THE FLYLEAF

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY AT RICE UNIVERSITY HOUSTON, TEXAS
THE FONDREN AMONG ITS PEERS

The Fondren Library collection is listed in the U. S. Office of Education's Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities, 1959/60 as numbering 371,578 volumes. This figure seems very small when compared with the millions of volumes in the libraries of the large private universities (Harvard, 6.7; Yale, 4.4; Columbia, 2.8; Cornell, 2.1; University of Chicago, 2.0; Princeton, 1.6; Duke, 1.4; Northwestern, 1.4; John Hopkins, 1.1) or in the libraries of the leading state universities. On the other hand, Fondren's holdings dwarf the libraries of a number of highly respected institutions, including the California Institute of Technology (approximately 120,000 volumes).

Some understanding of the reasons, beyond those of age and relative wealth, for differences in the size of university library collections may be gained from consideration of the kinds of training an institution offers, its student enrollment, and other circumstances peculiar to the individual university. The large student enrollment and the many professional schools of the great universities, for example, demand extremely large and varied library collections. The major universities referred to above need great collections, and they have had both the time and money needed for accumulating them. The apparently slim collection at the California Institute of Technology seems to reflect still other circumstances. The faculty
and students there have easy access to the nearby Huntington, University of South California, and other libraries of high quality so that the holdings of their own library need not be so large as those of comparable universities less favorably located.

Comparison becomes more meaningful when we relate Fondren Library holdings to those of libraries of universities resembling Rice in size and in other characteristics. The U. S. Office of Education's *Education Directory, 1960/61* lists 2,028 colleges and universities, and places them in classifications based upon the highest level of offering and type of program. For purposes of comparison, let us select these classifications as representing factors important in determining the size of a library collection. Rice University is classified under category IVj (institutions awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and equivalent degrees, with 1 or 2 professional schools), together with seventeen other institutions. Information on library holdings of all but one of these institutions appears in *Library Statistics of Colleges and Universities, 1959/60*, and is given on the following pages in descending order according to the number of volumes in each library.

It is necessary to note that the institutions in the following table differ in a number of respects. Some have been in existence for only a few years; others were founded nearly a century ago. Some enroll men only; others enroll women only, and the size of their student bodies varies considerably. For a brief treatment, however, comparison within the category in question seems the most suitable choice.
Institutions with the classification "IVj" in Education Directory, 1960/61.

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
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<td>St. Mary's Seminary, Maryland</td>
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5.

It may be noted that Fondren's collection is the third largest in its class. Fondren Library is exceeding in "number of volumes added during the year" only by Brandeis University, which was founded in 1948 and is striving to build up its library rapidly. In "number of periodicals received", Rice greatly surpasses the other institutions, a lead reflecting the relative richness of the Fondren collection for research. It is noteworthy that the five institutions at the top of the list were founded thirty-two or more years before classes began at Rice.

Rice seems to emerge admirably from this comparison, but we must realize that our comparison is of limited significance. The mere number of volumes does not, of course, determine the quality of a university library. Of much greater importance is the extent to which the library is able to meet needs for teaching and research. Qualitative appraisals of holdings in individual scholarly fields can give us a much more accurate estimate of the quality of the library as a whole.

Richard H. Perrine
6.

FONDREN LIBRARY HOLDINGS IN

FRENCH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN

French

Any collection in a college library reflects the interests, enthusiasms, and taste of the faculty responsible for building and maintaining it. The Fondren Library's collection in French literature is no exception to the rule; the ghosts of past and present members of the French faculty inhabit the second floor stacks and make their presence clearly felt to the newcomer who looks over our holdings in French. Because of the particular interests of professors and the topics studied in theses under their direction over the years, our collection has attained very respectable proportions in certain periods and authors. On the other hand, an apparent lack of enthusiasm for the early periods of literary history has produced woeful lacunae in these areas. In order to fill in the obvious gaps we must obtain out-of-print foreign books, a difficult matter for an institution as remote from the European book market as Rice. In the words of Professor Bourgeois, the question is less of money than of patience and luck, to which I might add assiduity and perserverance on the part of the faculty. It is a comparatively easy matter, although no less important or time-consuming, to keep abreast of current publications. The fact that our allotment for books this year was exhausted before the end of the first term indicates both the energy with which the faculty has been attempting to overcome the shortcomings in the library's collection and the desirability of an increased allotment in future years.
7.

