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ISSUED QUARTERLY FOR THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

NUMBER 115, DEC., 1976

Board of Governors

AT THE MEETING of the Associates' Board, November 4, purchases to the amount of \$12,050 were authorized. The particular items are noted elsewhere in these columns.

The Board decided also to offer a life membership in the Associates for \$1000. Two persons have already taken that option; others are invited to consider it. The Board asks members to take time to send in names of friends who might care to join our Associates. A new invitation to membership has been printed to send out to prospects.

The Adams lecture by Prof. François Furet of Paris concerned changing French attitudes toward America. It was so thoughtful and challenging that the Library has decided to print it for distribution. Associates will be able to receive a copy early in the new year.

Travel

WE COLLECT TRAVEL accounts. We like to know what impressed foreign visitors to America, or natives who surveyed new regions. Their opinions of places, persons, and events form an important source.

A new one has come our way, *Neu-Gefundenes Eden* (The New-found Eden), Switzerland 1737. It is a description of two journeys through the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, with information on settlements and resources. It was designed to encourage immigration. Two other copies are known in the U.S. One is in the John Carter Brown Library with one map in it. The other is in the Library of Congress with one map—a different one. Our copy contains both maps!

We also picked up *Letters Written by John Kingman while on a tour to Illinois and Wisconsin in the summer of 1838* (Hingham, Mass. 1842). This self-explanatory title meant that Kingman visited Detroit, Chicago, Green Bay,

and Mackinac Island, traveling by ship, by rail, and by stage coach. Five other copies are known.

They were provided by the Board of Governors.

Fresh Honors

OUR CURATOR OF MAPS, Douglas Marshall, has been named editor of *Terrae Incognitae* by the Society for the History of Discoveries at its recent annual meeting. His three-year term begins in 1977. The periodical appears annually.

The honor is partly in recognition of our program in the history of discoveries which has been made possible by a grant from the Mellon Fund. We offer three graduate fellowships each year, a seminar in the field is taught by the history or geography departments, and we have made one research grant. The appointment is also a tribute to Dr. Marshall's steady interest in the subject. He has completed all the work for a doctor of philosophy degree in history, which will be formally conferred at the end of this term. His dissertation is on "The British Military Engineer, 1741-1783."

We are pleased to have an academic journal emanate from this Library, as it will focus some attention on our earliest books and maps, and underline our interest in research.

Jonathan Dayton

JONATHAN DAYTON, Revolutionary War officer, member and Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1791-99 and Senator from New Jersey, 1799-1805, is remembered today primarily for his name. He was heavily involved in early Ohio land speculation, and it was in the vicinity of his holdings that the town of Dayton developed.

Although nationally prominent, Dayton has remained a shadowy historical figure because of the absence of known manuscript source material. A library Associate recently brought us in



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of The University of Michigan

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contact with a friend representing descendants. The pleasing result is a generous purchase by our Clements Library Associates of this 650 item collection: 55 letters of Dayton, 316 letters to him. Fourteen letters relate to his alleged involvement in the Aaron Burr conspiracy for which he was briefly imprisoned, but never tried. There are scattered political letters, but the manuscripts are essentially a record of Dayton's complex financial affairs.

Decades ago, Charles Beard gained some notoriety by portraying the Founding Fathers as self-interested capitalists "on the make." His generalizations were overly simplistic, but historians of the Early National period are only beginning to carefully investigate the tangled relationships between political leadership and personal financial speculation. Our new Dayton

Collection would seem to offer rich opportunities for this sort of scholarly investigation.

Drawing To An Inside Straight

WHEN WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS purchased the papers of Lt. Gen. Thomas Gage in 1930, the collection included 83 manuscript maps of North America. For its size, the number of maps was expected to be larger and some of the letters mentioned maps which had disappeared. One such letter was dated May 13, 1774, and signed by the irascible Capt. John Montresor, commanding engineer at New York. It describes the labor, material, and techniques necessary to reconstruct the fort at Crown Point on Lake Champlain, which had exploded and burned in 1773. Montresor "made both a general and particular survey topographically, with the levels and sections through the ground, and after thoroughly examining the whole, I traced out the proposed works." He also enclosed a detailed estimate of expenses, much as a modern-day contractor might do, with costs for each part of the work.

