



# THE FLY LEAF

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FRIENDS OF THE  
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## SPRING MEETING OF THE FRIENDS:

Those Friends of the Fondren Library who attended the Spring meeting on April 20 enjoyed a rare treat in the talk of Mr. W. A. Philpott, Jr., secretary of the Texas Bankers' Association, and well-known numismatist, bibliophile and collector of Texiana. His talk on The Care, Feeding, and Riding of a Hobby-horse was a delectable discourse on hobbies, "a sort of galloping virus which attacks many of us, bringing on a mad enthusiasm over this and that;..." Mr. Philpott has graciously consented to the printing of his speech in the June issue of the Flyleaf. Those Friends who could not hear him may look forward to an unusual pleasure in reading his essay.

Mr. Philpott was introduced with wit and charm by Mr. W. A. Kirkland. After his speech, Mr. Philpott exhibited choice items from his collection of coins, currency, autographs, and books. His remarks about each item revealed a scholar's knowledge and a contagious enthusiasm.

## THE ADAMS FAMILY PAPERS

In October of 1954 an event of great importance to historians in many fields occurred when preparations were completed for making available the private papers of the Adams family. For nearly fifty years these papers have been locked away in the Massachusetts Historical Society, but they are now to be gradually opened to scholars. The papers range over two hundred fifty years of American history and consist of more than three hundred thousand manuscripts. They include the diaries and papers of John Adams, John Quincy Adams, and Charles Francis Adams; letters to these and other members of the family; and a tremendous amount of other valuable material relating to this family which has been so closely connected to the whole stream of American history. The collection will be edited and portions of it will be published from time to time over the next twenty years. The whole collection is one of the two or three greatest collections of historical documents still privately owned.

In addition to the plans for publishing these documents, arrangements were made for sixteen universities to participate in the microfilming of the entire collection. Through great good fortune Rice Institute has been able to participate in this program, and thus we will soon have the entire collection instead of having to rely in future years on the partial material which is to be published. No other university in the state and very few in the entire South will be among the sixteen participating.

Already the library has received the diaries of John, John Quincy, and Charles Francis in eighty-eight reels. Further shipments of the material will be made as it is filmed.

The Adams Trust, which controls the manuscripts, requires that persons using the material secure permission for publication of direct quotations and close paraphrasing of the documents, and forms have been provided to secure this permission. In a short time the Fondren Library will have perfected a system for handling requests to use the microfilm, and a new

and unexplored mine of information will be open to students of American history and related areas.

W. H. Masterson

#### DESIDERATA

Two ways of enjoying a library are (a) to find there what you expect, (b) to find there what you do not expect. No library ever grew great or distinguished simply by meeting minimum requirements and dodging intellectual bankruptcy. The following list, one of our most heterogeneous may serve several purposes. It illustrates the variety of ways in which the funds donated by the Friends continue to enable us to enrich Fondren's holdings with attractive and unusual items. These books and sets have been bought, so to speak, on the Friends' account; some of the items, it is hoped, may make a specific appeal to one donor or another who may find his interests accurately reflected, or who may here catch up a suggestion as to the definite kinds of aid that can be rendered to Fondren. Do we claim too much when we say that this list may at least have the charm of the unexpected? Though we cannot claim to have observed "due proportio

or exercised "judicious care," we borrow some lines from John Gay describing a miscellany:

As when some skilful cook, to please each guest,  
 Would in one mixture comprehend a feast,  
 With due proportion and judicious care  
 He fills each dish with different sorts of fare,  
 Fishes and fowl deliciously unite,  
 To feast at once the taste, the smell, and sight.

M. L. Solon, *A Brief History of Old English Porcelain and Its Manufactories*. London, 1903. \$12.50

Hans Swarzenski, *Monuments of Romanesque Art*. Chicago, 1954. \$22.28. One of Professor Chillman's recommendations.

*A New Display of the Beauties of England*. 2 vols. London, 1777. \$14.00. Notable for the fine copperplates.

Serge Lifar, *A History of Russian Ballet*. London, 1954. \$2.65.

John Wood, *An Essay Towards A Description of Bath*. 2 vols. London, 1765. \$5.60.

Vincent Cronin, *The Golden Honeycomb*. New York, 1954. \$2.50. A study of the Daedalus legend.

Otto Emery Jennings, *Wild Flowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin*. 2 vols. Pittsburgh, 1953. \$40.00. This monumental work represents a field hardly yet touched by the Fondren Library.

*Theatrical Records; or An Account of English Dramatic Authors and Their Works*. London, 1756. \$10.28.

"Elizabeth Steele," *The Memoirs of Mrs. Sophia Baddeley, late of Drury Lane Theatre*. 6 vols. in 3. London, 1787. \$28.38.

*Dramatic Pieces from the German*, Edinburgh, 1792. \$1.47.

