



# THE FLYLEAF

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



THE FLYLEAF

Vol. XIX, No. 3

Quarterly  
April 1969

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REDEDICATION NUMBER

This issue of THE FLYLEAF is intended to indicate, through the highlights of a few special articles, what the Rice Library has become in fifty years and what it should be in the future. Also, although this issue is larger than most, it is a typical FLYLEAF, and the Editor hopes that it will attract new readers and new Friends from among those who are making its acquaintance for the first time.

This issue begins with an appreciation of Miss Dean, the first Rice Librarian, by William S. Dix; it contains Dr. Lovett's inspiring words about libraries, reprinted from the prospectus that was issued when construction of the first Fondren had just begun; it continues with the descriptions by Richard Perrine and Richard O'Keeffe of the new Library and of its intended future development; and it concludes with the current list of memorial gifts and of those who are honored by them.

The staff of the Rice University Library, and the officers and members of the Friends organization, join in a warm welcome to those who have come to participate in the activities of this happy occasion.

Hardin Craig, Jr.  
Librarian, 1953-1968.

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## MISS ALICE DEAN AND THE RICE INSTITUTE LIBRARY

To begin the first issue of a publication concerning the Rice Institute Library without mention of Miss Dean would be like writing a history of America without mentioning Columbus. Furthermore, this issue gives me the opportunity which I have been seeking to express publicly in print (or at least in mimeograph) my tribute to the person who, above all others, made the Rice Library. Miss Dean has built the Library, book by book, from fewer than 200 volumes to nearly 200,000. The flavor of our collections bears the tang of her personality. Several weeks ago I had a visit from W. A. Swets of Amsterdam, Holland, one of the world's greatest book sellers; he said, "I have always had the greatest admiration for Rice's book buying policy." This policy was Miss Dean's, and its farsightedness, its good taste, its acumen, made Rice's book collection a choice one. Mr. Swets said also, "You know, I have always thought that your library was much larger than it really is." Because Miss Dean concentrated on building sound basic collections, especially in acquiring the indispensable part of a library, bibliographical tools and files of journals, we already have a start toward a great university library.

Until I become involved with the internal workings of the Library, I had no notion of how complex a job it was to acquire those books most essential to research and teaching and to keep them available for use by those who needed them most. What Miss Dean and her few assistants have accomplished now seems to me almost miraculous.

William S. Dix

Dr. William Shepherd Dix was the second Rice Librarian (1947-1953). He is at present Librarian of Princeton University and Vice-President and President-Elect of the American Library Association. Miss Alice Crowell Dean was the first Rice Librarian (1914-1947).

## LET KNOWLEDGE TO WISDOM GROW

John Masefield has said: "The days that make us happy make us wise." By that criterion, the Rice Institute has waxed mightily in wisdom in these latter days. To this consummation many moving circumstances have contributed. Some of them, for example, are manifested in the courage, imagination, understanding, and resourcefulness of a new Board of Trustees, in the stature, vision, zeal, and leadership of the new President, and in the further exaltation of hope and joy induced by subsequent benefactions of immediate availability and most generous dimensions.

The first of the new benefactions in point of time is the magnificent Fondren gift of a million. That gift has gladdened the heart of every friend, every critic, every lover of learning, and every well-wisher of Rice and the community. Its prime objective is a library. A library has been the first objective of universities from Alexandria and Athens to Harvard and Virginia. So has it been here. The avowal of that goal for this institution dates from the very day, now well over half a century ago, when its future purpose was declared in its very name to be the advancement of literature, science, and art.

A library is a place for the preservation and use of books. The books of an ancient one were tablets and rolls of the written words. Alexandria is said to have possessed at one time as many as seven hundred thousand rolls. In early Athens public libraries were unknown and private ones rare; but the collecting of books never lags far behind the making of books. Plato became a collector of books, and Aristotle possessed a first-rate library provided by Alexander the Great. Julius Caesar proposed public libraries for Rome. In libraries today the books are chiefly printed books, but the old circle of tablets and rolls of the written word comes

full circle again in discs and films of the spoken word, preserving and reproducing the voice, personality, and environment of the speaker. And quite as arresting is the amazing alliance of minds and machines that began in writing with light and now continues in employing every known method of discovery, recording, and transmission, terrestrial and celestial. It is difficult to realize how startlingly recent are these improved methods for the gathering and manifold of information, and for the spreading and storing of knowledge. "Wonders are many," said Sophocles, "and none is more wonderful than man."

