

THE QUARTO

NO. 45

THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

SPRING-SUMMER 2016

THE NEW AND IMPROVED CLEMENTS LIBRARY

Photo by Austin Thomason.



The highlight of the Clements Library's Grand Reopening was a traditional ribbon cutting. Doing the honors (l. to r.) are U-M President Mark S. Schlissel, Library Director J. Kevin Graffagnino, Christy Finkenstaedt U-M 2018 (great-great-granddaughter of William L. Clements), and Peter N. Heydon, Chairman of the Clements Library Associates Board of Governors.

April 11, 2016, was a special day for the Clements Library. That afternoon, after 28 months of "Ellsworth Exile" for our renovations-and-expansion project, we held a Grand Reopening to introduce the world to our new and improved facility. The weather, which had been absolutely beastly the day before, broke clear and cool for our outdoor ceremonies. A standing-room-only crowd of 400 gathered on the south lawn to listen to speakers Mark S. Schlissel, Peter N. Heydon and Christy Finkenstaedt and watch the ceremonial ribbon-cutting. Tours of the interior showed visitors the new reading room,

staff offices, meeting rooms, and other enhancements to the people spaces in the main building. The elegant 1851 Columbian printing press we installed in the Avenir Foundation Room as an example of the hand-powered technology that produced most of our books, pamphlets, and newspapers wowed everyone, especially those who have never drawn breath in a world without computers and instantaneous electronic communication.

In the evening, Mark Dimunation, head of the Special Collections unit of the Library of Congress, gave an eloquent, heartfelt speech in praise of the value and relevance of great research

libraries like ours. Although I admit that I went through the day in an adrenaline-fueled haze, any glitches and problems at Grand Reopening escaped my attention then and since. If the comments and praise we've received in the past month are any indication, April 11 went off like a Director's dream.

I devoted most of my Grand Reopening microphone time to thanking people, and I'd like to summarize some of those comments here. First and foremost, I'm grateful to the past and present members of the Clements Library staff. Our predecessors were dedicated and impressive professionals on whose shoulders we stand every day in pursuit



of our work. The members of the current roster are the best group of colleagues I've had in a far-ranging career that is now closing out its fourth decade. The University of Michigan, from the Board of Regents to two Presidents, three Provosts and a dozen departments across the campus, enthusiastically backed the Library at every step of the renovations process. SmithGroup, our architects for the project, and Phoenix Contractors, Inc., who did the hard-hat work, turned the Library's ideas and needs into workable designs and functional solutions. Our donors, including members of the staff, every individual on the Clements Library Associates Board of Governors, and several Michigan foundations, stepped up with generous contributions. Special thanks go out to the Avenir Foundation, which provided a transformative grant that allowed us to dream big rather than small for what we could accomplish. The net result was a series of interlocking partnerships among the University and dozens of individual and collective supporters that let us envision and achieve great things for the Library and our constituencies. The Clements will function better for decades to come as a

Photo by Philip Dattilo.



This glistening, restored 1851 Columbian printing press is another new feature of the Avenir Foundation Room. Manufactured in England, the decorative eagle shows

result, and I hope you'll forgive my colleagues and me if we are proud of that.

And now, after a project that has consumed much of our time and energy for the past eight years, the challenges and opportunities of crafting a brilliant future for the Clements are at hand. We have facilities that work far better than they did before, and we want

to ensure that the collections, staff, programming, and services in them match the setting. Whether in collection development, participation in the University's new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiative, exhibits and public presentations, digitization and other electronic outreach, or any of our other activities, the goal is to be great, not pretty good. The University of Michigan means it when it says "Leaders and Best," and we here at the Clements embrace that standard with enthusiasm. In the months and years ahead we will ask you for ideas, advice, suggestions, and other input (yes, including financial

support) on how we can maintain and enhance the stature of this world-class institution. As most of you know from the latest WLCL book, I'm fond of British statesman Augustine Birrell's wise observation, "A great library easily begets affection, which may deepen into love." I think the Clements is exactly the kind of place Birrell had in mind, and I invite those of you who share my perspective to enlist in the effort to keep it that way.

— J. Kevin Graffagnino
Director

More than 400 guests celebrated the Library's reopening. Many took tours of the renovated building and enjoyed a lecture by Mark Dimunation of the Library of Congress. Here, guests await the ribbon cutting under a large tent erected on the Library's plaza.

Photo by Austin Thomason.



OUR NEW DIGS

*W*e are home! And, while there is no denying that the renovation and expansion of the Clements Library has been a long haul for its staff, readers, and friends, the results are well worth it. During August and September 2013 we completely emptied the landmark Albert Kahn building at 909 South University, moved collections to several

different storage areas, and set up our temporary “shop” at 1580 East Ellsworth Road. There, three miles from Central Campus, we organized offices, reading room, and collections space in time to reopen to readers at the end of September 2013. The temporary Clements-Library-in-Exile, constructed as a light industrial building and ware-

house, had most of the amenities we needed. It came equipped with security and climate-control features installed for the U-M Museum of Art at the time of its renovation and expansion.

