THE EMERGENCY FUND

The Library has been enabled to purchase several fine and useful books with contributions made by the Friends. When opportunities to purchase special things have come up money has been raised. However, there have often been instances where desirable items had to be ordered immediately or the orders would have been too late. Such instances are offers in catalogues of second-hand dealers, usually from abroad, or in catalogues of auction sales. In order to meet this situation the Council sent out to the Friends a circular letter showing the need for the crea-
tion of a fund, to be drawn upon for purchases where promptness of action was necessary. The responses have been very gratifying, the amount received totaling $804.00. Contributions have been received from the following members of the Friends: George P. Brett, Jr., Robert Bridges ’79, James H. Caldwell, Jr., ’98, Frederic E. Camp ’28, Ernest T. Carter ’88, Philip G. Cole ’06, K. G. Colwell ’17, Arthur H. Dakin, Jr., ’28, Franklin D’Olier ’98, Archibald A. Gulick ’97, Franklin F. Hopper ’00, Elliott H. Lee ’16, Mrs. Eleanor C. Marquand, David H. McAlpin ’20, W. D. McLean ’96, J. Harlin O’Connell ’14, William Church Osborn ’83, Carl H. Pforzheimer, Edward E. Rankin ’09, Harry C. Robb ’97, John H. Scheide ’96, Alice D. Starr, Willard Thorp, S. F. Voorhees ’00, Louis M. Washburn ’15, Edward E. Watts, Jr., ’21, Alfred T. Carton ’05, and Mrs. C. R. Williams.

The existence of this fund has already been nobly justified. We have been enabled to place orders for a remarkable collection of eighteenth century fiction selected from a London dealer’s catalogue. We expect to secure most of them for the orders were written very promptly, thanks to the immediate availability of the fund. We secured at the auction sale held at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, November 22, a beautiful copy of Herman Melville’s Mardi, published in London, 1849, in three volumes, prior to its first appearance in America, together with twenty-one volumes of first editions of Longfellow, most of them variants of copies already in the Library. The Longfellows are lovely copies, and two of them contain autograph letters of the author. A third lot of material secured with the new fund consists of a collection of twenty-two very interesting letters of Thomas Campbell, the Scottish poet. Several of them concern his contemporaries, Mrs. Edgeworth and Madame de Staël. Some deal with the troubles of an editor, and one very fine letter speaks of Lady Byron and Medwin’s biography of Lord Byron. He brands some of Medwin’s stories as lies.

These items which have been secured through the emergency fund show what can be done when money is at hand for the purchase of material as it turns up. It is to be hoped that we may continue to be blessed with such a fund for some time to come.

All purchases charged against this emergency fund are approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

James Thayer Gerould

Mr. James Thayer Gerould, Librarian since 1920, resigned June 23 upon the advice of his physician. Mr. Gerould had been on leave all of last year and it is a source of great regret that he was unable to resume his active duties here. His leadership was a constant source of inspiration to all the members of the Library staff. Let us hope that his health will improve and that he will have many years to pursue some of his varied interests that mean so much to him.
During Mr. Gerould's years as Librarian the Library more than doubled in size (from 444,268 to 919,555 volumes). Many fine and valuable collections came to the Library in the eighteen years. Those collections, many of them gifts, have been described in the Report of the Librarian and in Biblia.

PRINCETON HISTORY IN MANUSCRIPTS

If a friend and alumnus should have come to us in the Library last year with a request that he be permitted to examine all the manuscript letters and documents relating to the college during the American Revolution, the curator of manuscripts would have turned pale. For the arrangement of our manuscripts has always been alphabetical, in vertical files. So, too, our card catalogue of these papers is alphabetical. You say you want to see all the letters we have which were written by President Witherspoon: easy. But all the letters we have which were written during 1776? Impossible—at that time.

They order, said we, this matter better in certain collections of the Library of Congress—and in such a model college collection as that at Dartmouth. We studied and pondered; we gave special consideration to our own peculiar needs and problems. Then boldly, one crisp day last winter, we began the gigantic task of going over every letter and manuscript in our files, so that we might separate our Princeton manuscripts from our non-Princeton manuscripts. It was slow work, which might never have been done without the generosity of an anonymous Friend who enabled us to employ a skillful young lady to assist. Also, Mr. Duffield, the master calligrapher of the staff, found time, between his paternal problems at the circulation desk, to make us a lovely set of index-partitions, one for each year of the college, from its beginning in 1745 (the date of the valued subscription list which the Friends purchased for us so loyally last year) down to 1938. With these dated partitions, it was a simple matter to file each letter of Princeton significance chronologically.

