BIBLIA

A Publication Devoted to the Interests of the Princeton University Library and issued from time to time by the “Friends of the Princeton Library”

Vol. I, No. 1 June, 1930

THE COUNCIL OF FRIENDS OF THE PRINCETON LIBRARY

PHILIP A. ROLLINS, Chairman
28 East 78th Street
New York City

DICKSON Q. BROWN
ALFRED T. CARTON
GEORGE E. CRAMMER
DR. JOHN FINLEY

Col. Ralph H. Isham
Dr. Henry Goddard Leach
Wilton Lloyd-Smith
Junius S. Morgan
Hor. Roland S. Morris

J. HARLIN O’CONNELL
CHARLES SCRIBNER, JR.
FREDERICK J. H. SUTTON
BOOTH TARKINGTON

R. OSLER originated for Oxford University’s benefit an adjunct which he styled Friends of the Bodleian. Presently Harvard University, in aid of her own library, duplicated the scheme; and, as a result, her Friends of the Library have, during the past five years, been vigorously furthering her effort to improve what at the outset of the period ranked already as fifth in order of size among the world’s collections of books.

Following Harvard’s example and acting under thoughtful advice ungrudgingly imparted by Harvardians, a group of men some two months ago launched in Princeton’s interest an association known as Friends of the Princeton Library. This association, being no part of the academic machinery created by the university’s charter, is wholly unofficial and is merely an attempted auxiliary; but it has been warmly welcomed by the university’s authorities.

It parallels no phase of work by either the Graduate Council or Princeton Endowment Fund because, except as hereinafter stated, it will have no dealings with money.

The aim of the association is the obtaining of printed and manuscript material for Princeton, doing this indirectly through creating an intimate acquaintance
between Princeton’s library and such Princetonians and other sympathetic folk as may desire the library’s betterment. Lovers of books can, by making or inducing gifts of volumes, do much to strengthen Princeton.

If the goal is to be reached, the association’s membership should include all the persons who have fondness both for Princeton and for printed pages. Membership enforces no expense, for there are neither initiation fees nor dues. Membership demands no effort other than notifying the association’s secretary that the applicant wishes to enroll. Such notices should be sent to Whitney Darrow, Secretary, at his office, No. 597 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

There soon will be appointed various committees, each of them relating to a specialized sphere of collecting and composed of people actively familiar with the art of collecting in that particular sphere. Nevertheless, it is desirable that every member of the association should maintain a roving and acquisitive eye for books which might be useful to Princeton.

In order that members may be conversant with affairs at the library, they will intermittently—two or three times a year—be sent printed bulletins, of which this present screech represents the initial issue. The successive bulletins will list, as of their dates, the library’s then recent acquisitions and current desiderata. And, as a fillip toward their readability, each issue will contain either a short technical article by a bibliophile or else a previously unpublished literary fragment written by an author whose first editions are sought by collectors. The number of copies printed of each issue will be limited to the few necessary for exchanges and the university’s files and to one for each then member of the association.

There is now being made by the library’s force and by members of the faculty a survey of Princeton’s collections in each academic field; and, in due course, an itemized and authoritative roster of needs in each department will be announced.

Finally comes the hateful subject of money. The association’s quest is primarily for books, and its bounden duty is to refrain from harassing its members and from invading the financial provinces of the Graduate Council and Princeton Endowment Fund. Notwithstanding this, to all such persons as care to contribute money in however small or large amounts and whether on a single occasion or in repeated annual subscriptions, we pledge our honor that their offerings will not be refused. Their checks should be drawn payable to Princeton University, but should be sent to the association’s secretary, who will deposit them in a special fund which the university’s treasurer will maintain for the buying of designated books.

Each donor of money may, if he choose, allocate his gift to the purchase of a specific work, or else toward its purchase if in the latter instance the amount of his gift be less than the price of the work. In this present bulletin are listed two items ardently desired by the Department of History. Would that a syndicate might acquire them for Princeton!

