THE FLYLEAF

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY AT RICE UNIVERSITY HOUSTON, TEXAS
asks that the following corrections be made entitled, "The Pre-Fondren Rice

paragraph four of the article beginning "she opened, she had several summer sessions is to her credit, and promotions that role of --change Principal to Superintendent instead of the Victoria High School." remains the same.

of the same article, reading over the page Miss Dean felt that it sounded like Autry House were both built at the same time. Autry House was in existence before built.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
THE PRE-FONDREN RICE LIBRARY

by

Sarah L. Lane

Circulation Librarian, Emerita

The Rice Institute, a university of liberal and technical learning, founded by William Marsh Rice and dedicated by him to the advancement of Letters, Science, and Art, opened in September 1912.

The Library is not mentioned in the Preliminary Announcements. For the first academic year it did not exist. But in the announcement for the second academic year beginning September 24, 1913, we read:

Library. Temporary quarters for the Library of the Institute have been provided on the second floor of the Administration Building [Lovett Hall] In its initial equipment the policy is being followed of providing only such books as are necessary to supplement the courses of instruction and to support the independent investigations of the staff and advanced students. In this manner a high degree of efficiency becomes possible at the very beginning of the Library's existence. Moreover, for works of general and more popular interest, the shelves of the Carnegie Library of
Dear Mary Alice,

Miss Alice Dean asks that the following corrections be made in the Flyleaf article entitled, "The Pre-Fondren Rice Library" by Sarah L. Lane, Circulation Librarian Emerita. Vol. XIX, No. 4, July, 1969.

On page two, paragraph four of the article beginning "By the time Rice Institute opened, she had several summer sessions at the University of Texas to her credit, and promotions that brought her to the position of --change Principal to Superintendent of the Victoria Schools instead of the Victoria High School." The rest of the sentence remains the same.

Then on page six of the same article, reading over the fourth paragraph on that page Miss Dean felt that it sounded like Palmer Memorial Church and Autry House were both built at the same time. This was not the case. Autry House was in existence before Palmer Memorial Church was built.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
The Pre-Fondren Rice Library

by

Sarah L. Lane

Circulation Librarian, Emerita

The Rice Institute, a university of liberal and technical learning, founded by William Marsh Rice and dedicated by him to the advancement of Letters, Science, and Art, opened in September 1912.

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Houston are accessible to all members of the Institute.

The "Temporary Quarters" were beautiful! I loved that room! Brown cork floors, tall ceilings, seven-foot shelves made by expert cabinet makers that divided the room into ten alcoves -- French doors opening onto balconies from each alcove giving excellent light and cross ventilation for the hot days. Once in a while a blustering winter wind could make the weather-stripping of those doors howl like a banshee; but that was added interest.

In each alcove there was a handsome oak table with a reading light down the center and four or six chairs, upholstered in brown leather, down the sides. A nine-foot center aisle went the length of the room, at the north end of which stood a beautiful marble fireplace. There were two offices for staff and a work area off the two northeast alcoves.

The first staff member, Alice Crowell Dean, began her duties as a student assistant and continued to guide and direct the growth of the Library for the next forty-three years.

Alice Dean was graduated from high school, took a short course in teachers training, and began to teach school in Victoria. By the time Rice Institute opened, she had several summer sessions at the University of Texas to her credit, and promotions that brought her to the position of Principal of the Victoria High School -- quite an accomplishment for one so young, and a woman!

But she wanted a degree keenly enough to resign the principalship and enter Rice in September 1913 as a Sophomore. In September 1914, as a student assistant, she took over the Library. She worked under the direc-
tion of a Library Committee of three faculty members dominated by Dr. G. C. Evans of the Mathematics Department. Among the members of those early Committees were Professors Tsanoff, McKillop, Heaps, Weiser and Glascock.

