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THE FLY LEAF

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THE FLYLEAF

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FROM FONDREN TO FIRESTONE

By the time this issue of the FLYLEAF appears all the Friends will know that Bill Dix leaves us soon to become Head of the great Firestone Library at Princeton. In the few short years that have passed since he took over as Librarian at Fondren, following the pioneer work of Miss Dean, his abilities and his fine qualities have become nationally recognized and are now thus signally honored. All the Friends know of his broad and effective interpretation of his duties; without losing sight of immediate goals he has had the imagination and the foresight to keep large purposes and ultimate ends clearly in mind. Yet he has never been grandiose or impractical, and has cheerfully undertaken the humblest tasks. A scholar and a tireless worker himself, he has never failed to keep in view the interests and needs of all who work in the Library -- whether staff member, undergraduate student; research scholar, or interested visitor. He has gone far beyond the line of duty in making work in and for Fondren a congenial and stimulating experience.

And as we all know, he has unflaggingly been the inspiration and the friend of the Friends. He has been our comrade as well as our leader, and to say that we shall miss him sorely is an understatement. It is hard to think of the myriad transactions (including the FLYLEAF) that make up the life of the Library without Bill Dix. But it has been our great good fortune to have had his indispensable contribution at a crucial period in our history: It is not merely that he has left his impress -- he has built himself into the very organization of the Fondren Library and into the way of life of those who work there. Such a contribution as he has made does not pass with the end of the day's or the year's routine, but will continue to enrich us in times to come. We give all our affectionate good wishes to him and his delightful family as they go to Princeton to meet this irresistible challenge and opportunity.

Alan D. McKillop

THE WILLIAM SHEPHERD DIX COLLECTION
OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

At the recent meeting of the Friends, January 16, Dr. Houston announced the allocation of five hundred dollars from the Book Fund of the Friends to start the nucleus of the William Shepherd Dix Collection of American Literature. Many Friends may wish to make additional contributions in books or by cheque to this

beginning which we hope will grow into one of the outstanding collections of the Library. A special bookplate has already been printed.

This gift to the Library in honor of its second librarian is in truth a gift to ourselves. Bill Dix takes with him to Princeton a hand illuminated testimonial scroll from the Friends at large, and a silver tray from past and present members of the Board of the Friends. As he happily remarked near the close of the meeting, "You couldn't have done more for me if I had died."

As speaker for the evening he discussed briefly the crucial influence of books on the careers of American writers and introduced the incoming librarian, Dr. Hardin Craig, Jr. The meeting adjourned to the Cohen House for a cup of coffee and an informal party.

THE NEW RICE LIBRARIAN

To turn over to someone else an enterprise into which one has poured several years of labor and hope makes one feel just a bit like the father of the bride. One hopes that this new man who will dominate her life will be good to her, will understand her moods, will know when to be firm, when to be generous. If this young man is a total stranger, one might be a bit apprehensive. But when he is an old friend with whom one has shared books, billiards, and ideas, doubts disappear. One knows that things will be different --- but better, as fresh, new ideas always make things better.

Thus with pleasure, satisfaction, and confidence I greet Dr. Hardin Craig, Jr., Professor of History at the Rice Institute, as he becomes Rice's third Librarian. I hope that he enjoys his job as much as I have mine.

William S. Dix

WILLARD THORP'S MESSAGE TO THE FRIENDS

(Aeschylus is reported to have said that his plays were fragments dropped from the banquet of Homer. And so from the Homeric banquet spread by Willard Thorp for the Friends at their meeting on October 29, we salvage the following fragment:)

There is a point at which a library like Fondren must decide whether it will continue to be merely adequate as an instrument of instruction or will go on to greatness. A library has become great when one scholar says casually to another, "You can't possibly finish your book until you have seen what the holdings are at Fondren." Or when one librarian says to another, "I'm sorry that collection didn't come to us, but it belongs by right to Fondren, and they will put it to good use." Or a collector says to Fondren's Librarian, "You have convinced us. You clearly have the facilities for caring for my books. Would you like to have my collection now, permitting me to take advantage of the tax situation, or shall I indicate in my will that my books are to go to Rice?" Or a Rice professor

says to a graduate student, "You'll find about everything you'll need in Fondren. The --- collection is very rich in manuscript materials, and you will find something in it which decidedly needs to be published."

