

RICE UNIVERSITY

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LIBRARY

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# The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 40, No. 3

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## RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

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## THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

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## THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

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## A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

The author reception held on January 17 was a huge success. We would like to thank all Rice authors who helped by supplying bibliographic information (a bibliography appears on page 12), and we are particularly grateful to Nancy Hermann, Albert Van Helden, and Charles Venable for their remarks on their experiences in writing and publishing. Amy Trafton from the campus bookstore also deserves a big thank you for the book display.

Kay Flowers, who heads the library's Automated Services Division, has informed us that LIBRIS terminals are being installed in the stacks near the elevators on each floor. This will be welcome news to those of you who use the library frequently.

The Woodson Research Center has gotten a new look. It was recently painted and carpeted, and stencils are now being designed for the walls. These stencils, to be done in the new colors of the library, will reflect the center's collections.

The Friends' office would like to ask donors who send contributions directly to the Development Office to indicate whether the donations are for the Friends' membership account or for the gifts and memorials account.

We are more than halfway through the 1989-90 Friends' program calendar. The officers and directors appreciate any and all input from you. If you have a suggestion for a program, or would like to work on the gala committee, membership committee, or editorial committee, please send your name, address, and telephone number along with your area of interest to the Friends' office. We thank those who have already made suggestions for future programs.

It is hard to believe that our organization is approaching its fortieth anniversary on May 30. We have grown from a small group of dedicated workers to more than 1500 faithful members. You can take pride in the fact that you, through the Friends, have accomplished much for the library and for Rice University.

Sincerely yours,  
Dick Luna  
Treasurer

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**Cover:** *Prayer in "Stonewall" Jackson's Camp*, an engraving by John Chester Buttre, after Peter Kramer and Adalbert Volck. New York, 1866. For many years John Wright kept a framed copy of this print, which was very popular in its day, on his desk. It is now in the offices of the Jefferson Davis Association.

# “To Rice University, My First Love”

Of the thousands of books given to Fondren Library,  
many of them bearing dedications, surely this one is unique,  
as unique as the man who wrote it — John Harris Wright, '28.

by Lynda Crist

Since at least 1959, when his first gift — seven volumes of *Frontier Times* — was recorded, John Wright has presented literally tons of materials to Fondren Library. The most recent item, given shortly before his death on January 7, 1990, was his own *Compendium of the Confederacy*, a two-volume annotated bibliography bearing the dedication quoted above. For more than thirty years Mr. Wright continued to send box after box to Fondren from his retirement home in Florida, and he brought carloads with him on his many visits. One list of gifts runs to more than 150 pages of authors and titles, from humorist Andy Adams' *The Corporal Segundo* (Austin, 1968) and Emile Abry's *Histoire Illustrée de la Littérature Française* (Paris, 1933) to a limited edition of *Untrodden Fields of Anthropology* by Dr. Jacobus X (Paris, 1898) and a rare pamphlet by William P. Zuber, *Ancestry and Kindred of W.P. Zuber, Texas Veteran* (Iola, Texas, 1905).

As Assistant University Librarian Ferne Hyman noted in her 1981 *Flyleaf* article about John Wright, not only was he one of Fondren's most generous “angels,” sending in addition to library materials substantial monetary gifts for general acquisitions, he was also among the most selfless, asking no recognition and imposing no restrictions on the material he gave. Likewise, Rice Vice-President Kent Dove has described Mr. Wright as a true philanthropist, affluent yet selfless, “hugely generous but with no ego

involved.” And it is true that one could know him for a long time without realizing he was a person of means.

Mr. Wright's *Compendium*, published by Broadfoot Publishing Company in two handsome volumes, was the capstone of some fifty years' experience in collecting printed items about the Confederate States of America and the logical outcome of his devotion to books and libraries — and librarians. His idea of a Confederate bibliography originated in his perusal of bookdealers' catalogs, which he began reading seriously in the Rice library during his undergraduate days. He became interested particularly in articles about the Confederacy in serials, especially those articles on unusual subjects in esoteric journals that might otherwise have escaped modern scholars. A dreary, never-ending task to some, for John Wright it was “fun, fun, fun.” It was a tedious and often discouraging quest, but one that only continued to fuel his lifelong zeal for learning and discovery. John Boles, Rice professor of Southern history, recalls, “The enthusiasm he revealed in describing the excitement of tracking down rare books and fugitive pamphlets was infectious, and his memory of bibliographical details and where and when he bought particular items was absolutely astonishing.”

Far more than a listing of titles, careful bibliographical notations, and, often, a history of prices paid over many years, the *Compendium* is a masterpiece of sleuthing, an example of truly creative research that fills a void in the literature of the Civil War period. It is not definitive — no bibliography can ever be complete — but as Tom Broadfoot notes in the introduction, “The good

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Lynda Crist is editor of The Jefferson Davis Papers, a documentary editing project sponsored by Rice University and housed in Fondren Library.

bibliographies are someone's best shot at the impossible. There is no other compilation of this scope." At Mr. Wright's death, Mr. Broadfoot, a longtime associate and research-trip traveling companion, was left all the notes and citations for the third volume: Mr. Wright was still hard at work every day, not counting the first two volumes his final word.

How did this delightful gentleman become, in his own words, a "bookman"? With his trademark bow tie at a jaunty angle, rosy cheeks, eyes sparkling and face always smiling, he was the picture of a jolly, grandfatherly retiree. Born on Valentine's Day, 1906, in Waco, John Wright belonged to a book-loving family. His grandparents taught Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit; his mother read to him as a child. His father was a graduate of Southwestern University but died when Mr. Wright was only five. His mother, to whom he was devoted, moved to Houston from Dallas when John Wright was a teen-ager and reared her three boys in a house on Eagle Avenue. In junior high school John Wright began buying books; while at Central High he began haunting the Rice library and was deeply influenced by a particular librarian. Although she

sounds formidable — "she could stop a conversation with her steely eyes or a slight rap of her cane" — they were kindred spirits, and to the end of his life John Wright appreciated and praised librarians everywhere. His friends at Rice and across the nation are legion; he delighted in people as much as in his avocation.

At Rice he continued buying books, mostly from England and mostly focusing on his interest in short stories and Restoration drama. He changed his major to history after taking some inspiring courses from Professor Curtis Howe Walker, a Yale Ph.D. who later taught at Vanderbilt. After graduation in 1928, Mr. Wright worked for Star Engraving Company and then for Taylor Publishing Company, the publisher of college and high school yearbooks. In his travels throughout Texas and the South, he continued to befriend librarians, booksellers, and other collectors in his quest for everything about the Confederacy. Along the way he bought and was given thousands of pamphlets, journals, pieces of sheet music, broadsides, and books on just about every topic imaginable, as a list of his gifts to Fondren demonstrates: art and architecture, travel, local history, Maximilian and Carlotta in



Tommy C. LaVergne

John H. Wright, center, with George Rupp and Josephine Abercrombie at the Fondren Library Renovation Dedication, November 1988.

