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THE FLYLEAF

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FRIENDS OF THE
FONDREN LIBRARY
AT RICE UNIVERSITY

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FRIENDS OF THE FONDREN LIBRARY is an association of bibliophiles interested in book collecting, and particularly interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. It shall be the purpose of this organization to secure gifts and bequests and provide funds, whenever possible, for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other material which could not otherwise be acquired by the Library.

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Vol. 26, No. 1, Jan. 1976

Published by the Friends of
the Fondren Library, Rice
University, Houston, Texas

(Mrs. John E. Cashman spoke for the original Steering Committee of the Friends of the Fondren Library on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration October 28, 1975.)

THE FORMATION OF THE FRIENDS: A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE

by Margaret Dudley Cashman

The purpose of my speaking to you at all is to demonstrate that God does move in a mysterious way.

After one of the first concerts that my husband and I attended when he came back from World War II, he said, "Margie, do you realize that all you talk about is the children?" I was appalled at first, then hurt, then indignant and defensive. After all, the children were all I had been involved with for about four years. John went to bed, and I sat up thinking. It was sobering two hours. I owed a lot to libraries, and most of all to the Rice Library. (In fact, as the old black sexton of our church says, "You stole my shoes.") Pique produced the answer to my dirth of conversation, and by 2:00 a.m. the Friends of the Fondren Library was organized in my mind.

The next morning I took my indignation and ideas along to Irene Dawson Wilson, neighbor, friend, and mentor. We had had many conversations about what alumni and Houston friends could do for Rice. Jim Whitcomb, a friend of the Wilsons who was stationed in Houston, had mentioned the Friends of the Brown University Library. I decided we could do the same for Rice. It was agreed that Jim's name would go on the list of organizers as a consultant along with W. J. Hudspeth. Mrs. Wilson then gave me the final push, and stood by while I made an appointment with William D. Dixon, Librarian of the Fondren Library.

Mr. Dix and I had a short meeting, and arranged a second meeting with the persons on a list we worked out together: A. D. Dyess, W. J. Hudspeth, Jim Whitcomb, Mrs. Wilson, Dr. Alan McKillop, David Hannah, Mr. Dixon, and Margaret Cashman. From this group a Steering Committee was selected: Jim Whitcomb—Chairman, Katherine Brown, David Hannah, W. J. Hudspeth, Mrs. John Cashman.

For the speaker at our first meeting, the committee decided to invite M. Fannie Ratchford from the Rare Books Library at the University of Texas. My husband and I went to Austin and spent a day being briefed by M. Fannie. She was most helpful and gracious, but did admonish us *not* to "after" the George A. Hill Texana collection!

The wonderful thing about the early days of the Friends was that everyone we approached was enthusiastic. To some, a library is a roman place; to others it is a treasury; to me it is an exciting tool chest. The finer the tools—the better trained the workmen—the finer the finished job.

Back to history: The exhibit for our first meeting was the Maresh Map Collection. Miss Fannie was a delightful speaker. The crowd was large, and they were not disappointed. Officers and Directors were elected as follows: President: James Whitcomb, Vice-President: David Hannah, Secretary: Katherine Tsanoff Brown, Treasurer: Charles Hamilton; Directors: William Dix, Dr. William Masterson, Mrs. George A. Hill, Mrs. Ben M. Anderson.

Memories of the early days are many and bright: A team, consisting of Florence Cook, Mary Anderson, Katherine Brown, and Margaret Cashman putting *The Flyleaf* together with a saddle-back stapler on the top floor of the Library; the elevator getting stuck; Mary Alice Hamilton's prompt, gracious notes of acknowledgment. Every month Dr. McKillop's delicious "desiderata," with such entries as, "1st ed. book on 18th Century Garden Design, Crow of Norwich, can be had for £3.11.0 — last fetched £4.10.0." His knowledge and eye for quality and needs encompasses a tremendous debt owed by this organization, library, and University. Probably double what we think, because he was a Scotsman and a canny buyer. Dr. McKillop also wrote a large part of *The Flyleaf* text in the early days. There were so many people who helped in different ways. The library staff, faculty, literary societies, Alumni Association, and families of alumni, aside from those already mentioned. I know the following brief list will have left "presences" and "personalities" unsung. I can only hope to be forgiven on the grounds that our memories are of the same vintage.

