

# THE FLYLEAF

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AT RICE UNIVERSITY

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# **THE FLYLEAF**

Vol. 27, No. 1, Jan. 1977

Published by the Friends of  
the Fondren Library, Rice  
University, Houston, Texas

## TSANOFF BUST DEDICATED

The evening of February 17, 1976, the Friends of the Fondren Library sponsored a ceremony and reception in the Fondren Library to mark the official acceptance and unveiling of a bust of Dr. Tsanoff. This bust, the work of Houston sculptress Carol Crow, was commissioned by three Rice alumnae, Mrs. Mary Greenwood Anderson, Mrs. Dorothy Dunn Davidson, and Mrs. Homoiselle Haden Fay.



An attentive audience, including Dr. Walter Muir Whitehill, Director and Librarian emeritus of the Boston Athenaeum, and Jane Blaffer Owen, watch as Mrs. Mary Greenwood Anderson and Dr. Norman Hackerman unveil the bust of Professor Radoslav A. Tsanoff.

*As part of that evening's ceremonies, which took place three months before Professor Tsanoff's death, Professor Konstantin Kolenda of the Philosophy Department delivered the following talk.*

A university is a living organism. Its present state of health depends not only on those currently guiding its activities, but also on those who gave it running start, who nurtured it into being, and who set its sights by precept and example.

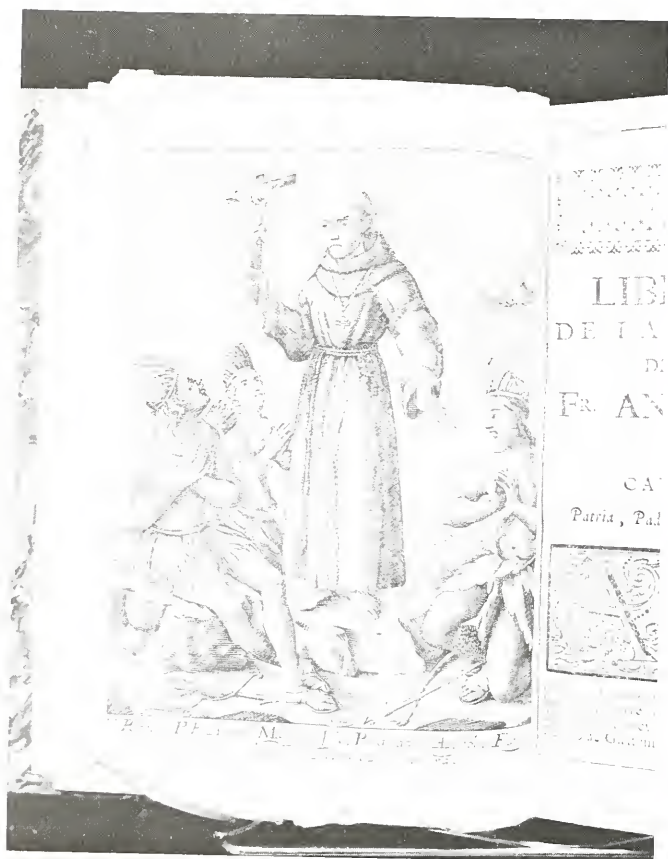
Professor Radoslav Tsanoff's presence at this university has left on it an ineradicable imprint. The substance of Rice even today draws on the vitality of this teacher, scholar, loyal friend, kind and courteous gentleman. People who think of Rice think of persons who are part of its history, and that history is unthinkable without Dr. Tsanoff. We had a clear proof of this during the recent convocation, when most of the alumni on various panels felt like bringing up his name with affection and gratitude.

Or consider this library. Its health owes much to his labor of love, not only on behalf of philosophy collection which he built from 2 books in 1914 to one of the best in our region at the time of his first retirement. Not impressed by departmental fences, he helped to make the Fondren Library a truly representative collection of humane letters.

Dr. Tsanoff is known not only for his involvement in all phases of university life, to which he lent stature by his nationally recognized scholarship and his universally acclaimed teaching. He also helped Rice to become a respected member of the wider community of Houston and of Texas through his illustrious service in numerous civic and cultural institutions.

All of us who in some way are involved with that living and still developing organism called Rice can gain satisfaction and encouragement by recalling the role Professor Tsanoff played here. And all of us are grateful for a most fitting reminder to be unveiled tonight.





Frontispiece of *El Peregrino Septentrional Atlante*.

## NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

We are pleased to draw attention to some recent notable gifts made to the Fondren Library by several Friends.