Mexico, autobiographies and personal narratives, jewelry, guns, silver, pottery, furniture, Texana, genealogy. Many items are privately printed and rare, materials that were surely never known about by those in charge of collection development at Fondren and, even if noted, likely would not have been ordered for the general library collections.

Mr. Wright collected "things," too, particularly on his many trips abroad, which he shared in retirement with his wife, the former Ruby Gow (they had been married fifty-six happy years at the time of her death in 1986). For example, the Wrights acquired antique jewelry, Mussolini's gold shaving kit, engravings, paintings, lamps, rugs, masks, clocks, watches, Confederate money, and a sample case full of sorority and fraternity pins, much of which has also been given to Rice.

Still, work on his bibliography was paramount. "Because of John Wright," University Librarian Sam Carrington says, "Fondren Library has one of the finest collections of Southern and Civil War history," particularly serials and rare pamphlets. Of course, many of the books and serials were duplicates of Fondren's own holdings. Since Mr. Wright did not restrict his gifts, duplicates were sold to interested faculty, staff, and graduate students, then offered to other universities, benefiting them and Fondren. The endowment Mr. Wright established in 1982 for bibliographic research is also unrestricted.

Eternally concerned that libraries were not often enough the target of alumni giving, he sought to rectify the problem single-handedly. After a substantial contribution to the library renovation project, Mr. Wright was persuaded to accept a plaque in the reference area with his name on it. What he foresaw as a possible use for his funds was "a room lined with bibliographies

for nuts to work in. . . . As to some label pasted in books, here again I'm indifferent." In a letter to Dr. Carrington, he later approved the designation "research center" as "about as close to bibliography as one could get . . . making room for a newer form of arriving at the same conclusions. 'The same thing, only different.'" He also agreed that his name could be used — characteristically, the plaque notes the gift was in memory of his wife and mother — but said, "I'd be happier if it could lead to just one recruit."

Respectful of librarians' talents and time, he apologized when asking questions yet was eager to learn the online cataloging system and database searching; as early as 1981 he realized the computer's potential for his own work and visualized a database of Confederate sources. Aware of his amateur status in the rarefied world of bibliography, he openly admired the experts but was not daunted by his chosen project. When admonished by his wife and others to enjoy his retirement and let someone else take over his notes and finish the compendium, he answered, "If everyone thought like that, none of the world's work would ever get done."

The myriad books scattered throughout the stacks in Fondren, in the Woodson Research Center, the Brown Library, the architecture department, and in other university libraries are a perfect memorial to John Wright, a man who wanted no memorial; through his endowment this legacy of gifts to Fondren will continue indefinitely. Hearing that his books were being used frequently, Mr. Wright replied: "This is what pleases me more than anything and the main reason I gave them in the first place. I'm repaid many times over for the hours I've spent in stacks with my feet propped up reading." Spoken like the true bookman he was. ≡

# Ancient Libraries

by Rita Marsales

*Inquiries from books may be made without any danger or hardship, provided only that one takes care to have access to a town rich in documents or to have a library near at hand.*

Polybius, *Historiae*

*Lucius Flavius, ...patron of this colony, who freed the municipal government from the burden of payment by granting 170,000 sesterces for the library building; and he also provided twelve pairs of gladiators for the celebration of the dedication.*

*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*

In the late nineteenth century, clay tablets dating from 1400 to 1100 B.C., in linear A and linear B script, were discovered at Knossos on the island of Crete. Similar clay tablets were later found at Mycenae and at Pylos on the Greek mainland. These records, which included inventories of goods, stock, and employees, comprise some of the earliest examples of business libraries or archives.

The concept of a library as a storehouse of information originated at the same time that man began to keep written records — first on stone, then on clay tablets, and later on papyrus — and that systematic methods of arranging these records were devised. Although palace and temple archives existed in ancient Egypt and Babylonia, it was the Greeks who conceived the idea of gathering together written works in every branch of learning, arranging them systematically, and making them available to scholars. The Romans later refined the organization of these records, dividing libraries into two sections to accommodate the bilingual nature of their culture, and disseminated the institution to the far corners of the empire.

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Rita Marsales, a database management librarian at Fendren Library, is currently working on her master's thesis in art history. This article is adapted from a research paper written for a history of art class on ancient cities taught by Christopher Parslow at Rice University.

We have knowledge of many Greek and Roman libraries and the ruins of a few. Private libraries were common in the homes of the well-to-do, but there were also scholarly libraries and, especially in Roman times, public libraries. The contents of ancient libraries covered the whole range of ancient learning and were organized according to subject categories. While only a small proportion of ancient works have survived, those that did are probably the best because they would have been most frequently copied. Before going on to examine some of the better-known ancient libraries, we should first consider what books were like and how they were “published” and sold.

## Books and the Book Trade

In classical times, books took the form of rolls, first of papyrus, imported from Egypt, and later of parchment, made from animal skins. These were read by unrolling the text from left to right, the left-most edge of the text being held in the left hand while the right hand did the unrolling. This was facilitated by round sticks, called *umbilici*, that were inserted in the rolls. *Umbilici* were usually made of wood but might also be of richer materials like ivory or gold.

The average size of a roll was about thirty feet long and nine or ten inches wide. Writing was on one side only, the outside being blank. The length of the inner side was divided into parallel columns of text, much like newspapers today, that succeeded one another from left to right. Long works were divided into “books,” each occupying a roll, while shorter works were written several to a roll. Writing was done with a reed pen and with ink made from natural dyes. Red ink was sometimes used for titles and headings, hence the meaning of the word “rubric,” from the Latin *ruber* for “red.” Illustrations, such as botanical drawings or portraits, might decorate the rolls. The rolls were tied with cords and perhaps kept in leather cases for protection. For identification, tags bearing titles were attached to the rolls; the tag itself was called a *titulus*, from which, in part, we get our word “title.”

Multiple rolls were carried about in a cylindrical box called a *capsa*.

Format was actually determined by material. Although parchment was longer-lasting and cheaper than papyrus, it did not come into use for book rolls until the end of the first century A.D. and was not common until the third century. The codex form, with separate leaves, from which the modern book developed, also came into use around that time. While the parchment codex was characteristic of Christian literature, the Greeks and Romans preferred papyrus rolls, which therefore were the principal components of classical libraries.