The Clements Library gratefully inherited the structure, and, after a few more alterations, it served us well for twenty-eight months. The Library func-

Photo by Philip Dattilo.



Above: *The Avenir Foundation Room in its new configuration as a reading room. Feedback from our patrons has so far been very positive—they like conducting their research in such grand surroundings.*

Right: *Four new glass-topped exhibit cases provide space for additional displays in the Avenir Foundation Room. They also serve as a physical barrier between the reading room and the great bronze doors of the South Entrance. These cases contain a semi-permanent exhibition describing the development of the Library's collection from Mr. Clements to fourth Director, J. Kevin Graffagnino.*



Photo by Philip Dattilo.



Photo by Philip Dattilo

Offices (background) and a central work room (foreground) now occupy the lower level of the Clements Library. Glass walls front each room permitting light from six windows to brighten up the space. To the right is a thirty-person meeting room.

tioned normally throughout most of that time, and we provided reasonably comfortable spaces for readers to consult our collections and for staff to conduct their normal activities. We even had a small conservation lab and a room devoted to digitizing collections. A number of close calls with the building's roof notwithstanding, we housed our collections safely and securely. With everything on one floor and the new online Aeon system in use for reader registration and collections tracking, our reading room staff promptly and efficiently assisted 433 individual researchers who spent 1,973 "research days" in the Library between September 2013 and August 2015. We suspended reader services at Ellsworth effective August 31, 2015, to prepare for our move back to campus, planning to reopen our renovated building at the beginning of January 2016.

Of course, nothing ever reaches completion without a few gremlins. Phoenix Contractors, Inc., the general contractor, moved ahead energetically, but as the autumn of 2015 neared, problems with suppliers delayed the completion date. Additionally, final certification of the building's mechanical systems and security alarms took longer than anticipated. Our expectations of beginning the return move on October 1 had to be revised, first to November 1, then to December, and finally to February 2016. Everyone was anxious to get the move underway, even more so after the staff had their first tour of the Kahn building on December 1. Two weeks later, Shneen Coldiron, our business manager and liaison with the contractor, accepted the keys. Part of our staff moved in soon after. We transferred collections

and the remaining staff at the end of March.

All of us have found the Kahn building fundamentally changed—but very much for the better. The first floor (the Avenir Foundation Room level) is the least altered, aside from its furnishings. The oak-paneled walls, ornate chandeliers, and decorative ceilings remain intact in both the Avenir Foundation Room and the former Rare Book Room. The glass-fronted book cases of both rooms now protect the earliest of our "standard" (not rare) volumes. The tall tabernacle doors of the former Rare Book Room can be closed to separate that space from the Avenir Foundation Room and provide a relatively private area for small group meetings without disturbing readers.

The most significant change on the first floor is the conversion of the

Avenir Foundation Room to the Library's reading room. Entering through the great bronze doors on the south side of the building a visitor now encounters a reception desk flanked on each side by a pair of glass-topped exhibit cases. These five large pieces of furniture provide a physical barrier between the south door and the reading room tables. The cases contain a semi-permanent exhibit that describes how William L. Clements and the four directors of his library have assembled the collection as it is today—each according to his own distinctive style. The exhibit presents examples of items collected during the tenure of each Director. To minimize the negative effects of light and the environment, the collection items on display will be rotated every three months.

The two front alcoves retain the tried and true flat display cases, so we will have the capability of presenting two exhibits at once. As a finishing touch for the Avenir Foundation Room, we have acquired an impressive and beautifully restored 1851 Columbian printing press, an example of the technology that produced most of the books in the Clements collection. It stands proudly at the east end of the room.

Beyond the exhibit cases one glimpses the heart of the reading room—the tables used by our researchers. Eight roomy tables from U-M's Lorch Hall were beautifully refinished to match the paneling of the Clements's walls. Two even larger tables are avail-

The new conservation lab is roughly three times the area of the old one. The new staff offices and workroom provide a very comfortable working environment.

Photo by Scott Soderberg



able for studying maps or oversized prints. Readers are seated on attractive new adjustable ergonomic chairs. Elevated desks for our reading room supervisors allow them to observe readers and monitor the material being used. The reference office (formerly the Seminar Room), business manager's office, Director's office, and a new unisex restroom take up the remainder of the first floor.

Only our staff will see the changes to the second floor, which amounts to about one-fourth of the width of the building's footprint. Formerly divided into three rooms, it is now a single, unified area of stacks for the Book Division. The five balcony alcoves overlooking the reading room once again have volumes on their shelves.

The really radical changes are found in the below-ground levels. In fact, most long-time Clements friends will probably find themselves completely disoriented. Our former "lower level"—now officially the "basement" according to the elevator call buttons—was gutted and has been reorganized to accommodate staff offices and collection work areas. Three-quarters of the basement is a secure, staff-only area while the remaining quarter is accessible to readers and visitors. This includes stairways at the east and west ends of the building, an elevator at the east end, the north entrance, and a spacious reception area. A hallway leads west past a very useful mail room, a large "tea room," and restrooms. Lockers line one side of the hallway and coat hooks the other. With this easy access to the tea room we have revived the Library's traditional morning tea—on a voluntary basis, of course.

