as the "Book of Pukei," and there were frequent sarcastic references to "Jo Smith" and the "Golden Book apostles." Dogberry told of a man who mistreated his wife in an attempt to force her to accept Joseph Smith's teachings. He also printed a letter from a reader who praised him for being the only editor in Palmyra who had the courage to expose the impostors.

One of the last mentions of the Mormons is in the issue of February 1, 1831, in which a correspondent from Waterloo, New York, states that Rigdon and other Mormon leaders have sold their land and are about to leave for the area around Painesville, Ohio. The Mormons attributed their departure to the lack of charity and brotherly love among the prevailing Christian sects of New York state.

The Reflector is extremely rare. The New-York Historical Society is the only library we know of whose run of the periodical is as complete as ours.

Mr. Dann Speaks

IN RESPONSE to a growing interest in the religious aspects of the Revolutionary period, The Institute of Early American History and Culture joined forces with the American Society of Church History to sponsor a conference on "Religion in the Era of the American Revolution," in Williamsburg, Va., March 30-31.

John Dann, our Curator of Manuscripts, presented a paper on "The Religious Impulse for Reform in the Revolutionary Era: The Southern Experience, 1780-1830" which was well received. Illustrative of the Library's growing strength in the field, three of the twelve speakers employed our holdings in the research for their papers.

Committee of Management

THE LIBRARY'S COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT met on May 9 to hear the director's report on operations the past eight months. Members were suffused in the glow of the 50th anniversary celebration and the pleasant, even overpowering news of the Associates' fund raising success.

The Bicentennial project supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment is moving toward completion of two books. A contract has been signed with the University of Chicago Press for publication of them next year. Two items relating to Ann Arbor's beginnings were transferred to the Michigan Historical Collections where they will be utilized in the city's Sesquicentennial celebration next year. Budget matters were reviewed, and James Schoff was recommended to succeed himself for another term on the Committee. Other developments were discussed and plans laid.

War of 1812 Manuscripts

IF LARGELY FORGOTTEN by the general public, the War of 1812 embodied as much of the patriotic excitement, political rage, and military frustration as any armed conflict in American history.

Over the past decade, the Library has steadily accumulated a significant collection of manuscripts relating to the nation's "Second War for Independence." The papers of career army officers Jacob Brown and Christopher Van Deventer, those of naval commanders David Porter and Oliver Hazard Perry, the Thomas Chew Papers, the Capt. John L. Fink Orderly Books, all acquired since 1960, amplify an already significant body of material documenting American and British participation in the War.

We have now added some 300 additional items to our War of 1812 holdings, with the acquisition of manuscript records kept at Fort Green, Spermaceti Cove, and Sandy Hook, between September 1814 and January 1815. The purchase was made possible by the Clements Library Associates.

The variety of journals, orderly books, returns, and muster rolls which make up the purchase provides considerable information on the coastal defenses of New York harbor. Installations of this sort were of an impermanent nature and the records are scarce. The detail of the manuscripts adds a dimension to our collections not previously represented.

Coffee and Culture

OUR ACTIVE WOMEN'S committee of the Associates has sponsored three morning coffee hours at the Library to introduce other women to the institution and its work. Guests are invited, transported to the Library, served coffee and cookies or doughnut holes, and then driven home after the director speaks to them and shows some letters from women of the Revolutionary period. The guests seem to find it a pleasant hour. Some are relatively new to Ann Arbor and have not had previous occasion to visit the Library; others are older residents who know vaguely about the contents of the building but have not paid a real visit. One group was from neighboring towns.

In June all of the guests are being invited to an evening reception so as to bring their husbands. Mr. Peckham will speak again, this time showing some of the spectacular books. Out of these gatherings new members for the Associates will be found.

The hard-working committee, which deserves our thanks, is made up of Mrs. Eleanor Wernecke, chairman; Mrs. Pat Cross; Mrs. Frances Jelinek; Mrs. Janet Banning; Mrs. Madeleine Schneider; Mrs. Mary Kay Reaske; Mrs. Mary Beuhler; Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Oneal; and Mrs. Betty Mouzon. Mrs. Arlene Kleeb of the Library staff and Mrs. Mimi McPherson were especially helpful with out-of-town guests.

Texas Annexation

ONE OF THE BURNING political issues of the 1830's and 1840's was the question of the annexation of Texas, and the Library has owned a number of pamphlets setting forth the pros and cons of the dispute. Recently we acquired the earliest publication on the subject that we have owned until now. In fact, Thomas Streeter's *Bibliography of Texas* speaks of it as "the first pamphlet advocating the annexation of Texas."

Considerations on the Propriety and Necessity of Annexing the Province of Texas appeared anonymously in 1829, the author being identified on the title-page only as "A Revolutionary Officer." He was William Walton Morris, who had apparently never seen Texas but derived his information from visitors to Stephen F. Austin's colony.

Morris speaks glowingly of Texas and its natural resources, particularly the lumber which

could be used for building naval vessels. He is bitterly critical of the Adams-Onís treaty of 1819 which established the northern and eastern boundaries of Texas and impugns the motives of John Quincy Adams in agreeing to the document.

Stephen F. Austin had apparently either seen or heard of the Morris item soon after its publication, for in a letter of 1830 he speaks of "the pamphlet by a Revolutionary officer" as being harmful to the friendly relations of his colony with leading Mexicans.

German Americana

FROM THE VANN family fund in Birmingham, Alabama, a contribution to the Associates' campaign was received with the suggestion that it be used for books of German-Americana. We are happy to report that three books have been purchased with this money, all in the German language.

One is a German hymn book of the Reformed Church, published in Germantown, Pa., in 1753. It contains also the Heidelberg catechism as printed the year before. The second is Ludwig Baumann's *Abriss der Staatsverfassung* (Brandenburg 1776) in which the author describes various regions of the United States, Canada, and South America for prospective emigrants; he includes comments on government and religion here. The third item is Israel Benjamin's report on his three years in America, published in Hannover in 1862.

Invasion of the South

SPONSORED BY THE Alumni Association office, the director of the Library spoke at several alumni club dinners in Georgia and Florida in March. Mr. Peckham talked about the growth of the Library in fifty years by means of support from the University and from friends. He also reported on research projects initiated by the Library for the coming Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The alumni appeared pleased to hear what a distinguished department of the University was doing.

On the return trip Mr. Peckham took part in a symposium on the Revolutionary War at Murray State University in western Kentucky. As one of three speakers he read a paper on the British reaction to the Declaration of Independence and participated in discussions with students.