THE QUARTO

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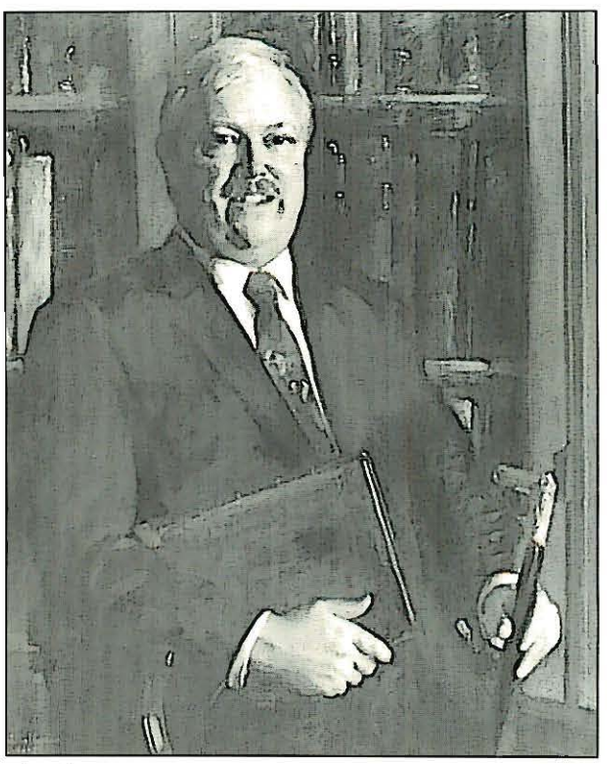
THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Clements Library will celebrate its 75th Anniversary and the Associates 50th Anniversary in 1997-1998. To mark the occasions, a campaign to raise $1,500,000 is being launched. The Associates Board of Governors is planning a variety of activities — programs, publications, a celebration banquet — for the coming year. We will be making regular announcements, and hope that all the Library's friends will enjoy participating in the festivities. The Associates Board of Governors has set specific goals and priorities for the 75th Anniversary fund-raising campaign, identifying them in three categories.

The first category centers on our immediate goals, projects which we hope to accomplish within the next year and a half. Our top priorities include the purchase of several major items; retrospective conversion of our book card catalog into a national bibliographic database, the Research Libraries Information Network; improvement of our exhibit space; restoration of priceless maps; replacement of worn building furnishings; creation of new library promotional material — brochures, guides, a video; and funding a variety of events celebrating the Library's 75th Anniversary.

The second category aims to expand the Clements Library's academic mission. Our goals include establishing a new publication fund, increasing support for our Price Visiting Research Fellowships, creating a premier lectureship in early American history, and designing teaching materials based on the Library's collections for use in public schools.

The final category sets forth long-term goals for the coming decade: building endowment funds so we can develop specific subject areas such as American Judaica, Asian-American history, Frontier history, American business or journalism history; establishing a one year post-graduate internship in library science, archives or other fields in the humanities related to the Library's holdings; developing continuing education and cultural programs. Lastly, we need to begin active planning for an addition to our building, although actual construction will be the object of a future fund-raising effort.



The Clements Library Associates Board of Governors commissioned a portrait of Director John C. Dann by Boston artist Gary Hoffman as part of the forthcoming 75th Anniversary Celebration. Dann's portrait now hangs in the Rare Book Room with those of founder William L. Clements and the Library's first two Directors, Randolph G. Adams and Howard H. Peckham, a reminder of the administrative continuity enjoyed by the Library for three-quarters of a century.

It has now been over ten years since the Clements mounted a fund-raising campaign. Our goals are modest by the standards of peer institutions but substantial by our own. I can only speak for myself, but I believe the most gratifying donations are those made to meet worthy, specific needs. The generous response of our Associates to the November dues letter was truly exciting. As we plan our 75th Anniversary Celebration, we welcome your suggestions and appreciate your continued support.

