

in his introduction the author states: "in the Glossaries I have given brief condensed descriptions of every existing tribe in the United States and brief biographical accounts of the majority of Indians of history and fame or who have attained to noteworthy prominence. This never previously has been done, as far as I can ascertain."

In spite of all this, the general reader will get a pretty accurate picture of the Indian, both aboriginal and acculturated, on reading *The Real Americans*.

Much of the criticism of the book as a popular account could have easily been eliminated by a paragraph or two in the introduction acknowledging extensive use of published source material and by naming the sources.

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Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library. Compiled by William S. Ewing. 2nd edition. (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Clements Library, 1953, pp. ix, 548. Index. \$4.00.)

The first edition of the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library*, compiled by Howard H. Peckham, then Curator of Manuscripts, appeared in 1942 and described the 172 collections in the library at that time. New accessions in the intervening years have increased the holdings to 304 collections, ranging in size from one to about 300 volumes and amounting to a total of more than 200,000 pieces.

The present edition of the *Guide* compiled by William S. Ewing, now Curator of Manuscripts, incorporates much of the information from Peckham's *Guide* and adds to it descriptions of all materials acquired since 1942. The descriptions follow the concise form recommended in the tentative rules for cataloguing manuscripts recently issued by the Library of Congress. These rules have been prepared in cooperation with curators of manuscripts from other libraries to provide a uniform system for reporting holdings to the proposed National Register of Manuscripts at the Library of Congress. Each entry carries a description of the types of papers and documents in the collection; a list of writers of letters and

signers of documents in the collection; a reference to the longer descriptions in the first edition of the *Guide* for collections listed there; biographical data for personal papers; a record of publication of groups of letters or separate pieces from the collection; references to descriptions in sales catalogues; information on provenance when known; and a statement of the size of each collection.

A feature of the *Guide*, which will prove of great value to historians, is the Index of some 18,000 names, which lists all writers of letters and authors and signers of documents represented in the manuscript collections. As an aid to identification, birth and death dates are given after each name when known or lacking these a date at which the person was active. Recipients of letters in a number of the collections are listed in a manuscript catalogue in the Clements Library.

The library's emphasis on the American revolutionary period is well known, but its other areas of collecting are perhaps less generally realized. Its field is Americana. There are no date limits, but few of the manuscripts are before 1700. The collections can be divided geographically into two groups, those of British origin and those of American. The former fall into three divisions: the prerevolutionary collections; the papers of political and military leaders of the Revolutionary War period; and the collections relating to British politics at the turn of the nineteenth century and the War of 1812.

The collections of American origin complement the British collections for these same periods. In addition the library possesses important concentrations of papers of later date on the genesis of the anti-slavery movement, the history of Michigan, the Spanish-American War and the emerging imperialism of the United States, and the collecting of Americana. Hispanic American and Philippine history are also represented. Only the fields of major manuscript strength of the library are indicated here. Many of the smaller collections deal with other periods, and any student of American history may find it well worth his while to consult the index of the *Guide* for manuscripts of possible interest to him in his own particular area of study.