Donations other than of money should be shipped direct to the university’s library at Princeton.
WALT WHITMAN’S NOTES OF HIS WESTERN TRIP

Thanks to the Rosenbach Company there were recently purchased for Princeton’s library ten fragments of paper on which Walt Whitman had in his own handwriting (in pencil on eight of the fragments, in ink on the other two) jotted memoranda which were embryonic, it is said, of a poem then intended but never written—a poem descriptive of America’s West.

One of the paper scraps consists of the front half of a “commercial size” envelope which, addressed to Mr. Whitman and received by him through the mail, was on the reverse side of its front half used by him for note-making. Of the other scraps, three are each of dimensions approximately the same as those of the above mentioned envelope, while each of the remaining six is a trifle larger.

The scraps severally read as follows, the identity of each scrap being herein-after indicated by a serial number arbitrarily inserted by the present editors.

1. Impressive sunsets three beautiful sunsets—over an hour each time. One in Illinois west of Columbus; one at Tower Park St. Louis, and one crossing west Missouri. The golden sun & light blue clouds Wapaling a chief Died 2 years ago 116 years of age a brave blind Indian never spoke English The squad of Indians at Topeka Mr. Smart on the Indians Jack Usher

2. Friday Sept 19 ’79 On the Plains (western edge of Kansas, on to Colorado)—plains—plains—the Dug-outs antelope the Prairie-Dog emigrant wagons camped for the night The vast stretching plains hundreds of miles area the buffalo grass the yellow wild flowers the clear, pure cool rarified air (over 3000 ft above sea level) the dry rivers

3. the ant hill the buffalo wallow the cow boys (“cow punchers”) to me a wonderfully interesting class—clear swarth}y complexion—with broad brimmed hats—their loose arms slightly raised & swinging as they ride—their splendid eyes—(Fra Diavolo and his men in the opera)—a herd of horses numbering 200

4. Tongahocksa Monotony Eagle Tail after a Chief Mirage see mirages train of cars Agate signs of fires a cedar woods, ridge the long furrow for fire-guard an occasional corral

5. (I had just before been for a time in Kansas—some days at Lawrence as guest of Judge Usher—and at Topeka indebted to Mayor Case Stephen F. Smart and Governor St. John for many kindnesses)

6. I did not go through to San Francisco, though I hope to do so one of these days. Indeed I have a good deal of travel laid out; (among the rest Tennessee and Alabama)

7. Return Glints and flashes The swift-passing sights and flashes, (as swiftly while the cars were rushing by)—the bits, names, incidents told me, passing the localities back through Pennsylvania Jan 5 ’80 by the R R from Pittsburgh to Altoona, Harrisburgh the fertile broken country, the mining & coal interests everywhere—the beautiful Conema and the Juniata rivers—Altoona the wooded & rocky land, so healthy & pure-air’d, with creeks or ragged threads of rivulets everywhere—the perpetual clusters of houses in shelter’d places along the mountains

9. —the paths, fences, orchards—at long intervals a grain yard—horse-shoe curve—school houses not so plenty as far west—some of the mountain scenery very bold—Pennsylvania, land of amplitude and varied industries land of mountains and health & pure air—land of coal & iron & railroads

10. Returned from my four months trip (started Sept. 10, ’79, and got back Jan. 5, ’80) through Illinois Indiana Ohio, &c Stored with exhaustless recollections
Dr. James Thayer Gerould, the university’s librarian, sailed in April for Europe where until autumn he will intensively seek material supplemental to the Benjamin Strong Collection on Money, Banking and Public Finance.

Dr. Theodore Whitefield Hunt ’65, retiring some years ago after more than a half century’s membership in the Princeton faculty and recently dying, bequeathed to the university $70,000, of which he apportioned $15,000 to the use of the library: a very touching gift from a beloved professor.