The area south of the hallway is staff access only. The former reading room, curators' offices, stacks, tea room, and conservation lab have disappeared. In their place are offices, a much larger lab, and an IT/digitizing room along the east, south, and west walls. A thirty-person-capacity meeting room is along the north wall. All ten rooms have front walls of glass, and the meeting room is glass on three sides. This allows natural light from the six basement windows to filter through the space to make a very pleasant interior. The offices and meeting room border a roomy central space equipped with tables for working on

collections.

So much for the original Kahn building. Of course, the project involved expansion as well as renovation. Many passers-by stopped to look at the enormous hole excavated for the new, two-level addition at the east end of the Library. This massive structure is virtually invisible, marked only at ground level by a large patch of myrtle, rose bushes, and seasonal flowers, so it has no impact on the architectural integrity of the 1923 Kahn structure. The lower level contains the building's mechanical systems. It is the floor above that is most of interest to Clements staff. There, twelve-foot-tall rows of compact shelving and banks of compact map and print drawers hold much of the Library's collection. The storage area is certainly not as glamorous as the beautiful rooms on the first floor, but it was desperately needed.

Despite the vast improvements made to the 1923 building, the renovated Clements Library still cannot accommodate its entire collection. Seldom-used items, many reference books, newspapers, and ephemera are stored off site and will eventually go to a secure complex on North Campus. Items requested from that place will typically be available in the reading room within three to five business days.

Outside, the brick plaza and steps on the south front of the Library have

been restored. To the east is the newly planted myrtle (and spring daffodils) atop the collections storage area. On the north side, the old lower-level exterior doorway has become a window, and the entrance has relocated to the northeast corner, where it is sheltered by a glass vestibule. The entire north sidewalk has been reshaped and rebuilt so there is a gradual ramp to the north door.

No account of the renovation project can be complete without acknowledging the hard work and good humor of the Library's staff. All hands were indeed on deck, but special recognition is due Shneen Coldiron, our liaison with the contractor and Emi Hastings and Julie Fremuth, who measured every shelf (how many times?) to ensure that the collections would fit where they belonged!

Now it is up to the staff to make it all work. For the most part, reviews have ranged from favorable to ecstatic. The basement offices are popular with the staff, and our readers seem happy working in the grand surroundings of the Avenir Foundation Room. We are confident that the changes are functional, and we look forward to showing off our "new digs" to CLA members and other friends who were not able to tour the building at our Grand Reopening event on April 11.

Readers and visitors formerly entered the Clements Library through a cramped entrance at the northwest corner of the building. The renovations added a bright and professional greeting space.



Photo by Scott Soderberg.

INTRODUCING THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

From the time it opened in 1923, the William L. Clements Library's "Great Room" has been a showstopper. Architect Albert Kahn outdid himself designing this space, lining the walls with glass-fronted bookcases, vaulting and painting the beautiful ceilings, ornamenting the room with carved oak details, and including a lofty balcony and ornate chandeliers. For most of the building's recent life, however, our avid researchers have labored in a small reading room in the basement, while the impressive space above has been used for exhibits, gatherings, and storage of much of the book collection.

Now, with our doors reopened to the public, the Great Room finds itself rebranded, both in name and in use. Formally christened the Avenir Foundation Room in 2013 in recognition of the Foundation's generous support of the renovation project, this exquisite space now functions as both our reading room and exhibit gallery. This is truly a setting befitting the richness of our his-

torical collections, and the room serves as a testament to Albert Kahn's design aesthetic, William L. Clements's sophisticated collecting, and the Avenir Foundation's visionary support of education and the arts. New tables, lighting, exhibit cases, and security features work hand-in-hand to make the room inviting, inspiring, and secure. It is now both the architectural and intellectual heart of the Library.

This fundamental shift in where and how we serve the public—both those coming to do scholarly work and those interested in casually perusing our exhibits—has required some modifications. First, our hours of operation have changed, with the Library open exclusively to researchers Monday through Thursday year-round. On Fridays we close to readers and invite the public to explore our exhibits. These are larger than ever thanks to the inclusion in the renovation project of four additional custom-made exhibit cases with space to better show off the Clements Library's remarkable resources.

By dividing our use of the room into research and exhibition hours, we hope to provide the best of both worlds for our patrons. Researchers can study in the hushed silence most conducive to their work, and the historically-minded public can leisurely enjoy our exhibitions. The temptation to pop in to see the renovated building is strong, we know, but in order to protect the research environment as well as the security of the collections being used by researchers, we ask the general public to plan their visits for Fridays.

Acknowledging the level of interest generated by the building's renovation, the Library is offering guided tours during times that are least disruptive to our researchers. Please contact us (734-764-2347) if you would like to know more.

To better assist the increasing traffic entering the Avenir Foundation Room, our reading room personnel (Terese Austin, Janet Bloom, Louie Miller, Valerie Proehl, and Jayne Ptolemy) have been reorganized into our Reference Department. When not



*A reader at work
in the newly repurposed
Avenir Foundation
Reading Room.*

Photo by Philip Dattilo.