A library is a great deal more than a storehouse of marvels, ancient and modern. It is a powerhouse of ideas and ideals. Nor is there novelty in this point of view. An Egyptian king of the thirteenth century B.C. built up a considerable library. He gave the library a name. He called it "The Dispensary of the Soul." And to him the healing of the soul meant the making of its immortality secure. Today the library is still a habitation of the spirit of man and the home of his soul. It lives and grows because men will to live and men will to know. It is a house of hope because everyone has deep within him a desire for perfection, and deep in his heart the hope of attaining at least some degree of it. That desire has moved men and women to devote laborious nights and days to the single-minded pursuit of knowledge. "I grow old," said Solon, Athenian sage and lawgiver, "but I am always learning many things."

Down the same avenue is another point of view. A library is a haven for the renewal of life and the recovery of reality. At the touch of memory and imagination authors no longer living are reborn, their silent books are made to speak, their works restored. Such resurgence requires the survival of books and of minds to understand them. Instances of these survivals jump to mind. In the fourth century B.C., Aristotle said that Democritus knew everything about everything. In the

fourteenth century A.D., Dante called Aristotle the master of them that know. Democritus and Aristotle spoke on the Rice campus before the Rice Institute was opened. Democritus said that he would rather discover the cause of one fact than become king of the Persians. And Aristotle said that if we properly observe celestial phenomena we may demonstrate the laws which regulate them. Both of them have spoken here many times since. To the undergraduates, Aristotle has said that no lesson is so important to learn, and no habit is so important to acquire, as the faculty of forming a right judgment, and of feeling a delight in fine characters and noble actions; and Democritus has said that the highest ethical good in life is the attainment of peace of mind.

From any one of the preceding points of view shines forth another. A library is a house of light. Its light is like the unearthly beauty of sea and sky, as seen from a point between two pillars of the portico of the Acropolis of Athens. It is like the morning, the making sun of noonday, or the sunset glow reflected from the buildings of this campus. It is like the light in a laboratory where many minds cooperate in eliminating error and in establishing some aspect of many-sided truth. Its illumination is imposed by no external authority, but only by individual faith, individual conscience, individual judgment. The members of the company work in the white light of honesty and integrity. That light searches impartially all statements, both of fact and of theory. Its rays are moral no less than intellectual. And the individual accepts or challenges only in accordance with his own convictions. The library, like the laboratory, is a clearing-house: the sort of which Sir Walter Scott wrote: "There was a clearing-house in his soul where all impulses were ordered and adjusted, and this repose gave him happiness." And the same Sir Walter wrote: "Without courage there cannot be truth; and without truth there can be no other virtue." The light of truth has all the colors of "music, joy, life, and eternity." And, as Plato desired, its beauty steals insensibly into men's



souls, "like a breeze from healthy places."

No known library of ancient times, except possibly the Alexandrian libraries, had the spaciousness of present-day ones. The late Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, King Edward VII Professor of English literature in the University of Cambridge, on recently entering its new university library for the first time, exclaimed that he would have to call a taxi to run down a reference from the catalogue. But the spaciousness even of acres is insufficient. A third dimension becomes necessary, up in the sky and/or down in the earth. And the reason therefor found expression in an utterance of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament. His date and identity are still in doubt, but certainly he wrote, and a long time ago: "Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." That poignant lament has been echoed and re-echoed down the ages by undergraduates of every place and time. It is vocal today, despite current unfamiliarity with the King James authorized version of the Bible. For believer and unbeliever alike, that version is of perennial and inestimable value to the reader and the writer of English poetry and prose.