But each day brought forth new problems which troubled us. How should we set the boundaries of Princeton interest? Could we establish flexible rules which could meet any contingency? We are still asking questions. Nevertheless, the main task of sorting and arrangement is now finished. If the hypothetical questioner should return this fall, he would merely need to give us dates: we could lift out of the vertical files of Princeton manuscripts (and incidentally, that ever-growing collection takes up a very substantial section of drawers) all those documents or letters written, let us say, in 1776—or in any other year. If, on the other hand, he wished merely to consult the letters written by Richard Stockton, we could consult the alphabetical index, report the number, the dates, and thus the locations, immediately.

The rearrangement revealed the need for extensive additions in our index, because of newly discovered subject matter and new information about individuals. This analytical cross-reference indexing is progressing steadily at the
present time. When the reorganization is completed, we feel confident that there will be new value for any student or historian who wishes to consult the Princeton papers.

CALEY C. PEIRCE '09 MUSIC LIBRARY

The collection of music in the Library is fairly well rounded out so far as the well known masters are concerned. The field of lighter music, however, is covered in a very haphazard fashion, dependent entirely upon material received in gifts of miscellaneous compositions. Recently, we received from Miss M. B. Peirce the library of her brother Caleb C. Peirce '09. That library contained twenty-two scores of grand operas, and a splendid collection of classical piano music for two, and for four, hands. However, the especial interest of the gift lies in the group of sixty-four scores of comic operas. Comic operas, or musical comedies, as some of them were called, have regrettably become practically extinct in this country except for rare revivals, not counting in Gilbert and Sullivan. The best that we can do now, if we wish to partake of the gusto of the musical side of the stage, as exemplified in the flourishing period of the early nineteen hundreds, is to go over old scores. The gift of Miss Peirce happily makes this very possible. There are the scores of several of the Gaiety Theatre, London, productions, some of which were brought over here, such as Ivan Carryl's "The Toreador," "Our Miss Gibbs," and "The Spring Chicken"; also Lionel Monckton's "A Country Girl," and "The Quaker Girl"; there is a copy of Monckton and Talbot's "The Arcadians," that grand old success "King Dodo" by Gustav Luders, and the old favorite "The Prince of Pilsen," by the same composer. Leo Fall and Victor Herbert also are represented by some of their early shows. Some of these will recall pleasant memories. Miss Peirce's gift included also several old songs in sheet form, among others, many of George Gershwin, from shows which are now musical comedy history.

LIBRARY EXHIBITIONS

To encourage Princeton students in their natural inquisitiveness and to provoke new forages into unexplored realms of gold are vital parts of the University program. The Library is now trying to supplement these objectives by offering an informal "course" or "third elective" by means of an integrated, consecutive series of exhibitions dealing with a subject not otherwise taught at Princeton, and yet always of fresh interest to each generation of students: the history of the book. There will be at least six units in this series, dealing with factors as diverse as writing materials, the development of the alphabet, the rise and decline of illumination in manuscripts, stages in the advance of printing, the effect of the manuscript on the printed book, and the major innovations of various printers since Gutenberg. The first unit, an exhibition which illustrates the kinds of writing materials which have played a part in the gradual develop-
ment of the book, has been open to the public, in the Treasure Room, during the month of November. The second, on the history of the alphabet, will continue from the middle of December to the middle of January.

The permanent interest inherent in exhibitions of this type has led Library authorities to the conclusion that a series of pamphlets concerning the material displayed in this series is decidedly worth publishing, as a record of what the Library owns in these various fields and to what use this material has been put. Mr. Lawrance Thompson, Curator of Rare Books, will supervise the compilation of these pamphlets. The first pamphlet, of twenty-four pages, with a frontispiece and a blue paper wrapper, has been given out to students who have shown interest in the "course" and has been put on sale in the University Store for twenty-five cents each. We wish that expense would permit us to distribute copies to each Friend of the Library, gratis. A subscription for the set costs one dollar only.

LIBRARY GOSSIP AND NEWS

Two additional contributions from Dickson Q. Brown '95 and Philip Le Boutillier '00, were received to complete the amount of money needed to cover the purchase of the subscription list and the Patterson papers, described in Biblia of last June. The usual annual contribution was also received from Howard F. Taylor '08.

An interesting suggestion was made by a member of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. It was to the effect that we determine the resources of the Library in the way of readers and grammars intended for the study of French, German, Italian and Spanish, published in the United States before 1850. Such publications reflect very definitely one phase of the social scene in the earlier days of our country. We found that the Library already possesses an interesting showing of such material. These old readers and grammars are very common in collections of older books, and, if any that are turned up will be forwarded to the Library, they will be most gratefully received.