**Recent Acquisitions**

1. Arthur Krock, now of the Board of Editors of *The New York Times*, was correspondent in Paris during the Peace Conference 1918–19. He was, with Herbert Bayard Swope and John E. Nevin as the other two American members, one of the Inter-allied Press Committee which induced the Peace Conference to permit open sessions, and which accomplished, as far as possible, Wilson’s dictum “open covenants, openly arrived at.” He himself tells the story of the difficulty of the newspaper men in making contact with Wilson, together with the report that the conference had ruled against the reporters’ presence at sessions or discussion with conference members. Protests followed, with the result that the newspaper men were called together to formulate a publicity program. This body proved too cumbersome and the committee of fourteen was appointed. The story of the attitude of the various nationalities toward publicity is too long to tell here. The French pressmen seemed opposed to any publicity as our delegates understood it, and an impasse seemed probable, when Mr. Nevin threatened to withdraw our group to formulate separately our own program. At this “give and take” was resumed so that the next morning resolutions demanding publicity were signed by all representatives and resolutions demanding direct representation signed by all except the French. These were presented to the conference with the well known results.

These two original, much revised sets of resolutions, scribbled with soft pencil, have now been inlaid into larger sheets of fine paper, beautifully bound in full leather and boxed and presented to the Princeton University Library by Mr. Krock. Inlaid, bound and boxed in the same sumptuous manner is the original signed message in which Marshal Foch first made a public estimate of the American Expeditionary Forces. This is addressed to Mr. Krock and by him generously given to the university. These two volumes make not only a physically attractive set but one of real interest, being bits of what we call “primary sources.”

**Malcolm O. Young**

*Reference Librarian*

2. Through the generosity of Dr. Otto H. F. Vollbehr, the University Library has received an illuminated choir book of the early sixteenth century. The large volume is in its original leather binding with massive fixtures in bronze. It
Mon cher Monsieur Krock,

La Guerre est un art qui ne peut s'apprendre que par l'expérience.

La plus vaillante armée, en vertu précisément des nobles sentiments qui l'animent, paie très cher les premiers résultats qu'elle obtient sur le champ de bataille et reste quelque temps à comprendre, puis à exploiter les leçons qu'elle a subies.

L'Armée Française de 1914, la Grande Armée Britannique de Lord KITCHENER, la Jeune Armée Américaine de 1918 en sont la démonstration.

Qu'est-ce à dire ? Sinon qu'il faut arriver sur les premiers champs de bataille, avec des armées aussi instruites que possible par les études de paix, mais surtout avec un Commandement et un Corps d'officiers capables de s'adapter aux révélations nouvelles, que leur fournira sur le champ de bataille, un armement inconnu jusqu'ici dans ses puissants effets.

Seules, les Corps et Services, qui ne paraissent pas sous le feu de l'ennemi, peuvent appliquer la méthode qu'ils ont étudiée en temps de paix; et encore au milieu des difficultés fortement inhérentes au nombre extraordinaire de troupes à ravitailler dans la bataille moderne.

Cette indéniable expérience, l'Armée Américaine l'a rapidement et vaillamment traversée, grâce à la tenacité de son Commandement. Il a su exploiter les ressources, que pouvaient lui fournir l'Etat-Major de West Point, les universités et comp-toire, une jeunesse sportive et vigoureuse.

[Signature]

REDUCED FACSIMILE
measures two feet, nine inches in height, one foot, ten inches in width, and is all on vellum. Border decorations show the carefully executed flower forms which we associate with French manuscripts of about 1500, but the donor feels that the book was rather executed in Spain in a generally French style. There are fine, large miniatures marking the chief feasts of the church. The exceptional prominence given to a picture of John the Evangelist suggests that the book may have been made for a church dedicated to the Beloved Apostle.

This lovely gift has come to the Library through the newly organized group, The Friends of the Library, and has helped greatly to round out our collection of illuminated manuscript material.

**Lawrence Heyl**  
*Chief, Acquisitions Department*

**Desiderata**


2. After Dr. Gerould’s return from Europe, announcement will be made of specific needs as regards still other English poets of the nineteenth century. Such of their works as are required for merely instructional purposes in a course now given by the university will not prove expensive: $500 as the probably maximum cost for the entire lot. A corresponding announcement will be made regarding desire for certain English romances of the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, these being necessary in order to raise the present collection to a plane allowing a comprehensive study of the novel’s history.

3. **Modern German Literature.** Although, through purchase of the Blau Memorial Collection, Princeton is exceptionally strong in this field, there should be provided in each of the next five years $1,000 and, following that, $500 a year in order to insure a proper expansion.