~~Recd. letter from Sir Henry Clinton~~
a flag of truce to deliver that day just
silence and to charge him with the
of the day on, & promises to return him
self when his business is finished
he shall be in possession of his own
affairs in a day. It is nothing, at least
I was asked but by the British
order, is dismissed by that with
an escort & passes beyond beyond the
Swiss lines, is in the hands of
the side by the British men, and

Narrative.

After a correspondence had been
maintained for some time between the Commander
in Chief and Major General Arnold, a
Meeting was to be held to concert a Plan; and the
Adjutant General the Person fixed upon by
General Arnold to meet him at Dobbs's Ferry
on Monday the 11th September under the signed

The quality of handwriting determines how far one must tilt the head or squint the eyes to decipher a document's content. Sir Henry Clinton (1738?-95) enclosed several documents concerning the Benedict Arnold affair in a letter to Lord George Germain (1716-85) on October 11, 1780. Note the difference in penmanship between Sir Henry's draft (in his own hand) and the carefully composed "Narrative," in a clerk's well-trained (and legible) style.



The Reference Department office retains the floor-to-ceiling bookshelves from its days as the "Seminar Room."

supervising the reading room or paging materials they process long-distance inquiries about the Library's collections and assist the curators with project work and cataloging. With a reception desk at each entrance (north and south) to staff in addition to other duties, Reference is a busy department. Fortunately, we have recently added a new staff member, Claire Milldrum, to the Clements reading room team.

Please note that, in order to minimize noise and distractions in the Avenir Foundation Room during research hours, we recommend that prospective readers or those having appointments use the north entrance facing Hatcher Graduate Library. Accessible ramps at the north entrance lead to a glass vestibule (heated to counteract the lingering Michigan winter), which opens to a bright and inviting reception station. Lockers, coat hooks, wide hallways, and elevator access for those who require it all ensure that researchers who visit the Clements Library can navigate their way to the reading room with comfort and ease.

With the implementation of an online registration and request system in 2015, scholars can now do much of their legwork before coming to the Library itself. Take some time to explore our webpage (<http://clements.umich.edu/research.php>), where you will find directions on how to register, search our finding aids and Mirlyn catalog, and request items to use in the Avenir Foundation Room. With newly expanded collection storage spaces, most of the Clements's historic materials are now housed on-site. However, our tall movable shelving, additional security measures, and multiple collection locations have resulted in slightly

slower paging times. Notifying our reader services team of your intended visit and placing your requests in advance can help us reserve you a seat and have your materials at the ready when you arrive.

When researchers enter the Avenir Foundation Room, they are now greeted by one of our reading room supervisors, who explains how to properly handle the collections. Seating capacity has doubled from the former reading room, helping us better serve the growing number of patrons who visit each year from around the globe. New lamps, ergonomic chairs, wireless internet access, and numerous plugs for electronic devices make the room functional as well as beautiful. While researchers are

Tall, compact shelving fills the new underground collections storage area. Manuscripts Curator Cheney J. Schopieray provides scale.



in the reading room, our reference staff is always ready and willing to be of service—to answer questions about accessing collections or where to turn next in the search for sources, or how to decipher pre-1900 handwriting. We make no promises, however, when it comes to interpreting the most challenging of Sir Henry Clinton's notorious scrawl!

That a growing number of our readers have difficulty comprehending antique handwriting is a relatively new challenge for our reading room staff. The legibility of eighteenth and nineteenth-century letters and documents has always varied widely depending on the skill of the writer—and that of the reader. But a new issue has arisen in the last few years. The younger generation of current scholars passed through the primary educational system after many schools had significantly limited teaching cursive. They find themselves troubled by manuscript letters and documents, and many have had to train themselves to read cursive. All of which is to say, if you find yourself facing a script you cannot read, you are not alone, and the reading room staff will do its best to help you through it. Sometimes manuscript research just takes patience and sheer determination, but no matter the cause, don't forget that Clements Library staff can be the greatest resource at your disposal. With the revival of morning tea, when we invite researchers to join us in our communal break room for refreshments and conversation, our curators personally welcome and support those exploring the Clements's unique repository of Americana.

Students, faculty, independent researchers, and genealogists all benefit from the holdings of the Clements Library, and they now come together in the beautiful Avenir Foundation Room. If you are planning to conduct research in the Clements Library's exceptional collections, please contact us in advance so we can reserve you a seat, explain our procedures, brief our talented curatorial staff about your project, and prepare to accommodate your work at the new William L. Clements Library.

