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THE FLYLEAF

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THE NON-FONDREN BOOKS

by

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Many thousands of books owned by Rice University can be found on the campus in buildings other than Fondren Library. These books are in addition to the some 30,000 library volumes which are checked out at any given time, and also in addition to the more than 10,000 volumes which are separately housed in the Arts Library, but listed in the Fondren card catalog. The books being considered here are outside of Fondren, both physically and administratively. Although they belong to the University, they are neither ordered nor processed by Fondren librarians, and no record of them appears in the main card catalog.

The non-Fondren books amount to at least 20,000 volumes which are kept in some twenty-seven individual collections. The total number of books (and even the exact number of collections) is uncertain. Information about the collections is not readily obtained, because they are operated independently and are subject to no stated university policy and to no central record-keeping. The descriptions given here are based on personal observations and on the report of a survey conducted by the Library Committee in 1968.

The general purpose of these independent collections is to serve as a compromise between a personal library within arm's reach and the central collections in Fondren. Some of the collections occupy merely a few shelves in a laboratory or an office. Others are housed in rooms designed as a library, like the Chapel Reading Room, or in rooms that have been converted for this use in the residential colleges. Although all the collections contain books (or other types of library materials), their characteristics vary widely because of their location, their management, and other influential factors.

The number of items in the collections ranges from fewer than 100 to more than 5,000. And these items are not necessarily books. Reprints of journal articles form the bulk of one collection. Maps are a substantial part of another. Fiction titles and a few basic reference works are likely to make up the usual residential college collection, while technical manuals and manufacturers' catalogs may comprise a valuable portion of the collection in an engineering department. Journals appear in some collections, both current issues and earlier bound volumes.

All the items in these collections were acquired as gifts or were purchased with special funds of the college or department. None was acquired with university funds budgeted for Fondren Library orders. Some collections began with the donation of a faculty member's personal library. Some were started with gifts of uncataloged duplicates from Fondren Library or with gifts from publishers. Others have been built mainly through private purchases.

In each collection the contents are generally arranged and listed in some order which is logical, although not necessarily standardized. The books in one collection, which benefits from the services of an experienced librarian, are cataloged by

accepted library standards. But the more nearly typical collection has been organized by a succession of students or departmental secretaries, and the arrangement is likely to be haphazard. Such a situation may be quite acceptable to the users, who probably feel that a particular collection is to some extent their own personal library.

Wide contrasts are evident in policies regarding access to and use of the materials in the various collections. In one collection, all items are in a locked room, which can be opened only with keys held by a few faculty members (and perhaps lent to some graduate students), and the materials may not be removed. In another collection, the holdings are freely available to a larger group - all members of a residential college - with check-out permitted, either by signature or by an honor system. The use of a collection may be limited to members of an individual department, or it may be extended to a few outsiders. Some collections are open at regular, posted hours. Others never close.

Materials which are highly specialized, such as manufacturers' catalogs, may be wanted only in connection with work going on in one department. Such items would appear only in that particular collection, and not in Fondren Library. But materials of more general usefulness, such as books, should not exist uniquely in one of these independent collections. This principle is exemplary, but it is carried out with indifference. According to the 1968 survey of the Library Committee, all items in some of the collections were said to be duplicates of titles in Fondren; but six collections were reported to include books not available in Fondren. After the survey, the Committee recommended that "University policy limit the collections of remote [sic] libraries at Rice University to duplicate copies of material

already contained in Fondren Library." But up to the present time this policy has not been implemented.

Non-Fondren books have two distinct differences from Fondren books. They are exempt from the careful and expensive processing given to Fondren acquisitions, and therefore are less costly to Rice University. And they are available to a limited number of users. This exclusive nature is at once both an advantage (to the limited number of users), and a disadvantage (to the rest of the Rice community). The limited number of users is theoretically guaranteed the presence of a needed work, but members of the community at large are likely to be denied items which they might need. The fact that many of the holdings are duplicates of titles held in Fondren lessens the disadvantage to some extent, but a person who fails to find a Fondren book because it is charged out (or temporarily removed from the shelf) is not helped by a duplicate copy unknown and therefore unavailable to him.

A true evaluation of each of these independent collections of non-Fondren Books would require a detailed study, to learn the costs and the losses, to determine how well the collection's purposes are met, and, finally, to weigh these factors against those of alternative arrangements. The collections appear, at a casual glance, to fill satisfactorily many library needs on the Rice campus, at a lesser price than the more usual academic library compromise, the "departmental library," which calls for a professional staff and full cataloging. For the present, without more thorough examination, it

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should appear that each collection serves a useful purpose and is of unique value to Rice University.