With the concurrent growth of literacy and literature in Greece's golden age, a commercial book trade began to flourish. As early as the time of the Peloponnesian War, the Athenian agora included a book market, and an overseas trade in books was also developing. The popularity of Greek plays increased the demand for written versions. Speeches by famous orators were also highly desirable in written form. Owners of books would lend their manuscripts to friends and pupils, or might hire them out for fees. Calligraphers made copies and kept extra copies of works that were in great demand. A primitive publishing service was begun with staffs of scribes. (Unfortunately, however, authors received no royalties for copies of their works.) Rivalry among the great Hellenistic libraries further increased the volume of Greek book production, as surely as it increased the number of forgeries. Galenus comments in Hippocrates' *De natura hominis*:

Before the inauguration of kings in Alexandria and Pergamum, who competed with each other in gathering old books, there was not a book with a faked title. But when those who offered the relics of some old writer were rewarded, many works appeared with false titles. [I, 127]

As the Romans began to conquer the world, they often brought back books to Rome as booty. The manufacture of books became an organized business when Roman publishers employed Greek slaves, who were paid for their labor, to make copies directly or by dictation. Since copyists sometimes left out parts of the text through carelessness or laziness, the practice of counting the number of lines in a work was initiated to ensure the authenticity of copies.



Reader with a roll, from a fresco at Pompeii.

Bookshops were concentrated in certain areas of Rome; the poet Martial, for example, refers to bookstalls in the Argiletum, across from Caesar's Forum. Booksellers posted lists of available books on entrances and columns and, like bookdealers today, displayed "best-sellers" in cases.

### Early Greek Libraries

Little physical evidence of early Greek libraries survives, so we must turn to references in ancient literature and to several interesting though unsubstantiated tales that have come down to us. Aulus Gellius, writing in the second century A.D., claimed that Peisistratus (500–527 B.C.) donated his large private collection to the city of Athens, where it was in use as a public library until it was confiscated and carried off to Persia by Xerxes in 480 B.C. It was later returned to Athens by King Seleucus. Polycrates of Samos is said to have gathered works in the palace of Hieros at Syracuse. Xenophon refers to a great number of volumes in the possession of Euthydemus, a follower of Socrates. There are references to Plato's purchase of books from Philolaus of Tarentum and from the Greek colony of Syracuse in Sicily.

With the creation of the great philosophic schools in the fourth century B.C., collections of written records would have been necessary. Aristotle had a large private library of several hundred volumes, including texts of his own works, and different tales recount its fate. According to one, Theophrastus of Lesbos, a pupil of



Aristotle, inherited the library, enlarged it, then passed it on to his nephew, Neleus. The heirs of Neleus, realizing that the collection was valuable, "saved" it from the Attalid kings by burying it. When the mildewed and worm-eaten books were later unearthed, they were sold to Apellicon of Teos, whose attempts at restoration only caused further damage. What was left of the collection was carried off to Rome in 86 B.C. by the Roman general Sulla. Another version of the story is that Aristotle's library was acquired from Neleus by Ptolemy II to become part of the great Alexandrian library. Of course, both accounts may be partially true, as the collection could have been divided.

Another story is told about a public library established in Athens in the fourth century B.C. The plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, which were extremely popular, were sometimes performed with textual variations, causing theater lovers to object. A municipal decree issued in 330 B.C. ordered that the city preserve in a public archive the most authentic examples of the playwrights' tragedies, in effect creating a combined "copyright office" and public library.

Evidence of other public libraries in ancient Greece has been discovered. Among the library ruins excavated at Kos and Rhodes were inscriptions on the walls that list donors of books and money (Friends organizations appear to have venerable antecedents), and an inscription found in 1927 that dates from the first century B.C. seems to be part of the catalog of the library at Rhodes. Libraries have also been found in Macedonia and Antioch.

Ironically, the two greatest Greek libraries were both located outside of Greece. The fame of the libraries at Alexandria and Pergamum, founded in Hellenistic times, has endured.

## Alexandria

*And concerning the number of books, the establishment of libraries, and the collection in the Hall of Muses, why need I even speak, since they are in all men's memories.*

Athenaeus, *Deipnosophists*

At the suggestion of the scholar Demetrius of Phalerum, a school or museum ("house of the muses") was established by Ptolemy I Soter (d. 283 B.C.), ruler of Egypt, early in the third century B.C., in the palace area of Alexandria. It was the world's first great research institute, where many scholars spent time editing, revising, and collating the works of earlier writers. The Septuagint, for example, was produced here. Although more emphasis was placed on research than on teaching, the building was equipped with lecture halls and was frequented by students. Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285–247 B.C.) founded a second library at the Serapeum, the temple of Jupiter Serapis, which contained a smaller, public collection used by students and ordinary citizens.

Not much is known of the design of either structure, but both were built of white marble and stone and were apparently quite magnificent. Considered one of the wonders of the ancient world, the museum library had ten great halls, each containing a different division of learning. The walls were lined with *armaria* (cupboardlike bookcases with shelves divided into sections) that housed the myriad manuscripts. In addition to the great halls, which were used by scholars as reading rooms and for research, there existed smaller study rooms and storerooms.

The fame of the library, however, was based on its collection rather than on its architecture. After copies of all books in the city of Alexandria had been made for the library, agents were sent out around the world to acquire more texts. Every ship that passed through Alexandria's busy harbor was forced to hand over any books on board for copying, although sometimes the original texts were not returned. Confiscated books were subsequently stored under the general heading of "books from the ships" until such time as the librarians could process them. When the works of the three great Greek tragedians were borrowed from the library in Athens, the required deposit was forfeited and copies were returned instead of the originals. Eventually, by purchase or theft, the library at Alexandria



Book box, or capsas.

acquired more than 700,000 rolls, with an additional 40,000 rolls in the Serapeum. The names of the head librarians from 290 B.C. to A.D. 130, many of whom were outstanding scholars, are recorded, and one of them, Callimachus of Cyrene, prepared a catalog of all library holdings entitled the *Pinakes*. The catalog alone consisted of 120 rolls and was divided into eight major subject categories.

When Julius Caesar was in Alexandria in 47 B.C., a fire that spread from burning ships to nearby wharves may have destroyed some stored volumes but probably did not damage the library itself. Another story is told, however, that Cleopatra gave many rolls to Caesar to take back to Rome. Perhaps to compensate for this loss, Mark Antony later gave Cleopatra 200,000 rolls confiscated from the library at Pergamum. The museum library at Alexandria suffered several fires in its history, eventually being destroyed when the emperor Aurelian burned much of the city after conquering it in A.D. 273. The Serapeum was destroyed by the Christian bishop Theophilus in A.D. 391 because it was located in a pagan temple. Yet another tale, undoubtedly apocryphal, recounts that Alexandria's papyrus and vellum rolls were used as fuel to heat the baths of Moslem conquerors in A.D. 645.

