THE FLY LEAF

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY AT THE RICE INSTITUTE HOUSTON, TEXAS
NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS:
FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 8 P.M., FONDREN LIBRARY

M. Lionel Vasse, French consul in New Orleans and noted scholar, will speak to the next meeting of the Friends on "The France of Today". The meeting is open to the public.

THE SCIENCE COLLECTION OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY

by George Holmes Richter, Dean and Professor of Chemistry, The Rice Institute

Although the science faculties of the Rice Institute are not insensible to the benefits of elegant luxury, they reflect with some pride that few libraries contain the wealth of scientific reference material which is now available in our Fondren collection. The growth
and development of this section of the Library was enhanced at the outset by the clear recognition that the function of such material was not for entertainment, display, or to beguile the idle hours of undergraduates, but rather to supply the serious scholar with the original works of others engaged in a similar field of interest. These so called "primary sources" constitute the bulk of the Fondren holdings; nearly two thousand such journals appear in the list of titles. A singular feature of this collection is that the selection of these books was so fortunate that today any one series is now worth many times the original purchase price. Moreover, the rapid and world-wide expansion of research interests in the past three decades has so enlarged the demand for such publications that complete files of many of the important titles are no longer available.

Inasmuch as primary sources are unorganized, the complete utilization of such material is difficult, if not impossible, without access to
other publications which provide some form of indexing. These "secondary sources" are so eagerly sought after that prices of fifty to eighty dollars a volume are not uncommon. Notwithstanding this handicap, Rice has an enviable collection in this classification. Perhaps one of the most interesting titles in this category in chemistry is the Chemisches Zentralblatt. This journal covers the entire span of modern chemistry; starting in 1832 it embarked upon the ambitious task of providing an abstract of every article on chemistry which was published anywhere in the world. Throughout wars, famines, and economic upheavals, this service has gone on uninterrupt ed to the present time. Indeed this publication alone justifies the universal academic requirement that all chemists must possess a reading knowledge of German.

Perhaps the most distinguished journal in the realm of science is the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. This publication started in 1664 and has appeared con-
tinuously up to the present time. Most historians of science justly regard modern physical science as beginning with this journal. The Rice Institute is fortunate in having almost a complete file of this landmark in learning. It is an impossible task to compress within the limits of this article the hundreds of such outstanding titles in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology which begin with the words Annalen, Berichte, Bulletin, Gazette, Journal, Monatshefte, Recueil, Tidskrift, Transactions, Weekblad, Wochenschrift, Zeitschrift, etc.

At the beginning of this century there were 4,673 journals which contained articles on science. Aside from the language difficulties, it is self-evident that in bibliographical searches it is not possible to examine the annual index of each one of these thousands of publications. Accordingly, scientists find it necessary to start the examination through such secondary sources as the Zentralblatt in chemistry or similar indexing serials in other fields.
One monumental work of this type is the **International Catalog of Scientific Literature**. This is the most comprehensive index to general science ever attempted. The plan is to compile an index to all scientific papers published in the century 1800-1900. About seventeen volumes are issued annually, one for each of the following sciences: (a) Mathematics; (b) Mechanics; (c) Physics; (d) Chemistry; (e) Astronomy; (f) Meteorology; (g) Mineralogy; (h) Geology; (j) Geography; (k) Paleontology; (l) General Biology; (m) Botany; (n) Zoology; (o) Human Anatomy; (p) Physical Anthropology; (q) Physiology, including Psychology and Pharmacology; (r) Bacteriology.

A mere glance at this index at once underlines the progress our library has made and also clearly states the problems we face. Our collection has less than half of these primary sources of information; yet we take comfort in the fact that the part which we do possess is the more distinguished portion.
PAST MEETINGS

Speaking to the last meeting of the Friends on January 23 under the title "Books, their Decline and Convalescence", Mr. Herbert Fletcher filled an entertaining evening with well aimed remarks on books, booksellers, and book collectors.