— Jayne Ptolemy
Curatorial Assistant

SO, WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

*I*n April of 2015 I began work as a project archivist at the Clements Library. My job was to arrange and describe the newly acquired Henry Burbeck Papers. After the project ended in August, I began similar work with an addition to the papers of Oliver Hazard Perry. Both projects focused on manuscript collections. Under the supervision of Manuscripts Curator Cheney J. Schopieray I gained experience arrang-

ing for the move back to campus and map cataloging was temporarily on hold, I concentrated entirely on photographic materials for three months. This short piece discusses skills and approaches required for processing a collection of photographs: in this case the Wayne County sub-series of the David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography. Dating, organizing, identifying, and cataloging photographic materials were the goals.

mounts often bear an embossed stamp displaying the name and address of the photographer. Thanks to the remarkable dedication and research of David V. Tinder, a searchable *Directory of Early Michigan Photographers* is accessible in PDF form on the Clements web site. If the mount includes a photographer's name and address a cataloger can consult Tinder's guide to track down the dates he or she was in business at that location. The type of paper a photo-



This marvelous photograph of the Russell House Hotel was probably taken from the steeple of Detroit City Hall. Clues within the mount and in the image itself suggest that it dates to the late 1870s. Both Detroit images from the David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography, the majority portion donated by David B. Walters in honor of Harold L. Walters, U-M class of 1947 and Marilyn S. Walters, U-M class of 1950.

ing, analyzing, and describing manuscript collections as well as creating online finding aids and catalog record access points.

When I was hired permanently in January 2016, my new responsibilities were to help supervise the reading room with Terese Austin, Jayne Ptolemy, and Valerie Proehl and to catalog graphic materials and maps under Clayton Lewis and Brian Dunnigan. This shift in roles meant that helping with the move back to the Clements Library's renovated building was not the only new experience I gained as the most recent addition to the Library staff. Because the reading room was closed

One lesson quickly learned was that it is difficult to determine the context of photographic items. Photographs rarely contain individuals' names or the date on which an image was taken. And, while I encountered some issues with undated materials while processing manuscript collections, the frequency and scale of the challenge is significantly more pervasive in photography. One skill Clayton taught me was the ability to identify the general time period when a photograph was taken. While this can often be done by recognizing visual clues within the image itself, at times one has to depend upon physical clues as well. For example, photographic

graph is printed on, the color of the backing, the shape of the photograph and its mount, and other physical details are useful evidence for determining the date or date range of a photograph.

A picture of the Russell House Hotel in Detroit makes an excellent example of how both physical and visual clues can provide context for a photograph. The yellow cardstock mount dates to sometime between 1860 and the late 1870s. The rounded corners of the mount further narrow the date to sometime after 1869. The image is clear enough to make out the large letters "Russell House" on the building. A quick search on Google confirms that

this photograph could have been taken in the 1870s. Of course nothing is ever that simple, as there is always the possibility that the photograph was taken at an earlier date and mounted later.

The most efficient arrangement of photographic collections may be determined from a variety of different elements. One factor is the format of the photograph. For example, we house stereographs together because of their uniform size. In order to facilitate researchers' needs we might choose to further arrange the individual photographs by geographical location, photographer, or subject. The photographs that I worked with were part of a collection that had already been organized geographically by Michigan county. What was the best way, within this geographic subdivision, to arrange approximately 1,800 photographs? We do our best to anticipate the most likely use of the collection and arrange accordingly, while also considering the safe storage of the materials. Given that a majority of past researchers have been looking for a specific subject, we decided on a subject-driven organization. Materials were divided into various categories such as Transportation, Portraits, Business & Commerce, etc. This approach leads to some

ambiguities. A photograph of a group of men driving a wagon outside the Goebel Brewing Company in Detroit could easily fit under both categories of Transportation and Business & Commerce. Which do we choose? The answer, no matter how carefully determined, will require some amount of subjectivity. In the scope and content note of the finding aid we emphasize that, although the images are divided by subject, the researcher should not assume that this is the only place where there might be related material.

A component of the Clements Library's XML-coded finding aids is the ability to link the document to other sources. When the index listing the photographers represented in our

collection grew to a cumbersome size, we linked to it as a separate, searchable document. Links to other resources, such as David Tinder's indispensable *Directory of Early Michigan Photographers*, expands the usefulness of the finding aid. By bringing together the finding aid and the supplementary sources we are able to benefit research-

lyzing people's faces. Digitized city directories and newspaper databases are also valuable tools for tracking down specific dates or events.

Why do we not just use item level description that traces photographers, format, subjects, and dates on all of the photographs within our collections?

Surely, uniform metadata would allow researchers to identify all relevant material in the collection using key word searches regardless of the arrangement of the photographs. In a perfect world we would create item level descriptions, but the growing number of photographs in the collections of the Clements Library requires that we produce less metadata in favor of speedily cataloging a greater volume of the collection. Even all the benefits of the internet do not expedite the process of description enough to allow us to go down to the item level for every individual photograph. When I first began this project I was spending two to three hours on a single photograph, trying to determine where it was taken, who was depicted, and so on. If I continued at that rate, it would have taken me 3,600 hours just to finish the Wayne County section of the Tinder county files

alone, which is a tiny fraction (less than two percent) of our Tinder photograph collection. Thanks to Clayton, I am learning to find that balance of providing enough description without getting bogged down in photographic quicksand. I look forward to bringing more and more of our photographic collections to researchers' attention in the form of online finding aids. While I have suggested a few of the unique challenges associated with processing photographic collections, the ultimate goal of processing remains the same regardless of format: providing an access point for researchers interested in the materials housed in our wonderful Library.

— Louie Miller
Curatorial Assistant



The force of the Detroit Journal blast of 1895 is dramatically suggested in this photograph. It is unclear if the workers are clearing rubble or searching for casualties.

ers generally interested in photography in Wayne County as well as those interested in the photographers themselves.

