



WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Clements Library Quick Facts

A research library specializing in primary sources from early American history

1. Founded by **William L. Clements** - Donated his rare book collection and the building to house it.
 - Graduate of the U-M Engineering School (1882) - Became a wealthy industrialist
 - University of Michigan Regent (1909-1933)
2. The Clements Library opened in 1923.
 - Designed by Detroit-based architect **Albert Kahn** (designed over a dozen buildings on campus, including Angell Hall, Hill Auditorium, Burton Memorial Tower, and Ruthven Museums)
 - A major restoration and underground expansion was completed in 2016.
3. Researchers come from all over the world to study materials here.
 - Books, Manuscripts, Maps, Graphics dating from 15th century into the 20th century
 - Especially well-known for its original manuscript collections from the American Revolution

Clements Library open hours for research, exhibits, and studying have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Please find our latest updates at clements.umich.edu.

A Few Examples from the Collections

- Published letter of Columbus to Ferdinand & Isabella (Rome, 1493), one of 12 surviving copies
- John Smith's first map of Virginia (1612)
- First book & published poetry by an American woman - Ann Bradstreet, *The Tenth Muse* (1650)
- Order to arrest a witch in Massachusetts (1692)
- Papers of General Thomas Gage, British commander in America (1763-1775)
- "The Death of General Wolfe," painted by American artist Benjamin West (1776)
- Benedict Arnold's letter to the British offering to change sides (1780)
- Letter from British General Cornwallis announcing surrender of Yorktown (1781)
- Bedside account of the death of President Washington (1799)
- The Papers of War of 1812 naval hero Oliver Hazard Perry (1800-1820)
- Treaty of Ghent that ended War of 1812
- Frederick Douglass letter passing along a fugitive slave (1857)
- Secretary's shorthand account of Abraham Lincoln's last hours (1865)
- David V. Tinder Collection of Michigan Photography (19th - early 20th century)
- Richard Pohrt Jr. Collection of Native American Photography (late 19th - early 20th century)



Major research categories at the Clements Library

Abolition and Anti-slavery

African Americans

American Revolution

Bibliography and Book History

Biography

British Empire

Caribbean and the West Indies

Cartography

Civil War and Reconstruction

Colonial America

Discovery and Exploration

Economic and Industrial History

Education

Fiction and Literature

French and Indian (Seven Years') War

Gender and Sexuality

Genealogy and Local History

Government and Politics

Health and Medicine

Mexican War

Mexico, Central America, South America

Military and Naval History

Native Americans

Natural History and the Environment

Non-Western Hemisphere History

Poverty and Class

Race

Religion

Social History

Travel and Transportation

Visual Culture