This issue of the *Quarto* may appear a very odd way to "kick off" a fund-raising campaign. The subjects touched upon — the literature of the somewhat disreputable sport of boxing, colonial Maryland bookplates, transporting a rhinoceros from India to America for exhibition purposes, perpetuating a geographical error on eighteenth-century maps, and a classic tale of seduction — are certainly an odd mixture and seemingly a bit superficial for a library which prides itself on the Columbus Letter, the

handwritten orders which started the American Revolutionary War, an original copy of the Treaty of Ghent, or Grant's letters to Sherman announcing the capture of Richmond. Where is the traditional military and political history for which the Clements Library collections are famous?

That happens to be the very point I wish to make. On its twenty-fifth birthday (1948), the typical Clements Library visitor would probably have been shown, or been pursuing research in source materials documenting the discovery of America, the Stamp Act, or the Battle of Lexington. The original Clements collection of 1923 was rich in the "great books" on the "great events" of American history. Our resources on these timelessly important subjects are several times richer today than they were then, and the Library continues to add to its collections in its traditional areas of strength whenever it has the opportunity. In the past few years alone we have acquired the letterbooks of Anthony Wayne's Fallen Timbers campaign, pamphlets on the settlement of Virginia, the earliest known portrait engravings of Franklin and Jefferson, volume one complete of Isaiah Thomas' first newspaper, and the earliest atlas of sea charts published in America. A year does not go by that we do not add a few items of this sort.

A truly great research library, however, is known not only for its exciting high points, but for the breadth and depth of its collections. Seventy-five years after its founding, the Clements Library is not only a notable resource for studying the Age of Discovery and Exploration or the American Revolution, but a wonderful place to investigate American sports and leisure activity, the reading and book-collecting habits of our ancestors, ecology and the gradual change in attitudes about the treatment of animals, the fine points of cartographic history, or crimes and scandals which tell us something about the failings of our changing civilization. These are subjects which interest today's students, and we are able to serve them well.

A library such as this is only as good as its collections. The Clements Library, thanks in large part to the visionary terms of Mr. Clements' gift, the generosity of its Associates, and a supportive University, has done an exceptional job of keeping its focus on its primary purpose — building the collections so that year by year, it can serve a larger and more sophisticated constituency of researchers in whatever aspect of American history they care to investigate.

Our modest but essential fund-raising effort in celebration of our 75th Anniversary is aimed at making it possible for us to continue concentrating on the fairly straightforward activity of building the collections. We are now much more than a great book collection. We are a rich and unique repository of our nation's past experience — a national treasure. With your continued support, we will only get better.

—John C. Dann, Director

THE JACKSONIAN UNICORN

Short-tempered, short-sighted, and sharp-horned, the rhinoceros was the perfect animal for the savage world of Jacksonian politics. Until the Pliocene epoch, rhinos had been among the most abundant perissodactyls on the continent, but like the Federalists, they had become extinct by the mid-1820s. In October 1826, however, a lone rhino appeared on our teeming shores, the first in over a million years, and within five years, he and his thick-skinned compatriots could be found treading the stage of Peale's Museum in New York, chewing the scenery at Washington Gardens in Boston, touring the Eastern seaboard with the American National Caravan, or biding time with the Association Menagerie. Among the earliest of these immigrant sons was a three year-old rhino captured on the plains of the Brahmaputra River north of Calcutta, and sold to Marmaduke Burrough (ca.1798-1844) in March 1830. In Burrough's papers, recently acquired by the Clements Library, lies one of the best-documented stories of rhinocerine immigration before this century.

