“THE AMERICAN HISTORIAN’S RAW MATERIALS”

BOOKS BASED ON THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Compiled by Emiko O. Hastings and J. Kevin Graffagnino

Ann Arbor

William L. Clements Library

2010
CLEMENTS LIBRARY
Watercolor, Jane Stanley
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INTRODUCTION

When the University of Michigan dedicated the William L. Clements Library on June 15, 1923, distinguished scholar J. Franklin Jameson delivered the keynote address, “The American Historian’s Raw Materials.” Recipient of the first American doctorate in history, co-founder and past president of the American Historical Association, first managing editor of the *American Historical Review*, editor of the papers of John C. Calhoun, longtime head of the Department of Historical Research at the Carnegie Institution, future chief of the manuscript division of the Library of Congress, and influential proponent of the establishment of a national archive, Jameson was his generation’s leading expert on the value of primary sources for historical research. The opening of the Clements, he told his audience, was a momentous occasion. “What we are here to dispose of is not a parcel of valuable books and manuscripts, but the potentiality of intellectual gains far beyond the calculations of the market-place, and of mental achievements far beyond the imaginings of any who are here present.” No generation could anticipate the ways in which its successors would study and interpret the past, Jameson said, but the need for original sources would remain constant. That being the case, the establishment of the Clements Library was a gift, “in the long run, to the confraternity of scholars, and it is a pleasure to express with the warmest feeling their gratitude.” By creating “a collection and an institution that are at the service of the whole world of historical scholarship,” Jameson declared, William L. Clements had done something important and lasting for American historians and their work.

The 87 years since the opening of the Clements Library have validated Jameson’s prediction. The Library’s rich resources on early North American history—books, maps, manuscripts, pamphlets, newspapers, prints and views—have attracted a steady progression of scholars to Ann Arbor. “It is primarily a library for advanced research on the part of scholars already well equipped,” William L. Clements said at the 1923 dedication, and while the Library’s users have long included large numbers of both undergraduate and graduate students, the senior historians Clements had in mind have always been frequent visitors as well. The published results of their work have made significant contributions to our understanding of America’s early heritage. On a wide range of aspects of our history from 1493 to 1900 —
exploration and discovery, the American Revolution, Native Americans, politics and government, culinary history, immigration and ethnicity, the Civil War, slavery and antislavery, women’s history, transportation, Reconstruction, social reform, African Americans, commerce and trade, the War of 1812—generations of scholars have utilized collections at the Clements for the production of important books and articles. “Here are the books from which alone can be won the knowledge which must underlie all truly successful historical writing,” University of Michigan head librarian William Warner Bishop said at the March 31, 1922, laying of the cornerstone of the Clements, and the productivity of the historians who have worked at the Library has proved him right.

The following list provides a chronological overview of research at the Clements Library since its founding. The titles are scholarly books that have made significant use of the collections; the list does not include most of the fiction, works of popular history, articles in journals or other serials, or volumes for which the Clements holdings were a minor source such as a single footnote or illustration, since adding all of those would necessitate a volume of daunting thickness. The roster is as complete as the staff of the Library could make it, but it is not exhaustive; no doubt there have been scholars over the years who have not notified the Library of the publication of their work or provided us with copies for the reference collection. Nonetheless, there are some 500 books listed here, and they represent an impressive fulfillment of the hopes that William L. Clements, William Warner Bishop, and J. Franklin Jameson expressed for the Library at its inception.

Readers of this pamphlet will spot many familiar names and titles in its pages. Eminent historians are numerous, including Hoffman Nickerson, Samuel F. Bemis, Verner W. Crane, Lawrence H. Gipson, Richard B. Morris, Julian P. Boyd, Carl Van Doren, Louis Gottschalk, Douglas Southall Freeman, Thomas J. Wertenbaker, James T. Flexner, Edmund S. Morgan, Henry Steele Commager, Don Higginbotham, Leon Litwack, George A. Billias, Don R. Gerlach, Gerda Lerner, Michael G. Kammen, Hiller B. Zobel, Mary Beth Norton, Richard White,
David Hackett Fischer, Richard Ketchum, Fred Anderson, Richard Middleton, and David McCullough. The list of publishers features nearly 60 academic and scholarly presses in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, as well as more than 100 commercial publishing houses on both sides of the Atlantic. The presence of many books by University of Michigan faculty, from Claude H. Van Tyne and Verner W. Crane in the 1920s to John Shy, Gregory Dowd, Martha Jones, Jacob M. Price, and David Hancock among today’s U-M scholars, indicates that the Clements has forged strong ties close to home. More than three dozen titles by Clements Library staff—Randolph G. Adams, Lloyd Brown, Howard H. Peckham, Colton Storm, John C. Dann, Mary Pedley, Barbara DeWolfe, Brian Dunnigan—demonstrate that the curators and administrators of the Clements have made good use of the collections under their care to participate in the life of the mind on the U-M campus and contribute to the written record of early American history. William L. Clements hoped that his library would stimulate the development of “a Michigan school of history” in Ann Arbor, and if that has happened the Clements Library has played a key role.

