

U-M Acquires Peace Papers On Revolution

ANN ARBOR
The Clements Library of the University of Michigan has acquired a collection of manuscripts that completes the library's source material on the peace negotiations of 1782-83 that ended the American Revolution.

The correspondence of the Duke of Manchester, England's ambassador to France in 1783, was purchased at auction in London.

"The collection adds to our great strength in the Revolutionary period," explained the library's director, Howard H. Peckham. "It had been owned by the Manchester family until put up for auction this summer. Two-thirds of the cost was met by a gift from a friend of the library who wishes to remain anonymous. It is a magnificent acquisition."

After the British defeat at

Yorktown in 1781, the war ministry gave up its efforts to subdue the rebellious American and resigned. Lord Shelburne became prime minister and sent Alleyne Fitzherbert to Paris as ambassador and employed Richard Oswald as personal negotiator with the American commissioners—Franklin, Adams, and Jay—because Oswald knew Franklin.

THE Clements Library al-

ready owns the Shelburne papers, with the correspondence of Fitzherbert and the Oswald letters. Their efforts came to nought, because after a preliminary treaty was hammered out late in 1782, Parliament rejected it.

Shelburne was forced to resign, and Charles James Fox became foreign secretary under the Duke of Portland's ministry. The Duke of Manchester was appointed ambassa-

dor to France and David Hartley was named to negotiate directly with the Americans. The Clements Library also owns the Hartley papers.

The ministry feared, however, that Hartley might be "taken in by Franklin" and relied on Manchester to supervise him, but Manchester's main job was to reach agreement with France, Spain, and Holland, the allies of the Americans. The new treaty,

which recognized the Americans' independence, was approved by Parliament late in 1783 and by the American Continental Congress.

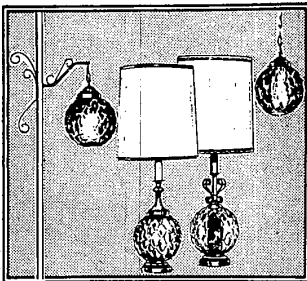
The Manchester papers consist of 275 letters he received from Charles James Fox, from the Duke of Portland, from the French foreign minister Vergennes, and from the ambassadors of Spain and Holland, among others.

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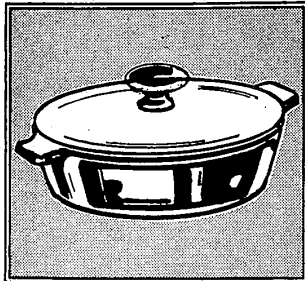
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