A remarkable collection of postage stamps, up to the year 1925, is now one of our valued possessions. Mr. Edward L. Pierce made the formal presentation about a year ago, and now all of the albums are here. The size of the collection gives some idea as to its richness, and it is also a fact that there are several stamps of considerable interest and scarcity. The collection is kept in the Treasure Room of the Library, where it can be seen at any time.

Dickson Q. Brown '95 continues to add material to the Rowlandson Collection, which he presented to us some years ago, and which is already truly remarkable.

The late Edward D. Duffield '92 enriched our collection of Princetoniana with a gift of fifteen autographed letters of James McCosh, written between 1873 and 1893.
Every so often John F. Joline, Jr., '07 stops at the Library and leaves a few books as gifts. Recently we received, among others, *Letters writ by a Turkish Spy*, eight volumes, 1753-54, Captain Onesimus (pseud.)—Christ Rejected, printed at Princeton 1835, for our collection of Princeton imprints, and a *Princeton Catalogue*, published in Philadelphia in 1881.

Professor Charles G. Osgood presented two letters signed by Woodrow Wilson, dated April 8, 1905, and November 22, 1906, together with a related letter of Alfred E. Stearns, dated November 15, 1906. He also gave us a copy of William Blake’s *Illustrations to Young’s Night Thoughts*, together with a facsimile of Keats’ autograph manuscript of *Hyperion*.

Henry N. Paul ’84 continues to give us excellent help in building up our collection of critical editions of Shakespeare’s works. Recently we received five sets of eighteenth century editions. The editions which Mr. Paul presents are all valuable for research for they represent the development of Shakespearean criticism. They are selected with that purpose in mind and not to build up a collection of as many editions as possible.

Philip Ashton Rollins ’89 presented a manuscript in the autograph of Washington Irving of *Introduction to the Legend of Prince Almed*.

Jacob N. Beam ’96 turned over to us a collection of German literature consisting largely of writings of Wilhelm Hauff and Ludwig Tieck. Several of these are in the original editions.

Mrs. Loomis C. Johnson presented twenty-one volumes with handsome etchings and engravings. Some of the artists represented are Whistler, Méryon, Van Dyck and Brangwyn.

Edward N. Teall ’02 presented a small group of English and American literature, including first editions of Kennedy’s *Rob of the Bowl* and of Stedman’s *Alice of Monmouth*.


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**DESIDERATA**

The following titles in the field of history have been requested by members of the Department of History of the University. The Library has been unable to purchase them on regular funds. Estimated prices are given. Help to secure these books would be greatly appreciated.

Barbadoro, Bernardino. Le finanze della Repubblica Fiorentina Imposta diretta e debito pubblico fino all' istituzione del Monte. Florence, 1929. $ 5.25

Bertrand d'Argentre. Commentarii in patrias Britonum leges. Paris, 1660. 15.00

7th edition.

Boullenois. Traite de la personnalite et de la realite des lois, coutumes ou statuts. Paris, 1766. 2 vols. 5.00

Il Calefìo Vecchio del Commune di Siena, pubblicato da Giovanni Cecchini. 2 vols. Florence, 1932. 21.00

Charles de Figou. Traite des offices et dignitez. Paris, 1616. 10.00

Ciasca, Raffaele. L'arte dei medici e speciali nella storia e nel commercio fiorentino dal sec. XII al XV. Florence, 1927. 5.25

Corvin, J. Le code Louis XIII. Paris, 1628. 5.00

Coquelle, Guy. Institution du droit francais. Paris, 1666. 10.00

Daniel. Histoire de Milice Francoise. 5.00

Denifle, Heinrich. Die Entstehung der Universitäten des Mittelalters bis 1400. Berlin, 1885. 8.00

Du Moulin. Traite des fiefs. Paris, 1539. 10.00

Elliot, Henry Miers. The history of India, as told by its own historians. 8 vols. London, 1867-77. 200.00

Falkenstein, Johann Heinrich von. Civitatis Erfurtensius historia critica et diplomatica oder vollständige alt-mittel und neue Historie von Erfurth. Erfurt, 1739-40. 2 parts. 9.00
Oorkondenboek van Holland en Zeeland.  

$ 7.50
42.00
3.00
25.00
10.00
8.00
5.00
10.00
30.00
2.60
10.00
41.25
10.50
10.00
0.00
10.00