There is another conclusive test of greatness. Scholars are careful to acknowledge the assistance they have received from great libraries. When we begin to see Fondren mentioned in such acknowledgments, along with the Huntington and the Folger, Princeton's Firestone, Yale's Sterling, and Harvard's Houghton, we shall know that the Library of the Rice Institute has moved into the company of the great.

Unless there is the fault of indecision or indifference, I do not see how the Fondren Library can avoid greatness. Its collection of books is a firm basis on which to build. The Rice Institute has many friends and the right friends. The Houston area is the wealthiest in America. What the Fondren Library needs to move it over the line from excellence to greatness is the gift of at least one notable collection which will inspire other donors, the establishment of a Special Collections Division, and an endowment of a million dollars to support the activities which should go on there.

Willard Thorp

THE QUEST

The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, to be published by the Rutgers University Press on February 12, 1953, have an importance that transcends the technical needs of the historian. "These nine volumes incorporate virtually everything that Lincoln left us. . . . This is the life record of Abraham Lincoln as he wrote it." Prepublication price \$95.00.

We should have the limited editions of the Boswell papers as they appear in England. Boswell in Holland, 1763-1764 is priced at \$14.70. The London Journal is already here, and at \$20.58 needs a sponsor.

A collection of the first editions of the works of W. H. Davies, the English poet, 18 volumes, 1907-36, \$33.60, shows little duplication with our holdings and would be very hard indeed to assemble piece by piece.

Our first fling at naval architecture: John R. Stevens, An Account of the Construction and Embellishment of Old Time Ships, Toronto, 1949, \$11.20.

Samuel Smiles, Lives of the Engineers, three volumes, \$10.50, is virtually a history of civil engineering in Great Britain.

Desirable editions of works which are of course already in the Library in one or more editions: Travels of Marco Polo, the Argonaut Press Edition, 1929, \$10.85; Ignatius Donnelly, Atlantis, new edition, 1950, \$3.00; Junius Letters, first complete and authorized edition, two volumes, 1772, \$12.60; William Hazlitt, Complete Works, edited by P. P. Howe, twenty-one

volumes, 1930-1934, \$73.45 -- this set is here and needs to be underwritten, handsome volumes and good literature.

Current suggestions in fiction: Dickens, Mystery of Edwin Drood, his unfinished last novel in the original six parts, 1870, \$13.30; Anna Maria Porter, The Knight of St. John, three volumes, 1817, \$13.30, relatively high price due to mint condition; Conan Doyle, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, 1892, first edition in book form, \$21.00 -- if this price seems high, think of the ardor of the Baker Street Irregulars; Smollett, Roderick Random, two volumes, first edition, 1748, \$31.75 -- as announced before, needs an underwriter, and we still insist that this is a good buy.

Maps: A modern facsimile of Moll's set of maps of Scotland, 1745, \$3.00.

To strengthen our set of publications on place names: E. Ekwall, English River-Names, 1928, \$7.70.

The following works are here, and are, we hope, destined to be paid for by Friends' donations: J. Husbards, Miscellany of Poems, Oxford, 1731, \$30.00 (contains Dr. Johnson's first published verses); Ingpen's profusely illustrated edition of Boswell's Life of Johnson, Bath, 1925, \$12.60; Alexander Wilson, American Ornithology, four volumes, Edinburgh, 1831, \$15.16; Sir Thomas Browne, Pseudodoxia Epidemica (Vulgar Errors if you prefer), first edition, 1646, \$25.00; David Greene, Blenheim Palace, Country Life, 1951, \$17.64 -- look at this one and then tell us if you think there was ever a more beautiful book published about a building.

RECENT GIFTS

The collection of phonograph records has just received an addition important both in quantity and quality through the gift from Dr. and Mrs. Harold Gershwinowitz of more than six hundred carefully selected records covering the history of music from the Gregorian chant to boogie-woogie.

