

Z  
881 v 2 no 3  
H82

RICI INSTITUTE LIBRARY  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
APR 23 1952



# THE FLY LEAF

PUBLISHED BY THE  
FRIENDS OF THE  
FONDREN LIBRARY  
AT THE RICE INSTITUTE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS



THE FLYLEAF

Vol. II, No. 3

Quarterly  
April 1952

---

NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS:

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 8 P.M., FONDREN LIBRARY

Edward Alexander Parsons, author of The Alexandrian Library, recently published by the Elsevier Press, will speak to us under the leisurely title of "From The Alexandrian Library to the Bibliotheca Parsoniana: Adventures of a Southern Bookman."

Mr. Parsons, who lives in New Orleans, is both one of the well-known collectors in this country and a scholar in various fields of history. He will bring with him for exhibit some material from his private collections.

Mr. Parson's address will be illustrated by a motion picture tour of his library. This film appeared in the April release of the "News Magazine of The Screen", a nationally distributed newsreel.

The meeting will be open to the public.

## THE FONDREN LIBRARY AS A PHILOSOPHICAL LABORATORY

by Radoslav A. Tsanoff  
Professor of Philosophy, The Rice Institute

I have been asked to report how the Library has helped me in the writing of my books. When I came to Rice in 1914 to teach the first junior class, we had on our shelves only two volumes of philosophy. Our purpose was first to procure the principal philosophical works needed by students in our classes, and then to begin collecting more extensive source materials for philosophical research. My gratitude to Miss Dean, our first librarian, and more recently to Dr. Dix may be judged when I state that for almost forty years I have never once requested a book that was not ordered, even when there was only a small chance of getting it.

Several fortunate special purchases increased substantially our philosophical collection. The acquisition of the Deussen library brought us the complete works of the main German philosophers. The Titchener collection of books and journals gave us at one step a good start in psychology. More recently the gift of the philosophical library of the late John Goodwin Locke, made by his wife Lillian Grunewald Locke, enriched especially our sections of French philosophy.

My own studies have often taken me outside the technical domains of philosophy into the fields of literature, history, religion, or science. Once you get on the track of an important problem, it leads you across the usual divisions of college departments and shows you the vast interrelation of ideas. Sooner or later even the specialist learns his dependence on the work of his colleagues.

I have found it advisable, while engaged in one field of investigation, to be planning ahead and to store supplies for future use. For example, I have always intended to write some day a history of philosophy, and so through the years we have been collecting not only the books needed for current use but also the much larger supply of works for eventual research purposes. When I finally settled down to write my history of philosophy, the extensive materials that I needed were right there on our shelves. Meanwhile they have been available for inquiring students and also for the productive studies of colleagues.

Any one who inspects the Fondren Library will find that it has been developed both for general reference purposes and also for the purposes of research. We have been procuring the principal books in every line of human interest, and at the same time making every effort to collect all the works needed for exhaustive investigation in certain selected fields. These areas of concentration have been outlined naturally by the actual work in which various members of the Rice Faculty have been engaged. The recent increase of our staff and the development of our university program have been reflected in the growth of the Fondren Library. The very generous Wiess endowment for geology will naturally require the expansion of the geology collection of books and journals.

While the Library is serving workers in every field of investigation, it is doubly essential to us in the humanities. In a real sense it is our laboratory. If we are to do thorough work, we need an adequate and whenever possible a complete supply of source materials. This requirement cannot be met on short notice,

for the needed books are very often out of print and have to be sought out and procured from second hand book shops. The Library staff can serve best those members of the Faculty who themselves cooperate by indicating well in advance the specific books they need and by trying to find where they can be purchased. Nothing helps so much as the prompt and careful reading of second hand book catalogues. As it is with books so it is with files of journals. They require persistent search. The published union catalogue of serials indicates that our Rice collection of philosophical journals, especially in foreign languages, is now on a par with those in the large libraries of the country.