### **Pergamum**

The library at Pergamum (the modern-day city of Bergama, in Turkey) was second only to that at Alexandria. It is referred to as the "library of the Attalids" because it was established by Attalus I in the twenties of the third century B.C. and was further developed by his sons, Eumenes II and Attalus II. This library, also a school and center for scholars, is mentioned by Vitruvius: "The Attalid kings, impelled by their delight in literature, established a fine library at Pergamum for general perusal."

Located near the Temple of Athena, the library was excavated by German archaeologists at the end of the nineteenth century and was found to have consisted of four rooms located off the temple's colonnade. A narrow platform about three feet high ran along three sides of the largest room, in which a statue of Athena stood. Holes in the walls behind the platform suggest the use of brackets for shelves. The platform itself could have been used as a surface on which to unroll the manuscripts but may also have served to keep patrons away from the collection, in which case a slave librarian would have

fetches rolls. This room also probably functioned as a reading and reference room, while the smaller rooms were likely used for storage of volumes.

The collection at Pergamum was never as large as that at Alexandria. Much of it was on parchment because the supply of papyrus had been cut off by the Egyptians in an attempt to limit the number of copies that could be made by Alexandria's rival. The library at Pergamum also had a catalog, prepared by Crates of Mallos.

Pergamum was bequeathed to Rome in 133 B.C., and the library continued in use for several hundred years. Manuscripts that may have been from Pergamum were found in Central Asia as late as the seventeenth century. According to Russian legend, Moslem conquerors had carried these remnants from Pergamum to the city of Bursa, where they were found in 1402 by Tamerlane, who then transported them to Samarkand.

### **Roman Public Libraries**

Many Romans became interested in collecting manuscripts while traveling or waging war, and some brought back whole libraries from their expeditions. Julius Caesar, whose visit to the libraries at Alexandria undoubtedly inspired his dream of founding a similar library in Rome, appointed Varro to begin gathering copies of the best-known literature. The assassination of Caesar, however, prevented the realization of this dream.

Like earlier libraries, Roman public libraries were regularly placed in proximity to a temple or palace. The first known public library in Rome was established about 37 B.C. by Gaius Asinius Pollio in the Atrium Libertatis. Decorated with busts of famous authors, it incorporated the collections of Varro and Sulla and was divided into two parts, one for Greek and one for Latin works. Augustus built two public libraries: the first, in the Temple of Apollo on the Palatine Hill, was begun in 36 B.C. and dedicated in 28 B.C.; the second, located in the Porticus Octaviae, between the Capitoline and the Tiber River, was founded ca. 23 B.C. Again, both were divided into Greek and Latin collections.

About A.D. 20 Tiberius established a library in his palace on the Palatine Hill that lasted until the third century. Passages in Marcus Aurelius, Aulus Gellius, and Flavius Vopiscus indicate that the public was afforded free access to this library. In A.D. 36 Tiberius constructed another library on the Palatine, in commemoration of

Augustus, and references to this library are made by Suetonius and Pliny.

Vespasian, too, established a public library, in about A.D. 75, in the Temple of Peace in the Forum Pacis, that contained records of that emperor's restoration of the city. Gellius refers to a commentary on grammar housed in this collection. The emperor Domitian established a public library on the Capitoline Hill.

The greatest Roman library was the Ulpian, founded by Trajan in A.D. 114. Separate buildings, probably for the Greek and Latin sections, were located on either side of Trajan's Column,



Roman returning a roll to its place.

between the Basilica Ulpia and the Temple of Trajan. Like the rest of Trajan's Forum, the libraries were built by the Greek architect Apollodorus of Damascus. Constructed of white marble and gray granite, supported by Corinthian colonnades, and richly adorned with statuary and medallions, each building housed approximately 11,000 scrolls.

According to a topographical survey of the city ordered by Constantine, twenty-eight or twenty-nine libraries had been established in Rome by the fourth century, but only nine of them can be identified by name and only seven by location.

Common library fixtures included *armaria*, *plutei* (reading desks), and wall shelves with pigeonholes to hold rolls. Since no doors or curtains covered the pigeonholes, title tags on the rolls were visible. It is likely that some books were kept in storerooms and that rare works were housed in locked cabinets. Artificial illumination may have been installed, but windows were essential for good lighting and therefore an eastern exposure was preferred. Interiors were richly decorated: shelves were of cedarwood or

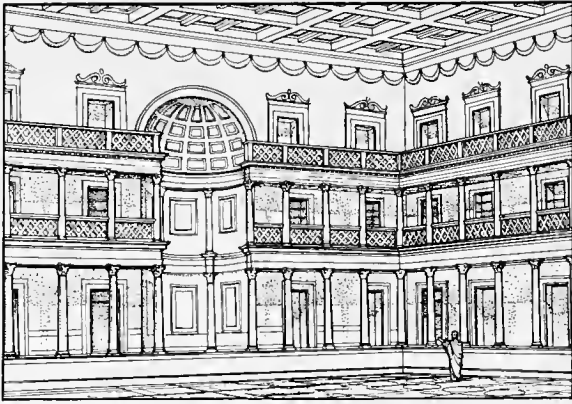
ebony; floors may have been of mosaic or inlaid marble; walls were frescoed. Statues of deities and emperors and busts of famous authors were prominent.

The director of Roman public libraries was known as the *procurator bibliothecarum augusti*; the head librarian of an individual library was called the *bibliothecarius*; and the officials who performed literary and clerical tasks held titles of *librarius*, *vilicus*, and *antiquarius*. Numerous slaves and freedmen, even women, were also employed as staff members.

Public libraries were established in most cities of the Italian peninsula and throughout the Roman provinces as well. Hadrian founded a public library at Athens early in the second century A.D. in the temple of Hera and Olympian Zeus. Pausanias describes the building that housed the library as having one hundred columns, a gilded roof, walls and colonnades made of Phrygian marble, and many statues and paintings. Opening off the colonnade on the east side were five rooms that are believed to have been the library, with a plan similar to that of the library at Pergamum. Part of the facade still stands and is known as the Stoa of Hadrian.

The library at Ephesus, in Turkey, was built around A.D. 114 by Titus Julius Aquila Polemaeanus, in honor of his father, Titus Julius Celsus. It consisted of a rectangular hall with a semicircular exedra at the rear, and its two-story facade was embellished with statues in niches between columns. Inside, wooden cabinets were set in niches in the walls, and bronze medallions with relief busts of authors adorned the walls above the bookcases. The tomb of Celsus was located in a vault beneath the central niche, which contained a statue of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom.

In Algeria, a library was established at Timgad in about A.D. 100 by order of the emperor Trajan. Excavated by the French at the turn of this century, the site has been identified as a public library on the basis of an inscription found there. The building, eighty-one feet long by seventy-seven feet wide, is made up of a large semicircular room flanked by two rectangular rooms, with a colonnaded portico surrounding three sides of an open court. The large vaulted hall probably served as a reading and stack room. Books and manuscript rolls were kept in wooden cases set in rectangular niches around the walls, and a large niche at the rear of the semicircular room very likely featured a statue of Minerva. Double walls



Restored view of the Library of Celsus at Ephesus.

helped keep out dampness, a constant threat to books.