A number of significant books and atlases, to be housed in the Woodson Research Center, have been acquired through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ley of Houston. Four of the works are important in the history of Texas and the Spanish Southwest. *Historia de Nueva-Espana, Escrita por su Esclarecido Conquistador Hernan Cortes*, Bishop of Puebla, contains three of Cortez's letters. Of particular interest are thirty-one plates (one of which is pictured) showing in hieroglyphics the tribute paid to Montezuma by various villages in Mexico before the Conquest. The kind and amounts of tribute are pictured, along with symbols representing the

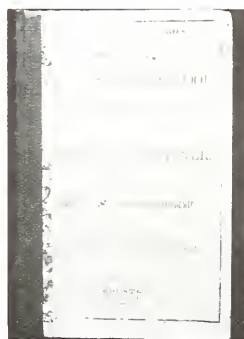
pages. Father Isidro Felix de Espinosa's *El Peregrino Septentrional* *At-*  
*te*, published in Valencia in 1742, is a rare edition of the classic account

of the life of Father Antonio Margil, eighteenth-century missionary in the Southwest and founder of the mission which eventually became the Alamo. Alexander de Humboldt's *Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain Containing Researches Relative to the Geography of Mexico . . .* (London: 1822, 4 volumes) is important both for its text, as the first modern geographical monograph on Mexi-

including California, and for its outstanding maps and scientific parts. A classic work on travels in the Southwest and on early overland trails is *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains, and in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas, and the Grand Prairies*, by Rufus B. Sage, published in Philadelphia in 1846.

*To the Emigrant Farmer. A View of the Advantages of Climate, Soil, Product, Government, and Institutions of Texas . . . by a Practical Farmer* (London: 1848) was designed to attract English settlers to Texas; comparisons between Texas and the major British colonies were intended to convince emigrants of Texas' desirability.

Two Confederate imprints were added to Rice's already outstanding collection. One is *The New Texas Spelling Book*, published in Houston by H. Cushing in 1865; this is the fourth edition, of which only one other copy is known to exist. The other is a biography, *The Life and Times of Bertrand Du Guesclin: A History of the Fourteenth Century* (Charleston: 1864), written by D. F. Tompkins, who was better known as president of the South Carolina Secession Convention.





*The Young Hickory Banner* edited by Thomas L. Nichols and published in New York, is a series of eight political pamphlets which appeared in 1844. They were designed to promote the presidential candidacy of James K. Polk, political heir of Andrew Jackson, "Old Hickory." The issues discussed in the pamphlets include the Democratic party's position on the annexation of Texas.

Two atlases, both important for their depiction of early Texas land grants and subsequent counties, are Thomas Gamaliel Brandford's *A Comprehensive Atlas, Geographical, Historical, and Commercial* (Boston: 1835) and C. D. Strong's *A New Atlas of the World* (Boston: 1841). The only single map acquired is *Amerique Du Nord*, by A. H. Dufour, published in Paris in 1838; Dufour's delineation of Texas during the period of the Republic is most unusual.

All of these are welcome and important additions to the collection.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Britton, frequent benefactors of the Fondren Library, have presented to President Hackerman for deposit in the Woodson Research Center two most interesting documents. One is a proxy signed by William M. Rice and witnessed by his valet, Charles F. Jones, later convicted of Rice's murder. The proxy was for a meeting of the New York and Texas Land Company to be held on September 25, 1900; Rice died on September 23.

The Britton's other gift is a copy taken from a copy book of a handwritten order to a Baltimore firm, dated Richmond, May 1, 1866. It is an order for a suit of clothes for Jefferson Davis, former President of the Confederate States of America and at that time in federal prison; it gives detailed measurements for coat, vest and pants. "This suit," it states, "is to be presented by a Ladies' fair to be held in this City and will be on exhibition for some days. Please make of best material and in best manner. To be here 10 Inst." The document came from the celebrated Eberstadt collection.

\* \* \*



A recent gift of manuscripts and documents from long-time Friend John Wright included two items of particular historical interest. One is a six-page, handwritten recollection, by one J. B. Harris, of the capture of part of Green's Texas Brigade on December 16, 1863, in their "race from New Iberia to Vermillion Bayou." The brigade's ultimate destination was Houston, which they reached on Christmas day. Written in a folksy, colloquial style, the manuscript includes a long poem recalling the capture.

Of even greater historical value is a long letter written from Brenham in 1890 by Moses Austin Bryan, nephew of Stephen F. Austin, to Colonel William W. Fontaine. Fontaine, whose post-Civil War career was in education, including a stint as president of Baylor Female Institute, had asked Bryan to answer several questions regarding the revolutionary period of Texas's history. It is not clear why Fontaine wanted the information, for there is no indication that he ever produced a book on that subject. However, the aging Bryan took pains to give detailed answers in his eight-page response.