Internet research assisted in determining whether or not an image actually belonged in Wayne County; a business name, a street sign, a monument—all of these could serve as clues. An interesting and potentially useful tool is Google's newly implemented image search. It is possible to snap a photograph of the image with a cell phone, upload it to a computer, drag the image file into the Google search bar, and obtain a list of similar images. This search feature still has a very long way to go. Although it worked well identifying static features such as buildings, it did not produce useful results when ana-

THE GLOUCESTER SEA SERPENT

By 1817 the seaports of New England were back in business following the end of a crippling British blockade during the War of 1812. Fishing boats, cargo vessels, and whalers once again sailed in and out of harbor without fear of capture and financial ruin. Imagine, then, the reaction of the citizens of Gloucester, Massachusetts, when a natural peril appeared out of nowhere to threaten their maritime prosperity.

In mid-August, New England newspapers reported the appearance in Gloucester harbor of “an unusual fish or serpent.” And it was a big one too! The

creature held its head erect eight feet out of the water. Its head was as large as that of a horse, and its body length was estimated at fifty to one hundred feet or more. Some witnesses even reported sighting a second serpent! Not to be intimidated, the Gloucesterians launched boats to take on the monster with “muskets, harpoons and every instrument which good marksmen and whalers could use.” To no avail! Musket balls fired from thirty yards away simply bounced off the serpent’s thick hide and head. Then, as darkness came on, the huge fish disappeared never to be seen again these two hundred years!


Gone but not entirely forgotten. Soon after the event Edmund Lane and Joseph How of Boston published a colored engraving titled *SEA SERPENT engraved from a drawing taken from life*. The beastie sports a surprisingly placid expression as boatloads of alarmed citizens attempt to row within musket or harpoon range. The serpent is long gone, but the print of its blockade of Gloucester is a new acquisition thanks to the generosity of your Clements Library Associates.

— *Brian Leigh Dunnigan*
Associate Director & Curator
of Maps



Heavily armed citizens of Gloucester confront the denizen that threatens their harbor.

GREAT HOPE AND GREAT PURPOSE

 On March 31, 1922, William L. Clements laid the cornerstone for his Library. William Warner Bishop gave the keynote address opening with, "This ceremony marks a stage in the accomplishment of a great hope and a great purpose. Behind every building and every project there lies an idea and an inspiration." When the Clements Library opened in 1923, its staff was charged with continuing to collect primary sources of early

American history to provide resources for the great scholars in that field.

The collection grew and the beautiful Albert Kahn-designed building aged. An ambitious renovation and expansion project commenced in 2014 with the goal of restoring the building's beauty while making it a viable home for the collections in the twenty-first century.

On the beautiful, cool, spring morning of April 11, 2016, workmen erected an elegant

tent on the front plaza with ceremony befitting the occasion. We were overwhelmed by the response to our invitation to join us in celebrating our Grand Reopening. Over 400 people participated in the events of the day, and travelers joined us from both coasts and points in between. What an auspicious way to return to campus!

The festivities began with afternoon tours highlighting our new meeting space and renovated offices as well as showing off the Avenir Foundation Room's new dual purpose as reading room and exhibit space. At 4:00 p.m. we convened in front of the building for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Director Kevin Graffagnino welcomed the group and opened his remarks by acknowledging the wonderful turnout. "Those of us who work at the U-M collecting units

know that our collections are the heart and soul of campus, and it is so gratifying to see that a lot of other people know it as well," he said.

U-M President Mark S. Schlissel lauded the Clements in his remarks saying, "The Clements Library provides unparalleled opportunities for education and research. Its amazing collection of centuries-old primary sources attracts leading scholars from all over the world, while offering incredible opportunities

of old and new. As a family representative, she stood before us as a bridge to the past connecting us to William Clements. As a current student Christy was also a symbol of our enduring future, one where we can inspire a new generation of historians and scholars.

The ribbon was cut, and the crowd made its way to the University of Michigan Museum of Art to enjoy a reception. Mark Dimunation, Library of Congress Chief of Special Collections,

presented a moving keynote lecture celebrating the occasion. His heartfelt and passionate words took us on a journey, illustrating the life within our pieces of paper and the importance of the stories contained in these one-of-a-kind accounts. The apse of UMMA was full of laughter and tears befitting the humanity of the collections.

We want to say one more "thank you" to a dozen "Cookies" (students and our near-by neighbors from Martha Cook residence hall), who helped enormously with security,

crowd direction, and general hospitality. You were a big help ladies!

April 11th was an ending and a beginning. Renovation and expansion are complete, and now we enter the next era for the Library. There is still much to be done with "great hope and great purpose." Private support makes the difference between a good library and a world-class research library. Your Clements Library Associates membership gift provides funds to continue acquiring historical materials.

With our reopening, we also embark on a campaign to educate and involve students, faculty, alumni, collectors, and the public. On May 9–10 we "took the show on the road" and traveled to New York where we presented a joint program with the Rackham Graduate School at the Grolier Club.

Photo by Austin Thomason.