Libraries were popular places for social, literary, and political gatherings. Most commonly associated with temples and palaces, they were also found in the great public bath buildings, which indicates how popular the reading habit had become. Public libraries were used for reading, reference, and research. The practice of taking books home to read was not common, and might involve a bribe for a librarian. An inscription found on the excavated wall of an Athenian library of about A.D. 100 indicates problems with circulation: "No book shall be taken out, since we have sworn an oath to that effect."

### Private Libraries

Libraries were also found in private homes. They were, in fact, a regular feature of the designs of homes built by Vitruvius, who, in *De architectura*, wrote:

Bedrooms and libraries ought to have an eastern exposure, because their purposes require the morning light, and also because books in such libraries will not decay. In libraries with southern exposures the books are ruined by worms and dampness, because damp winds come up, which breed and nourish the worms, and destroy the books with mold, by spreading their damp breath over them. [VII, 4]

The House of Menander at Pompeii, excavated in 1930, had a library furnished with comfortable chairs in an exedra on the south side of the peristyle. The actual remains of another library were discovered around 1753 at Herculaneum, in a small room of the Villa dei Papiri. Although the

rolls were carbonized, it was eventually possible to unroll and read some of them.

The 1,800 rolls found at Herculaneum represent a library of typical size for a well-to-do Roman citizen of the late empire. Seneca considered a library a necessary part of a stylish home, assuming equal importance with hot and cold baths, but he deplored the ostentation of those who had shelves full of books they never read. The finest private collections were located in palaces and villas belonging to the Roman emperors, such as the House of Augustus on the Palatine, Domus Aurea, Domus Tiberiana, the Villa Adriana near Tivoli, and the Villa Jovis on Capri.

The history of ancient libraries covered a period of more than six hundred years and played a key role in laying the foundations of Western civilization by preserving and passing on classical learning. All of the ancient libraries were doomed either to destruction by natural or man-made disasters or to abandonment, but they set standards of excellence unmatched for many centuries thereafter. They were architectural gems that reflected the precious nature of their contents. The goals of preservation, systematic arrangement, and dissemination of information established by ancient librarians form a basis for the technologically advanced libraries of today. ☸

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- Richardson, L. "The Libraries of Pompeii," *Archaeology* 30 (November 1977): 394-402.
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# Fondren Library Benefactors Party



*Mary and Ben Anderson and Mary Williamson*

*A reception for library benefactors was held on January 17 in the Woodson Research Center. The first-time event honored individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Fondren Library. Photos by Betty Charles.*



*Carl and Lillian Illig and Beverly Baker*



*Julie Itz, John Boles, Mary Lou Margrave, Ginny Rorschach, Nancy Rupp, Ed Hayes, Neal Lane, and Ann Hayes*

# Rice Authors Honored

Fondren Library's Kyle Morrow Room served as the setting for this year's author reception, held on the evening of January 17. As in the past, the event attracted a large crowd to celebrate the accomplishments of those members of the Rice community who had books published in the preceding year. Three of the authors — Nancy Hermann, Albert Van Helden, and Charles Venable — entertained the audience with accounts of their writing and publishing experiences.

Here follows a bibliography for 1989 Rice authors:

- Akin, J. Ed. *Computer-Assisted Mechanical Design*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Bally, A.W., ed. *Atlas of Seismic Stratigraphy*, vol. 3. Tulsa, Okla.: American Association of Petroleum Geologists.
- Bally, A.W., ed. *The Geology of North America, An Overview*, 2 vols. Boulder, Colo.: Geological Society of America. (Coedited by A.R. Palmer)
- Bertin, John J. *Aerodynamics for Engineers*. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall. (Coauthored by Michael L. Smith)
- Bertin, John J., ed. *Hypersonics: Proceedings of the First Joint Europe-U.S. Short Course*, 2 vols. Cambridge, Mass.: Birkhauser Boston. (Coedited by Jacques Periaux and Roland Glowinski)
- Bougen, Philip D. *Accounting and Industrial Relations: Some Historical Evidence on Their Interaction*. New York: Garland Publishing.
- Camfield, William A. *Marcel Duchamp "Fountain."* Houston: Houston Fine Art Press.
- Cecil, Lamar. *Wilhelm II, Prince and Kaiser, 1859-1900*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press.
- Clark, Susan L. *Hartmann von Aue: Landscapes of Mind*. Houston: Rice University Press.
- Courtwright, David T. *Addicts Who Survived: An Oral History of Narcotics Use in America, 1923-1965*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press. (Coauthored by Don Des Jarlais and Herman Joseph)
- Cramer, John. *Twistor*. New York: William Morrow & Co.

- Des Jarlais, Don. *Addicts Who Survived: An Oral History of Narcotics Use in America, 1923-1965*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press. (Coauthored by David T. Courtwright and Herman Joseph)
- Dunne, Carrin. *Behold Woman: A Jungian Approach to Feminist Theology*. Wilmette, Ill.: Chiron Publications.
- Eaker, Helen, ed., trans. and intro. *Giovanni Conversini da Ravenna: Dialogue Between Giovanni and a Letter*. Binghamton, N.Y.: Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies: Vol. 59. (Intro. and notes with Benjamin G. Kohl)



Faith Bybee, Charles Venable, and Lynda Crist

- Fred, Herbert L., M.D. *Elephant Medicine — And More: Musings of a Medical Educator*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press.
- Gregory, E. Richard, Jr. *Milton and the Muses*. Tuscaloosa, Ala.: University of Alabama Press.
- Hermann, Nancy A. *Of Simple Dreams*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Hoffman, Eva. *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language*. New York: E.P. Dutton.
- Hunter, William B. *The Descent of Urania: Studies in Milton, 1946-1988*. Lewisburg, Pa.: Bucknell University Press.
- Klein, Anne C. *Knowing, Naming and Negation: A Sourcebook of Tibetan Texts and Oral Commentary on Buddhist Epistemology*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Snow Lion Publications.



Guests enjoy viewing books on display at the author reception.

