Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and re-dedicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' dues and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other material which could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by The Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77001, as a record of Fondren Library and Friends activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters. Lauren Brown, Acting Editor; Jane Baker, Associate Editor. Editorial Committee: Dr. David Minter, Chairman; Mrs. Mary Woodson Dennis; Mrs. Diana Hobby; Mrs. Sally McQueen Smith. Photographs by James Aronovsky and Janie Lee.

COVER: Part of an archaeological excavation site on the Via Gabina near Rome, Italy. Work on this project is being carried out by Rice Professors Walter Widrig and Philip Oliver-Smith.
A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

The Fondren Library is highly indebted to the continued generosity of individual donors. Their donations have provided the Fondren with the means to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget, thus complementing the Library's university subsidy. The Friends of Fondren, together with the Fondren Library staff, are prepared to acknowledge gifts and donations to funds benefitting the Library in which the Friends have an interest (consisting of the Gifts and Memorials Fund, in addition to the Friends' Membership Fund), as well as donations of books, periodicals and other materials. Besides the customary acknowledgment letter sent to individual donors, this is accomplished in several ways. Records of donations are kept, awaiting publication in the Gifts and Memorials section of the Friends' Flyleaf. A bookplate is prepared for each donation given to the Friends and forwarded to the staff of the Collection Development Department for placement in those volumes designated as appropriate by Library policy. When special subject requests are made, bookplates pertaining to such requests are also forwarded to the staff for acquisition of appropriate volumes. In many cases, large donations are accompanied by special purchase requests made by either the donor, the honored individual, or the family of the memorialized person for selection of titles in a particular subject area. Each of these requests is met with personal attention by both the Librarian's Office and the Collection Development Department of the Library.

A financial summary of expenditures by the Friends on behalf of the Fondren Library is presented annually in the Flyleaf. Included in the summary is a listing of funds allocated to the Fondren's General Book Collection, the Reference Books Fund, the Woodson Research Center, and to special endowments. Of particular note during the fiscal year just ended was the assistance afforded by the Friends from membership funds in connection with acquisition by the Library of the Huxley Papers.

The gifts, donations and support provided to the Fondren by members and contributors to the Friends have truly enhanced the quality of the Library's collection—clearly a fitting testimonial for the generosity of the Friends and the Rice community.

Yours truly,

John T. Cabaniss
Treasurer
RICE'S ROMAN EXCAVATION: A LOOK AT ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE VIA GABINA

Jet Marie Prendeville

Jet Prendeville is the Art Librarian and a member of the Reference department at the Fondren Library. Her paper is a response to the Friends' lecture delivered by Professor Walter Widrig on November 23, 1980.

That archaeology is a complex study of man's past, employing the skills of excavation, conservation, and restoration combined with the scientific techniques of documentation and historical interpretation, was clearly shown in a lecture presented last fall by Professor Walter Widrig. Illustrated with numerous slides, Widrig's lecture documented recent field work on ancient farm complexes along the Via Gabina near Rome. This excavation work has engaged the talents of Professors Widrig and Philip Oliver-Smith with the assistance of Rice University students.

The realization that Rice faculty and students are actively involved in excavating Roman ruins brings to mind several questions regarding the development of archaeology as a humanistic and scientific discipline. Who were the pioneers in this relatively new discipline that have uncovered the more astonishing archaeological sites of the Mediterranean world and Mesopotamia? How does current archaeological investigation differ from the nineteenth-century expeditions? And how does current worldwide activity in this field become known to researchers in the Rice University community?

The antiquarianism of both the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century was largely concerned with collecting "important large museum pieces at the least possible outlay of time and money." Antiquarianism was a phenomenon quite different from the principles of archaeology which slowly evolved during the latter half of the nineteenth century and were greatly refined over the course of the twentieth century.

During the eighteenth century, such important sites as Herculaneum and Pompeii suffered from excavation methods that did not include preservation. The earliest excavations of Pompeii in 1748 were neither systematic nor scientific: houses were left exposed subject to both looting and decay. Guiseppe Fiorelli, an important pioneer in the field of archaeology, fortunately assumed control over the excavation of Pompeii in 1860. An early advocate of stratigraphic analysis, Fiorelli excavated stratum by stratum, preserving all important features in situ.

Fiorelli's concept of excavating and preserving everything from monumental architecture to common household utensils set a standard for future archaeological investigation.