The chronological order of this list also provides a glimpse into American historiography over the past nine decades. The early titles abound in works on military and political history, nearly all by male historians working in the Library’s great Revolutionary War collections. While eighteenth-century America has remained a principal focus of Clements researchers, in the 1950s the range of subjects began to broaden considerably, reflecting both a change in scholarly interests and the chronological and thematic growth of the Library’s holdings. In 1923 the collections stopped for the most part at the end of the eighteenth century, but by 1950 they were quite strong up to the Civil War, and researchers took notice. At the same time, as scholars shifted from a concentration on war and politics to race, gender, class, and other aspects of American social history, visitors to the Clements discovered rich new veins of material in collections previously regarded as largely of military and political interest. The result has been a steady flow
of books on new areas of American history that in recent decades has matched the ongoing use of the Library’s holdings for work on the more traditional areas that William L. Clements had emphasized in assembling his library.

Since its dedication in 1923 the Clements Library has ranked among the finest collections of early North American history. That remains the case today, and the Library continues to add new materials for researchers. While the chronological scope of the holdings now extends forward to 1900, the emphasis as always is on acquisition of primary sources in their original form. For scholars interested in North America from 1493 through 1900, the resources at the Clements make the Library a remarkably attractive destination. Most of the holdings are rare; many items are unique; and together they comprise an array of source materials few research libraries can match. With such peer institutions as the John Carter Brown Library, the Houghton Library at Harvard, the Beinecke at Yale, the Newberry Library, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Huntington Library, the Clements offers American history collections of extraordinary breadth and depth. A century ago British statesman and essayist Augustine Birrell wrote, “A great library easily begets affection, which may deepen into love.” As four generations of American historians can attest, the William L. Clements Library is solid evidence that Augustine Birrell was a wise man.
RESEARCH AT THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY

Since the opening of the Clements Library in 1923, the collections here have attracted a steady stream of scholars working on early American history. The results have been impressive: hundreds of books, thousands of articles and a lasting impact on the published literature of our national heritage. This list offers a chronological selection of noteworthy titles that have made substantial use of the Clements holdings. An asterisk at the start of a listing denotes a title by a member of the Clements Library staff.

1922


1927


1928

1929


1930


1931


1932


1933

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939


1940


1941


1942


1943


1944


1947


1948


1949


1950


1951


1952


1953


1954


1955


1956


1957


1958


1959


1960


**1961**


**1962**


1963


**1964**


**1965**


1966


**1967**


1968


1969


1970


1971


1972


Christopher McKee, *Edward Preble: A Naval Biography, 1761-1807* (An-


1973


1974


1975


Richard H. Kohn, *Eagle and Sword: The Federalists and the Creation of*


1976


1977


1978


1979


1980


1981


1982


1983


1984


1985


1986


1987


1988


1989


1990


1991


1992


1993


1994


1995


1996


1997


1998


1999


**2000**


2001


2002


2003


2004


Steven C. Hahn, *The Invention of the Creek Nation, 1670-1763* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press). 338 pp. [Jacob M. Price Fellow]


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**2005**


Greg O’Brien, *Choctaws in a Revolutionary Age, 1750-1830* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press). 164 pp. [Jacob M. Price Fellow]


James Robertson, *Gone is the Ancient Glory: Spanish Town, Jamaica, 1543-2000* (Kingston, Jamaica: Randle). 477 pp. [Jacob M. Price Fellow]

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**2006**


**2007**


**2008**


2009


Kevin Kenny, *Peaceable Kingdom Lost: The Paxton*

David L. Preston, The Texture of Contact: European and Indian Settler Communities on the Frontiers of Iroquoia, 1667-1783 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska). 395 pp. [Jacob M. Price Fellow]

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