

The Quarto

ISSUED FOR THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

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Spring Program

JOAN MORRIS AND BILL BOLCOM, who in company with Heritage Americana provided such a stunning musical program for the Clements Library Associates a year ago last fall, will return for our spring program on April 22nd this year.

The Hutchinson Family was one of the most popular and interesting musical groups of the nineteenth century. Best remembered today as Abraham Lincoln's favorite singers and as popularizers of songs such as "The Spider and the Fly" and "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," they were a fixture of the antislavery movement and early Republican Party affairs. The personnel of the group changed occasionally, there being fifteen children in the family. Their concerts were a blend of humorous, sentimental, and reforming songs, with a mixture of solo and harmonic pieces, and they clearly had a stage presence which melted the hearts of any audience.

Prof. Ronald Rollet of the University, with modest support from the Library and a grant from the Museum of Modern Art, has been doing research for a stage performance or film on the Hutchinsons. The Clements Library performance of April 22nd, starring Joan Morris as Abby Hutchinson, will be the premiere effort. Associates will receive more details through the mail.

Our Oldest Letter

IN MAY OF 1638, 26-year-old Henry Biley left his pregnant wife Rebecca in Wiltshire, England, and sailed for Massachusetts, arriving three months later. On October 11, he wrote from Newbury his second letter home to his "dearest Beck," a letter which now stands as the earliest piece of American correspondence in the Clements holdings. It is a recent, much appreciated gift of Chester G. Wold of Hartland, Michigan.

In three closely written pages, Henry sketches his first impressions of New England and expresses his hope that Beck can join him soon.

Henry has found Massachusetts to his liking, "confident that there is noe Country under the Sunn where men may more Comfort[ably] subsist if they be industrious."

Biley's sister, Mary, accompanied him on the voyage, and she sent to Beck a list of things which Beck should bring with her to America. It included lace for handkerchiefs and dress clothes; yard goods of linen, wool, linsey-woolsey, worsted, and "slight stuff" (or serge) for petticoats; stockings; a pink "bottom"; primrose-colored ribbon; shoes — three pair russet and one pair black; a taffeta hood and a "tiffany" (silk) hood; and even a "grass green" waistcoat "ready made."

Biley's easy style indicates that he did not feel so cut off from home as we often think early settlers must have been. And the grim image we have of dour Puritans is somewhat dispelled with the appearance of off-the-rack grass-green waistcoats, primrose ribbons, lace-edged handkerchiefs, and pink "bottoms."

Rebecca Biley did come to Massachusetts within the next year or so. Henry died about 1640, not yet thirty years old. Rebecca survived nearly into the next century and outlived four husbands before her death.

New Board Member

WE ARE PLEASED to note the addition of Walter Hayes to the Board of the Clements Library Associates. Formerly editor of the *Sunday Dispatch* and associate editor of the *London Daily Mail*, he joined Ford Motor Company in 1962, becoming vice chairman of the board for European operations and vice president of the Ford Motor Company. Transferred to the parent company in Dearborn in 1980, Mr. Hayes is currently vice president in charge of public affairs.

Mr. Hayes and Elizabeth, his wife, live in Ann Arbor. They have a strong interest in history, in fine printing, and are collectors. Their enthusiasm for the Clements Library has been greatly appreciated, and it is a pleasure to welcome Mr. Hayes to the Board.



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Educational Hospitality

IN OUR INTENTIONAL emphasis in the *Quarto* upon acquisitions, we undoubtedly give the impression that collecting is our only function. It is but one of many, not the least of which is serving a very broad public at the University and at large.

In spite of the sedate appearance of the building, the Clements is a remarkably busy place. During the 1982-3 fall/winter terms, faculty members from a wide range of fields brought classes for an introduction to the Clements' holdings. Such meetings are often followed up with

extensive library use by individual students. Traditionally the largest number come from history, English, library science, education, and geography, but there are also students from art, architecture, music, and the natural sciences.

The Library staff held its annual open house for new graduate students in September and has been working closely with students and faculty members using Clements material as the basis for special projects. Three advanced courses in early American history are meeting regularly at the Library this semester. Graduate students in the museum practice program, under staff supervision, are preparing an exhibit on Native Americans which will be shown at the Art Museum, accompanied by an exhibit at the Library.

The Clements has actively participated in programs designed for professional archivists and librarians. A Special Libraries Association session was held at the Library in the early summer, and the Mid-west Archives Conference met here this past fall. A delegation of archivists from the People's Republic of China visited us in September. The University librarians' staff association recently toured the building.