One of the most widely-known archaeologists of the nineteenth century is Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890). By the time he was forty-six, Schliemann had amassed a considerable fortune through his business ventures; he retired to immerse himself in the study of prehistoric archaeology intent on proving that Homer's literary legacy was based upon fact rather than myth. Believing that the city of Troy was located at Hisarlik, Schliemann began excavation there in 1871-73. Other excavations followed in 1879, 1882-83, and continued in 1889-90.

Schliemann discovered not only Homeric Troy, but also the previously unknown Mycenaean and pre-Mycenaean Anatolian civilizations. He made additional contributions to the world's knowledge of pre-Hellenic civilizations with excavations of Mycenae in 1874-76 and Tiryns in 1884-85. During the excavation of the seven levels of Troy, Schliemann developed certain principles that remain an integral part of modern archaeological methodology: preserve all finds, record the levels at which all finds are made, photograph or sketch all important artifacts, and publish the results as soon as possible.

Archaeological sites of such magnitude as the Palace of Knossos, Pompeii, and Herculaneum capture and fire the imagination with their architecture, paintings, sculptures, and artefacts of daily life. That scholarly and popular interest in these sites persist is evidenced by the exhibition Pompeii A.D. 79 which travelled to four major American cities in 1978-79. It is quite likely that the most spectacular sites of the Mediterranean world have been discovered—yet contemporary archaeological excavations such as those along the Via Gabina are filling in the gaps of
our knowledge and thus enabling scholars to write a more complete history of our cultural past.

Excavation of ancient farms and villas along the Via Gabina was begun by Philip Oliver-Smith and Walter Widrig in 1976. The Via Gabina sites are important because structural changes in the architecture during the Republican (300–30 B.C.) and the Imperial (30 B.C.–200 A.D.) periods parallel the changes which occurred in the economic and social organization of rural Roman society. The most important excavation site documents the structural metamorphosis of a modest fourth century B.C. farmhouse. The original building was transformed in later centuries into a luxurious villa used as a suburban retreat and finally into a commercial farmhouse where at least a third of the ground floor was used for the processing of olive oil. One of the most significant discoveries of the excavation has been that the Roman-style atrium dwelling evidently developed from earlyItalic u-shaped farmhouses. As early as 1902 Giovanni Patroni, a distinguished Roman scholar, hypothesized that the open-ended courtyard eventually evolved into the enclosed atrium with an impluvium (central basin) of the typical Roman villa. The work of Professors Widrig and Oliver-Smith has provided the first physical evidence of direct architectural precedents for the Roman atrium house.

The significance of a site excavation is closely related to the historical interpretation of the finds. This interpretation is based upon the scientific documentation of each stratum, photographs of architectural structures and artifacts, aerial photographs, and plans with elevations which are drawn using the evidence of the architectural remains. Widrig and Oliver-Smith have used these techniques and have reported their findings in such journals as Archaeology and Notizie degli scavi. Dissemination of archaeological reports is traditionally achieved through scholarly journals, monographs, and the papers of archaeological societies such as the British School of Rome.
As archaeological material is published, its availability to scholars and students becomes the responsibility of national and university libraries. The Fondren Library has a significant collection in this field that supports the research of the Rice University faculty, students, and other scholars. Identification of archaeological reports is provided by such indexes and annual bibliographies as Art Index, Archäologische Bibliographie, Fasti archæologici, l’Année philologique, and the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals. Indicative of the Library’s strong holdings in archaeological journals are complete sets of the Annual of the British School at Athens from 1894 forward, and Notizie degli scavi di antichità from 1897 to the present. Other major resources include approximately 180 volumes of the Corpus vasorum antiquorum, over 30 volumes of Exploration archéologique d’Délos (1909-1977), published by the École française d’Athènes. Moreover, there are 4600 books in the Fondren Library devoted to the archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean world, Mesopotamia, and Egypt. This core collection, which supports archaeological research, is supplemented by a significant number of titles on ancient numismatics, seals, and epigraphy.

During the 1981 spring semester, the Art History Department will present to the University Administration and faculty a proposal for a M.A. degree program in Art History and Classical Archaeology. Because of the rigorous standards proposed for the M.A. degree, Houston’s museum resources, and the Fondren’s outstanding fine arts collection, the Art History faculty anticipates approval of the M.A. program to be initiated in the fall of 1982. The Fondren Library, now supporting thirty-eight masters and twenty-four doctoral programs, is well prepared to assist the research work of Professors Widrig and Oliver-Smith, and the graduate students in this new program.
MONASTIC CHAINED BINDING ARRIVES AT THE FONDREN LIBRARY

Lauren R. Brown

Lauren Brown is Special Collections Librarian at the Woodson Research Center, Fondren Library.