Collections of books ranging from a dozen to fifty volumes have come from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Moore, Elva Kalb Dumas, E. F. Kalb, and Father Eugene A. Hey

Various rare volumes listed as desiderata in the FLYLEAF have been presented, among them the first edition of Tom Jones by Dr. Charles S. Alexander, the collection of original leaves from famous presses by Justin Haynes, Jr., the first collected edition of Sir Thomas Browne's works by Mr. and Mrs. Willard Thorp, the Chapman edition of Samuel Johnson's letters by Terry Maltsberger, '55, the first edition of Herman Melville's Redburn by Joseph W. Petty, Jr., Sir Thomas Blount's De Re Poetica by Mrs. Ralph D. Looney, and the first editions of Spinoza's Opera Posthuma and Tractatus Theologico-Politicus by Dr. H. L. Bartlett, who writes, "I shall be happy if you can secure these for the library, in appreciation of what Dr. Tsanoff gave in his Philosophy 200 in 1915-1916 -- very valuable it has been to me."

William H. McCarthy, Jr., of New York, has sent five autograph letters of George Bernard Shaw, William Wordsworth, Mathew Arnold, and Thomas Carlyle.

Two handsome pieces of furniture especially designed for the Fondren Library have arrived. Mrs. W. W. Fondren has presented a stand for the Bruce Rogers Bible in the Liberal Arts Reading Room, and Mrs. Hugo Neuhaus, Sr., a reading stand to be used by the Rice Christian Science Organization and other groups which hold meetings in the library.

Two more Rice faculty authors have presented copies of their most recent books. Radoslav A. Tsanoff's, The Great Philosophers, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1953, and Lester Mansfield's Le Comique de Marcel Proust, Paris: Librairie Nizet, 1952.

Individual volumes and small collections have been presented by Elmer Adler, Joseph W. Atkins, Jr., August H. Boysen, Jr., T. N. Campbell, John McKnitt Alexander Chapter, D. A. R., Miss Beatrice Y. Harrison, William M. Hart, Alan D. McKillop, Russell Wofford, and J. B. Allen.

Further additions to the William Ward Watkin Memorial Collection have come from Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Barrow, Mrs. Carl Biehl, District 12 Alumni Club, (Austin area), Alfred C. Finn, Lenard Gabert, Henry S. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keenan, Mrs. Edward W. Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Earl Kurth, Ernest Lee Sandlin, James F. Webster, Jr., Mrs. William Ward Watkin, Eugene Werlin, Charles S. Chan, and Lloyd & Morgan.

Other memorials received since October include gifts in memory of Ethel Gaines Armstrong, '32, by Emma Gaines; in memory of Dr. Palmer Archer by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hoskins Gregg; in memory of Hugh Shannon Black and Ethel Forbes Black by Mr. and Mrs.

Hugh C. Black; in memory of Rabbi Henry Cohen by Joseph W. Petty, Jr.; in memory of Robert W. Collins by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown, Mrs. Preston Moore, and Miss Nina Cullinan; in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Cullinan by Joseph Mullen; in memory of Mrs. Lewis Ferguson by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Shartle; in memory of Wilmer H. Gemmer by R. B. Everett & Company; in memory of Herbert Godwin by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown; in memory of Mrs. Lena Gragard by Mrs. C. H. Neblett; in memory of Robert Clyde Hargrove, Jr. by Mrs. Preston Moore; in memory of Mrs. Bertie Harrison by Seth G. Hathaway; in memory of Frederick Peter Kalb by Eugene Werlin, Mrs. J. Moody Dawson, Mrs. David M. Picton, Jr., Miss Ellen Picton, and Miss Julia Picton; in memory of Mrs. Edgar O. Lovett by Mrs. Edward W. Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hoskins Gregg, and Mr. and Mrs. I. B. McFarland; in memory of Mrs. Bradford McGinty by Seth G. Hathaway; in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kyle Morrow by Kyle Morrow; in memory of Mrs. Harriet Trussel Olds by Mr. and Mrs. Emmett L. Hudspeth; in memory of H. A. Paine by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown; in memory of Wiley Joe Parker by members of faculty and staff of the Rice Institute; in memory of Mrs. George Seaman by Seth G. Hathaway; and in memory of Walter H. Steigerwald by Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Wommack.

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The following have become subscribing, benefactor, and patron members of the Friends of the Fondren Library through substantial contributions to the Book Fund:

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