As Stephen F. Austin's secretary and aide-de-camp, and as interpreter for the Sam Houston-Santa Anna conference, Bryan was privy to events which grew murky as they receded into the past. Fontaine's questions generally involved specific events, such as whether or not Houston had ordered Captain Mosely Baker to burn San Felipe (he did), and whether Austin had offered command of the Texian Army to Houston (he hadn't, because Houston was "very disipated.').

After the passage of over half a century, Bryan remained fiercely loyal to Austin. He was not, said Bryan, personally ambitious, but accepted as a mandate his unanimous election as commander of the army. He was selfless and totally devoted to Texas. His goal was unity, one which was hard to achieve because of plotting and faction in San Felipe, and with the conflicting interests of ambitious men whom Austin was able to handle wisely and harmoniously.

Another John Wright gift of miscellaneous books, pamphlets and ephemera includes the 1817 London edition of Lewis and Clarke's *Travels to the Source of the Missouri River and Across the American Continent*, in three volumes with numerous maps. Also in this collection are several Charles Dickens stories published individually and originally priced at 6¢ each, a number of local history items relating to Texas and other states, several eighteenth-century periodicals, and a group of miniature children's books.

The following listings include gifts and memorials received between September 1 and December 31, 1976.

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Many Friends, faculty and authors make donations of books and journals. These are too numerous to list. Such gifts have been received from:

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In memory of FREDERICK BIRMINGHAM ASCHE, Leopold L. Meyer gave the book Great Religions of the World.

Mr. & Mrs. Freeman E. Perkins gave Mothers of Achievement in American History, 1776-1976 in honor of MRS. JOHN BERLING, and as a memorial to MRS. CHARLES O. GUYNES.

Who's Who 1975-1976 was given for DELLA CLARKE by Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Clarke.

Mrs. Sam T. Cook gave the books: Jericho: The South Beheld, by Hubert Shuptrine and James Dickey, and Robert E. Lee, by Philip Van Doren Stern, as memorials for SAM. T. COO

In honor of MR. & MRS. ROBERT T. HERRIN, on the occasion of their 50th Christmas Party, Leopold L. Meyer gave The Texans, by James Conaway.

As a memorial for CAPTAIN CLIFTON IVERSON, Mrs. Charles Cobler gave: The Face of Liberty: Founders of the United States, by James Thomas Flexner.

Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Cage gave a large and valuable collection of records for the Music Library as a memorial for CHARLES H. KIEFNER.

The book, Fine Points of Furniture: Early American, by Albert Sack was given as a memorial for DENNIE MOUNT by Mrs. E. E. Sheffield.

Leopold L. Meyer gave Marilyn Monroe, by Norman Mailer to the library in honor of JANE RUSSELL PEOPLES on the occasion of Christmas.

Six volumes of The White Pine Series Monographs were presented to the library by Mrs. Henry W. Hoagland in memory of her father, WILLIAM WARD WATKIN.

Camilla D. Blaffer gave a first edition copy of The Orphan Angel, by Elinor Wylie as a memorial for GUS SESSIONS WORTHAM.

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## NEUMANN FAMILY COLLECTION

This collection, given to Fondren Library in September, 1976, by Charles H. Thomsen of Houston, consists of approximately forty letters, most of them written to Louisa Neumann (later Mrs. Charles H. Bering) of Houston by her brothers and sisters. Of greatest interest are the fourteen letters written from 1862 to 1864 by her brother Emil, a Confederate army officer stationed in Galveston. One letter describes a battle in which he commanded the cannon "near the brick warehouse" on the Strand; another relates the capture, which he witnesses, of the vessel "Harriet Lane" and the escape of her companion ships, the "Orosco" and the "Clifton". The collection also contains photographs, documents and clippings.

## GROCE FAMILY PAPERS

A most interesting collection, presented to Fondren's Woodson Research Center by Mr. Daniel Frosch of Houston, relates to the family of Jared E. Groce, one of the first settlers in Austin's colony. It includes an official transcript of the land grant (in Spanish) to Groce from Stephen F. Austin and signed by Austin, the Baron de Bastrop, and Samuel May Williams. There is correspondence regarding family matters and plantation conditions, mostly written to Jared E. Groce and his sons, Jared Jr. and Leonard W. Groce. Especially interesting is a letter to Leonard Groce from Henry Smith, Provisional Governor of Texas, written from San Felipe on January 13, 1836. Smith complains of his troubles with the Council, all of whom he has dismissed. He reports on the disastrous state of affairs at Bexar, which is down to seventy defendants with Mexican troops sixty to seventy miles away. "An unequivocal Declaration of Independence," says Smith, "will save the country and that is all that can." This collection is of great historical significance.