Pindar wrote: "Unperilous braveries neither on the field nor in the hollow ships are valued; but the beauty of an ordeal is what many people keep in memory." The unforgettable initial beauty of this place has not been forgotten in these latter days. To those who love the place, its initial beauty has been enhanced by one ordeal after another, time in and time out. The present stage affords no exception. It has repeated again the old ordeal of working and planning, of postponing and waiting, and of beginning all over again how many times. The happier outlook now in prospect has been hastened by the circumstance that a dozen institutions, self-controlling or state-controlled, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Lakes to the Gulf, happened to be engaged simultaneously in planning libraries. When that fact was discovered, it was proposed to pool the plans. The proposal,

made by Julian P. Boyd, Librarian of Princeton University, was accepted by Princeton and the other institutions. Rice was one of them. Official representatives of the several institutions held stated meetings over the country. They met in industrial laboratories, in manufacturing centers, in metropolitan office buildings, in university libraries. The plans of each institution were presented and explained, discussed and criticized, in open meeting. To this procedure each and all submitted, all and each contributed. The representatives of each institution carried the wreckage back home for reconstruction at the hands of local architects and engineers, directors and administrators, scholars, artists, and scientists, builders, industrialists, and technologists. And the revisions and re-revisions were brought to open meetings of the group for further consideration. Nor was the process in any way a method of mass-production. At every turn respect was shown for local conditions of history and climate, for present and future equipment and development, and for the long-time perspective of each institution of higher learning far as human eye could see. Nor did these deliberations close the chapter for Rice. The Rice library plans were still to undergo a searching analysis on the part of John E. Burchard, Director of Libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the further discussion of his suggestions by committees of the Trustees and Faculty of the Rice Institute. This process of group planning bears unmistakable marks of an exciting adventure and of successful conquest. For from the process each and every participating institution has gained for itself the latest word of sound experience and human ingenuity, though perhaps not yet the last word of human hope, foresight, and wisdom. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

In these latter days Rice has entered boldly on the second generation of its history as an institution of higher learning. At almost the same stage in the history of Christ Church, the celebrated college of Oxford, there

was paid the tribute, still of disputed authorship: "Though unfinish'd, yet so famous, so excellent in art, and still so rising." May men and women be saying the same of Rice, and justly, throughout its second generation and beyond. To those of the first generation the place will always be new, and young, and beautiful. While to students in all generations it will always be a house of memory recalling vividly the formative years when "we were young, we were merry, we were very, very wise."

Edgar Odell Lovett

Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett was the first President of the Rice Institute.

## THE UNFINISHED FONDREN LIBRARY

The first construction stage of the Fondren Library on the Rice campus, completed for use in 1949, consisted of 126,000 square feet of floor space on seven levels, with a stated capacity of 600,000 volumes. Through the 1950's, the growth of the collection and staff, and the changes in library operations (as the institution evolved from Rice Institute into Rice University), were twice accommodated by adding new stacks, and study carrels, by removing partitions or erecting new ones, and by making other minor building alterations. Early in the 1960's it became apparent that such improving in the available space would no longer satisfy the growing library. It was time to consider the second stage of construction.

In 1964 the architects of the first stage (Staub, Rather and Howze, of Houston) were asked to begin design work on an addition. In 1965 Ralph E. Ellsworth was engaged as a consultant. On his suggestion, a detailed 34-page library building program was drawn up. The writing of this document forced the planners to include elements which otherwise might have been overlooked. The finished building program expressed clearly the function and space requirements for the architects' design purposes. These cautious preliminary steps were taken to make sure that the allotted money (\$3,000,000) was wisely spent in overcoming certain limitations on any building addition.

## The Original Building

These limitations resulted from peculiarities of the original building and of the campus development plans. The building was unsymmetrical and was not planned for easy expansion. Its entrance on the eastern facade was located on the main east-west axis of the campus, but the

structure extended unequally in a direction perpendicular to this axis, farther to the north than to the south. On the north, east, and south sides, first floor rooms two stories high precluded adding efficiently usable space in those directions. Furthermore, the foundations had not been designed to support additional floors. Therefore, the only reasonable expansion was westward. Here, the campus arrangement prevented new construction from extending more than 80 feet.

### The Second Stage

Under these circumstances the logical configuration for the second stage was a long, rectangular shape on the west (back) side of the original building. This rectangle was placed along the west wall so as to restore the balance with the east-west campus axis. Its dimensions became 70 feet by 273 feet, to provide a total area of 99,000 square feet on five levels. The 273-foot wall facing west posed a serious problem for air-conditioning, since windows in such a wall would be exposed to the heat of the afternoon sun. In order to avoid this situation, the wall surface was broken by evenly-spaced six-foot projections, or square-cornered bays. These bays provided outside wall surfaces facing north and south, where windows could be located with considerable less sun exposure.