Here I quote Miss Dean: "The Committee and I had the privilege of launching the Library and took this seriously. We expected Rice to endure and grow so we tried to plan big. We had no experience but we sought advice. I went to Columbia University in the summer of 1916 to study Library Science, and got much profit from a day spent in the Harvard College Library. We decided to use all aid available from the Library of Congress, even to using the L.C. classification which seemed at the time clumsy for the few books to be processed. [In 1913 one bookcase could hold the Library.] We figured that system would endure and would shift much of our work to the L.C. Our policy was deplored by the Library School teachers, but we stuck to it. It has paid off. There has been no re-doing of our classification system."

The charging system was a simple card, written by the borrower on unprinted stock stiff enough to file easily. It gave the call number, author, title, the borrower's signature and address, and the date borrowed. If answered the four necessary questions: what book, who has it, where is he, when did he get it.

Again I quote from Miss Dean: "The Library was run economically. In 1916-17 I received $1200 per year, student assistants 20 cents an hour. The book fund, about $2900, was divided about 50-50; half was apportioned to the various departments and the other half was used by the Committee. It took care of special purchases made by the President and other privileged persons as well as files of journals and books of general interest."
"It was a wonderful time for buying books. World War I had impoverished Europe. The book dealers were frantic for American dollars, offering files and long runs of journals for low prices. Many circulars were received and passed on to helpful faculty members who advised about buying. Dr. Heaps was most helpful about reading catalogs. Dr. Tsanoff and Dr. McKillop haunted second-hand dealers on trips to Europe. G. E. Stechert was about the most helpful of the domestic firms. Among the foreign firms that gave good advice and offered bargains were Fock, Heffer, Nijhoff, Swets and Gottschalk."

Book orders were checked, written in duplicate and accumulated in a 3 x 5 drawer. About once a week one copy was filed by author, the other mailed to a dealer, usually G. E. Stechert. Instructions were to "ship in the most economical way." Usually this was in a large wooden box that came by water freight every week or two. They tell that a package came addressed:

The Rice Institute  
Sent by Cheapest Method  
Houston, Texas

Miss Dean's work sheet on the proposed budget for 1920-21 includes this entry: "Assistants, full time and students -- $2800." That accounted for at least two on full salary, Pender Turnbull and S. L. Lane, and some six or ten hourly students. Miss Turnbull's name first appeared in the ledger as a student assistant addressing Pamphlet envelopes (an excellent way to find out if a student was neat, accurate, and industrious). She joined the staff on graduation in 1919, the first full time salaried
assistant. The card catalog was her special responsibility.

The 1920-21 budget had grown. The following items are listed under

**Equipment:**

- **Periodicals (continuing and binding)** $2400.
- **Books (90 units of 50 dollars)** 4500.
- **Catalog cards** 100.
- **Committee** 500.
- **President** 500.
- **Freight, etc.** 100.

**Special items -- listed separately**

The book and periodical fund of $6900 was distributed by departments. For example, Architecture received 5 units for books and $65 for periodicals; Chemistry 5 units for books and $214 for periodicals. For special items the accompanying pages listed recommendations of the heads of departments for files of journals and expensive reference books. These lists were sent to dealers in the United States and Europe who would search and build for us the files.

With the increased buying of books the space problem also increased. Like the camel who got his head in the tent, the Library began to take over. By 1920-21 the bookcases in the "Temporary Quarters" were extended up
to the ceiling. We were provided with good sturdy -- and heavy -- ten-foot wooden ladders that we carried from shelf to shelf. Periodical files came to rest on those upper shelves because they were not so constantly used as were the books.

Next, the tables were moved into the aisles and a double row of shelves added in the alcoves. Bookcases were so close together that Dr. Axson, who was rather rotund, did not have space to fold up and see the bottom shelf. We had to find books for him not on eye level. Then cases were added on each side of the aisles and reading tables gradually disappeared. The card catalog completely hid the fireplace.

Every summer we hunted some new spot. The engineering and chemistry periodicals were housed in the Engineering Laboratory. Art and architecture books and periodicals appeared on the second floor of the Physics Building; physics, math, and biology on the first floor. Then the instrument cases were moved from another first floor room and a balcony was built. That was a mistake. There was no ventilation and it was so hot on that balcony that the paper cooked.