- Lake, Larry W. *Enhanced Oil Recovery*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Makris, Kathryn. *A Different Way*. New York: Avon Books.
- McComb, David G. *Texas: A Modern History*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- McEvilly, Thomas. *Another Reality*. Houston: Hooks-Epstein Gallery.
- Moon, Elizabeth. *Oath of Gold. The Deed of Pakenarrion, Book 3*. New York: Baen Books.
- Moore, Margaret, ed. and intro. *Bernard Shaw on Photography*. Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, Publ. (Coedited by Bill Jay)
- Morris, Wesley. *Reading Faulkner*. Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press. (With Barbara A. Morris)
- Nathan, David H. *Higher Love*. Louisville, Ky.: Aran Press.
- Odhiambo, E.S. *Siaya: The Historical Anthropology of an African Landscape*. London: James Currey. (Coauthored by David W. Cohen)
- Piper, William B. *Immaterialist Aesthetics*. Houston: Rice University Press.
- Polanyi, Livia S. *Telling the American Story: A Structural and Cultural Analysis of Conversational Storytelling*. Pbk. ed. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
- Price, Victoria H. *Christian Allusions in the Novels of Thomas Pynchon*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.
- Rees, Paul K. *College Algebra*. 10th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. (Coauthored by Fred W. Sparks and Charles Sparks Rees)

- Reynolds, Michael S. *Hemingway: The Paris Years*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Roediger, Henry L., III. *Research Methods in Psychology*. 3rd ed. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. (Coauthored by David G. Elmes and Barry H. Kantowitz)
- Roediger, Henry L., III, ed. *Varieties of Memory and Consciousness: Essays in Honour of Endel Tulving*. Hillsdale, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc. (Coedited by F.I.M. Craik)
- Rupp, George. *Commitment and Community*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers.
- Stoll, Richard J., ed. *Choices in World Politics: Sovereignty and Interdependence*. New York: W.H. Freeman. (Coedited by Bruce Russett and Harvey Starr)
- Stoll, Richard J., ed. *Power in World Politics*. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Coedited by Michael D. Ward)
- Van Helden, Albert, trans., intro. and notes. *Sidereus Nunciatus, Or the Sidereal Messenger: Galileo Galilei*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Venable, Charles L. *American Furniture in the Bybee Collection*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Von-Maszewski, W.M., ed. *Handbook and Registry of German-Texan Heritage*. San Marcos, Tex.: German-Texan Heritage Society, Southwest Texas State University.
- Woodring, Carl. *Nature into Art: Cultural Transformations in Nineteenth-Century Britain*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Wright, John H. *Compendium of the Confederacy: An Annotated Bibliography*, 2 vols. Wilmington, N.C.: Broadfoot Publishing Co.
- Yamal, Ricardo. *Los muebles*. Concepción, Chile: LAR, Ediciones literatura americana reunida.
- Yunis, Harvey. *A New Creed: Fundamental Religious Beliefs in the Athenian Polis and Euripidean Drama*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- Zdatny, Steven M. *The Politics of Survival: Artisans in Twentieth-Century France*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Photos by Betty Charles



# The Challenge of Technology

Will tomorrow's library managers merely cope,  
or will they seize the opportunity for innovation?

by Jennifer Cargill

The fortune teller's business, even under the best of circumstances, is a risky one. Attempting to predict the future of research libraries in a society experiencing an ever-accelerating rate of change will no doubt appear foolhardy, if not downright crazy, to some. But one prediction can safely be ventured, and that is that technological change will affect academic libraries more dramatically than can be fully envisioned from the perspective of the last decade of the twentieth century. Libraries will assuredly undergo enormous change, change that is dictated by technology, by demands for information, by availability of resources, and by new approaches to research. As the transition from an industrial society to an information and service society accelerates, we are also evolving from a society that previously forced technology on people into a society that involves people in the process by which technology is incorporated into the workplace.

Thus the challenge for library managers is to determine whether we simply cope, or whether we view the impact of technology as an opportunity for innovation. Automation *allows* increased productivity but it doesn't *cause* increased pro-

ductivity. A critical element in the Information Age will be management's awareness of and staff responses to the changes and the challenges that result from automation.

The introduction of technology into libraries can be divided into three distinct stages. First comes mechanization, a period when the staff continues to perform its usual tasks but, because of technology, performs them more quickly and effectively. For many libraries, this stage is already complete: automated circulation and processing routines have been introduced, and the impact of online public-access catalogs upon collections, facilities, services, and staff has been assessed. In the second phase, technology actually changes what the library staff does. Tasks are approached in new ways and tasks never before tackled are undertaken. Most research libraries, including Fondren, are currently in this second stage. We can now access collections via keyword and Boolean, allowing a depth of retrieval previously impossible. Database-search services, local and remote, enable librarians to provide a level of reference service that is quite different from traditional mediated searching. In the third stage, technology leads to societal changes — fundamental changes in institutions, work patterns, and life-styles. As a research library moves from the second stage to the third, it too is affected by the changes in its services: its organizational structure evolves and its relationship to other libraries develops along new lines.

With the numerous opportunities for innovation presented by technology, two areas will be of primary concern to library administrators and staff: service and organization. Staffing will constitute a critical component of these concerns.

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*Jennifer Cargill is associate university librarian at Fondren Library. She is the coauthor of Managing Libraries in Transition and will have two new books, Advances in Library Resource Sharing and Integrated Online Library Systems: An Essential Guide, published this year. This article is adapted from Ms. Cargill's keynote address at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association—Midwest Chapter, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 1989.*



## SERVICE

Libraries have always been regarded as repositories of information — generally paper-oriented, as represented by books and periodicals, with some media. Library staff labored to build large collections, both broad and deep, to serve the needs of patrons. In recent years, automation has allowed libraries to organize and access these vast storage warehouses and to meet immediate information citation needs by means of subject databases. An increasingly sophisticated clientele can access these databases without relying upon the library staff for assistance. Libraries that were once paper-dependent, secure havens of stability are now growing more and more dependent upon technology.

In order to justify the continued existence of these collections, and to justify the number of staff who have been hired and trained to service them, administrators must analyze present service patterns. In particular, they need to consider how those patterns have evolved based on the history and mission of the library and of the institution of which it is a part.

In the public areas of libraries, meeting the needs of patrons will remain a priority, but the approaches libraries take to providing service must change. Patrons will have very different and escalating expectations. Libraries will be regarded as a link, a module within the total information network, upon which each individual will become increasingly reliant. Service innovations must be developed to help direct staff energies.

What might some of these service innovations be?

### Electronic communications

The library staff of today provides reference on a walk-up or phone-in basis, and as a result reference service points are often teeming with patrons awaiting help, while phones buzz with queries. In the near future, patrons will routinely deposit their queries in electronic mail and await responses from the library's service points. The number of service points potentially available to patrons is infinite, since patrons will be able to direct queries to what they perceive as the best possible sources of information — such as to specialized collections, or to service points that have been established solely to respond to electronic queries. As more complex, detailed information

is required, patrons will have the option of accessing specialized information centers and libraries worldwide.

Queries and responses will be input and received twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Individuals will become consumers of information and will expect — with the zeal of the activist consumer — to be satisfied. As expectation or satisfaction levels rise, the speed with which information is transmitted from storage point to consumer will become increasingly important. Library staff will have to determine who receives priority service.