Construction of the second stage began in January of 1967, and by February of 1968 Rice librarians began to move into new areas as they were completed. The building was essentially finished by August of 1968, but because of delays in the delivery of new furniture, some remodeled rooms in the original building were not occupied as of February of 1969.

In the five-floor addition, the interior arrangement of the upper three levels is identical. On each floor there are 52 ranges of double-faced stack sections. A central aisle breaks the stacks into two groups of

ranges, consisting of a maximum of eight double-faced stack sections on each side of the aisle. The stack area is surrounded on the perimeter of the rectangular space by 150 study positions of various types: assigned carrels, lounge chairs, chairs at tables for four, and chairs at tables with divider tops. The tables with divider tops are located two each in the six evenly-spaced west-wall alcoves created by the projecting building bays described earlier.

The first floor contains the Staff Work Room on the north end and the Research Center on the south end, with a new elevator serving each area. Staff lockers and rest rooms are in between. The Staff Work Room includes about 10,000 square feet of carpeted floor area, with electrical, telephone, and computer conduit outlets accessible in the concrete floor slab, as well as in walls and structural columns. Both the Acquisitions Department in the north part of the room and the Cataloging Department in the south part have drinking fountains, and sinks with built-in work counters and supply cabinets.

### The Research Center

The Research Center provides storage, study, and work space for rare books, manuscripts, and archives. Suitable accommodations for many different kinds of materials are here - in file cabinets, map cabinets, storage bins (for holding framed items vertically), and stacks of two types - the conventional fixed stacks, and compact stacks which move on tracks in the floor. These movable stacks provide a higher density of storage, by permitting 106 more sections than the 126 sections which conventional stacks alone could supply in the same area, an increase of 88.33 percent in storage space. The storage areas, including a vault, are protected by equipment which automatically releases carbon dioxide to extinguish any fire which might develop.

Basement space includes stack and study areas, the

University's Printing and Development Department, the Receiving Room, the Gifts and Exchange Room, and the Computer Room. The Computer Room has 2,200 square feet of floor space, and special provisions for sound control, air-conditioning and electrical power supply. There is access to a conduit chase, i.e., a vertical opening (like a small elevator shaft), through which electrical conduits from the computer can be extended to remote parts of the building.

The contract for the building addition also included work on the original structure. Parts of its west wall were removed, at each of five floor levels, to permit passage in appropriate locations between old and new space. Existing administrative, circulation, reference, and staff lounge areas were enlarged. Some areas were remodeled to create new rooms for Reserve Reading, Bibliography, Micromaterials, Maps and Government Documents, and new offices for the Music Librarian and the Exhibits Librarian.

Fondren Library remains unfinished. The conduits leading from the Computer Room to more than 30 outlets in other parts of the building are empty, awaiting growth of the electronic data bank, and the development of equipment and techniques which will enable library staff members and library users to tap that potentially rich source. The structural members of this second stage (the reinforced concrete foundations and the floor-supporting columns) are fulfilling only part of their function. They were designed to carry two more floors. If the present rate of book acquisition continues, the collection will equal 1,000,000 volumes by 1975-76. This is estimated as the maximum book capacity of the present total area of 225,000 square feet. The planning of the third stage of construction, the two additional floors, will soon begin.

Richard H. Perrine

Mr. Richard Hooker Perrine is Assistant Librarian for Planning and Reference Librarian. Originally trained as an architect, he was active in helping to plan the new building and remodel the old.

## DUST OF THE PAST - DREAM OF THE FUTURE

In this issue of the FLYLEAF you have the opportunity to read the late President Edgar Odell Lovett's appreciation of the Fondren Library which he wrote in preparation for the dedication in 1949. In reading Dr. Lovett's paper it is easy to see how pleased he was to have the central library taking shape. He heaps praise on the Trustees, the leadership of President Houston, and the generous Fondren gift that resulted in what he termed "the first objective" of Rice University - a library.