Curiosities in Europe for centuries, pachyderms (rhinos, elephants, and hippos) exerted a particularly strong fascination for Americans. Their size and power, and their exotic good looks, made these creatures popular fare for children's books and scientific minds. Noting the paucity of large-bodied mammals in North America, French natural historians in the 1790s theorized that the impoverished climate of the United States must have stunted the growth of its fauna. Simply put, America lacked the vital spark that animated the Old World. To nationalists like Thomas Jefferson, of course, this was pure balderdash. With the vast, unexplored reaches of the nation before him, Jefferson looked to the elephantine bones of mastodons and mammoths littering the countryside (having studied them himself), and asked Lewis and Clark to keep an eye out for any pachydermal herds that might still be roaming the trackless Louisiana Purchase. Although the explorers returned empty handed, the American ardor for gargantuan creatures survived; the reputation of the pachyderm as an American icon was ensured. The rhinos and elephants that occupied center stage in early national museums, then, became part of the intellectual project of building a nation — they signified our strength and vitality, our control over nature and over the colonized nations from which they were liberated.

For men like Marmaduke Burrough, rhinos also promised fun and profit. As a young man enamored of natural history, Burrough studied the closest subject available at the time, medicine, and pursued his science on the side wherever and whenever he could. His lucky break came in 1828, when he received a little slop from the bucket of diplomatic spoils, a consular appointment in Calcutta.

Exotic and virtually unknown to Jacksonian Americans, the Indian subcontinent overflowed with natural riches. Shortly after assuming his post, Burrough ambitiously set out to join in the scientific bonanza, setting his cap on acquiring the most treasured resource of all, a live rhinoceros. Spurning an

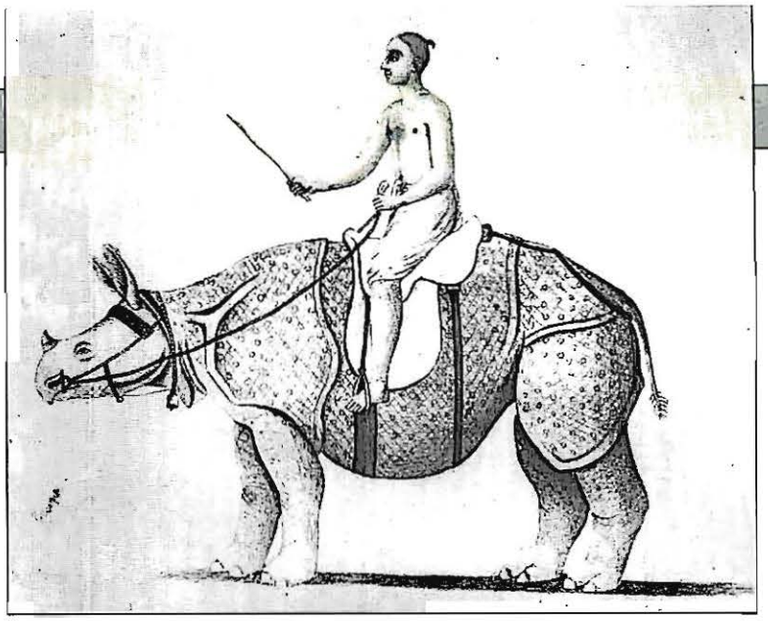


Diagram of the proper relationship between a rhino handler and his charge, designed as an advertisement for Marmaduke Burrough's exhibition.

exorbitant offer from the Rajah Budinath Roy to supply a rhino at 9,500 rupees, he accepted an offer he could not refuse by a man named Andrew Davidson: a nine foot female accompanied by a much smaller male. Although there were already at least three rhinos in the United States, Davidson assured Burrough that "there is room enough in America for even more than three Rhinoceroses, as I'm informed 'tis *rather* a large Town." To spice up the deal, Davidson even offered to rig a harness for the female to allow her to draw a carriage or plow — the ultimate civilized act — adding ruefully that the young male was unlikely to cooperate in this enterprise "as he was caught when too old." Even British cool, it seems, could not offset bad habits acquired in childhood.