The Autry House was built across the street next to Palmer Memorial Church. Now we had an excuse to argue that the men did not need their study hall on the first floor of the Administration Building. The Library would keep the study tables and the men could eat their lunches and visit at Autry House.

The girls' club room -- room 105 of the Administration Building -- came to us next; then both ends of the basement, including the half-basement under room 105, reached by an iron ladder, where I could not stand up straight. The Chemistry Building was completed and
the architects moved to the second floor with a library room, and the chemistry and engineering books went to a large room on the third floor with a good study area. Then we took over the basement under the Chemistry Lecture Hall.

Locked cases for rare books were built along the hallway on the second floor of the Administration Building. Presently, the girls' study hall and the office of the Adviser to Women in the Administration Building fell to us. Mrs. Florence Jameson was by this time in charge of binding and operated from half the girls' study hall. We collated every journal, removed ads, checked for supplements, and flayed all folded or narrow margins.

Every time the Library expanded, the staff had to move the accumulated numbers of the evergrowing Rice Institute Pamphlet. Finally -- the last straw -- the Pamphlets were moved for the "steenth" time to a spot four feet tall under the west wing of the Chemistry Building. To get about in these quarters we had a low stool on wheels that we rode like a baby scooter, pulling a dolly of Pamphlets behind us.

Working conditions were far different from those of today. Library hours were 8 to 5, Monday through Friday, and 8 to 1 on Saturday, with an hour for lunch -- a 45-hour week. Coffee breaks were unknown. For a time Holmes Richter, Maurice Ewing, and Eugene Banta, who were student assistants, kept a science room open from 7 to 10 a few nights a week for men; all women left the campus by dark.

The three or four staff members were taught to do all processes in the Library. All of us took part in
some circulation work and even some cataloging. We collated periodicals and books, mailed, stored, and moved pamphlets, made book repairs, and cared for stacks. Miss Dean continued her studies, earning her M.A. in math, and taught a section of Freshman math in her "spare" time.

Books were always on three floors of a building. Elevators were unknown. (Well, the Chemistry Building did have a freight elevator, but the chemistry stock man had to run it.) Every book bought or used was carried up or down. Some of us helped materially to wear the hollows in Lovett Hall's marble stairs. During the wars there were no men; the girls and women of the staff did all the work.

We were never free from emergencies. In 1915 after a vacation in Arizona Miss Dean returned to find that all the periodicals received during the entire summer had been piled on a table by a window. The 1915 hurricane had blown out that window!

All basement shelves were raised 6 to 8 inches above the floor. With any heavy rain, water could back in from the utilities tunnel. -- Once I met a water moccasin swimming at the foot of the steps. -- Even with the precautions of 6 to 8 inches there would be a rush of moving books from bottom shelves onto tables after many a downpour. Then we would fight mold.

In the Depression Miss Dean came home from an August vacation to be greeted with thirty-odd untrained girls as assistants. They were National Youth Administration students. She did little all year but try to make those girls think they were useful. A few became very much so.

A first-rate calamity was the discovery of book-
worms. In this emergency the N.Y.A. girls were a real help. They opened the books one by one, to find which sections were infested. We did some amazing feats of fumigation. It was a nightmare. Air-conditioning seems the best deterrent. But did you know that every book moved into the Fondren was fumigated in great vans on the parking lot for from 8 to 24 hours before being allowed in the new building?

Plans were being made for a Library Building when the United States entered World War II and construction became impossible; we "managed" for another four or five years. Then came Peace, and Mrs. Fondren's gift which made the Fondren Library possible. During these years Miss Dean had celebrated her seventieth birthday, but she was asked to remain and continue running the old Library while Mr. Dix planned and prepared for the new. Miss Dean was also, at long last, in 1947, honored with the title of Librarian.

It was the vision and hard work of Miss Dean and those dedicated men on the early Library Committees that gave the Fondren the splendid foundation on which to build.
The Librarian spotted "Books for the Boys" in the Library Review,* and the Editor was so beguiled by it that he wanted to share it with the Friends and wrote at once to Scotland to ask permission, which was graciously granted, to reprint it in the FLYLEAF.