The map which originally accompanied the letter was thought to have been lost, but it apparently had become separated from the papers and remained in the possession of the Gage family. Now they are once again united, and together the map, letter, and estimate reveal important considerations about British military fortification in the year before the Revolution began. Another copy of the map was sent to King George III and is now a part of the collection of the British Library.

The Associates made sure we got it.

The Early Circus

ASSOCIATE STUART THAYER of Ann Arbor has devoted most of his spare time to an investigation of the first American circuses, going through our early newspapers for advertisements and accounts of them. His research has culminated in a book, *Annals of the American Circus, 1793-1829*, a copy of which he presented to the Library.

There were equestrians, acrobats, and tight-rope walkers appearing in America before the Revolution, often exhibiting separately on street corners and taking up a collection. Not until 1793 did a manager put these disparate elements together, along with clowns, and offer a combined show in a circular arena. That is

only the beginning. Mr. Thayer traces developments and rising popularity for the next 35 years.

Election Trouble

AN ECHO of our recent election is found in an 1849 broadside we have just acquired. Lewis Cass of Michigan had been defeated for President in 1848. He was urged to run for the U.S. Senate on the Democratic ticket. In those days Senators were elected by each state legislature. Cass was nominated by a caucus of Democratic members of the legislature.

Then a group of 17 Democrats objected, denying the legitimacy of the caucus and alleging that Cass did not want the office according to a letter he wrote to one of them. Actually, they also feared he was too lenient on the extension of slavery into the Southwest territory won from Mexico. They set forth their position in a broadside now little known.

Nevertheless, Cass was re-elected to the Senate by a vote of 44 to 38, far from the virtual unanimity he had expected and had enjoyed in 1845. In the last biography of Cass, 1950, the broadside is not mentioned, as only one copy was known—at Harvard. Now we have obtained a second copy, to go with out extensive Cass manuscripts.

G. Washington

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY always comment on the mannequins of British and Hessian soldiers which stand on top of our exhibition cases. There is another one representing Gen. Sir William Howe in the rare book room. These figures were made and given to us by Mrs. John Alexander, a Fellow and longtime friend of the Library. The uniforms are authentic copies, and her workmanship is impeccable.

As a Bicentennial offering, she has made a new figure of George Washington, resplendent in buff and blue. We have him facing Sir William Howe, who never equalled him in generalship or character. The mannequins add color and interest to our interior.

For Our Side

NOT OFTEN CAN we find any political pamphlets of the Revolutionary period which we lack. Suddenly we came upon two this fall, and the Board bought them for us.

One is the Abbé Raynal's *Sentiments of a Foreigner on the Disputes of Great Britain with America* (Philadelphia 1775). It is called the first edition and no French printing is known. The good abbé was a friend of America and took her side against England.

The other is the *Address to the Rulers of the State* (London 1778). The unknown author argued that England made a mistake in keeping Canada in the peace of 1763, because that led to the Quebec Act of 1774 which antagonized the American colonies. He urged a union of England and her American colonies in order to attack France and Spain, England's hereditary enemies. He even recommended making an alliance with Sweden and Norway to conquer the West Indies. Only two other copies of this booklet are known.

Society of the Cincinnati

WE ARE PLEASED to have a handsome folio pamphlet entitled *Proceedings of the Cincinnati by Their Delegates in General-Meeting Convened at Philadelphia, May 1787* (Philadelphia 1787). This was the second general meeting of this Society of Revolutionary War officers. It was founded in 1783 to raise money for widows and children of veterans. Otherwise it was a social organization and was carried on by sons of officers. A few frightened republicans feared it might become an elitist group with political ambitions, but it didn't. The proceedings of the first general meeting, 1784, apparently were not published; only a circular letter to the new state societies was issued.

It was another purchase of the Associates.

Civil War

OUR CIVIL WAR manuscript holdings are gradually taking on substantial depth. Mrs. Norman Hartweg of Ann Arbor has presented us with 103 letters of James T. and Robert E. Miller, brothers from near Warren, Pennsylvania.

