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THE FLY LEAF

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THE FLYLEAF

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NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 8 P.M., FONDREN
LIBRARY. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our speaker will be Willard Thorp, Professor of English at Princeton University and M. D. Anderson Visiting Professor at Rice this year. Professor Thorp, who has been active in the Friends of the Library at Princeton, will talk about building library collections and the ways in which the activities of friends are vital to literary scholarship.

The meeting will be held in the Lecture Lounge of the Library as usual and is open to the public.

A nominating committee recently appointed by the President proposes the following slate of officers for the coming year:

President, Mr. Talbott Wilson
Vice-President, Mrs. Ben M. Anderson
Membership Secretary, Mrs. Chas. W. Hamilton
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Lee Whitcomb
Treasurer, Mr. Chas. W. Hamilton

Board of Directors:

Mr. Jacques F. Pryor
 Mr. R. A. Tsanoff
 Mrs. Milton Underwood
 Mrs. Irene D. Wilson

All Friends holding membership cards are entitled to vote and are urged to attend.

FIRST EDITIONS -- FOR USE OR ORNAMENT?

The caption echoes Bacon -- "Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability." We may read "First editions" instead of "studies" as Bacon continues: "Crafty men contemn studie simple men admire them, and wise men use them; for they teach not their own use, but that is a wisdom without them and above them, won by observation." The question may well be raised when we ask the Friends to help us get first editions of important works. As Bacon says again, "To use them too much for ornament is affectation." What do the sound intentions of the librarian and the reader give way to collectors' vanity or to a quest for prestige as such?

Perhaps one might diffidently remark that if rare books and first editions should turn out to be extraneous, they would not be the only extraneous things ever to find lodgement on a campus. One would not press the point -- let us rather discuss the whole matter in terms of actual or possible use.

In the first place, it cannot always be assumed that substitutes for first or good early editions can easily be found. Who is going to guarantee the timely provision of a reprint at a reasonable price? Take some novels that have figured in recent numbers of the FLYLEAF. We now have first editions of Godwin's Caleb Williams (1794) and Maturin's Melmoth the Wanderer (1820), both very significant books. The American edition of Caleb Williams which I happen to have simply omits Godwin's preface and is out of print anyway; the one reprint of Melmoth made in 1892 is about as rare as the original. Sound editions and modern reprints do not come by nature, and it is often as easy and much more satisfactory to go back to the first or good early editions.

In fairness, a case of another kind should also be cited. I have a copy of William Collins' Persian Eclogues (1742), a first edition of the first work of an important poet, which will eventually land in the Fondren. The item is excessively rare, but not, it must be admitted, badly needed, just in the "nice to have" class. For use there is a type facsimile issued at Oxford, and on our shelves, which will almost always serve the student, unless he is studying some recondite point in typography.

In a somewhat different category is the book which would be useful, but is completely priced out of our market, e.g., Richardson's Pamela (1740), often called the first English novel. And yet, if we could get Pamela for what our firsts of Richardson's Clarissa or Fielding's Tom Jones cost us, there would be an argument for it. The first edition gets us closer to the original transaction, the work of the bookseller (now called publisher), the

exact meaning of the words in imprints, "London: printed, and are to be sold by" We now know from a recently discovered letter that a first printing or first issue of Tom Jones was sold before publication, that, in fact, official publication, the announcement in the papers, "This day is published, TOM JONES", was postponed from February 10, 1749, to February 28, for that reason. Bibliographers now have a special interest in restudying firsts of Tom Jones.

But if this seems too ingrowing, it still remains true that it is a good principle to have a look for yourself. Recently a student in one of my classes pointed out that some modern editions of Tom Jones omit the significant motto on the title page, "Mores hominum multorum vidit", "He viewed the manners of many men". It is Horace's paraphrase of the opening of the Odyssey, and it takes us from the title page of the first edition to the question "Did Fielding apply this tag to himself or to Tom Jones, and what does it tell us about his plan?" The key editions thus help us to apply the rule of Kipling's mongoose, "Run and find out", not bad marching orders for one who traverses the stack levels of Fondren.

Alan D. McKillop

PURCHASES -- RECENT, POSSIBLE, DESIRABLE

We could get a complete set of the original issues of The Tatler, the pioneer essay-periodical of Steele and Addison, for \$140.00. An unusually striking example of a first worth looking at for its remarkable format.

Sir Thomas Pope Blount, De Re Poetica, 1694, \$14.00, a key book for the documentation of late seventeenth century criticism.

William Rufus Chetwood, A General History of the Stage, 1749, \$28.00.

Spinoza, Opera Posthuma, 1677, and Tractatus Theologico-Politicus, 1670, firsts of both, two items in one, \$56.00. "One of the half dozen most important works in the history of philosophy", comments Dr. Tsanoff.

Fielding, Joseph Andrews, two volumes, 1742, original calf, \$126.00. The present issue might be called the Fielding number. A Fielding bicentenary will soon be coming up.

Original Leaves from Famous Books. Twenty-five leaves from medieval MSS, and Renaissance and modern printed books, \$60.00. We need some specimens for teaching purposes.

The following are here, and looking for a sponsor:

Herman Melville, Redburn, first edition, New York, 1849, \$13.50.

Smolett, Roderick Random, first edition, two volumes, London, 1748, \$31.75.

Dickens, A Christmas Carol. In prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas. Illustrations by John Leech, first edition, 1843, \$23.80.

