

## Book Reviews

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*RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* reviews books, reports, new periodicals, databases, websites, blogs, and other electronic resources, as well as exhibition, book, and auction catalogs pertaining directly and indirectly to the fields of rare book librarianship, manuscripts curatorship, archives management, and special collections administration. Publishers, librarians, and archivists are asked to send appropriate publications for review or notice to the Reviews Editor.

Due to space limitations, it may not be possible for all books received to be reviewed in *RBM*. Books or publication announcements should be sent to the Reviews Editor: Amy Cooper Cary, Raynor Memorial Library, Marquette University, 1415 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233-2221, e-mail: [amy.cary@marquette.edu](mailto:amy.cary@marquette.edu), (414) 288-5901.

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### *A Great Library Easily Begets Affection: Memories of the William L. Clements Library*

**1923–2015.** Brian Leigh Dunnigan, Cheney J. Schopieray, Emiko Hastings, and J. Kevin Gaffagnino, eds. Ann Arbor: William L. Clements Library University of Michigan Press, 2015. 169p. ISBN 978-1881606017

This monograph is a compilation of recollections and essays written by authoritative sources on The William L. Clements Library, namely people who previously worked or currently work there. The Clements Library, located on the University of Michigan campus, was the brainchild of Americana collector, William L. Clements (1861–1934), who was also a regent at the University from 1909 to 1933. The library opened in 1923 with the mission it still holds today: to collect primary resource materials associated with American history, especially early American history.

Following the acknowledgments and introduction, the volume begins with the dedication speech given by William L. Clements at the opening of the Clements Library. Including this speech first was wise, because it provides an overview of the institution for those who are not familiar with the library. The speech sets the tone for the book and also helps to provide context for the mission and purpose of the library, which can be summed up with Clements's quote, "a library for advanced research on the part of scholars already well equipped, rather than a library to serve as a vehicle of instruction for either the undergraduate or the ordinary graduate student."

The book includes high-quality images, descriptive citations, and a thoughtful selection of items from the collection. Fifty essays provide a wide-ranging view of the development and history of the library. The structure of the book is chronological, which creates a natural flow for readers to explore the creation and expansion of the library. Essays and recollections are short, light, and easy reading for those who are unfamiliar with the library. Even in their brevity, the essays impart enough knowledge of the collection so that professionals will find them interesting and worthwhile. The book is also an excellent template for others wishing to highlight their institution's history and collections for major anniversaries or as a coffee table book for sale to the public.

Offerings range from the humorous to the bittersweet, including the amazing account of a small aircraft that crashed into the library's reading room. Highlights include behind-the-scenes memoirs, a description of the acquisition of the first edition of the *Star-Spangled Banner*, and materials for the Medler Crime Collection. Essays by past employees offer insight into both the philosophy beyond the growth of the collection, as well as the day-to-day operations. The book ends with a tribute to the staff, which includes the names of all past employees, as well as some of their pictures. This addition is a fitting tribute to the people who have been instrumental in the growth and success of the institution.

The book complements the library's publication, *The Quarto*.<sup>1</sup> Although some stories have appeared previously in *The Quarto*, the addition of personal recollections, articles from other journals, and high-quality photographs provide enough new and engaging material for this new compilation to be of value.

The book is a delightful read for anyone who has an interest in libraries and Americana. The authors have managed to elevate the work from the type of compendium usually directed toward alumni and prospective donors to a work that can be enjoyed by historians, librarians, and the general public.—*Libby Hertenstein, William T. Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University*

**Wolfgang Ernst.** *Stirrings in the Archives: Order from Disorder*. Translated by Adam Siegel. Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2015. vi, 102p. \$75. ISBN 9781442253957

Be warned: *Stirrings in the Archives* is dense. Wolfgang Ernst's erudite, citation-stuffed monograph rests upon a basic tenet of media archaeology: that the material form of *what* is archived, and the structure of *how* it is archived, affect the ways in which a given archive has been, is, and will be accessed and interpreted. Deconstruction is at work everywhere in this book, comparing and contrasting individual

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1. Note that back issues of *The Quarto* are available online at <http://clements.umich.edu/Quarto/quarto-back.php> [accessed 26 July 2016].