

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Adopted by the Regents
September 20, 2007

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

John C. Dann, Ph.D., director of the William L. Clements Library of American History and adjunct professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired on June 30, 2007.

Professor Dann received his B.A. degree from Dickinson College in 1962, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the College of William and Mary in 1970 and 1975, respectively. He joined the William L. Clements Library of American History as curator of manuscripts in 1972 and was promoted to director of the library in 1977. He was appointed lecturer in history in 1977 and named adjunct professor of history in 1993.

Professor Dann brought to his directorship an extraordinary knowledge of the primary sources for American history and a unique understanding of the intricacies of rare book collecting and the complexities of building a research collection. His research focused on the colonial period of American history and social and humanitarian reform movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He has edited and published a number of historical texts, books, and journals which remain indispensable works in their particular fields of scholarship, including the critically-acclaimed volumes, *The Revolution Remembered* (1980) and *The Nagle Journal* (1988).

As director of the Clements Library, Professor Dann built with stunning success on the library's strength in many of the traditional fields of American history. But during his 30-year tenure as director, he also took the Clements collections in entirely new directions. His great achievement has been to identify the foundation block of future research interests, to recognize the research potential in material others had ignored, and to use every resource available to acquire these materials for the Clements Library. Fully one-third of the library's holdings are due to his acquisitions. Through his scholarship, vision, and creative collecting, he transformed what was originally one man's personal collection of Americana when it was founded in 1923, into an internationally renowned research institution for the study of American history.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty administrator by naming **John C. Dann director emeritus of the William L. Clements Library of American History.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2007