Mr. John E. Cashman	Mr. S. I. Morris
Mr. F. Talbott Wilson	Miss Pender Turnbull
Mrs. James Kelley	Miss Anne Wheeler
Dr. Radoslav Tsanoff	Mr. and Mrs. James A. Chillman, Jr.
Mrs. Alan D. McKillop	Miss Sarah Lane
Mr. Ben Anderson	Mr. and Mrs. William A. Kirkland
Mr. Raymond Cook	Mr. Ray Watkin Hoagland
Miss Nina Cullinan	Mrs. Elva Kalb Dumas
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Lovett	Mr. Tiny Kalb
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Watkin	Mrs. Fred Much
Mrs. W. J. Hudspeth	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shelton
Mr. Dillon Anderson	

My husband would congratulate you on being exposed to five minutes of my conversation without hearing the children mentioned at all. (There are six of them and twelve grandchildren, but I only whispered that to Dr. Vandiver, because I was afraid he wouldn't ask.)



Some of the Presidents of the Friends of the Fondren Library, 1950-1975: Front Row (left to right) Mrs. Carl Illig; Mrs. Edward W. Kelley, Jr. (President, 1975-76); Mrs. C. M. Hudspeth; Middle Row Mr. Ralph A. Anderson, Jr.; Mr. Talbott Wilson; Mrs. John E. Cashman; Back Row Mr. Carl Illig; Mrs. Edward W. Kelley; Mr. James L. Whitcomb.

THE LIBRARIAN LOOKS AT THE FRIENDS

by Richard L. O'Keeffe
University Librarian

This is a happy occasion for the Fondren Library and for Rice University. Twenty-five years ago this month the first fall meeting of the Friends of Fondren was held in this room. Mrs. Cashman has charmingly recounted for us the enthusiasm with which that initial group of approximately thirty people came together when this Library was new for the twin purposes of attracting more people to join the Friends, and securing funds for the purchase of important and rare library materials that could not otherwise be acquired.

All of us who love books and learning are grateful to these persons who had the foresight to start our Friends group in 1950. Some university library Friends groups had been formed earlier (Princeton's in 1930, for example), but a large number has been started since 1970 (those at Tulane, Texas A & M, and Vanderbilt being outstanding examples). We are fortunate indeed already to have had the benefit of a quarter century of dedicated support. Some evidence of this support can be seen by examining tonight the books in the exhibit cases just outside this Room.

In the first issue of *The Flyleaf*, the Friends publication, Mr. Whitcomb, the first President said:

"The Friends of the Fondren Library is a medium of expression for people who enjoy good books. We believe that a love of books can be developed by meeting together and centering our interest in books around the Fondren Library. The Friends group is not necessarily a fund-raising organization, not necessarily an alumni activity. We think we can lend a helping hand to the Librarian. Those who feel that a great library can assist a greater Rice Institute develop intellectual leadership in the community can find a home in the Friends of the Fondren Library."

And that is still what it is all about, isn't it!

I wish to tell you that the last three to five years have seen a tremendous re-birth of interest in the Friends. This interest is timely, because the task facing the library today is more pressing, more challenging, and even more interesting than anything it faced in the past. It is consoling, therefore, to note that the membership has grown from 154 in the fall of 1973 to 419 this fall, which is about a 171% increase in only three membership drives. There have also been some exciting and rewarding programs of late. Our current president, Ellen Kelley, has expanded the Board of Directors and set work in motion that should give the Friends the opportunity to help raise the Fondren Library a notch or two in the estimation of scholars and collectors everywhere.

As University Librarian, I wish to encourage the Friends to help build a collection of books worthy of Rice. I wish to encourage the Friends to be "sowers of seed" for the Fondren's sake; that is, to attract to membership those who were active in Friends groups elsewhere (as Mr. Whitcomb was active at Brown) and to keep planting the idea that the Fondren Library is the appropriate home for special collections that have been formed lovingly and painstakingly by alumni and others who love books and reading (like the Bartlett Beethoven Collection given to us by Dr. Henry Leigh Bartlett and the Masterson Texana Collection which was given by Carroll and Harris Masterson). Rice could not have afforded to purchase, as the University of Texas at Austin did last week for \$1.4 million, what must be a major portion of the Eberstadt Collection of materials on the Southwest and Texas. That university undoubtedly is the natural home for this Collection. At Rice we need the help of the Friends at this point simply to make it possible to meet basic library needs, and to take advantage of special, but modest purchasing opportunities that come along from time to time.

