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Henry Clay Papers Program

On Friday and Saturday, 21 and 22 June 1991, the University of Kentucky marked the completion of the eleven-volume Papers of Henry Clay editorial project. The celebration included a variety of activities that began on Friday afternoon with a program in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery in Margaret I. King Library—North at 1:00 p.m. At that time, Prof. Charles P. Roland presided over a session featuring two scholarly presentations. These were "Henry Clay, Lincoln, and War," by Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., of the Lincoln Museum, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and "Henry Clay and the American Diplomatic Tradition," by Prof. Norman Graebner of the University of Virginia. Dr. Gerald George, Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, also offered his congratulations to the editors and the University of Kentucky. A reception was held on the grounds of Ashland, the estate of Henry Clay, between the hours of 5:00 and 6:30 p.m., followed by a banquet at Spindletop Hall at 7:15. Dr. James C. Klotter, Director of the Kentucky Historical Society, presided over the evening program, which included a welcome from Lexington Vice-Mayor Pam Miller and remarks on behalf of the university by Dr. Wimberly C. Royster, Vice-President for Research. The featured speaker of the evening was Dr. Robert V. Remini, Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and author of a forthcoming biography, Henry Clay: Statesman for the Union, to be published by W. W. Norton in October of 1991. On Saturday morning, participants enjoyed a 9:00 a.m. breakfast at the Faculty Club followed by a concluding program at 9:30 in the Peal Gallery. With Professor Roland again presiding, Prof. Maurice Baxter of Indiana University spoke on "Clay and the American System." Following Professor Baxter's paper, Dr. Thomas D. Clark, former chairman of the Department of History at the University of Kentucky and the founder of the Papers of Henry Clay editorial project, recounted its origins and his experiences in helping to establish it forty years ago. Following Dr. Clark's observations, the scholars who served over the years in the
The four editors of The Papers of Henry Clay 1951-1991; Profs. James Hopkins (Vols. 1-6), Mary Wilma Hargreaves (Vol. 6), Robert Seager II (Vols. 7-9), and Melba Porter Hay (Vols. 10-11). (Photograph courtesy of Mr. Kenneth Williams)

Speakers at symposium concluding The Papers of Henry Clay editorial project, 21 and 22 June 1991; Profs. Norman Graebner (University of Virginia), Robert V. Remini (University of Illinois at Chicago), Mark Neely (Lincoln Museum), Gerald George (National Historical Publications and Records Commission), and Maurice Baxter (Indiana University). (Photograph courtesy of Mr. Kenneth Williams)

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capacity of editor commented on their experiences; those editors were Dr. James F. Hopkins, Dr. Mary Wilma M. Hargreaves, Dr. Robert Seager II, and Dr. Melba Porter Hay.

The program was complemented by a major exhibition, *Henry Clay: Images of a Statesman*, mounted in the Peal Gallery. The exhibition displayed biographies of Clay, materials featuring Ashland and agriculture, the War of 1812 and Clay's role in the Treaty of Ghent, Henry Clay's political philosophy, Clay family correspondence, Clay's presidential campaigns, Clay's death and funeral, and Clay portraiture. In addition to items selected from the collection of the University of Kentucky, there were also materials on loan from such institutions as the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation, the Office of the Fayette County Clerk, the Filson Club, the Library of Congress, the National Portrait Gallery—Smithsonian Institution, Transylvania University Library, Waveland State Historic Site, and from the private collections of Mrs. Henry Clay Simpson, Mr. John A. Morgerson, and Mr. Clifford J. Bramel. The exhibition placed on view such unusual items as Henry Clay's plow, a lock of Clay's hair, rare Daguerreotypes of Clay by Frederick De Bourg Richards and Marcus A. Root, a Daguerreotype of Clay's funeral cortege, Clay's ink well, dining chair, and dessert spoons, and sheet music written to support his presidential campaigns. The original copy of Henry Clay's will, in his own handwriting, was of special interest. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition, with a foreword by Dr. Clark, was prepared by Karen Ellenberg, exhibition curator.

Sponsors of the Clay Papers symposium and exhibition included the Henry Clay Papers editorial project, the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation, the University Press of Kentucky, the Office of the Chancellor of the Lexington Campus, the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, the Vice-President for Information Systems, and the University of Kentucky Libraries.

**The Hillenmeyer Collection**

Hillenmeyer Nurseries marked its 150th anniversary by presenting an extensive archive of business records to the University Libraries in a special program in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery on 11 August 1991. The second oldest family-owned business in Central Kentucky, Hillenmeyer's was begun by the European-born horticulturist Francis Xavier Hillenmeyer in 1841. Now being led by the family's fifth generation, Hillenmeyer's is a
diversified business specializing in landscape plantings and maintenance and retail sales of garden plants and supplies. As part of its celebration, Hillenmeyer Nurseries is donating its records to the University of Kentucky, where students, scholars, and members of the community may have access to materials that chronicle the long term role of nurseries in the region. The collection documents the many changes that took place in the firm’s development—from its business of selling fruit trees via catalogue, landscape gardening services, the garden center concept, and wholesale services.

Robert H. Hillenmeyer, retiring chief executive officer of Hillenmeyer’s, formally presented the collection to Dr. Charles T. Wethington, President of the University of Kentucky. Mr. Hillenmeyer also addressed the large assembly of friends and family present for the occasion by outlining the history of this nationally-recognized firm.

Dr. C. Oran Little, Dean of the College of Agriculture, also discussed the importance of the family and their work with local horticulture. Mr. Paul A. Willis, Director of Libraries, discussed the importance of the Hillenmeyer Collection to the Libraries’ holdings, and Mr. Robert F. Houlihan, President of the Library Associates, concluded the formal program with his expression of thanks for this significant gift.

Visitors then viewed an extensive exhibition of the Hillenmeyer Collection prepared by the staff of the Department of Archives and Special Collections and enjoyed the reception which followed the program.

**The Library Associates Annual Book Sale**

The Library Associates held a very successful annual book sale to benefit the programs of the University of Kentucky Libraries. Thousands of books given for the sale and other titles comprising library duplicates, superseded titles, discards or other surplus materials were offered to students, faculty, staff, Library Associates, and the community on Friday and Saturday, 27 and 28 September. The event was held on campus at Buell Armory. A special thanks is extended to the many Library Associates volunteers who contributed their time and effort to this very successful annual activity.

—Paula Leach Pope
Note to Contributors

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