Elisabeth Wolff and Agatha Deken. A remarkable collection of their works, over 80 titles bound in 59 vols., published at various dates from 1763 to 1802. Price for the collection, \$81.64. Two prominent novelists of the Netherlands. Their novels, especially Sara Burgerhart, deserve to be better known. Valuable both for the history of fiction and for the cultural and literary history of Holland. Certainly the most important body of material on Holland we have ever acquired.

Wolff and Deken, Economische Liedjes. 3 vols. in 4. 1781, \$32.60. An important item, separately catalogued. The high price is due to the fine plates that make up the fourth vol.

Johanna W. A. Naber, Betje Wolff en Aagje Deken. Amsterdam, 1913. \$3.13.

C. M. Ghijsen, Dapper Vrouwenleven. 1954. \$2.52. The most recent study of the two novelists.

Jan Mens, Elisabeth. Amsterdam, 1954, \$2.36. A novel about Betje Wolff.

Paracelsus, The Complete Works. St. Gall, 1944. 8 vols. \$50.00. Recommended by Professor Tsanoff.

Humphrey Searle, The Music of Liszt. London, 1954. \$3.15.

C. J. Bowen Cooke, British Locomotives. London, 1900, \$1.42.

Ernst Krause, Erasmus Darwin. Trans. W. S. Dallas. London, 1879. \$8.80.

Stanley Paul Young, The Clever Coyote. Harrisburg, 1951. \$6.50.

Clarence Moores Wood, Birds in their Relation to Man. Philadelphia, 1903. \$4.00.



- John Hill, The Exact Dealer Refined. 5th Ed. London, 1702. \$8.82. An Elementary practical manual for tradesmen. These little books, once common, were worn to pieces and are now very rare. No copy in Library of Congress.
- Maurice Beresford, The Lost Villages of England. London, 1954. \$5.67. A fascinating study.
- Turgenev, Collected Works. 10 vols. St. Petersburg, 1911. \$47.70.
- The Dumb Projector. London, 1725. \$10.00. This concerns Duncan Campbell, a Highland soothsayer in whose Life and Adventures (1720) Daniel Defoe was concerned, but the present pamphlet is not certainly Defoe's.
- Richard Tickell, Anticipation. 3rd ed. London, 1778. \$6.50. A political satire of the Revolution era.
- William Robertson, The History of America. 2 vols. London, 1777. First edition. \$5.88. -- An eminent historian and a once famous work, now fallen into neglect, to judge from the price of this fine copy.
- Wilfred Noyce, South Col: A Personal Story of the Ascent of Everest. London, 1954. \$3.34.
- Rohault's System of Natural Philosophy, illustrated with Dr. Samuel Clarke's Notes taken mostly out of Sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy. Trans. John Clarke. 2 vols. 1723. \$7.00.
- Oliver Goldsmith, A History of the Earth and Animated Nature. 2nd ed. 8 vols. London, 1779. \$5.60. -- Excellent binding with bright labels. A bargain.
- T. S. Eliot, Sweeney Agonistes. First edition. London, 1932. \$3.50. Produced by the Rice Dramatic Club two years ago.

The Rothschild Library: A Catalogue of the Collection of Eighteenth-Century Printed Books and Manuscripts formed by Lord Rothschild. 2 vols. Cambridge, 1954. \$45.00. -- A sumptuous and learned work, carried out with the collaboration of many scholars in the field. The catalogue at its best -- a contribution to creative scholarship.

The Life and Errors of John Dunton. London, 1705. \$34.20. Long sought and almost unprocurable. The price cannot be called excessive. One of the "dark horses" in the field of autobiography. Dunton was an inaccurate and gossiping bookseller whose works are doubtless more entertaining than if he had told the truth.

Hew Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*. 8 vols. Edinburgh, 1915-1950. The field is indicated by the sub-title, "The Succession of Ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Reformation." A monument of presbyterianism, and an invaluable reference work, modestly priced. \$27.00.

A. O. Exquemelin, *Histoire des aventuriers filibustiers*. 4 vols. Trevoux, 1744. \$11.76. -- A key work in the history of piracy. Fondren also has an English translation of 1741.

The Student; or, The Oxford and Cambridge Monthly Miscellan Collected ed. 2 vols. Oxford, 1750. \$24.64. -- A rare and important literary periodical.

John Macky, *A Journey through England*, 2 vols., 1722, and *A Journey Through Scotland*, 1723 -- 3 vols. in all. \$14.70. Sidelight on library science: in the third vol. of this set the Library of the University of Edinburgh is described as "a long spacious Room, and the Books neatly kept, and cloister'd with Doors of Wire, that none can open but the Keeper, more commodious than the Multitude of Chains used in the English Libraries."

Britton: the French text carefully revised with an English translation and notes by F. M. Nichols. 2 vols. 1865. \$44.60. An important law treatise. Recommended by Mrs. Drew.

A miscellany of fiction:

"Oliver Optic," i.e., William Taylor Adams, The Boat Club. Boston, 1855. \$6.50. First edition of a famous juvenile.

Wilkie Collins, Poor Miss Finch. 3 vols. London, 1872. \$16.33. "The very rare first issue."