The Woodson Research Center of the Fondren Library has acquired an exceptionally fine example of late medieval monastic binding technique, with the chain by which the volume was secured to its book desk nicely preserved. It is the sort of book that most required protection—a large compendium of references to Church writings which any monastery or church would welcome receiving from an itinerant newcomer.


The Bibliotheca Sancta is a complete digest, biographically and bibliographically arranged, of medieval scholarship on the sacred writings of Judaism and Christianity, and is divided into eight books:

Book I: The structure and authority for the writings of the Bible and the Talmud

Book II: A list of writers and books mentioned in the sacred writings

Book III: Literary techniques, metaphors and symbols used in the sacred writings

Book IV: A list of Catholic commentators on the Bible and primitive church writings

Book V: Catholic scholars' annotations on the Old Testament

Book VI: Catholic scholars' annotations on the New Testament

Book VII: Heretical claims disputing the veracity of New Testament scripture with the orthodox response

Book VIII: Heretical claims disputing the veracity of the Old Testament scripture with the orthodox response

The chained binding, being held in this picture by Lauren Brown, is positioned to show the metal clasps and the chain attached to the upper edge of the lower board.
The chronological table appended at the end and compiled by the philosopher Ioannes Boulaesis collates the histories of the Hebrews, Chaldeans, Egyptians and Romans from the time of Adam to that of Christ.

The Catholic Encyclopedia contains an interesting comment on the significance of the Bibliotheca Sancta:

Since it was based on scientific principles, this work is considered to be the first of the modern Biblical introductions. In it were used for the first time the terms protocanonical and deuterocanonical that later became standard for distinguishing respectively the Old Testament books that are regarded as canonical by Jews and Protestants as well as by Catholics and those that are so regarded only by Catholics.
Sisto da Siena (1520-1529), the author of the major portion of this work, lived a troubled existence that in many ways reflects the turbulent religious era of his lifetime. Converted from Judaism in his youth, he became a Franciscan, only to be convicted of heresy and condemned to death. His life was spared through the intercession of Michael Ghislieri (1502-1572), later Pius V (1566-72)—the leader of the Roman Catholic Counter-reformation. Sista da Siena later joined the Dominican order and was appointed censor of Hebrew by Pius V. He is known to have saved many valuable works from destruction while acting in his capacity as censor.

Sisto da Siena’s *magnum opus*, the *Bibliotheca Sancta*, . . ., was first published in the year 1566. Later editions were published in Venice, Cologne, Lyon, Paris, Frankfurt and Naples. The copy obtained by the Fondren Library is the second edition, published in Frankfurt-am-Main in 1573.

*Bibliotheca Sancta* is a folio, containing two volumes in one, with the second part and chronological tables having separate title-pages. Numerous decorated initials and one woodcut illustration are located in the text. The binding itself features decoratively stamped pigskin over wooden boards, brass clasps and eleven links of the original chain attached to the upper edge of the lower cover. The binding contains numerous blind stampings in a massive foliated pattern; one panel reveals a repeated series of allegorical figures captioned SPES (hope), FIDES (faith), and CARITAS (charity). Other portrait stamps are worthy of further note and study. Such elaborate designs are very typical of bindings such as this one both for aesthetic purposes and to appeal to and please numerous patrons, secular and religious. Much has been written of the history found literally on, and not just in, such books.

The *Bibliotheca Sancta* was probably designed to be used on a lectern; perhaps it was placed on a long desk with a sloping top. Possibly also, as in some other instances, there was a rod running along the top of the desk to which various chains were attached by rings. It is known that books that were intended to lie permanently on lecterns often had the chain attached to the lower board of the binding; the *Bibliotheca Sancta* volume is constructed along these lines, with the chain attached to the upper edge of the lower board.

The provenance of this folio volume is a long and interesting one, with three bookplates serving as guideposts for the researcher. The earliest bookplate is located on the front paste-down endpaper of the binding; it contains the emblem of the city of Augsburg on a field representing the bishopric for that region of Germany. Possibly, in centuries past, this volume resided in the monastery of St. Catherine (no longer in existence), or in one of the seventeen Roman Catholic churches and chapels located in Augsburg.