For work in connection with the courses presently offered by the department, the Fondren Library's holdings in French are quite adequate. With a few notable exceptions - Boileau comes to mind - we possess the works of the major authors in definitive editions and the principal critical studies of writers, schools, and literary movements in sufficient quantity and variety for very satisfactory course work. The bibliographical tools and leading scholarly journals are available to the student. The scope of our course offerings themselves is necessarily limited by the same circumstances of faculty interest and competence which have dictated the choice of books. If, as it is hoped, the department is able in the near future to offer work in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, major additions to the library will be essential for solid work at the undergraduate level.

Considering the resources for research which our library holdings provide, it is interesting that well over half the M.A. theses produced in French at Rice have dealt with writers of the nineteenth century, only a very few with eighteenth century figures, and none at all with the Classical period or earlier. Subjects of doctoral theses have been even more contemporary, five of the six treating writers of our own time. Indeed, our holdings in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are extensive, well-balanced, and almost entirely adequate for research purposes. Short of autograph manuscripts or original editions, there is little that we could add to enhance our collection on such authors as Stendhal, Balzac, Proust, Giraudoux, Gide, and Valéry. We do, of course, lack such peripheral material as the ephemeral little magazines in which the Symbolists published their poems and manifestos.
8.

Professor Myers considers our holdings in the eighteenth century adequate only with respect to the major writers: Voltaire, J.-J. Rousseau, Diderot, and Montesquieu. Efforts are being made to fill the great lacunae among the secondary figures of the period. Thanks to the devoted scholarship of Professor McKillop, we have several eighteenth-century English adaptations of French novels, which are, along with Diderot's *Encyclopédie*, among the most interesting volumes on our shelves.

Aside from good modern editions of the major writers and standard critical works, the seventeenth century is poorly represented, except, perhaps, the theatre. Research on the novelists and poets of this period is all but impossible at present. We often find ourselves in the embarrassing position of possessing recent critical works produced by the revival of interest in baroque literature but lacking a good edition of the works of the poets themselves.

Our holdings in Renaissance literature are chaotic. Complete anarchy seems to have reigned in establishing a collection of medieval literature and linguistics. What we possess in this area is better described as a random accumulation than a collection.

In general, as one looks back from the year 1800, the strength of our collection diminishes steadily. Bringing our resources in the early periods up to the standards of the later ones will demand a considerable investment of personal effort and money. If we wish to have a sound, balanced, useful collection necessary for an expanded graduate program, we must be prepared to make such expenditures.

D. W. Tappan
The present Spanish collection in Fondren Library is small. Although it contains a considerable amount of primary source materials, these tend to be random in coverage. Writings necessary for research and advanced study, especially journals and serials, are seriously lacking.

The present holdings reflect the unimportant position that Spanish had held in the past at Rice University. Rice has not offered a major in Spanish, and Spanish may not be used to meet language requirements for degrees. For these reasons little advanced work has been taught by the Spanish Department. Since the buying of Spanish books has not been related to course offerings, it has tended to be general and unsystematic. This may explain why the writings of Spain's most outstanding novelist of the nineteenth century are unevenly represented. Although Fondren Library has a great number of his works of other kinds it holds not one of his novels.

The small size of the total collection may be understood from the viewpoint of the present departmental allocations for book purchases. For the present academic year Spanish received $750; French, $3,500, and German, $7,000.

It is the hope of the Spanish Department to make improvements in its library collection in two specific ways. When funds are available, we propose to purchase those journals and serials necessary to undertake advanced work in the study of Spanish language and literature. We shall also make an effort to buy systematically in areas related to new course offerings. For example, a new course
entitled "Spanish Literature of the Golden Age" will be offered for the first time next year. Much of this year's small allocation is being spent on materials to be used in this course.

The success of a proposed program of advanced studies in Spanish will necessarily depend in important part upon the strength of our library collection. In this respect, our principal limitations are financial.

James A. Castañeda
11.