I know that my experience has been shared by many of my colleagues. We have found that the best way to build up a great library at Rice is to cooperate with the Library staff, to seek and find the specific books which we need. The Fondren Library can and will grow to greatness in only one way: volume by volume and shelf by shelf.

WILLIAM MARSH RICE

The Fondren Library is attempting to collect for the Rice Archives all kinds of written or printed material associated with the founder of the Institute. Recent additions to this collection include several signed autograph letters of Mr. Rice, and four bound volumes of material pertaining to the celebrated forged will.

These volumes were presented by Mr. George Lacy for the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners. The letters are the gift of Mr. McAshan of Ingram, Texas. One letter of particular interest concerns Mr. Rice's will and bears the endorsement and signature of Captain James A. Baker, Mr. Rice's attorney and chairman of the first Board of Trustees of the Rice Institute.

There must be many other Rice letters and documents in the Houston area. Perhaps other Friends and friends of Friends will help us unearth them.

#### PROJECTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Abingdon-Cokesbury Press has begun the publication of The Interpreter's Bible, "a completely new, twelve-volume, comprehensive commentary on the whole Bible." Volume VII (beginning the New Testament commentary with Matthew and Mark) is now to be had. The set would cost us about \$8.75 a volume for eleven volumes, and the last will then be provided without further charge. This set, in itself a library of religious knowledge, should prove most valuable to students and teachers of philosophy and religion. Publication will extend over a period of about six years. We should be very glad to have the assurance of some good friend that the whole set will be ours.

An attractive and we hope not an overwhelming list of desired items from recent catalogues, including a few that are offered to us privately: Byron, first issue of first edition of his drama Marino Faliero, \$6.50, and also the second issue, \$2.52 (this one is on hand, but needs a sponsor) -- we should like both issues for our Byron collection, also two other firsts of Byron dramas, Manfred and Werner, exactly \$1.00 each. First edition of Johnson's Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland, 1775, \$16.80, the Doctor's own account of the famous journey, which Boswell also reported. Standard Johnsoniana are always to be coveted. In this class will be the forthcoming edition of The Letters of Dr. Johnson which Oxford plans to publish in July in three large volumes, at a price which figures out at \$17.64. This edition is the first that aims at completeness; the eminent Oxford scholar, Dr. R. W. Chapman, has been engaged upon it for over thirty years, and he characteristically remarks that it includes "several technical appendixes many parts of which it is believed will be found readable." This, it may be added, is a work we should have to have anyhow, but its significant and monumental character would make it an appropriate gift.

To resume our list of recently offered books: Gray's Odes, the genuine first issue from the Strawberry Hill Press, 1757, \$35.28; an early translation of Molière, with both French and English text, 10 volumes, 1748, \$20.30; two firsts of the individually published Seasons of James Thomson, Summer, 1727, \$1.25, and Spring,



1728, \$1.50 (the literary importance of these pieces should not be gauged by the low prices); the first English edition of Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter, 1851, \$2.10; first of H. G. Wells' Boon, the Mind of the Race, 1915, \$1.50.

In Denmark the publication of an important series, Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile, has just begun. Volume I has appeared, The Thorkelin Transcripts of Beowulf, edited by Kemp Malone of Johns Hopkins, one of the general editors; the price of this volume is about \$50.00. As the prospectus says, "This new and important series will bring facsimiles of significant MSS both of Latin and English texts which represent English learning, life and thought during the Middle Ages."

Add books newly published or about to appear: R. Southern, The Rise and Development of Changeable Scenery in the British Theatre, \$9.00; Leslie Baily, Gilbert and Sullivan, 1952, \$6.00, this one suggested as an appropriate tribute to the cast in the recent delightful performance of Patience.

In a different field and medium, a new organization called Theatre Masterworks, founded by Eva Le Gallienne, Margaret Webster, and Charles E. Green, is undertaking to supply full-length recordings of great plays unavailable through regular commercial channels. The first album is Ibsen's Hedda Gabler, of course with Miss Le Gallienne in the title role. We can get this album for \$10.75. Tchekov's The Cherry Orchard is to come next. We have great need of such material, which always makes an intense and direct appeal to students.

