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THE FLYLEAF

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SPRING MEETING OF THE FRIENDS:

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 8 P.M., FONDREN LIBRARY.

Dr. Carey Croneis will be our guest speaker. Dr. Croneis, who is already known in Houston as a delightful lecturer, was formerly president of Beloit College and came to Rice last year as Professor of Geology and Provost. He will discuss some phases of the history of geology.

The meeting is open to the public.

FROM PROPOSALS TO PROSPECTUS

There is one type of record in the book-trade which has seldom or never received separate treatment -- "Proposals for printing." "Proposals", to use the old term, were announcements issued as separate circulars or bills, often also published as advertisements in periodicals. They describe a proposed work, give price and format, and hopefully invite payment in advance. In earlier times, not so often today, this process took the form of "subscription"; publication depended on the collection of payments, and the plan usually included a promise to print the names of subscribers in the book. For the early periods, separate issues of proposals are rare and fugitive; it is easier to find them as reprinted in periodicals. The original issue may be only the first step: after a time they are often re-issued, the "last chance" to subscribe may be extended several times, and the date of publication accordingly postponed. The welcome news that the work is actually to be published comes of course not from the proposals themselves, but from newspaper advertisements. "Next month", or "Next Tuesday", or even sometimes "Next Tuesday at 9 a.m." such and such a work will appear. Copies will be delivered to subscribers, or they may call at the bookseller's and get their copies. Sometimes confession is made that records have got mixed up, that the printed list of subscribers is not complete, and that it would be esteemed a great favor if subscribers would bring their receipts. Little dramas of publication are played out, sometimes comedies of errors. There are many examples, the best known the long story of Johnson's Shakespeare.

He for subscribers baits his hook,
And takes your cash; but where's the book?

The FLYLEAF draws largely on current announcements by separate circular or prospectus of forthcoming publications. These are rarely subscription projects in the old sense, but they are often limited editions, and publishers sometimes try to get prompt action by a special pre-publication price. After publication such works are often closely held by libraries and private owners, and disappear from the market. In common with the older proposals, these announcements stand somewhat apart from the routine notices of forthcoming publications by the book trade, although of course the Library tries to keep itself informed, and to keep Faculty members informed, of important forthcoming books in ordinary trade channels.

As an instance of a promising prospectus we should like to cite the advance announcement of the following work:

Science Medicine and History: Essays on the Evolution of Scientific Thought and Medical Practice, written in honour of Charles Singer. Collected and Edited by E. Ashworth Underwood. 2 vols. \$45.00 Oxford University Press

The name of Charles Singer is quoted wherever men talk of the birth and development of science and of medicine, and of the inter-relations of the manual crafts and scientific ideas. The doyen of his subject in Great Britain, Professor Singer has especially strong associations with the Universities of Oxford and London. Abroad he is almost equally well known, not only because of his prominent role at various international congresses, but also as a result of his two periods as a visiting professor at the University of California. He is the author or editor of twenty-three books and many shorter studies. As Dr. Johnson said of Goldsmith: Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit.

The present extensive work was designed to enable scholars in many countries to pay tribute to Professor Singer. Its ninety essays -- which range across the whole field of the history of medicine and science, many embodying important original research -- are arranged mainly by broadly chronological periods, though the final book contains studies of many individual subjects over many centuries.

The essays dealing with the history of science extend from archaeological subjects to the twentieth century, and include essays on Chinese science and on the scientific views of the Greek philosophers. The reader will trace with pleasure the evolution of eau-de-vie in its long journey from the Quintessence of Aristotle. No less fascinating is the gradual decline from verisimilitude of Albrecht Dürer's famous imaginary literary rhinoceros as it pursued its literary wanderings. Vesalius plays a prominent part, and the last twenty-five years of his life are now for the first time clearly seen. There is a detailed study of the important experiments on combustion and respiration carried out before the Royal Society in its early years, and the little-known Academy of the Investigator at Naples, which had a history of nearly a century, is dealt with so thoroughly that this essay must long remain definitive. The teaching of physiology at the beginning of the eighteenth century is illuminated by a study of an unnoticed work which is probably the first modern text-book of this subject. The fame of Richard Owen as a comparative anatomist is enhanced by the demonstration that his discovery of the parathyroid glands antedates all other previously accepted claims.

Such a work as this cuts across so many fields that it is hard to place. "Everybody's business is nobody's business." Yet the enriching of the resources of Fondren depend largely on the question whether we can make it possible for the enterprising student to leave the beaten path. This particular work is in the great area loosely called "the history of science", which up to recent times has been a no-man's land, but which has great possibilities as a common meeting ground for various disciplines, and will be of greater and greater importance as our ideas of history become more adequate.

It is convenient to use for this type of book, a collection of essays in honor of an eminent scholar, the German term Festschrift. The Festschrift can be the bane of the bibliographer; it may be obscurely published, and may serve as an almost unmarked burial ground for heterogeneous papers. Even the less obscure Festschriften are sometimes hard to get; there was one published at Oxford during the war, honoring David Nichol Smith, at which many of us never had a chance. The Festschrift should be announced with a flourish of trumpets, and it should contain a collection of related papers. The Singer volumes fulfill all the conditions. We need them.