Russian

Instruction in Russian at Rice so far has aimed at mere familiarization with the language as a tool of communication and there has been no necessity, or indeed any possibility, of building sizable holdings of books in this field. One would then expect publications in Russian at Fondren Library to be unimpressive. But let us look briefly at the actual circumstances, broadening our idea of "holdings in Russian" to include Russian scientific works as well as publications in language and literature.

Let us look first in the field of philology, taking the term in its broad meaning to include both language and literature. There is a fair selection of lexicographical reference works, both of the etymological and the ordinary type. Bilingual dictionaries are chiefly Russian-English, and are mostly of fairly recent vintage. Several older dictionaries are useful for reference to orthography as practiced before 1918. We own the Slovar' russkogo jazyka (Dictionary of the Russian Language), published recently by the Linguistic Institute of the Moscow Academy of Sciences, and the orthographic dictionary published by the same institute in 1956.

Treatises on grammar are few. They have been adequate for language courses, but any broadening of instruction in Russian at Rice will require extensive expansion in this field. There is also a dearth of textbooks that might be used by students, with the exception of some textbooks in scientific Russian. We do have the set of records, Spoken Russian, basic course, issued by the U. S. Armed Forces Institute.

In the Russian literary field we find a
fair sprinkling of literary histories in various languages, but chiefly in English. Russian literature itself is represented by editions of works of the more important authors, especially the "classics". However, our holdings are not suitable to encourage textual criticism or other original research. Holdings in Russian literature are relatively large, but for obvious reasons, these are principally translations, mostly into the English language.

Sheer physical numbers are not, of course, suitable as a basis of appraisal of the holdings of a library. To give an idea of the quantity, if not the quality, of Fondren holdings in Russian philology, we made a quick count of titles ("main entries", in library parlance) indexed under the call numbers for Russian philology. These came to slightly more than four hundred titles. The total number is higher than this figure because some philological writings appear in large works or in series that are classified under other call numbers.

The library also possesses works in Russian on special subjects, such as Russian history, economics, and, especially, science and technology. Our holdings in the Russian language include a number of scientific serial publications of the Moscow Academy of Sciences and the Kiev Academy of Sciences and also a number of scientific and technical journals. The card catalogue lists, for instance, seven Russian scientific journals with titles beginning with the word Zhurnal (Journal). Several bilingual scientific dictionaries are at hand to help the reader of these journals. Holdings in the sciences contrast strongly with those in philology, which include no periodicals worth mentioning.
Finally, let us glance at those Russian language publications which are likely to see the greatest use on a university campus. These are the Russian encyclopedia Бол'шайа советская энциклопедиа, which Fondren Library holds, and three periodicals, the daily newspaper Pravda, the weekly illustrated magazine Огонек, and a more pretentious monthly literary magazine, Новыи миа. Fondren Library subscribers to all of these periodicals.

In view of the position that Russian has held in the curriculum at Rice, our library resources in the field are perhaps not so small, after all. Our collections will, however, require extensive and careful building to bring them to a level worthy of Rice University's name.

Andrew N. Jitkoff
Dr. and Mrs. Radoslav A. Tsanoff have made a gift to the Fondren Library "In appreciation of the Bartlett Aesthetics Program at Rice University." This fund will be used to begin the purchase of Beethoven's "samtliche werke..." - the great new complete edition of all Beethoven's scores - which is to be published in 40 volumes, three to five volumes yearly.
The Fondren Library has frequent inquiries about the making of memorial gifts. The following procedure is recommended. Checks made out to FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY FUND should be sent to Gifts & Exchanges Librarian, Fondren Library, Rice University, P. O. Box 1892, Houston 1, Texas. They should be accompanied by a note stating the name of the person in whose memory the gift is made, the donor's name, and the name and address of the member of the family to whom notice of the gift should be sent. The Gifts & Exchanges Librarian will write a letter to the family and send an acknowledgment to the donor.

Each book purchased with a memorial gift bears a bookplate inscribed with the name of the person in whose memory the gift is made and the name of the donor.

The Fondren Library is glad to consider suggestions for subjects or titles which might be appropriate for specific memorial purchases.
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