We have acquired and will gladly offer for inspection some choice items which we bought because they were inviting, and for the most part so reasonably priced that a quick order had to be entered. These all may be rated as accessions from worthwhile to highly valuable. Pirandello had characters in search of an author; we have books in search of a donor. They all deserve sponsors, and gifts to be applied to their purchase would be timely and helpful. Here is a list of first editions: William Cullen Bryant, The Fountain and Other Poems, 1842, \$12.60; Scott, The Antiquary (original boards, labels, half-titles), \$6.80; Dickens, Nicholas Nickleby, 1839, \$3.60; Fielding, Voyage to Lisbon, 1755, \$14.00; Meredith, Ordeal of Richard Feverel, 1859, \$15.40; Bulwer-Lytton, The Caxtons, 1853, \$1.61. Another group has to do with typography and book-collecting: Stanley Morison, The Typographic Arts, 1949, \$3.00; Paul A. Bennett, Books and Printing, 1951, \$5.25; Whitman Bennett, Practical Guide to American Nineteenth Century Color Plate Books, 1949, \$5.00. The work of famous presses: Catalogue Raisonné of Books Printed and Published at the Doves Press, 1900-1916, \$21.00; Keats' Endymion, Golden Cockerel Press, \$12.60 (a particularly beautiful piece of printing); Colley Cibber's Apology, Golden Cockerel Press, 1925, \$7.70; Sir Isumbras, Kelmscott Press, 1897, \$9.60. The prices for the famous presses may not seem low, but the Librarian has recently seen this Kelmscott item offered at double this price by an American dealer. Not a first, but a beautiful copy, Smollett, Ferdinand Count Fathom, second edition, 1771, \$7.00.

GRATITUDE, UNAUDITED AND TAX-FREE:  
RECENT GIFTS

A hitherto unknown letter of William Cowper (1731-1800) appears in the London Times Literary Supplement for February 22, 1952. It expresses gratitude so gracefully, and the sentiments it contains are so appropriate to the season of the year that centers about March 15, that we reprint the first paragraph:

My dear Friend,

It is a subject of consideration that affords much comfort to me at least, that in these times of plentiful taxation and almost universal penury, a man may acknowledge the receipt of six very fine mackerel, without being under the necessity to authenticate his gratitude by a stamp. It is comfortable likewise to reflect, that gratitude being rather a scarce commodity and consequently not likely to furnish in a state of taxation, any great addition to the revenue, it is at least possible that it may be left uncharged forever. I may hope therefore that I shall always be able to thank you on these and the like occasions with a sincerity the less to be suspected because my thanks will cost me nothing; and the exercise of that privilege is almost the only one that a subject of this noble country enjoys, without the encumbrance of a Duty.

We list below, in a form much too brief to express our appreciation or to do them justice, some gifts received since the last issue of the Flyleaf.

Mrs. W. W. Fondren has commissioned a specially designed stand for the handsome Oxford English Bible which was given in 1950. This will be installed soon and will bear a metal plate "Presented to the Fondren Library in appreciation of Bishop Frank Angie Smith by Mrs. Walter William Fondren."

The microfilm reader purchased with funds from the Pallas Athene Literary Society Alumnae has been received and was on exhibition during the recent Rice Review.

With the assistance of Ray Wood, who has donated type copies of his Houston Chronicle column "That ain't the way I heard it", 1947-1949, and letters and songs he has received in connection with them, the Fondren Library is beginning a collection of old popular songs and music. Two volumes of old songs, 1823-1856, were received from William Hardin, '53. One volume contains an early edition of "Will you come to the bower", the song reportedly sung by Sam Houston's men at the Battle of San Jacinto. The Librarian would be glad to hear from anyone else who has old songs.