True to form, this savage rascal refused to recognize legitimate commerce and threatened to capsize the deal, not to mention the boat on which he was being transported to Calcutta. In a fit of shipboard pique, he badly injured his legs while struggling with the ropes that bound him, delaying any further progress while he healed. Stating the obvious, Davidson begged Burrough not to remove the restraining nose ring, for it might be "rather a difficult business to put it in again." Once in Calcutta, the male settled into a resigned calm, and Davidson turned his attention to nurture. Experienced in rhinocerine cuisine, he recommended that Burrough lay in a good stock of dried doobgrass, well pressed, along with a good quantity of pressed wheat bran, adding that the discerning pachydermal palate preferred its bran wetted with salt water, "as the animal is fond of salt and might even prefer it with the Bran." For a change of pace, the rhino might enjoy its bran patted into cakes and baked, to which Davidson pragmatically added "I have no doubt he would eat ship biscuit," though in his experience, rhinos "did not like biscuit when very *hard*." Finally, for the ultimate in rhino comfort during hot weather, a good salt water bath was recommended twice a day. With this last piece of advice carefully in hand, Burrough, his servant, and rhinos set sail aboard the *Georgian*, in June 1830, bound for the United States.

Burrough's rhinos next surfaced in November 1830, when the male was placed on exhibit at 48 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, appropriately enough, only about a block from the State House. In a media blitz, this rhino was boasted of as "distinct from all the others" of Africa, Java, or Sumatra, and was said to be powerful and brave, and "in excellent condition." An ad in the *Pennsylvania Packet* vowed that "the public has seldom enjoyed an opportunity of witnessing so rare and interesting a curiosity; and circumstances render it quite certain, that many years must elapse, ere another animal of the kind can be imported here." Even at 25¢ per head (half price for children), the rhino was a bargain, and despite all the excitement and savagery in store, the whole family could attend. Burrough guaranteed that the display would be tidy and tasteful, and that females "need entertain no compunction or delicacy of feeling in accompanying their Husbands or friends."

TO BE SEEN,
The Wonder of the Animal Creation,
AT No. 48 SOUTH FIFTH STREET.
A living Rhinoceros, or Unicorn, called in the native language of the East, Gondar, exhibiting at the room lately occupied by the Automaton Chess Player, a little below Walnut street, where the Ladies and Gentlemen of Philadelphia and its environs, are respectfully invited to call and see this very extraordinary animal.

This advertisment for Burrough's Rhino or Unicorn appeared in the Pennsylvania Packet *in January 1831.*

The most revealing feature of these advertisements, however, is the way in which Burrough made clear, that like the uncivilized, colonized people of the world, rhinos could be improved. Despite the absence (or death) of the refined female, the *Packet* boasted that the male on exhibit, "though stupid and savage by nature. . . . is not altogether incapable of domestication, or insensible to the kindlier affections." As proof, it claimed that the present specimen "is perfectly gentle, and obedient to the command of his keeper, (who is a native of Bengal)."

Turning the rhino into a cash cow, however, proved to be too demanding a job for a dilettante showman like Burrough. After already shelling out 500 rupees for shipping, and $7.50 for that essential rhino accessory, a good, stout chain, Burrough found that the costs rapidly escalated. Between December 1830. and January 1831. his accounts include entries for $20.00 for engravings, $65.00 for placing ads in the *American Sentinel* and the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*, $6.00 for printing 300 fliers, $80.00 for two months' rent, and $120.00 for "two men in attendance." A friend, George Hough, advised Burrough to sell, but to hold out for a 100% return. "There being so many [rhinos] at home," he thought, "ought not diminish the value of yours as I believe it the finest animal which has been taken home." Burrough sold out. The subsequent fate of Burrough's rhino remains uncertain. However there are tantalizing clues. A massive poster for the Association Menagerie of New York, printed for the winter of 1834-35, depicts a rhino in a wheeled cage, and the accompanying text informs the audience that this rhino was seven years old, weighing 4,200 pounds — the right size and age for Burrough's beast — and it reported "the growth of its horn is much retarded as it continually thumps its head against the bars of its cage."