The location of the Fondren Library copy of the *Bibliotheca Sancta* is more clearly known from the latter half of the nineteenth century onwards. Pasted on the front endpaper is the bookplate of William Harris Arnold (1854-1923), noted collector of autographs and a writer on collecting. One of Arnold’s last works, *Ventures in Book Collecting* (1923), contains a preface by the famous (and in some respects notorious) bibliographer, Thomas J. Wise. Wise comments on Arnold’s early career as a book collector: “. . . anything rare, anything choice, was sought for and welcomed.”

In his later years, however, Arnold decided to limit his collecting to books and manuscripts of Victorian authors whose work he loved best—particularly Alfred Tennyson and Robert Louis Stevenson. The bulk of his collection, and probably his copy of the *Bibliotheca Sancta*, was sold in 1901.

The third (and most recent) bookplate documents the location of this volume in the early part of the twentieth century. Jerome Kern (1885-1945), celebrated composer of the American musical theater and an avid collector of books, placed his bookplate in the volume sometime before 1929. In a modern account of Kern by Gerald Bordman, the composer is described as having “driven his wife to despair” by the burgeoning growth of his library in their home. Kern decided to sell his collection in 1929; his books (including the *Bibliotheca Sancta* volume) were auctioned at the Anderson Galleries in New York City. The prices realized at this sale (which amounted to almost two million dollars for 1488 items) became a benchmark for high prices in the book world before rare book prices crashed as a result of the depression of the 1930’s.

The folio volume then probably moved through several hands before reaching the west coast, where it was recently offered for sale to the Fondren Library by Michael R. Thompson, a rare book dealer from Los Angeles, California. It arrived at the Fondren during May, 1980.

Funds for the acquisition of this unique and interesting religious work, illustrative in so many ways of the history of the book, were generously provided by the Rockwell Fund, Inc.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL-WINTER SEASON

The Friends of Fondren were very active during the recent fall and winter seasons, promoting good will and sponsoring an enjoyable series of public events.

On September 26, the Friends invited the staff of the Fondren Library to a reception in the Staff Lounge. The afternoon affair was pleasant and well-attended, and deeply appreciated by the members of the Fondren Library Staff.

Later in the year, the Friends combined forces with the Rice Engineering Alumni Association in sponsoring a 1980 homecoming reception in the Woodson Research Center of the Fondren Library. The guest of honor at the November 8 event was Jennings A. Massingill (Class of 1942). Massingill was honored as the 1980 Outstanding Rice University Engineering Alumnus for distinguished achievements in electrical engineering at General Electric—in particular, for his work in designing and developing the steam turbine-driven generator. Massingill's work was amply displayed in an exhibit especially designed for this occasion.

Jennings A. Massingill (left), honored at the 1980 homecoming reception in the Woodson Research Center, is introduced to George R. Brown ('20). To the left of Massingill are Julian R. Ward ('59) and H. Malcolm Lovett ('21).
A lecture by Professor Walter Widrig of the Rice Art History Department was sponsored on November 23 by the Friends. His interesting and informative presentation regarding excavation of a Roman villa in Italy was well-received by the audience. An article written by Rice librarian Jet Prendeville, appearing in this issue of the Flyleaf, explores the subject of this lecture in some detail.

The first winter '81 presentation was held on January 25, when the Friends of Fondren and the Shepherd Society joined in sponsoring an "Afternoon of Musical Entertainment featuring Gilbert and Sullivan." Held in the Kyle Morrow room, students from the Shepherd School of Music, conducted by Dean Allan Ross, gave a delightful performance followed by a reception for both performers and the audience.
GIFTS TO THE FONDREN LIBRARY

August 1, 1980—January 31, 1981

The Friends sponsor a gifts and memorials program for the Fondren Library which provides their members and the community at large a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides the Fondren a way to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to the Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

Funds donated through the Friends are acknowledged by the library to the donor and to whomever the donor indicates. Gifts can be designated in honor or memory of someone or on the occasion of some signal event such as birthdays, graduations or promotions. Bookplates are placed in volumes before the volumes become part of the library's permanent collection.

For more information about the Friends' gift program, you can call Gifts and Memorials or the Friends' office (527-4022). Gifts to the Friends of Fondren qualify as charitable donations.

The Friends and the Fondren Library are grateful to acknowledge the following gifts, donations to the Friends' fund and donations of books, periodicals, and other materials to the Fondren. All gifts enhance the quality of the library's collection and enable the Fondren Library to serve more fully an ever-expanding university and Houston community.

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