BOOK MEMORIALS

A gift of books to the Library offers the most fitting and nearly permanent memorial which a man can make in memory of his friends. A cheque for the desired amount may be given or mailed to the Librarian, who will be happy to select appropriate volumes. These will bear a special memorial bookplate inscribed with the names of both the person memorialized and the donor. The Librarian also sends a personal letter concerning the gift to the family of the deceased.
RARE BOOK DEPOSITORY

Rare books and manuscripts may now be deposited and protected from the Houston climate in the specially air conditioned Rare Book Room of the Fondren Library. The Librarian is willing to accept such deposits for an indefinite period on the condition that, while stored at the Library, they be made available for research by qualified scholars. No permanent library marks of any kind would be put on them, and every precaution would be taken for their protection. Of course we would hope that some books so deposited might never be withdrawn. Because of limited space this offer applies specifically to rare books and manuscripts.

RECENT GIFTS

Since January several select collections have been presented to the Library. From Mr. and Mrs. Jacques F. Pryor has come a splendid collection of some 150 American first editions, all in original bindings and in excellent con-
dition. Included are such notable titles as Huckleberry Finn, Bret Harte's very scarce Lost Galleon, Longfellow's Hiawatha, Courtship of Miles Standish, and Tales of a Wayside Inn, and almost all of the works of Booth Tarkington.

Another collection of several hundred volumes has been presented by the executors of the estate of Colonel James W. Flanagan. Among the scarce historical volumes in this collection are Peter Force's Tracts and Other Papers (1844), William Gordon's History of the Rise, Progress, and Establishment of the Independence of the United States of America (1788), and A Narrative of the Early Days and Rememberance of Oceola Nikkanochee (1841).

A gift which it would be impossible to duplicate and one which will be of the greatest value to students of Texas history is the collection of James Stephen Hogg Papers presented by Miss Ima Hogg. Bound in more than a hundred large volumes, these transcripts of letters to and from Texas' great governor represent perhaps the most valuable single source of Texas history.
during the latter part of the nineteenth century. We are proud that the Fondren Library is one of the two institutions in which these transcripts have been deposited.

It is of interest that each of these collections came to the Fondren Library partly through the good offices of a Friend. Mr. James Chillman, Jr., Mr. Charles Hamilton, and Mr. Radoslav A. Tsanoff were the members who performed these real services.

Easily the most handsome gift is the facsimile of the Book of Kells presented by Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Cummins. This most famous of Irish manuscripts has been reproduced in its rich colors by a Swiss publisher.

A number of the items for which we expressed hope in the last Flyleaf have been donated. Mrs. E. L. Hogan has presented the Church Catalogue of Books Relating to the History of North and South America, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. John. Mr. and Mrs. David Winterman have given the first editions of Lyell's Principles of Geology and Darwin's Origin
of *Species*, two notable works in the history of science. The important *Dictionary of Americanism* soon to be published, will come as a gift from Mr. William Bridgwater of New York City. Mr. and Mrs. Nathan H. Colish have responded with *The Mikado* to our request for recordings of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The first edition of Jane Porter's *Scottish Chiefs* has been presented by Mrs. A. J. Tucker.