Because of vastly improved communications, the world of scholarly research is changing. Networks created for high-speed access to supercomputers have revolutionized the work and research habits of scholars everywhere, and if libraries are to retain researchers as patrons, they must increase their use of this telecommunications technology and provide new online services. The changing life- and work styles of a library's clientele will necessarily affect library services. Patrons might be a few buildings away, or hundreds of miles distant; they may work in the traditional office outside the home or, as is becoming ever more common, they may work in a home office or even while in transit.

### Access versus ownership

Libraries have traditionally offered access to information by virtue of ownership; in other words, they owned the books and journals that provide the information. Today this is changing, as more-current information becomes available through electronic databases that are used or leased rather than owned. Thus we are moving from providing convenient, self-contained information parcels — the customary books and journals — to providing information through access to data. Libraries are becoming the link between researchers and information that is scattered among many locations and that is available in many forms.

The demands of clients will necessitate routinely offered selective dissemination of information, or SDI, services, which will enable patrons to locate subject-specific information electronically. These services will become particularly critical with certain types of information, such as government documents and the increasingly important "gray" literature (material that is not necessarily published or that is not available

through the usual channels). Libraries will participate in the refinement of SDI services by being test sites for prototypes of SDI systems.

SDI services and the utilization of workstations by our patrons will lead to sophisticated document-delivery systems, since clients, no longer content simply to have the citations available online, will want the cited material delivered to them. Libraries will develop their own delivery systems as well as work with document providers. Document delivery will evolve from the traditional provision of books and copies, delivered by staff within a geographic area, to high-speed facsimile delivery, as telefacsimile equipment becomes as prevalent as the telephone. Eventually, full text will be available through use of machines that scan documents into machine-readable form or through access to gigantic full-text files, an expansion of present full-text capabilities. Libraries will become partners with other libraries in establishing remote storage facilities supported by document-delivery systems.

With automation, librarians will be able to analyze collections broadly and in depth. They will have the options of creating quick citation lists and selection guides, of identifying last copies for preservation purposes, and of comparing collections for resource sharing. This will allow collection-development librarians more time to select retrospectively or within narrow specialties, to prepare budget projections, and to justify major expenditures for collections or for loading new databases.

### **Means of interaction**

As library reference or information centers become oases of workstations for on-site use, the staff will expand its role in "end-user" training, the training of patrons to execute database searches themselves, thereby reducing dependence on the librarian as searcher. In academic libraries, staff will closely interact with instructors in curriculum planning to direct end-user efforts, helping to manage information access. It will be critical for librarians to have well-developed interpersonal skills, as well as political acumen in relationships with academic departments.

As libraries move away from traditional reference service, they will at the same time provide more appointment-level consultation service for research papers and projects. Librarians will work

directly, one on one, with patrons to identify and define the individual's information needs, to formulate an access methodology, and to direct the patron to the appropriate resources, utilizing document delivery. Librarians will need to have superior planning skills and a knowledge of cognitive and disciplinary research processes, while focusing on providing technological support services.

The team approach in the education process will become more prevalent. Whether a librarian assists users at a workstation cluster or consults with clients in an office or via electronic mail, he or she will function as the team member responsible for managing information access, thereby becoming an integral part of the instruction process.

Librarians will be instrumental in demonstrating new approaches to accessing, using, and manipulating information. Staff members may sometimes find themselves scrambling to familiarize themselves with a new system as client demands exceed staff abilities to assist with information delivery. Managers must therefore play a proactive role in preparing staff for technology, and there are numerous ways that they can do this. For example, they themselves must be familiar with the change process within an organization so that they can keep staff apprised of the process; they should involve staff in the analysis of service options and in planning; they should enlist the help of staff in decision making; they should communicate goals and objectives and keep the flow of information constant; they should explain the consequences of automation honestly and provide continuing education opportunities in automation and computers.

## **ORGANIZATION**

Service innovations will lead to questions about the structure of the library organization, which will in turn force management either to adopt a status-quo attitude or to use the situation as an opportunity for further innovation in the operation of the library. Reorganization of the library's institutional structure will evolve from the implementation of new service options. Libraries and library staff will become entrepreneurial, anticipating and creating services not yet offered but for which a demand can be created. Some of the changes that may take place are the devel-

opment of new authority lines, the blurring of existing lines, the merging of units, and the sharing of responsibilities. A more horizontal structure with fewer levels of hierarchy will probably result. From a static and stable organizational environment will emerge one that is dynamic and turbulent.

Some examples of this movement from the mechanistic to the organic will include the following: position-based authority will evolve into situational authority; formality will be replaced by a lack of formality; a rigid hierarchical structure will give way to an evolving one; fixed duties will become more fluid; formal communications channels will be superseded by more diverse interaction; centralized decision making will give way to decentralized authority; and strong departmental identification will be replaced by collaboration and flexibility.

Library managers cannot ignore the importance of organizational communication and of information sharing. Divisive organizational structures are characterized by the controlled flow of information and by restricted input into decision making. Emphasized "borders" between "territories" impede organizational change. Managers in such situations will find themselves overseeing organizations characterized by hostility, inefficient work patterns, and personnel confrontations. If, on the other hand, the staff understands the organization's direction, has the opportunity for input, and participates in the process of attaining organizational goals, the library will be a dynamic organization in which information is viewed as a resource and the library and its staff as the critical link to this resource.

Because of the need to secure online systems,

rules and regulations are required in an automated environment, and this too unfortunately can result in a contained, closed organization. Again, there is the danger of ideas and creativity being stifled, of innovation having no opportunity to flourish. While remaining aware of the need for security controls, managers must guard against such a danger by keeping those rules and regulations to a minimum and by not allowing them to impede the organization.

How will technology affect library jobs as we know them today? Work will become more visible; functions will merge and tasks will be eliminated; functions will no longer be grouped around files, with the resulting staff "ownership" of those files; staff, management, and clientele will have increased expectations.

In conclusion, in the libraries of the future, greater emphasis will be placed on focused service for the user rather than on reactive service by the organization. Librarians should have highly developed interaction skills, be proactive toward their constituencies, and be naturally flexible and responsive in their approach to diverse service requirements. Staff with subject expertise and technological prowess will be needed; existing staff may have to be retrained to provide this style of service.