We must face it, however, that research collections, private libraries and endowed book funds are still what every great university library needs. One simply cannot manage with mirrors and microforms alone. The oncoming generations of historians, literary critics, philosophers, and scientists will be attracted to Rice only if the Fondren Library can support their own scholarship and the work of their students.

So, Rice University will continue to do its best to underwrite the bread and butter aspects of maintaining this library and assisting it to be a contributing and participating member of systems of libraries. I ask the Friends to help us in all of these basic efforts; more importantly, I ask the Friends organization to rededicate itself to the task of helping the Fondren Library to do what the late and great Dr. McKillop wanted it to do, that is, "to attain the touch of the exceptional and the extra that adds distinction."



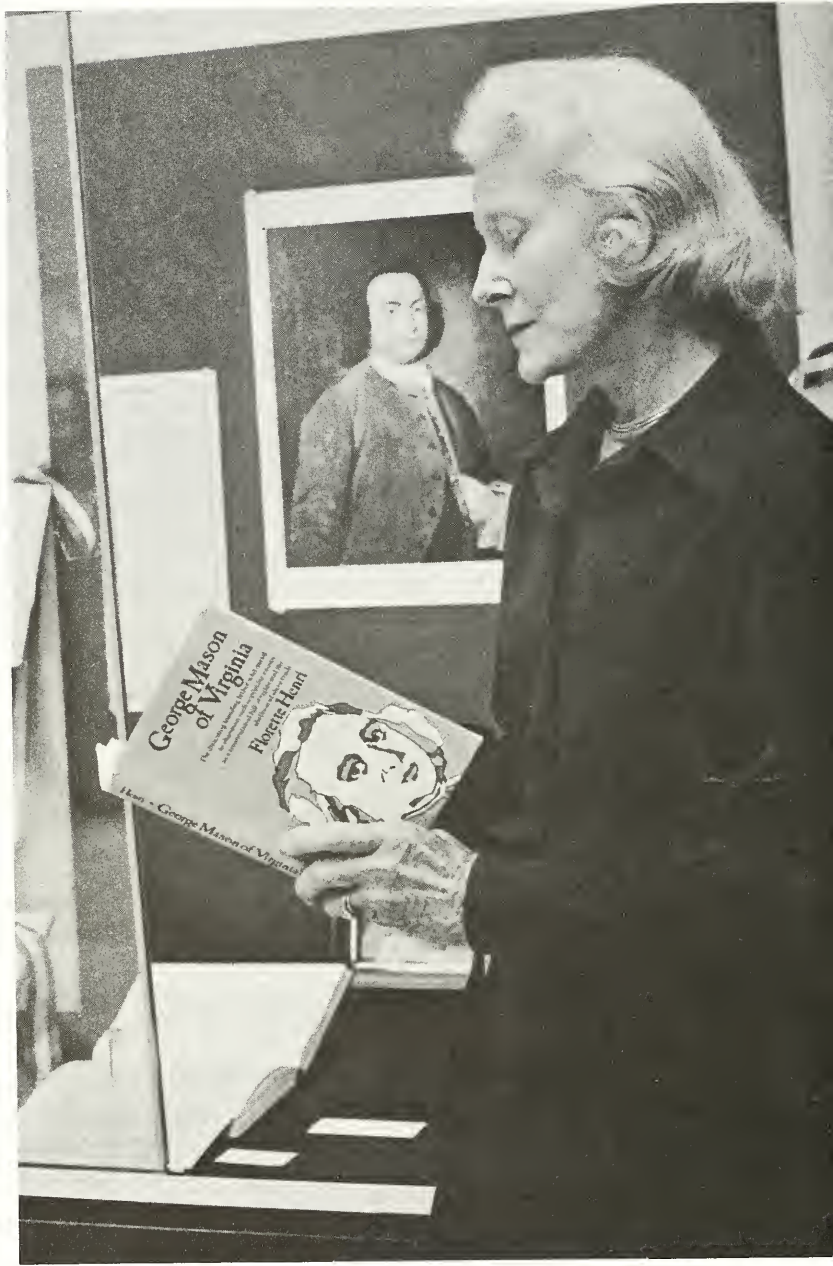


Klaus H. M. Weissenberger, chairman of the Department of German and Russian, is showing some of the productions of Germany's Eremiten-Presse on the floor of Fondren Library. The Eremiten-Presse exhibit was on display during November, 1975, and featured books, graphics, and other materials. Eremiten-Presse, founded in 1949, attained a European reputation through publication of experimental writing and graphics.