Not asked for but equally welcome are the first, signed, limited editions of Sherwood Anderson's *Tar* from Mr. Herbert Fletcher and Christopher Morley's *The Romany Stain* from Mr. Bernard Epstein, a 1731 German manual of surgery from Dr. John Schaefer of New Braunfels, a number of standard sets of German authors from Mr. W. H. Mannes, a collection of volumes on the history of Methodism from the Rice Methodist Student Fellowship. Other gifts of books have come from Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Masterson, Mr. and Mrs. Alan D. McKillop, Mrs. E. A. Peden, Mr. Hal Hamilton Blair, Mrs. T. Gresham, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Kievlan, Mr. F. M. LaJr., Mr. Alexander Deussen, Mrs. Alex Frosch, Mrs. Irene Wilson, Mr. George Williams, and Mr. Ervin F. Kalb.
The Memorial Book Fund has been increased by gifts for the purchase of books in memory of Mr. Leslie Waggener by Dr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Welsh and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Shartle; in memory of Dr. Charles F. Arrowood by Mr. and Mrs. H. Fletcher Brown, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Tsanoff, and Mr. and Mrs. George W. Whiting; in memory of Mr. Laurence V. Crawford by Miss Sarah Lane; in memory of Mr. J. P. Scranton by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dwyer; in memory of Mr. Edgar George Pike by the Current Literature Club; in memory of Mr. William G. Smiley, Jr. and Mr. George T. Reynolds by Mr. Harvin Moore; in memory of Mrs. J. Mack Tanner by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hodges; and in memory of Lt. Everett E. Brown by Dr. Generoso D'Aversa, Mrs. Leland Miller and family, Mrs. Charles Noble and Readers' Guild, United Gas Corporation, West University Baptist Church Choir, Mrs. S. W. Blewster, Miss Ethel Tucker, Mrs. L. Brown, Mr. A. Lee Jones, Mr. David C. Fransen, Mrs. Alma Geisenhoff, Texas Gulf Coast Oil Scouts and Landmen's Association, Mrs. F. Ledie Clarke and Melvin Clarke, Lt. and Mrs. D. L. Clarke, Jordan Drilling Company, Mr. E. Z. Hannon, Mr. and Mrs.
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DESIDERATA

Our accessions are being built into substantial collections planned for various purposes, including reading, reference, research, and withal delight and refreshment. This much should be said here, because the suggestions in
the present "we wish we had" department may seem to be so varied and so random as to be frivolous. They are rather unpredictable, because one never knows what will come along, but we believe that they will add up to a program.

A group of richly illustrated books, mostly on the fine arts: Osvald Siren's two monumental volumes, Gardens of China and China and Gardens of Europe in the Eighteenth Century, published by the Ronald Press at $30.00 each; Parga and others, Peregrinaciones a Santiago de Compostela, dealing with pilgrimages to one of the most famous of medieval shrines, three volumes, $20.00; Rackham, The Ancient Glass of Canterbury Cathedral, dealing with another great shrine, $38.50; Czech Gothic Painting 1350-1450, $15.00, an edition published at Prague in English; of a later period and another country, Lief Orsby, Modern Norwegian Painting, $10.00; another famous illustrated book in a different field, Bewick's History of British Birds, first edition, two volumes, 1797-1804,
$25.00; notable for fine plates, Brayley's *Topographical History of Sussex*, five volumes, 1840, $15.00; an unusual new publication in graphic arts, Reuben Leaf's *Hebrew Alphabets*, $7.50.

Two important standard sets: the Welby and Wheeler *Complete Works of Walter Savage Landor*, sixteen volumes, $65.00; Aitken's useful *Defoe*, sixteen volumes, $14.50.

We need a subscription to *The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt*, being brought out by the Harvard University Press in four two-volume sets at $20.00 each, the first set to appear next month.

We have been markedly strengthened in American firsts by the generous gift of Mr. Jacques F. Pryor. Now we have a chance to lead to strength by acquiring a collection of first editions of all the works of Thomas Nelson Page of *Old Virginia* fame, offered to us for $150.00.

Alan D. McKillop
MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membersip cards, printed gratis for us through the kindness of Wilson's Stationery, are now being mailed to all active Friends who have paid their annual membership dues or have made a cash donation or a gift of books to the Library. Privileges of membership include a subscription to the Flyleaf, notice of meetings and exhibits arranged by the Friends, and the right to borrow books from the Fondren Library.

The annual membership dues of two dollars are used to maintain the Friends organization and to publish the Flyleaf. The following additional memberships to build up the Book Fund are also invited:

- Sustaining: $10.00
- Subscribing: 25.00
- Benefactor: 100.00
- Patron: 500.00

All contributions to the Friends or to the Library are deductible for tax purposes.
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