Ray L. Dudley presented Captain Cook's Voyages, first editions, 8 volumes handsomely bound. Oscar A. Morgner gave an interesting volume of specimens of fine handmade paper and other material on printing. William H. McCarthy, Jr. contributed first editions of Emily Dickinson's Poems, 2nd Series, 1891, and of George Meredith's rare pamphlet, Jump-to-Glory Jane.

Other appreciated gifts were received from the Current Literature Club, Dr. H. L. Bartlett, the Current Study Club, Alexander Deussen, Wiley B. Noble, Justin Haynes, Jr., Dr. John B. Tribble, the District 24 Alumni Club, Mrs. Walter F. Brown, the Drama Section of the College Women's Club, Dr. Max Freund, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. McFarland, Charles Squire, Heinrich Meyer, S. Ross Pond, R. L. Sargent, Richard Steed, William Ward Watkin, Ruben Weltsch, Eddie Wojecki, the National Association of Catholic Women, Mrs. W. Scott Red, the Consul of Spain at Galveston, Ted Kosinski, Edward B. Mayo, Marcel Moraud, and the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts.

In memory of her father and mother, Robert A. and Margaret H. John, Mrs. E. L. Hogan presented the Leclerc Catalogue raisonné d'une tres précieuse collection de livres anciens et modernes sur l'Amérique et les Philippines, and first editions of Pierre by Herman Melville and The Prairie by James Fenimore Cooper, all titles which were requested in the last issue of Flyleaf. This is the second major gift from Mrs. Hogan in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John.

In memory of Mrs. Edgar Odell Lovett gifts came from Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown, the Faculty Women's Club of the Rice Institute, Sarah L. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McCants, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Moore, the Student Association of the Rice Institute, Mr. and Mrs. Radoslav A. Tsanoff, Pender Turnbull, Mr. and Mrs. William Ward Watkin, Dr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Welsh, Anne Wheeler, Miss Nell Willman and John Blodgett Davis.

In memory of David M. Picton Jr., donations were made by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Warner A. Cory, Mr. and Mrs. Ray L. Dudley, Mrs. E. G. Floeter, Sr., the Pallas Athene Literary Society Alumni Club, and Miss Margaret Patrick.

Donations were received from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson in memory of Walter F. Brown; from Miss H. Lel Red in memory of Mrs. Barbara D. Carsch; from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson in memory of William S. Cochran; from Miss Nell Willman and John Blodgett Davis in memory of Randolph Fairfax Crow; from Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dwyer in memory of Sam Fink; from Miss Nell Willman and John Blodgett Davis in memory of Mrs. Thomas Watt Gregory; from Mr. and Mrs. James Chillman, Jr. and from the Fondren Library Staff in memory of M. N. Griffin; from Andrew J. Casperson and Bernard S. Beaman in memory of William Conrad Reinhard; from the Class of 1900 of the Central High School of Houston, Texas, in memory of Mrs. Jessie Tharp Rembert; from Dr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Welsh in memory of Peter Fondren Underwood; from Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McCants, Miss Stella Yeatman and Miss Fannie Nell Yeatman in memory of John V. Van de Mark; from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson in memory of William A. Vinson; from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson in memory of Dr. Edward L. Williams; and from Anne Wheeler in memory of Charles B. Wood.

FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY

AT THE RICE INSTITUTE

President, Mrs. John E. Cashman  
Vice-President, Mr. A. D. Dyess, Jr.  
Membership Secretary, Mrs. Chas W. Hamilton  
Recording Secretary, Mrs. William J. Steeger  
Treasurer, Mr. Charles W. Hamilton

Board of Directors:

Mrs. Ben M. Anderson  
Mrs. H. Fletcher Brown  
Mr. J. Street Fulton  
Mr. Jacques F. Pryor  
Mr. William Dix, Librarian, ex-officio

Mr. Alan D. McKillop, Editor, THE FLYLEAF