Alan D. McKillop

DESIDERATA

- Adams, Ramon F., Six-Guns and Saddle Leather. University of Oklahoma Press. \$10.00
- Perry, Milman, and Lord, Albert Bates, Serbocroatian Heroic Songs. Harvard University Press. 2 vols. \$20.00
- Roe, Albert S., editor, Blake's Illustrations to the Divine Comedy. Princeton University Press. \$20.00
- Sitwell, Sacheverell, Buchanan, and Fisher. Fine Bird Books, 1700-1900. London: Colline. \$35.28
- Studies in Art and Literature for Belle da Costa Greene. Princeton University Press. \$25.00 --
- Waldron, F. G., Shakespeare Miscellany. 1802. \$12.00
- Wormald, Francis, Miniatures in the Gospels of St. Augustine. Cambridge University Press. \$9.80
- Worsthorne, Simon Towneley, Venetian Opera in the Seventeenth Century. Oxford: Clarendon Press. \$7.00
- Items, new and old, ordered and bought as opportunity offered, and commended to your attention as worthy possibilities for gifts:

Natural History

- Baker, E. S. Stuart, The Indian Ducks and Their Allies. Bombay Natural History Society, 1908. \$18.20
- Alpheraki, Sergius, The Geese of Europe and Asia. 1905. \$21.70

Seton, Ernest Thompson, Lives of Game Animals. 8 vols.
Boston, 1953. \$43.54 Recommended by Dr. Asa Chandler

Shattuck, George B., The Bahama Islands. New York, 1907.
\$7.00

Reproductions of Manuscripts

Domesday Book, or the Great Survey of England of
William the Conqueror. Facsimile of the parts
relating to Cheshire and Lancashire. 1863. \$12.32

Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile. Series I.
Copenhagen, 1951-53. To be completed in 8 vols. Our
subscription for the first 3 vols. comes to about
\$100. A magnificent and basic series.

The Keats Letters, Papers and Other Relics from the
Dilke Bequest in the Hampstead Public Library.
1914. \$14.70

Books about Books

Kirchner, Joachim, editor, Lexicon des "Bücherwesens".
2 vols. Stuttgart, 1952. \$16.35

Plant, Marjorie, The English Book Trade. 1939. \$7.50

A Group of First Editions

Beddoes, Thomas Lovell, The Bride's Tragedy. 1822.
\$8.82

Lewis, Matthew Gregory, Feudal Tyrants; or the Counts of Carlsheim and Sargans. 4 vols. 1806. \$18.20

Scott, Walter, The Chase, and William and Helen: two ballads from the German of Gottfried Augustus Burger. Edinburgh, 1796. \$16.80 -- Scott's first publication.

Representing Diverse Interests

Camba, Julio, Obras Completas. 2 vols. Madrid, 1953. \$8.00

Dunlop, William, History of the American Theatre. London, 1832. \$16.00

Dunton, John, Athenian Sport. 1707. \$12.60

Excursions in the County of Norfolk. 1818-1819. \$9.80

Facetiae; being a general collection of the Jeux d'esprit which have been illustrated by Robert Cruikshank. 3 vols. 1831-33. \$15.00 -- A charming little work.

Ghivizzani, Gaetano, editor, Dante e il suo secolo. 2 vols. Florance, 1865. \$20.00

Nicolay, C. G., The Oregon Territory. London, 1846. \$7.65

Panofsky, Erwin, Early Netherlandish Painting. 2 vols. Harvard University Press, 1954. \$28.52 -- a very important work. Recommended by Professor Chillman.

My Book and Heart
Shall never part.

--The New England Primer

GIFTS

Although the last issue of the Flyleaf appeared only recently, many interesting gifts have been received since that time.

Mr. and Mrs. George Brown added two valuable maps to Fondren's growing collection: Mitchell's national map of the American Republic, or United States of North America, with maps of vicinities of 32 principal cities ...1846; and Mitchell's new national map exhibiting the United States with the North American British provinces ...1858.

W. M. Rust, Jr. gave a generous check for the purchase of books in the general field of earth sciences. Duplicate files of important technical journals were received from Alexander Deussen and Dr. Gerhart Herzog. Mr. C. A. Dwyer contributed photostatic copies of 7 Texas land scrip documents.

Mrs. Katherine Owens Price and Joseph A. Owens gave an interesting collection of books. A fine collection of old music was presented by Mrs. T. W. Keller. Dr. and Mrs. Max Freund added a number of phonograph records to the music room. Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Anderson gave a collection of books.

Other welcome gifts were received from the Houston Chapter of the Association of Chartered Life Underwriters; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Illig; and Albert Thomas.

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TO FRIENDS OF FONDREN

The Friends are entering a new year with every reason for pride in their past accomplishments and associations in behalf of The Fondren Library at The Rice Institute. Consistent with the broadening service rendered to the community by The Fondren Library it is appropriate at this time to express the determination of the new administration to maintain the past record of service and to bring into our group many new Friends whose interest in The Fondren Library has already been demonstrated.

Arthur D. Dyess, Jr.
President

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