JOHN ELY BURCHARD 1898-1975

by Richard H. Perrine
Assistant Librarian for Planning

John Ely Burchard, dean emeritus of MIT and noted architectural historian, died in the closing days of 1975 at the age of 77. Burchard played a pivotal role in the planning of the Fondren Library, his 1946 *Report to the Trustees of Rice Institute on the Proposed Library Building* serving as the basic guiding document used by the architects in designing the building. At that time Burchard was Director of Libraries at MIT and one of the prime movers of the Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans. Rice had sent representatives, along with preliminary library plans, to meetings of this committee, but positive progress in planning was inhibited by unresolved problems on the campus concerning the library. Burchard was engaged to visit Rice to interview many people, to assess the situation and to make recommendations. His wide-ranging and masterly report cleared the air and provided solid information which enabled the planning to move ahead.



GEORGE MASON EXHIBIT

George Mason (1725-1792), "the patriot who refused to sign," was the subject of an exhibit in the Fondren Library during the month of December and part of January. Mason, a farmer-lawyer-scholar, drafted the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights, the model for the federal Bill of Rights. Even though Mason was one of the drafters of the U.S. Constitution, he refused to sign the document because his 1787 draft did not contain a bill of rights.

The idea and much of the material for the Mason exhibit came from Mrs. Albert Bel (Homoiselle Haden) Fay, Rice alumna and descendant of George Mason. Mrs. Fay is Regent-at-Large of the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall (home of George Mason), National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

Mrs. Fay is pictured here (see facing page) with the George Mason exhibit.



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The following listings include gifts and memorials received between September 1 and December 31, 1975.

Gifts for the purchase of books have been received from:

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Many Friends, faculty and authors make donations of books and journals. These are too numerous to list. Such gifts have been received from the following:

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SPECIAL GIFTS

Other gifts, which may be of general interest, are as follows:

DR. H. L. BARTLETT donated the following volumes to the BARTLETT BEETHOVEN COLLECTION at the library: Beethoven: A Documentary Study, edited by H. C. Robbins Landon; The

Interior Beethoven, by Irving Kolodin; Beethoven: The Man who Freed Music, by Robert Haven Schauffler, and the manuscript of his own book Beethoven: Democratic Friend.

GENERAL MAURICE HIRSCH presented the library with two autographed copies of Front Line General, the autobiography of General William C. Chase.

The Fondren Library has received the collection of books and manuscripts of ALAN DUGALD McKILLOP. This interesting and varied collection will be described at greater length in a future Flyleaf.

To further complete the STEPHEN K. SWIFT Collection, Mr. Swift donated the following materials: 138 issues of Die Krone, a bimonthly publication of the Monarchist Movement of Austria, now extinct; 38 issues of Aktion Oesterreich-Europa, a publication intended as a successor to Die Krone; and issues of Magyar Panorama and Magyar Hirek, with further issues to be added as they arrive.

GIFTS IN KIND

In memory of Dr. Hardin Craig, Jr., Mrs. Hardin Craig, Jr. presented the library with The Atlantic World of Robert G. Albion, edited by Benjamin W. Labaree.

Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Platt donated Toscanni: A Biography, by George R. Marek in memory of IMA HOGG.

As a memorial for HELEN JONES, Professor André Bourgeois gave Jean de la Fontaine's Poésies.

Eternal America, by Yoshikazu Shirakawa was donated as a memorial for ALLEN LAMAR McMURREY, M.D., by Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Platt.

In memory of HENRY IRVING SCHWEPPE, Mrs. Charles Cobler presented the library with The Discovery of North America, by W. P. Cumming.

Mrs. Ethel Vinson gave Great Architecture of the World, in memory of EWING WERLEIN.

History as High Adventure, by Walter Prescott Webb was given by Mary Margaret Williamson in memory of her father ROBERT LEE WILLIAMSON.

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