Mark Dimunation of the Library of Congress gave a thought-provoking and emotional keynote address for the Grand Reopening.

to our own students and faculty." Peter N. Heydon, Chairman of the Clements Library Associates Board of Governors, took a look back at the role our supporters have played in creating a world-class library. He said, "Over many years of fraternizing with a changing cast of characters, I have been very proud of the Governors' role in so maintaining the Library's greatness." This includes the Associates' seventy-year support of acquisition efforts by donating an estimated \$5 million, as well as providing important support for the renovation project.

Members of the Clements family, including great-great-granddaughter Christy Finkenstaedt, U-M class of 2018, joined us for this auspicious event. Her participation in the ribbon-cutting was a heartening representation



Left: Fellow students of Christy Finkenstaedt (center), great-great-granddaughter of William L. Clements, cheered their friend on as she spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Christy and company will graduate in the next two years. They represent the Library's future readers and supporters.

Below: Some of the "Cookies" from Martha Cook Residence Hall, who assisted our staff at the Grand Reopening.

It was wonderful to meet some of our east coast supporters in person as well as to forge new relationships. The New York Alumni Club also hosted an event, and we enjoyed introducing the Library as a place all U-M alumni can be proud to call their own.

During the Grolier Club reception, John B. Haney, MA '54, PhD '60, shared a wonderful story with me. While a student at U-M, he was writing a thesis on John Quincy Adams and wanted to locate source materials used by Adams in preparing his lectures as the first Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard. He went to the University Library, hoping to locate a published edition of Adams's diary and found that all of the copies were checked out except one at the Clements Library. Feeling hopeful, he walked over and requested Adams's diary. He was asked to provide his advisor's name and then told to return the following day. Upon his arrival the next day, he was introduced to the Director, who instructed him in the proper care of the volume. Finally, the book was presented to him at a table. He was perplexed by its shabby appearance and wondered why they were so fussy about a book that was already pretty badly beaten up. Then he opened the cover and read Adams's own words! What a realization! "It was not a spooky book," Haney said, "but it gave me goosebumps!"



Since reopening, the Library has been busy connecting with both alumni and current students. This summer we welcome a participant of the Development Summer Intern Program (D-SIP) to our staff. Yumi Taguchi, '17, will be joining us to work on our social media projects. If you have not yet "liked" us on Facebook or followed us on Twitter, please do to enjoy interacting with our collection remotely as well as to keep abreast of news and events.

Please visit us during our exhibit hours on Fridays (10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

to discover some of the treasures contained within our walls. You are also welcome to contact us to set up special tours for groups or to arrange a speaker to make a presentation to your organization. We continue to look to the future with "an idea and an inspiration" as we tell the stories of this country through active research, exhibits, class collaborations, events, and social media.

— Angela J. Oonk
Director of Development

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies

Errors appear infrequently in the pages of *The Quarto* thanks to the vigilance of the Clements Library staff members who proofread each issue at different stages of production. We were thus disappointed to discover two errors in the last issue (No. 44, Fall-Winter 2015). The caption of a photo on page 13 places the late Keith Hook in the jungle of Guadalcanal. In fact, he is pictured on New Georgia in August 1943.

A more serious error occurred on page 15 in Angela Oonk's "Developments" column. We cut off Eleanor Roosevelt in mid-sentence. The final paragraph of Angela's article should have read: "Eleanor Roosevelt once said, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'" William L. Clements had a vision that has carried us well through

our first ninety years. I look forward to working with all of you to create a magnificent future for the Clements Library.

We cut Angela's byline as well—in her first piece for *The Quarto* as the Clements Library's Director of Development! Our apologies, Angela. We will get it right in this and future issues.

Welcome Claire

If you visit the Clements Library on a Friday to explore our exhibits you will likely be met by Claire Milldrum, newest member of our staff. Claire greets visitors at the south reception desk just inside the great bronze doors. She is a 2015 graduate of Wellesley College, where she studied art history. Claire hopes to go on for a degree in Library Science.

New Digs—New Hours

With the Clements Library once again open and the beautiful Avenir Foundation Room now housing both our reading room and exhibits space, we have found it necessary to adjust our hours of operation to accommodate both functions. For the foreseeable future, the Library will be open exclusively to registered researchers each Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. The Avenir Foundation Room exhibits will be open to the public each Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

2016 Post-Doctoral Fellows

In the midst of our big move back to South University a hard-working committee undertook the annual job of selecting Price and post-doctoral fellows

Photo by Austin Thomason.



Our new schedule for the Avenir Foundation Room reserves Mondays through Thursdays for research. The room and its exhibits are open to the public Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

for the coming year. Special thanks to Professors Fran Blouin and Greg Dowd and to Arlene Shy, Brian Dunnigan, Jayne Ptolemy, and Cheney J. Schopieray for their wisdom and advice. Their selections for post-doctoral fellows are:

Prof. Patrick Bottiger, Kenyon College, is the recipient of the Reese Fellowship in the Print Culture of the Americas for his topic, “A Shared Memory?: Native Oral Histories, Anglo Printed Pasts, and the Creation of Tippecanoe.”