A variety of programs have been offered to groups outside the academic community. The Library frequently entertains alumni groups, and individual staff members are often called upon to speak to alumni chapters. Patriotic organizations — the DAR, the Society Daughters of Colonial Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart — have had programs prepared by the staff in recent months. Public service organizations, including Rotary, the Civic Club and the Salvation Army, were also given tours or informal talks relating to the Library. The Dickens Fellowship held its annual Christmas program here. The Michigan Map Society and the Antiquarian Book Society of Ann Arbor meet quite regularly in the Library on weekday evenings.

Perhaps the Clements' most popular educational service is its exhibits, which draw literally thousands of visitors each year. The current exhibit, "Advice for All Seasons: Early American Almanacs" was the basis for lectures given to undergraduates in American literature. At Christmas, an exhibition showing the origin and evolution of "The Night Before Christmas," from 1833 to 1983, brought hundreds of visitors to the Library. The Clements plans to continue this part of its program in the coming year with exhibits on a variety of themes: the image of the Indian in America, witchcraft, the Peace Treaty of 1783, German Americana, Christmas, and early American cookbooks.

South of the Border

IN *Scott's Campaign in Mexico* (Charleston, S.C., 1849), H. Judge Moore offers a thorough, workmanlike treatment of the war's events from the American army's rendezvous at the Lobos Islands in February, 1847, to Santa Anna's retreat from Puebla in October of the following year. The author relied heavily on official reports for his narrative.

But Moore, a Southern gentleman serving in the South Carolina Palmetto Regiment, maintains a very engaging style. His observations on Mexican culture are free of jingoistic asides and filled with an astute appreciation of the personal contacts induced by war on foreign soil.

After the taking of Vera Cruz, Winfield Scott marched the army through the interior, successively occupying Jalapa, Perote, and Puebla. At each of these stops Moore recorded his views on the climate, terrain, and vegetation. Yet he was most interested in the Mexican people, their habits and dress, food and drink.

Understandably, and in true Southern fashion, he is impressed with the ladies, in whom he sees "an indescribable spirituality, an ethereal embodiment of all that man has learned to love and admire about their beauty, which beggars all description, and defies every attempt at transferring any just conceptions of it to paper." Still, Moore does his best, describing warmly not only the finely attired upper-class women, but "The Baker Girl of Alvarado" and "The Beautiful Indian Girl of Perote."

In Perote, Moore "had an opportunity of inspecting more minutely the celebrated maquey plant, or American Aloe, from which the universal Mexican drink called *pulque* is produced. It has a whitish appearance, something like a mixture of milk and water, and has a ropy adhesive quality while in the first stages of fermentation, and at first is very unpleasant to the taste and smell." Moore had little trouble accustoming himself, and he spent many happy hours in the local *pulquerias*. The second most popular beverage was *mescal*, "a very hot, fiery liquor." He noted that "When a Señor and Señora call at the shop for their refreshments, they order two glasses to be filled, and the wife taking one, gently tastes it by touching it with her lips, and then hands it to her husband, then she takes her own glass and they both drink together; sometimes they repeat, the wife always tasting the husband's glass before either drink. Judging from my casual observations, I should say that the Mexicans, as a nation, are generally rather moderate drinkers, but

when they *do* take a notion to indulge, they mostly prefer the *pulque*, as it is more wholesome and pleasant to the taste, and the 'pains and penalties' of getting sober are not so unpleasant as from that of stronger drinks."

Moore thought highly of Mexican food, including the simple fare so familiar to us today. "The most ordinary comestibles that are sold in the market are the *frijoles*, or boiled beans, and tortillas, which are a kind of corn pancake without salt or seasoning of any kind, and *chile soup*, which is made principally of redpepper, boiled with beef or mutton; the pepper makes it look as red as wine, and although rather hot for uninitiated palates, yet it is quite a savory dish when one becomes accustomed to it. The tortilla is made of corn soaked in warm water impregnated with lye, until it becomes soft, when it is ground by the women upon a hand mill, which process, instead of making meal, forms into a lump of dough; it is then made into thin cakes, and baked in a large earthen pan or ladle made for the purpose . . . A glass of *pulque*, half a dozen tortillas, and a plate of chile soup, taken twice a day, is quite enough, making a most hearty and luxurious meal."

This account of one soldier's brief service in the Mexican War is a fair treatment, interesting and unusual in its outlook. Moore even has some words of admiration for "the great Mexican chieftain, Santa Anna." As war narrative and cultural commentary, it is an excellent addition to our shelves.