The author was a master at Uppingham School and is now Director of the Home-School Council at Derwent College of the University of York. Of his present position he writes: "I am in charge of a project which we hope will link parents as partners in the educational system. You may know that the policy here has always been to keep parents out -- well, we're hoping to change all that." One senses that Mr. Finch is the right man in the right place.

BOOKS FOR THE BOYS

by

Robert Finch

"Oh, and perhaps you'll keep an eye on the House Library. They'll read all sorts of rubbish if you're not careful." I gathered that this was thought to be one of my lesser duties as the new House Tutor, and not to be compared with my responsibility as "Keeper of the Pocket Money" or "Scrutineer of the Games Book."

The House Library consisted of six shelves on a landing outside the boys' dormitory. The top shelf was given over entirely to tattered old copies of the Reader's Digest. The next boasted two dozen Agatha Christies, some Dorothy Sayers, a coverless Micky Spillane and everything Ian Fleming ever wrote. The next three shelves were empty, and lying on their sides in the bottom corner were six heavy brown volumes on The Boer War and two heavier, browner ones entitled Adventure Stories for Boys. A green exercise book had been used, though not often, for signing books in and out. I read down the list of authors: Fleming, Fleming, Christie, Fleming, Sayers, Fleming, Christie, Fleming. The Boer War had been out once, and returned on the same day. With something approaching missionary zeal I set off for town with my initial grant of £2.

This sum, though unlikely to cause a stir in the Bodleian, was capable of creating havoc on my shelves, and I was soon poking along the sixpenny rows of second-hand bookshops, drunk with my purchasing power. Four and threepence bought ten readable books, among them a Priestley and two Hemingways. Edna O'Brien and Doris Lessing were to be had at a shilling each, and I squan-
dered one and sixpence on Seven Pillars of Wisdom. Thinking in terms of categories I opened up Humour (Thurber and Potter), Science Fiction (Wyndham) and Drama (Wesker and Shaw) at a total cost of five shillings. The owner listened with interest as I explained my mission.

"Try Kayley over the road," he said. "It's not his main line, but he's got some books at the back."

Mr. Kayley's main line was in fact nude magazines, and there was some misunderstanding when I asked to see the books at the back, but my information was correct and there was a small haul of Buchan, Forster and Wodehouse. Prices here were even lower and Mr. Kayley explained why.

"They trades 'em in for the noods," he said, "but nobody trades noods in for them."

It seemed an odd bargain, Greenmantle for Girlie and Scoop for Scamp, but I was happy to redeem them at bargain prices. I stood shoulder to shoulder with the grim-faced clientele, sorting through the books and attracting new interest to my corner of the shop. One man picked up A Room with a View as soon as I put it down, and read for a while with a puzzled expression. It was clearly regarded as an oddity by customers and proprietor alike.

For a few nights after my haul had been added to the library I crept up at night after lights out to read the green exercise book. Like a gardner watching sown soil I waited for a new names to appear in the authors' column, and was absurdly pleased when they did.

A campaign to "Bring back a book" produced a tremendous response and a censorship problem. I was anxious
to avoid the situation where the dull books were on the shelves and the red meat in the lockers, but Lolita had to go, and de Sade too, though it might have resulted in some original defences against impending corporal punishment. I was wondering what to do with them when a prefect came in with a magazine called Silky.

"Found in the Junior Dayroom, Sir, shall I burn it?"

"No, give it to me," I said. "That has a trade-in value of two shillings."

I swapped all three with Mr. Kayley for A Perfect Woman and Vile Bodies.
One of the rarest books in the Fondren Library is The Apprentice's Vade Mecum, an early eighteenth century work of which only two copies are known. It was presented to the Library by Professor Alan McKillop, who did more than generously donate a rare volume: he also identified it as a work by Samuel Richardson, and the earliest of that author's publications.

