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THE FLYLEAF

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OWLS CAN BE LIKE RAVENS
See I Kings, xvii: 4-6

Most of the following works have been ordered and some have arrived already -- quite a distinguished company, old and young, sitting together in the waiting room and looking for sponsors.

Anecdotes of Polite Literature, 5 vols., 1764.
\$13.16. A rare, interesting, and neglected collection of literary criticism.

Bradley, Richard. A Philosophical Account of the Works of Nature, 2nd ed. 1739. \$1.47.

The Bystander. 1790. \$2.94. One of the rarer and more obscure of the essay periodicals of the century.

Cottle, A. S. Icelandic Poetry. Bristol, 1797.
\$3.00. "O Amos Cottle! Phoabus, what a name" -- Byron.

A Dictionary of Husbandry, Gardening, Trade, Commerce, and all Sorts of Country Affairs, 2 vols. 1726. \$9.80.
An unclassifiable sort of work, containing much of historical and even of literary interest.

De Francovich, Benedetto Antelami. Milan, 1952.
\$38.40. Over 300 plates illustrating the work of this sculptor. A recommendation of Mr. Chillman's.

Donne, John. Sermons, ed G. R. Potter and Evelyn M. Simpson. "There are 160 sermons by Donne extant. They are recognized as containing some of the very greatest sermons of the seventeenth century, and as essential material for anyone who is at all interested in the poet-preacher." To be published in ten volumes at the rate of two a year, by subscription only, \$7.50 a volume. University of California Press.

De Forest, John W. History of the Indians of Connecticut Hartford, 1851. \$8.50.

Dugdale, William. History of St. Pauls Cathedral. 1658. \$17.64. Mentioned in the last FLYLEAF. Now here, and worth looking at.

Faustus. From the German of Goethe. London, 1821. With plates. First translation into English, not complete. \$11.76.

FitzGerald, Edward. Letters and Literary Remains, 7 vols 1902. \$13.30. An attractive set, and a bargain.

Goldschmidt, E. P. The Printed Book of the Renaissance. Cambridge University Press, 1950. \$15.00.

"The Gossip." A manuscript miscellany written by a feminine circle called the Gossip Society" and dedicated to the Dean of Gloucester. 1803-1804. \$3.64.

Hurd, Richard. Dialogues on the Uses of Foreign Travel. 1764. \$5.88.

Irving, Washington. Western Journals, ed. J. F. McDermott. University of Oklahoma Press, 1944. \$5.00.

Kelenen, Pal. Baroque and Rococo in Latin America. Macmillan, 1951. \$12.38. Profusely illustrated -- covers the field.

Lehner, Ernst. Alphabets and Ornaments. 1952. \$7.00. "A treasury of letters and alphabets, scripts, title pages, ornaments, decorative forms, fleurons and border designs."

Massinger, Philip. The Duke of Millaine: a tragedy. 1638. \$15.00. Second quarto.

Poems in English and Latin, on the Archers, and Royal-Company of Archers By several Hands. Edinburgh, 1726. \$11.76. A glimpse of Edinburgh in the days of Allan Ramsay, who contributed to this volume.

Scott, Walter. Border Antiquities of England and Scotland. 2 vols. folio. 1814. \$8.82. With 90 plates.

Scott, Walter. Provincial Antiquities and Picturesque Scenery of Scotland. 2 vols. quarto. 1826. \$8.00. With 52 plates.

A Select Collection of Modern Poems by the Best Authors. Edinburgh, 1759. \$3.00. A rare miscellany.

Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queen, etc. A rather complicated title, designating the first collected edition of Spenser's poems. 1611-12-13. \$35.00.

Swift, Jonathan. Letter of Advice to a Young Poet. 1721. \$2.80.

Swinburne, Algernon Charles. A batch of firsts -- Mary Stuart (1881), Tristram of Lyonesse (1882), A Midsummer Holiday (1884), and Loves Cross-Currents (1907) fifty cents to eighty-five cents apiece.

Thackeray, William Makepeace. The Kickleburys on the Rhine. 1850. \$7.70. A Thackeray first, and a charming little item.

Thetard, Henry. La merveilleuse histoire du cirque. 2 vols. Paris, 1947. \$14.50. Surely we should have a book on the history of the circus.

Voltaire. Correspondence, ed. Theodore Besterman. "There shall be 50-60 volumes," says the prospectus from Geneva, where this monumental collection is being published. Our subscription to the first 3 vols. comes to \$23.10.

Wells, Edward. A Treatise of Ancient and Present Geography. 2nd edition. \$2.10. 1706.

Willis, N. P. American Scenery: or Land, Lake, and River. 2 vols. 1850. \$17.50.

RECENT GIFTS

Some of the student organizations on campus as well as their alumnae groups are among the most active and generous friends of the Library. The Pallas Athene Literary Society Alumnae recently contributed \$500. as a fund for current affairs books -- a very important field which could not be at all adequately provided for without the assistance of this group. Other welcome donations have been received from the Chaille Cage Literary Society for the music room, from the Olga Keith Literary Society for the purchase of phonograph records, and from Rice Hillel for books on Jewish culture.