Mr. Perrine is Special Assistant Librarian for
Planning and Humanities Research Librarian

FURTHER GIFTS FROM LEOPOLD L. MEYER

As an expression of
affection for:

Isaac S. Brochstein

THE ESSAYS OF ELIA

Charles Lamb

Chapman & Hall Ltd. London, full green
calf, gold tooled, 24 color illus by
Sybil Tawse, bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe,
London.

W. Morrow Cummings

AUCASSIN AND NICOLETTE

Tr. by Laurence Housman; Shakespeare
Head Press, Stratford Upon Avon 1925, full
blue calf, gold tooled, bound by Sangorski
& Sutcliffe, London.

Hon. Allen J. Ellender,
Senate of the United States

EVERYBODY'S PEPYS

Ed. by O. F. Morshead (Abridged from the
Complete Copyright Text) G. Bell & Sons Ltd.,
London 1927; full tan calf, bound by Sangorski
& Sutcliffe, London.

E. J. Gracey

NAPOLEAN AND HIS WOMEN FRIENDS

By Gertrude Aretz; translated from the German
by Eden & Cedar Paul, with 16 illus.
Geo. Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London; first
published in English in 1927; full blue calf,
gold tooled, bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe,
London.

As an expression of
affection for:

Alice Hatcher

SALOME

Trans. from the French of Oscar Wilde;
John Lane, The Bodley Head, London, 1927;
full scarlet calf, gold tooled, 14 Beardsley
drawings, bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe,
London.

Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson,
President of the United
States, 1963-1969

CANDIDE

Voltaire; etchings by Clara Tice, original
etching on half title (one of only 8) Limited
to 1000, #60; Jon Enschede en Zoven in
Holland, 1928, full blue morocco, gold tooled.
Also tipped in, note from Leopold L. Meyer;
"In parting with this volume there is fond
recollection of a devoted friendship with Mr.
Will Hogg (distinguished son of one of the
most illustrious governors of Texas, the Hon.
Stephen H. Hogg) who presented me with this
treasured book forty years ago."

Mr. and Mrs. H. Malcolm Lovett

CATHERINE THE GREAT

Katharine Anthony, Knopf, N.Y. 1926, full tan
calf, gold tooled, bound by Sangorski &
Sutcliffe, London.

As an expression of
affection for:

Dr. Maynard W. Martin

RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM

Shakespeare Head Press, Stratford-Upon-Avon,
1926, full maroon leather, gold tooled.

Herman P. Pressler

VIGEE-LE BUUN, MEMOIRS OF

Trans. by Gerard Shelley; John Hamilton Ltd.,
London, illustrated, full blue calf, gold
tooled, bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe,
London.

Rev. Msgr. John Jos. Roach

LITTLE FLOWERS OF ST. FRANCIS

Newly translated out of the Italian by T. W.
Arnold; J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London,
reprinted 1926, full blue calf, gold tooled.

E. C. Scurlock

CELLINI, THE LIFE OF

By Self, Tr. by Anne McDonnell, J. M. Dent
& Sons, Ltd., London, 1926, full maroon
calf, gold tooled.

Theodore E. Swigart

DANCES OF DEATH, THE

Etched by D. Deuchar, F. A. S., London, W.
Smith & Co., 1803.

As an expression of
affection for:

Hon. Ewing Werlein

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS

John Lane, The Bodley Head, London, 1899,
illustrated, full maroon calf, gold tooled,
bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe, London.

In memory of:

Mrs. Christine Croneis Sayres

WOMEN OF THE MEDICI, THE

Yvonne Maguire, Geo. Routledge & Sons,
London, 1927, full red calf, gold tooled,
bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe, London.

Marcus Ashley Stern

INDIAN LOVE: STARS OF THE DESERT: GARDEN OF
KAMA LAWRENCE HOPE

Wm. Heinemann Ltd., London, 1925, gold
tooled, full maroon calf, bound by Sangorski
& Sutcliffe, London.

GIFTS

During 1971 Mr. Robert W. Hall, Jr., will present Fondren Library with 100 Spoken Word recordings, adding many valuable and useful works to our already large holdings in this field. Complete recordings of plays by Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde, Sean O'Casey, and Arthur Miller, readings from the works of Poe, Hawthorne, and Conan Doyle comprise only a few of the items included in this collection. Mr. Hall also made a gift to the Fondren of several Shakespeare recordings during 1970.

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