RECENT GIFTS

The heat of a Houston summer has not diminished the activities of Friends in soliciting and donating gifts for the Fondren Library. Several substantial collections are now being catalogued. Miss Ima Hogg, Mrs. Thomas E. Hogg, and Mrs. Harry C. Hanszen have presented more than five hundred volumes from the library of the late Mike Hogg. Particularly strong in books on city planning and civic affairs, this collection reflects the range of interests which made Mr. Hogg's contributions to Houston life so significant. Mr. William Adams Delano of the New York architectural firm of Delano and Aldrich, has recently presented a fine collection of rare architecture books.

One of the first major contributions to the new geological library is a complete bound file of the Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, presented by Mr. John S. Ivy. This collection has also received important additions through the gift of long files of scientific journals from Mr. Alexander Duessen and Dr. G. Hertzog. In another field of learning, Emeritus Professor J. Willis Slaughter has presented his fine library of sociological books.

Our collection of historic works in the development of science has been handsomely increased by first editions of Clairaut's Theorie de la figure de la terre and Fourier's Theorie analytique de la chaleur given by Mr. and Mrs. David R. Wintermann ('33) of Eagle Lake, Texas. From Willard Thorp, M. D. Anderson Professor at Rice this year, comes the first English edition of Herman Melville's Typee. Other rare volumes, requested in the FLYLEAF and purchased from unallocated Friends gifts, will be mentioned in future issues.

William Bridgewater ('28) has presented the new and unsurpassed Columbia-Lippincott Gazeteer of the World. We are always particularly glad to receive books presented by their authors. Thus we acknowledge with pleasure Ray Wood's Fun in American Folk Rhymes and Professor Carroll Camden's The Elizabethan Woman. The preface of the latter contains the sort of acknowledgment of help received from the Fondren Library which makes librarians feel useful.

Other smaller collections and individual volumes have come from James H. Albright, Elenora Alexander, M. K. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Burnes, Tom Burkett, Victor E. Chvojka, Leslie Cookenboo, Jr., Mrs. W. R. Fleming, Harrison Fortune, Mr. and Mrs. Max Freund, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hoskins Gregg, William V. Houston, Emmett Hudspeth, Henri Job, Mrs. W. H. Keenan, James Korges, Sarah L. Lane, Rose Matthaei, J. M. Matthews, Edward B. Mayo, Heinrich Meyer, James C. Morehead, Jr., Oscar A. Morgner, John Parrish, Hans Reiter, Andree F. Sjoberg, James R. Sims, Ernest C. Smith, W. N. Stokes, A. H. Stevens, The Texas Company, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Strange, Albert Thomas, Ruben Weltsch, Norman Willison, E.B.L.S. Alumnae.

From the Owen Wister Literary Society Alumnae has come \$150 for continuing the extremely popular OWLS shelf of current fiction and from the Pallas Athene Literary Society Alumnae \$481 for extending the PALS shelf on current affairs which is doing a great deal to educate all of us in the world today. The undergraduate OWLS group has contributed \$175 this year for additions to the phonograph record collection.

MEMORIAL BOOKS

A number of gifts have been received for the purchase of books in memory of William Ward Watkin. Among the contributors to this fund are Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Amerman, Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Anderson, Ralph A. Anderson, Jr., Mrs. James A. Baker, Jr., Major and Mrs. Dale L. Barrick, Margaret L. Biehl, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert E. Bray, Central Church of Christ, Houston, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Creekmore, Mrs. A. H. Culver, Robert J. Cummins, Alice C. Dean, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Dix, Elva Kalb Dumas, A. D. Dyess, Emma Gaines, Hugh E. Gragg, Mrs. T. D. Gresham, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hoskins Gregg, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. David Hannah, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. H. Hilliard, Houston Chapter, American Institute of Architects, Mrs. George F. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jett, Mrs. L. C. Kemp, Jr., Sarah L. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. McCann,

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In addition to these individual memorials, a special gift is being collected by the Rice Architectural Alumni, and we are informed that a substantial sum will soon be turned over to the library by this group. Furthermore the Alumni Chapter of the Austin area has stipulated that its annual gift to the library be designated this year as a memorial to Mr. Watkin.

Other memorials received since June include gifts in memory of Lilian Blocker by Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Strozier, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Muse, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Lilliot, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Simes, Mr. and Mrs. V. J. McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Lewis, Jr.; in memory of Mrs. Rufus Cage by Mrs. C. H. Neblett and Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Turner, Anne H. Wheeler, and Pender Turnbull; in memory of Mrs. Sarah Sherffius Briggs by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton; in memory of Mrs. James Clayton by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dwyer; in memory of Fairfax Crow

by Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Anderson; in memory of Lynch Davidson by Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Anderson; in memory of J. Moody Dawson by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Donnelly and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Jordan; in memory of Mrs. Earl Dionne by Nell Willman and John Blodgett Davis; in memory of John Forbes by Pender Turnbull; in memory of Herbert Godwin by Mr. and Mrs. David Wintermann and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lander; in memory of Mrs. David Hannah, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. Ben M. Anderson; in memory of Harry T. Kendall by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson; in memory of Mrs. Edgar Odell Lovett by Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Moraud; in memory of Harry Edwin McCormick by Friends on Fondren Library Staff; in memory of Mrs. Eugenie Sampson by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown; in memory of Richard G. Scobee by Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McCants; in memory of Mrs. William W. Stewart by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton; in memory of Mrs. Sam Taub by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton; in memory of R. D. (Buck) Walton by Nell Willman, John Blodgett Davis, and the Board of Trustees and Governors of the Rice Institute; in memory of Richard C. Wadseck by Roberta Donnelly and Betsy Jordan.

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