George S. Bonn, who recently resigned his position as associate librarian and science and technology librarian at Fondren to go to the New York Public Library, has given the following volumes with his own comment: Diary of Samuel Pepys, 10 v., Ltd. Ed. Club, and LeSage, Adventures of Gil Blas, 2 v., Ltd. Ed. Club, both "in remembrance of 21 months with friendly people"; and Hugo, Les Miserables, 5 v., Ltd. Ed. Club, and Casanova, Memoirs, 8v., Ltd. Ed. Club, these given "in appropriate commemoration of 'Les Miserables Casanovas', the 1952-53 class of 5th year Chemical Engineers".

From Joseph Lloyd Battista we have received Pergola, L'eroe dei due mondi (Garibaldi), and Willard Thorp continues his generosity to the Library with Ryan, Catholic Principles of Politics, in remembrance of English 395, and a contribution for books of contemporary drama in honor of the Rice Players.

Other recent gifts and contributions to the Library include: from E. P. Adams, files of technical journals; from Port Baughman, several volumes; from Victor E. Chvojka, three recent novels; from John S. Harmon, several volumes; from Mrs. H. Armour Munson, Bridenbaugh, Myths & Realities; from Kenneth S. Gunter, James, Turn of the Screw; from Mrs. Karl I. Schmidt, fifteen volumes of German titles; from Miss Martha Schnitzer, thirty volumes of 19th century novels; from O. A. Schumann, several volumes; and from the National Society of Colonial Dames, Houston Group, a contribution for a book on Colonial or American history to be used in connection with a history course at Rice.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following memorials have been received since the last issue of FLYLEAF: in memory of Mrs. William A. Brunet by Mr. and Mrs. Claxton Parks; in memory of Ross Bryan by Mr. and Mrs. Claxton Parks; in memory of Mrs. Walter P. Coghlan by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shelton; in memory of John W. Curry by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hodges; in memory of Leroy I. Day by David G. Eckholm, and Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Rickard; in memory of Madeline Salter Goodwin by Lela Goar Davis; in memory of Mrs. Herman W. Johnson by Lt. Charles E. Nocholas; in memory of George V. Kane by Mr. and Mrs. David Frame; in memory of Mrs. Gladys E. Lawrence-Toombs by Mr. and Mrs. Hubert E. Bray; in memory of Mrs. Lottie Margaret Maercky by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Dwyer; in memory of Henry H. Rachford by Ladies of the Houston Law Department of the Gulf Oil Corporation; in memory of Taylor Ricketts by Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Turner, and Mr. and Mrs. Claxton Parks; in memory of James F. Webster, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Galloway; in memory of Edgar Wells by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shelton.

In memory of William Ward Watkin, Mr. and Mrs. Birdsall P. Briscoe have presented 12 volumes of Petits Edifices historiques, by A. Raguene. A contribution to the William Ward Watkin Memorial Fund was received from Helen Ann Dvorak.

OF MULTIPLYING COPIES AND EDITIONS

How many copies of the same book should a library have? The answer depends on function and policy. The commercial circulating library in Great Britain used to buy virtually whole editions of popular novels to rent out to readers. Rapid obsolescence would be the rule here, and the library would have to be continually renewing itself. At the opposite extreme would be the collection of superlative rarities -- say the fifteenth century books in the Huntington Library -- which would focus on one copy of each edition or issue. In such a library there would be no such thing as obsolescence, and, short of physical destruction, there would be continuous increase in value. A curious and even extravagant kind of duplication is developing in some collections of this kind: one library, for example, has been buying all available first editions of Milton, in search of typographical variants. This might be called the bibliographical limit.

The middle way for Fondren would seem to be to undertake only in a limited way the provision of duplicate copies for routine course work (that is the mode of the circulating library), and on the other hand not to play for rarity as such, but to see that the representation of significant works on our shelves should be bibliographically comprehensive.

This overlaps with the discussion of the uses of first editions in a recent issue

of the FLYLEAF, but it extends the principle and gives it a somewhat different application. The first edition may be conceived of as the first of a series of "states" of the work, many of which it might be useful or important for the student to have. We should not aim at a collection of all the editions of The Vicar of Wakefield or The Compleat Angler, though some have enjoyed making such a collection. But duplication or multiplication in the sense of having various or numerous editions is desirable. Editions controlled by the author during his lifetime are essential -- not just the first and the last of such editions. In his talk to the Friends, Willard Thorp cited Whitman's Leaves of Grass as a striking example of an important work with major textual changes from edition to edition. After the author signs off, our theoretical series of editions may still be of great value as showing what the publishers and editors have done.

In constructing such a series gifts from private libraries are appropriate and helpful. Apparent duplication may not be real duplication; an unconsidered and obscure edition may fill a gap, or two copies that appear superficially to be identical may disclose important variants. And apart from bibliographical points, a series of well selected and representative editions covering a considerable period of time and varying in format and makeup will help to give the student historical perspective.

Alan D. McKillop

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