James enlisted in November, 1861 in the 111th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. It was a regiment which fought hard and frequently at Cedar Mountain, Gettysburg, Atlanta, and in the Carolinas. Miller was always in the thick of battle, and his graphic descriptions of combat were those of a proud, hardened veteran. He was killed in a murderous surprise attack at Peach Tree Creek, outside Atlanta, on July 20, 1864.

Robert E. Miller mustered into the 151st Pennsylvania Regiment in October, 1862. The unit served with the Army of the Potomac in Virginia. Although he spent almost half of his nine-months tour of duty in military hospitals, missing Gettysburg, the lack of military content in the correspondence is compensated for by well-written descriptions of camps and hospitals. While recuperating at St. Paul's Church Hospital in Alexandria, he attended a Sunday service in Christ Church and minutely described Washington's pew, yet proudly displayed in the venerable landmark.

This is an especially good set of soldiers' letters, and we are deeply appreciative of the gift.

We would urge any of the library's Associates possessing diaries or letters of a Civil War ancestor to consider entrusting them to the able care of our Manuscript Division.

Old Man River On Maps

THE BRITISH HOPE for West Florida was something more than could be expected. Pensacola was selected as the capital of the colony, since the treaty of 1763 gave New Orleans to the Spanish. In fact, both sides of the Mississippi River below New Orleans were under Spanish rule, and rather than pay a stiff tariff the British spent several years trying to dig a canal to pass through Lake Maurapas and open a route for commerce directly with the Atlantic. The canal never worked. But settlers flocked to the rich lands along the Mississippi and perhaps 4,000 had staked claims by 1775.

One citizen who acquired 17,000 acres partially bordering the river was the lieutenant governor, Montefort Browne. Browne ambitiously planned to re-locate the capital to a site overlooking a bend in the river between Baton Rouge and Port Hudson on 112 acres of land and consulted a surveyor to lay out the town. A manuscript plan of the town attributed to Capt. John Montresor was obtained by the Library in 1967 showing the proposed layout of the city and the surrounding countryside. Through other sources, we have obtained an identical map of the ground plan, but with the town not as yet laid out and demarcating the possession of Browne, the area reserved for the city itself and a larger parcel of 635 acres to show the suburbs. It is dated 1774 and the initials of the draftsman reveal it to be the work of Lt. John Campbell, a member of the Corps of Engineers.

Browne's motives remain unclear—an accompanying letter explains that he intended to reserve other parcels for the soldiers of his regiment to purchase at one farthing an acre. Obviously, these were reasonable terms. Perhaps he intended to profit by the commerce by other means, but in any case, all plans were shelved by the American Revolution and his appointment as captain-general to the Bahama Islands in 1775. Other correspondence relating to the subject has been identified in the calendar of the papers of Lord Dartmouth, which, when examined, should give further insight to the transactions.

The Dodge Story

ONE OF THE GREAT rarities among Revolutionary captivity narratives is the story of John Dodge. Born in Connecticut in 1751, he established himself at Sandusky, Ohio, as an Indian trader in 1770. When the Revolution began, he took some western Indians to a council at Fort Pitt. For this rebel activity, Col. Henry Hamilton of Detroit seized him in January 1776 and confined him in irons in an unheated jail, promising to hang him as a traitor. For a time he was ill and unable to walk. Finally in June, Hamilton released him from confinement and he was allowed to move around within the fort. Meanwhile, his trade goods at Sandusky had been taken and given to the Indians.

In the spring of 1777 he even obtained a pass from Hamilton and took some trade goods on credit to Mackinac and returned. He saw Hamilton pay off some Indians who brought back scalps and prisoners from Kentucky. Dodge managed to rescue one prisoner from the Indians. For this act, he was imprisoned again for a time, and the Kentuckian died of fever. Dodge's new stock of trade goods was seized, and in May 1778 he was sent as a prisoner to Quebec. Hamilton then prevented his being exchanged but he was allowed the freedom of the town. In October he escaped and reached Boston. It was his testimony that helped blacken the name of Hamilton in American eyes. Dodge died in 1800.

His *Narrative* was published in Philadelphia in 1779. Only ^{one} ~~two~~ copies ^{are} known today. We have just acquired the second edition, Danvers, Mass., 1780. It was from this edition that Clarence M. Burton reproduced a facsimile in 1909 in 60 copies; until now that is all we owned. Phil
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