—Robt Cox, Manuscript Curator

GRENADA'S FIRST REVOLUTION

A CARTOGRAPHIC CURIOSITY

Grenada, most southerly of the Windwards of the eastern Caribbean, dangles at the end of that string of lush and mountainous volcanic islands. Indeed, the long westerly curve of Point Salines gives Grenada a distinctive shape that rather resembles a fish hook. Point Salines shelters Grande Anse Bay and a number of lesser inlets from the southeast trade winds to form a broad roadstead that has served as the island's primary anchorage for large vessels, from warships of the seventeenth century to the cruise ships of today.

It was the distinctive form of Grenada that drew our attention to a peculiar series of early eighteenth-century maps of the Windward Islands, also known as the French Antilles. In each of at least seven examples in the Clements Library map collection, Grenada has been moved to the west and rotated nearly 180 degrees from its true position and relationship to the island chain — literally turned upside-down. What happened here?

For many readers, the name Grenada will conjure up memories of the events of 1983 when United States naval and military forces intervened in this small Caribbean state. Point Salines then served as more than a landmark, for much of its length was taken up by an unfinished airport that was a drop zone for American paratroopers and a battleground for their fight with Grenadan PRA and Cuban forces. Invasion and turmoil are no strangers to Grenada's history. The people of the island have been affected by the shifting political interests of outsiders from the time of Columbus until their independence in this century.

European explorers first sighted Grenada in 1498 during Christopher Columbus' third voyage. He named the island Concepción, but it was the English who made the first attempt at settlement in 1609. The native Caribs repulsed them but were not so fortunate when a French expedition arrived in 1650. Over the next one hundred years the French developed "La Grenade" as one of their sugar islands. The chief settlement, Port Royal, was established on a fine harbor at the southwest end of the island. A lofty peninsula commanding the entrance provided the site for Fort Royal, constructed of stone in 1705-06.

Warfare returned to Grenada in 1762 when the British captured the island as they swept through the Spanish and French Caribbean near the end of the Seven Years War. The peace of 1763 awarded Grenada to Britain, but the War of American Independence gave the French an opportunity to return. In 1779 French naval and military forces lay siege to Fort George, the former Fort Royal, and took the island. The Peace of 1783 restored Grenada to Britain, and, though shaken by the French-inspired Fedon's Rebellion in 1795, the island remained a British colony until its independence in 1974.

Despite all this activity, Grenada was not particularly well rendered on maps until the middle of the eighteenth century. Smaller scale maps of the Caribbean generally show a nondescript rounded island form or an exaggerated sickle-shape, as, for example, Samuel Thornton's ca.1700 chart of the West Indies. Such maps at least place Grenada in the correct location, and the sickle shape reflects the westward reach of Point Salines.

In 1717, however, the *premier géographe du roi*, Guillaume Delisle, published his *Carte des Antilles Françoises et des Isles Voisines*. As the King's geographer, Delisle had access to manuscript maps and surveys in the Royal collections, including those of army and navy officers. He was known for his care in assembling maps from the best and most recent sources and for being a stickler for detail. What a shock it is, then, to see the French Antilles rendered carefully from Guadeloupe south to a perfectly recognizable Grenada, with all its place names, harbor and fort intact, placed on the map upside-down. Pointe des Salines (Point Salines) is shown at the northeast rather than at the southwest corner.

How did a cartographer of Guillaume Delisle's stature and reputation come to make such a glaring error? The title of the map tells us that Delisle prepared it from the manuscript memoirs of a royal engineer, M. Petit. A cata-

Guillaume Delisle's upside-down Grenada showing the "Fort et Bourg" and the distinctive "Pte. des Salines" at the northeast corner of the island. They properly belong at the southwest. The town is today known as St. George's, and the fort was renamed for King George III when the British took the island in 1762.