The Humanities

IN AN ECONOMICALLY depressed world which now is putting primary emphasis upon technology and jobs, are the liberal arts a threatened part of the educational curriculum? This is a serious, timely, and emotionally charged issue on America's campuses, but it is not a *new* one, as we are reminded by a recently acquired sermon. The pamphlet, by the way, is only the second known copy.

The Reverend James Horrocks, a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, was master of the grammar school connected with the College of William and Mary when he was requested by the vestry of Petworth Church, Gloucester County, Virginia, to deliver an appropriate address, *On the Peace* (Williamsburg, 1763), at the conclusion of the French and Indian War.

Education was one of the topics covered in his far-ranging sermon, and his worries are of con-

temporary substance, although antiquated in expression.

"In respect of the present Method of Education pers'd by far the greater Part amongst us, will it not appear to a thoughtful Person likely to take an unhappy Turn? The Attention of the Generality seems particularly directed to those parts of useful Knowledge, as they may be call'd, which will turn out to some immediate Account of Profit, and Advantage, which will make some quick Return of a solid, lucrative Nature to their Possessor, whilst those more truly useful Arts, and valuable Studies, which polish, and humanize Mankind, which raise the Genius, and which mend the Heart, which inspire the noble Principles of Probity and Honour, which in short lay the Foundation of every private, and public Virtue, whilst these, I say, lie neglected and overlook'd, as altogether unnecessary to a Youth's future Advancement, and Success in the World.

"Instead of this what is there substituted? Perhaps I am not far from the Truth, as it is not my Design to be so, when I observe that a little Knowledge in Figures and Accounts, a Smattering of the Mathematics, and a tolerable Acquaintance with the peculiar Business of the Country, make up the Sum total of the Learning of I know not how many. On such Things as these then your Minds must always be employ'd, or Time will hang extremely heavy on your hands. . . ."

The Birds, Ants, and Bees

A SINGLE, but apparently unique issue of a newspaper entitled *The True Union, Or Scientific Socialist* (Huntsville, Indiana, Dec., 1865) which came our way recently, proposes an alternate political and social system which might have found a more responsive following a century later in the 1960's.

M.T. Conant, A.C. Rockwell, and Thomas Cook, founders of a would-be commune "on Spring River, in the Cherokee neutral land" of Kansas, set forth their ideas.

"We adopt, as the great fundamental principles, on which to build our Temple of humanity, LOVE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM and EQUALITY. Therefore, since all will be equal, there will be no Priest, King, President, Governor or other human rulers, no Master and Slave, no Husband and Wife, and no Landlord and Tenant. But each member, male or female, will be self-governed, guided only by the Law or Spirit of Nature, as is seen manifested through the bison, the bird, the ant and the bee. That is, it will be perfectly natural,

and each one and the whole will be directed by the power of their own inspiration: which however is but another name for instinct.

"Consequently no member of this Order will be held responsible for 'the deeds done in the body' to any other person, power, court or tribunal, save their own conscience; which we believe to be the judgment seat of God."

Heaven on earth, perhaps, but one would have to find a group of angels to make such a society function properly!

Electioneering

THE CELLULOID CAMPAIGN BUTTON dates from near the end of the nineteenth century, and coin-like campaign tokens had come into existence in the Jacksonian Period of the 1820's. Could it be that it was not Americans but British entrepreneurs who first grasped the possible profits from American political rivalry?

A recently acquired letter of Senator Samuel Latham Mitchill to his wife, dated in 1807 when the United States was practically at war with England, must record one of the very earliest examples of commemorative ephemera aimed at an upcoming Presidential contest:

"The bad condition of my Razors rendered it necessary for me to buy new ones. And I may inform you that these Utensils are made use of for the purposes of Fame and Politics. Orders are sent from this place to Sheffield, the great manufactory of hard ware in England, for Razors to be manufactured to suit the two prevailing parties in the U.S. and they came forth with appropriate Words elegantly burnished on one side of their Blades. For the Republicans, these instruments are adorned with the Words 'a true Jeffersonian,' and for the Federalists with 'a true Washingtonian,' and more recently to favour the pretensions of the Secretary of State to the Presidential Chair, Razors are sold here in great Numbers with the Words, 'a true Madisonian' superbly legible on the steel."

Mitchill noted that "It is in this way that the Printing of Callico Curtains, the figuring of Staffordshire Crockery, and the casting of Gypsum Medallions have all been instrumental in procuring renown for certain persons." He purchased both a Jeffersonian and a Madisonian model, "observing to the Seller, that *Clintonians* & *Smithians* ought to be manufactured, for the two Candidates nominated by some for Pres^t & Vice Pres^t at the next Election."