----- Heart and Science. 3 vols. London, 1883. \$11.76. First editions of Collins and other Victorian novelists are now eagerly sought.

Gerald Griffin, The Rivals. 3 vols. London, 1829. \$7.00. A well known Irish novelist.

Mary Ann Keltly, Osmond. 3 vols. London, 1822. \$3.00.

James Ridley, The History of James Lovegrove. 2 vols. London, 1761. \$7.50.

Mrs. Sedgwick, Allen Prescott. 2 vols. New York, 1834. \$10.00.

Walter Scott, The Pirate. 3 vols. Edinburgh, 1822. \$5.88. Without pressing too hard, we are getting some good Scott firsts. This book inspired Cooper's Pilot. Cross-reference at this point to The Pirates of Penzance.

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, The Last Man. 3 vols. 1826. \$25.00. An important piece of romantic literature.

Dr. Jack Conner of the English Department writes:

I hope that your anthology of deathless lines on the bookworm would have been incomplete without the Old English riddle (No. 48 in the Exeter Book) translated below.

It gives us heart, at least, to think that in the midst of the doom and gloom that enswaddled all Europe just before the millennium, there were nevertheless some clerics who feared not to while away the long evenings with such difficult mind-twisters as this:

"A moth ate a word (or words). To me that seemed a dismal destiny, when I that wonder detected, that the worm should swallow the song of any man -- thief in the night, notation stout of thought -- and its sturdy support. Nor was the stealthy guest a whit the wiser for all the words he gulped.

No doubt it was not a moth, exactly. Also, it is for the entomologist, rather than the etymologist, to determine whether this moth or bug is the same as our bookworm; if so, how did he make the shift from parchment to paper?

## GIFTS

The Fondren Library reports with appreciation the following gifts of periodicals: files of aviation periodicals from Ben Anderson and Marvin Greenwood; Proceedings, Annual Conference of California Mosquito Control Association and Journal of National Malaria Society, v. 3-10, from Asa G. Chandler; Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, 1954, from Hugh E. Cosgrove; files of petroleum periodicals from Alexander Deussen; Youth's Companion, 1883, 1885, from Mrs. Dwight J. Edson; Finlandia Pictorial, 1955, from Finlandia Foundation, Houston Chapter; Harpers, June 1898-May 1902, Century, Nov. 1892-April 1902, Scribners, 1896-June 1902, from Cora Maury; Southwestern Historical Quarterly, 1941-1954, and five books from Mrs. Edgar Montieth; Annual gift for subscriptions to Commonwealth, Catholic World, Catholic Digest, etc., from National Council of Catholic Women, Galveston Diocese, Houston District; Proceedings, 1st U. S. Conference on Prestressed Concrete, from James R. Sims; Frontier Times Magazine, 1927-1942, from Mrs. J. H. Tallichet.

The following gifts of books have been received: Geology of Grant and Lasalle Parishes, from Francis A. Callery, Inc.; Prevost, Oeuvres Choisees, 10 v., from Henry DeLaune; 55 v. engineering books from the library of Mr. George Fulton who was head of the Fulton Construction Co., from Mrs. George Fulton; Swift, Tale of a Tub, 1747, and Robins, Twelve Great Actresses, Twelve Great Actors, from Joseph Gallegly; Forster, Hill of Devi, from Mildred Hogan; Smith, Yellow Fever in Galveston, and 2 pamphlets from Chauncey D. Leake; James, The Ambassadors, Portrait of a Lady, Woolf, To the Lighthouse, and 18 other volumes of readable editions of classics, from J. D. Little; Bell, Letters from Wetzlar, Haig, Topographical and Historical Account .... town of Kelso, Watson, Rosg Gaidhlig, from Allen Mc Killop; collection of economics books, 50 v., from R. H. Pentz; Starnes, Renaissance dictionaries, and 10 new titles by Texans, including Adams, Six-guns and Saddle Leather, McKay, Texas and the Fair Deal, Stambaugh, Lower Rio Grande Valley of

Texas, from George Williams; 15 v. new fiction and non-fiction, including Martin du Gard, The Postman Chotzinoff, Lost Paradise, Firbank, Santal, Wechsberg, The Self-betrayed, from James Dean Young.

A file of Houston Symphony Society programs has been received from Marjorie Adele Bourne; a collection of theatre and symphony programs, from Seth G. Hathaway; a collection of theatre programs made by John Blodgett Davis, from Nell Willman.

The following recordings have come in: Berlioz, Requiem, 2 records, from Bill Herndon; 10 records, including works by Bjorling, Bartok, Hindemith, Shostakovitch, Wagner, from Phillip Martin; 36 albums, including works by Sibelius, Brahms, Grieg, Tschaikowsky, et al., from Mr. & Mrs. Irl Mowery.

An Annual Gift of \$15.00 has been received from the Current Study Club; a facsimile copy of the London Times, Nov. 7, 1805, reporting the battle of Trafalgar, has come from Capt. William Young Allen, Jr., Professor of Naval Science and Tactics.

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