Dr. McKillop's description of this interesting work is here reprinted by permission from the Newberry Library Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 1 (November, 1955), where it first appeared.
Some years ago I identified a little didactic manual, *The Apprentice's Vade Mecum*, as the earliest known work of the novelist Samuel Richardson.¹ Professor William Sale has now shown, by his study of printer's ornaments, that this book came from Richardson's press.² Such manuals were once very common, though few copies survive even in the great libraries; they were sold for a shilling or so, given by masters and friends to more or less appreciative apprentices, and read to pieces or thrown away. After a long search I got a copy of the *Vade Mecum* from an Oxford bookseller in 1939, and on this copy my description and Professor Sale's are based. It is therefore of great interest to me to find that The Newberry Library also has a copy of the *Vade Mecum*, which thus becomes the second on record. The two copies collate identically. Since they are dated 1734, with actual publication in September, 1733, it is probable that the first printing was post-dated.

The *Vade Mecum* is an example of a specific type of apprentice manual, utilitarian and prudential rather than religious, represented by following works also in the Newberry.


A little later Hogarth's Industry and Idleness takes up the cautionary tale. Such works, far from literary in intention, are sometimes of direct literary interest in their references to the apprentice's reading and diversions. Thus Hogarth's Plate I shows Francis Goodchild working at his loom with the 'Prentice's Guide open beside him; Tommy Idle has thrown his Guide on the floor, and has a copy of Moll Flanders nearby. The subject of the apprentices and the theater attracted much attention in the 1730's. Part I of the Vade Mecum connects with the current controversy about theaters in the City; the argument was that the theaters were corrupting tradesmen, and apprentices, unless indeed they offered edifying fare like George Lillo's play, The London Merchant: or, The History of George Barnwell (1731), here commended by Richardson in the earliest literary reference we have from his pen. It may be worth noting that James Roberts was concerned in the publication of both Lillo's play and Richardson's little manual. In 1735 Richardson returned to the subject with another pamphlet, this time quoting his own Vade Mecum in support of Sir John Barnard's bill to restrict the licensing of playhouses.3

The modest literary affiliations of this tradition may be further illustrated by citing two novels in a fine lot recently acquired by Newberry. The Memoirs of Jonathan Splittfig: or the Bankrupt-turned Squire (1773) contrasts the two sons of Alderman Splittfig, the virtuous Thomas and the dissolute Jonathan; this work can be described as a chapbook on the pattern of the pair of apprentices in Hogarth's Industry and Idleness.
Hogarth's work had itself been put into narrative form for distribution to apprentices. A second novel, The Adventures of Sylvia Hughes (1761), in some chapters dealing with the performances of a band of strolling players, gives us another illustration of the approval bestowed on Lillo's play by moralists and educators:

Mr. Hughes called upon me, to acquaint me, that the Play to be acted that Night was George Barnwell; and that it had been bespoke by a Gentleman in the Town, who had promised the Players to bring all his Family with him, and to recommend it to the utmost of his Power. The Gentleman had looked on this Piece as one of the best Tragedies in our Language, and had desir'd it might be perform'd for the Instruction of the Youth of both Sexes, and the Advantage of the Actors; for he doubted not of every fond Parent's letting their Children attend at its Representation, that they might see the fatal Consequences of Vice, and be the better enabled to resist those Temptations that they might hereafter be exposed to. (Pp. 96-97)

If the bourgeois conduct-books, including directions to servants, apprentice's guides, religious monitors, success manuals, and the like, are not literature, they nevertheless help to reveal to us the origins of Defoe, Franklin, Hogarth, and Richardson. When we say, as we often do, that eighteenth century literature was becoming increasingly middle-class, we should remember that there were several strata of the middle-class, and that a great deal of the literature to which our attention is directed is concerned with being "genteel" and avoiding the "low." Richardson himself moved in this direction from Pamela through Clarissa to Grandison, but an essential part of his contribution derives from the fact
that he began writing to and for the apprentice, the serving maid, and the small shopkeeper. Thus the Vade Mecum helps somewhat to clear up the mystery of Richardson in the years before Pamela, and gives us a glimpse of a major writer at the beginning of his career.


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In Honor of
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