The next decade will lead to dramatic changes in the structure of library organization and in library services. A few libraries, fearing risk, will adhere to traditionalism. They will become backwater libraries, isolated from the mainstream and closed to the opportunities of the Information Age. Conversely, libraries that are committed to meeting the expectations of their clientele will become leaders in this brave new world of information technology. ≡

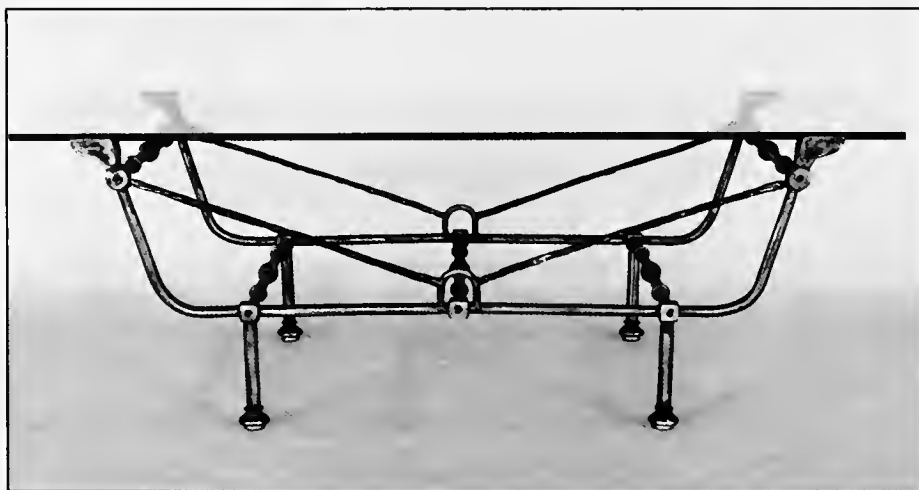
# Turning the Tables, With Style

Handsomely crafted twin coffee tables of iron and glass, which were donated to Fondren Library last summer by their designer and manufacturer, Salman Shah, have added a touch of contemporary elegance to the Sarah Lane Lounge. The tables, part of Shah's Accessories International furniture line, are cleanly modern in style, yet age-old techniques are used in their manufacture. Shah, who is Pakistani, says that his Houston-based business had its beginnings in a Fondren Library carrel, his "first office," where he pored over art books on furniture of the ancient world. Inspired by the styles and motifs of ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Etruscan art, Shah went on to create his own highly individual "neoclassical" designs, which are now featured in design centers and showrooms around the world. He continues to frequent the Fondren art library, often to be found there Sunday evenings, searching for new design ideas for his ever-expanding line of furniture and accessories. The tables that he gave to the library, he says, are "but a small token of gratitude for all that Fondren has contributed toward my success."

Shah's association with Rice University and Fondren Library predates the genesis of Accessories International, however. The library, he says, has played an extensive role in his life ever since

he moved to the United States, in 1979. Having studied mechanical engineering in London as an undergraduate, Shah went on to earn an MBA from Rice University's Jones School in 1981. He spent many hours in the library, he recalls, doing coursework and researching papers. Following graduation he worked as a project manager with a local engineering firm until, after about a year, he was laid off. "That was the best thing that ever happened to me," says Shah about the loss of his job: it served as the catalyst for realizing the longtime dream of starting his own business. Shah eventually persuaded his younger brother, a Texas Tech graduate who was operating a computer firm in Karachi, to join him in a partnership that he hoped would exploit the possibilities of a labor-intensive, low-tech product. From the beginning Shah has been responsible for design work and marketing out of his Houston offices while his brother oversees the manufacturing end of the business in Pakistan.

The brothers did not catapult to their fortunes — at least not immediately. Several false starts proved costly and time-consuming but also enormously instructive, as Shah gradually acquired the necessary business acumen and finally hit upon the motif that launched the company. With modeling clay, he sculpted a



*Trojan coffee table.*

graceful table leg in the form of a swan, which led to the design of the swan lamp table. The instant success of the table generated a line of half a dozen items based on the swan motif, and they remain good sellers to this day.

Fondren's Trojan coffee table is not directly inspired by ancient furniture but is based rather on a table designed by Diego Giacometti (1902-1985), the brother of the well-known Swiss sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti. The younger Diego served as Alberto's assistant, but eventually became recognized as a talented artist in his own right for his furnishings. In the 1980s he was commissioned by the Picasso Museum in Paris to create all the museum's furniture and lighting. Like Alberto's figures, Diego's pieces are very textured and elongated, and they are extremely well proportioned. Shah's contribution to the design of Diego's so-called cradle-table is a

gilded snake (not shown in photo) writhing up one of the crossbars.

According to Shah, the greatest challenge in the furniture business is to continually develop new designs. Every six months a furniture market — or, rather, *the* furniture market — is held in High Point, North Carolina, which Shah describes as “a sleepy little town that suddenly comes to life twice a year,” in April and October, when hundreds of thousands of visitors descend on it. For each market, Shah adds fifteen to twenty new designs to the product line (he also occasionally discontinues an item or two if they are not selling). When asked why he doesn't employ a design staff to assist with the hectic six-month timetable, Shah promptly replied, “That would take away all the fun!” Researching in the library for design ideas reminds him, he says, “of the good old days.” — *Cory Masiak*

## FONDREN LIBRARY SPRING 1990 HOURS

### Building

Monday - Friday	7:45 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - midnight
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

### Circulation (527-4021)

Monday - Friday	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - midnight
Sunday	1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

### Reference (285-5113 or 5119)

Monday - Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	noon - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### Brown Library (527-4832)

Monday - Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### Government Publications (527-8101 x2587)

Monday - Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Center for Scholarship & Information (CSI) (285-5112)

Monday - Thursday	9:00 a.m. - midnight
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	noon - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 p.m. - midnight

### Woodson Research Center (527-8101 x2586)

Monday - Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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### R.i.C.E./Interlibrary Loan (528-3553)

Monday - Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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# THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY



December 1, 1989 -  
February 28, 1990

## Contributors

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*The Friends of Fondren Library is most  
grateful to these new Friends for their inter-  
est and to the Friends of longer standing  
for their support and for renewing their  
commitments.*



Rifat Qureshi, viola, performed the *Allegro moderato* from Franz Schubert's *Sonata in A minor* at the Friends of Fondren and Shepherd School's eighth annual Schubertiad, February 4. He was accompanied on the piano by Katharina Keger.

## GIFTS TO FONDREN LIBRARY



December 1, 1989 -  
February 28, 1990

The Friends sponsors a gifts and memorials program for Fondren Library that provides its members and the community at large with a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides Fondren the means to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

Funds donated through the Friends are acknowledged by the library to the donor and to whomever the donor indicates. Gifts can be designated in honor or memory of someone or on the occasion of some signal event such as birthdays, graduation, or promotion. Bookplates are placed in volumes before they become part of the library's permanent collection.

For more information about the Friends' gift program, you may call Gifts and Memorials or the Friends' office (285-5157). Gifts may be sent to Friends of Fondren, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251; they qualify as charitable donations.

The Friends and Fondren Library gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, donations to the Friends' fund, and donations of periodicals and other materials to Fondren. All gifts enhance the quality of the library's collections and enable Fondren Library to serve more fully an ever-expanding university and Houston community.

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