In these latter days of 1969, as a part of Rice University's 33 Million Dollar Capital Fund Raising Campaign and in the midst of the Ten Year Plan of growth and development, we have the opportunity to dedicate a major Graduate Addition to the original Fondren Library. And once again there are many to praise and thank for vision and support; our gratitude goes out to Mrs. W. W. Fondren, the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, and several alumni and friends for generous help and support in the development of this building. Having long worked with the University Administration, the Library Planning Committee, the former Librarian, Dr. Hardin Craig, Jr., and members of the Library Staff in designing and equipping this much needed addition, I have felt Dr. Lovett's anticipation, pride and satisfaction. Much of the original beauty and comfort has been restored in the first building, and beauty, comfort and utility have been planned into the Addition. At long last, we have a proper Research Center in which the University's archives, rare books, manuscripts, and special collections can be housed and used in safety and scholarly comfort. We have a greatly enlarged Technical Processing area in which the vital library functions of book selection, ordering, and cataloging can be carried out in proximity to the national and trade bibliographies and to the reference materials necessary for success



in these tasks. We have a new and centrally located Bibliography Room; a Reading Room for library materials placed on reserve by the teaching staff. We have a Computer Room in which to continue experimental developments in library processes and reference functions -- a provision that should advance the Fondren's ability to contribute to and take full advantage of the rapidly evolving national effort toward computer-based, machine-readable methods of storing and handling information. We have considerably more stack area in which to intersperse books and readers in the manner that proved so popular in the original building. We have a new Micromaterials, Maps & Government Documents Room where for the first time these materials are associated with a trained reference staff and the latest reading and viewing equipment. We have recording and listening equipment of professional quality installed in the remodeled Music Room. There is much to be thankful for and excited about even in this selective listing.

In the past twenty years the size of the Fondren Library's book collection has more than doubled. Trustees, presidents, faculty and librarians have worked to build the resources needed for teaching and research. We must continue the effort, though not toward elusive self-sufficiency at a time when prices and production are advancing rapidly. I believe we should build to strength in a limited number of specialized areas in addition to what is required for undergraduate study. Beyond this, we must be prepared to enter into regional compacts and written cooperative acquisition agreements of the kind illustrated by our own Regional Information and Communication Exchange (R.I.C.E.), in order to gain controlled access for Rice faculty and students to the other rich and growing library resources of Texas and the Southwest. Combinations of academic institutions engaged in cooperative programs of resource building will increasingly be the order of the day. The Higher Education Act of 1965 through which Rice already has received assistance has recently been amended to include a new title called

Networks For Knowledge. This is concerned with encouraging and helping colleges and universities to share to an optimal extent through cooperative arrangements "access to specialized library collections through preparation of interinstitutional catalogs and through development of systems and preparation of suitable media for electronic or other rapid transmission of materials...." including library materials. A medium-sized university library like Rice's has a tremendous responsibility to be carefully imaginative in attempting to take appropriate advantage of such legislation as well as of every well planned effort to achieve maximum effective and efficient use of the library resources of the nation.

And, so, the building of the Fondren Library and its resources and services remains a challenge and incomplete. We continue to strive to realize the mandate given us twenty years ago - to be a center of knowledge and culture; a great unifying force on the campus; and a living memorial to all those who support us.

Richard L. O'Keefe

Mr. Richard Leonard O'Keefe is the fourth and present Rice Librarian. He is also Director of the Regional Information and Communication Exchange.

## GIFTS

Memorial and honorary gifts may be sent to the Librarian for Gifts and Exchanges (Mrs. Charles W. Hamilton), in care of the Fondren Library, Rice University, Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77002.

Contributions and memorial gifts are of course tax-deductible, and checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Fondren Library at Rice University. Memorial gifts should be accompanied by a notation as to next of kin or other persons who should be notified by the Gifts and Exchanges Librarian.

In addition to memorial and honorary books, there exist opportunities for more extensive gifts in the new building. There are a number of rooms, ranging from studies to larger areas devoted to special library functions, which need a sponsor and which could bear a suitable memorial plaque.

Mechanical equipment such as slide projectors, microfilm readers, and new installations for the Music and Fine Arts Room are also needed by the expanding Library. Specific information and suggestions may be obtained from the Librarian's Office.

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