Dr. Arthur Bruce Cohn, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, has been granted a modified Howard H. Peckham Fellowship on Revolutionary America for his topic, “Connected by History: Sir Henry Clinton and Benedict Arnold During the Revolutionary War.”

Prof. Donald F. Johnson, North Dakota State University, will receive a modified Upton Foundation Fellowship on American History for his topic, “Occupied America: Military Rule and the Everyday Experience of Revolution.”

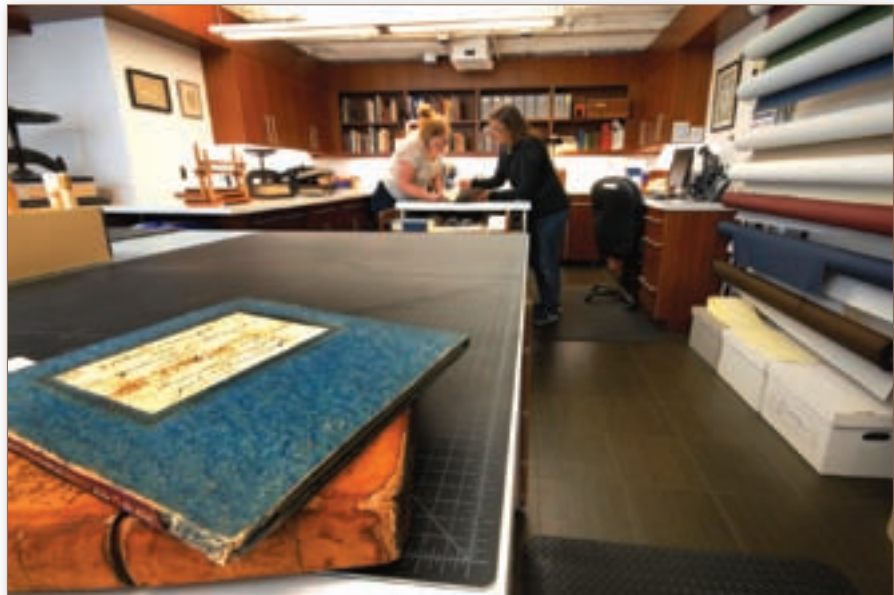
Prof. Mark Quintanilla, Hannibal-Lagrange University, has been selected for a modified Howard H. Peckham Fellowship on Revolutionary America for his topic, “The West Indian Frontier: British Colonization of the Ceded Islands.”

2016 Price Fellows

Every year we award about a dozen Jacob M. Price Visiting Research Fellowships to graduate students and junior faculty. This support allows them to visit the Clements, where they often discover documentation critical to completion of their dissertation or first book. This year’s class of Price Fellows includes:

Kristen E. Beales, The College of William and Mary, for her dissertation, “Religion and Commerce in Eighteenth-Century America.”

Prof. John Collins, Eastern Washington University, for his topic, “The Ghost of Thomas of Lancaster: Wartime and Emancipation in the American Revolution.”



The conservation lab includes equipment for repairing paper and books as well as space in which to prepare exhibits for the Avenir Foundation Room.

Mary Draper, University of Virginia, for her dissertation, “The Urban World of the Early Modern British Caribbean.”

Christopher M. Florio, Princeton University, for his dissertation, “The Poor Always with You: Poverty in an Age of Emancipation, 1833–1879.”

Katie Lantz, University of Virginia, for her dissertation, “Contested Futures: Anishinaabe and American Societies in the Great Lakes, 1790–1840.”

Daniel Papsdorf, Duke University, for his dissertation, “Power and Persuasion: Natives and Non-Natives in the Mississippi Valley, 1763–1803.”

Tyler Rudd Putman, University of Delaware, for his dissertation, “The Incommunicable Experience of War, 1775–1918.”

Prof. Bryan C. Rindfleisch, Marquette University, for his topic, “Possessed of the Most Extensive Trade Connexions and Influence: The Atlantic Intimacies of an Eighteenth-Century Indian Trader.”

Gary Sellick, University of South Carolina, for his dissertation, “A Fleeting Glimpse of Freedom: The Evolution of British Emancipation Policy During the Revolutionary War.”

William E. Skidmore, II, Rice University, for his dissertation, “A Nation of Abolitionists: The Rise of the Global Antislavery Movement, 1840–1890.”

Sarah Templier, Johns Hopkins University, for her dissertation, “Merchants, Shopkeepers, Smugglers and Thieves: Circulating and Consuming Textiles and Clothing in the Eighteenth-Century French and British Empires.”

Catherine Tourangeau, Yale University, for her dissertation, “An Ocean of Joiners: Voluntary Associations in the British Atlantic.”



Photo by Philip Datilo

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Photo by Philip Dattilo.



The north entrance, with its glass vestibule, is fully accessible.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11, 2016 – October 31, 2016: Exhibit, “Supporting Scholarship: 8 Topics Documented in the Clements Library.” Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 11, 2016: Grand Reopening of the Clements Library.

May 3, 2016: Clements Library Associates Board of Governors meeting.

October 4, 2016: Clements Library Associates Board of Governors meeting.

November 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017: Exhibit, “Out of the Ordinary: Gems & Oddities in the Clements Library.” Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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