4. **Romance Literature.** The library’s present-day annual income from invested funds allocated to this field of French, Italian and Spanish is approximately but $1700. Even such of the collections as are already large need strengthening; for instance, French romances of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Also the Rousseau collection, now one of the best in the country, should be supplemented by a further and collateral collection centering on the litterateurs connected with the Encyclopedia. The library shelves yearn for an adequate collection on Boccaccio, who, in profound influence on later generations, outstripped seemingly all his literary contemporaries save only Dante and Petrarch.

5. **Science.** In biology, Charles W. McAlpin ’88 has for years been purchas-
ing every book and pamphlet which this department requested; but chemistry, physics and geology have no financial patron.

6. **History.** The faculty in history urgently appeals for the following two publications: (a) *Geography of Claudius Ptolemy*: hand colored facsimile reproduction of all the approximately 250 pages forming the superb vellum manuscript atlas dating from the middle of the fifteenth century and now lodged in the Biblioteca Laurentiana Mediceo at Florence, Italy. The hand coloring of each facsimile reproduction is by Florentine miniature painters. The work is of the greatest historical importance as it accurately discloses in detail the extent of geographical knowledge at the time of the manuscript’s making. The reproduction is published by Dr. Edward Luther Stevenson of Yonkers, N.Y., and its price is $1,000. (b) Set of three facsimile reproductions to be published by Levins and Munksgaard of Copenhagen, who charge $200 for the set. These reproductions are of (1) the *Flateyjarbók* manuscript now in the Danish Royal Library and containing an account of the pre-Columbian voyages to America; (2) the *Younger Edda* and (3) the *Codex Regius of Grágás*.

7. **Ornithology.** *Birds and Trees of North America* is a sumptuous work in an edition limited to one hundred sets and comprised in twelve volumes containing, in addition to descriptive text, an aggregate of eight hundred and forty large folio plates which, hand colored, depict with accuracy and charming artistry exemplars of all the twelve hundred species and subspecies catalogued in the American “Ornithological Check List.” These plates result from the forty years which Mr. Rex Brasher of Kent, Connecticut, devoted to close observation of birds in their habitats, to photography and to sketching and painting. Trees, though mentioned in the title, are not attempted to be fully inventoried. Such of them as are pictured serve merely as backgrounds for birds, but nevertheless are listed and described. The first three volumes have already been issued. Volume IV will appear in September, 1930; Volume V in January, 1931; and the remaining volumes at intervals prior to the end of 1933. The price is $2,400 for a set. This cost, though essentially reasonable, has withheld the library from considering even the possibility of making a purchase which would consume so large a portion of the library’s meager funds. The library, thus tempered, does not urge that these particular books be given it, but admits that it would be glad to receive them.

**Charles Scribner, A.B., Litt.D.(hon.)**

**Princeton ’75**

Charles Scribner was an unflagging friend of Princeton’s library.

As a trustee of the university he for many years served as chairman of the trustees’ committee on library affairs. He was indeed fitted for the chairmanship, not only because he markedly possessed administrative ability, but also because by both inheritance and education he knew books.

This knowledge of books extended beyond the scope required by merely a very able publisher. It involved intimate and affectionate acquaintance with the
contents of numberless volumes. Though one of America’s best judges of literary values in belles-lettres, he at the same time kept himself familiar with writings in the field of science, and had an accurate knowledge of printed history—in fact, was an authority on the history of religions and of religious sects.

These accomplishments had their source in a brain which, tireless and extraordinarily logical, moved with intellectual elegance. Withal, Mr. Scribner was so modest that he was shy.

However, his aid to the library was far from being limited to his chairmanship of the trustees’ committee already mentioned.

There was his gift of the Princeton University Press. Until the year 1905 the university had been, for its printing, wholly dependent on commercial printers. In that year 1905 Mr. Scribner and a few fellow graduates, attempting to correct the situation, purchased two small printing establishments in Princeton, consolidated them and put the reconstructed affair under university auspices. Presently, Mr. Scribner, convinced that the enterprise had been shaped on unduly constricted lines, bought land in Princeton; built on it a lovely Gothic building; and in this building installed all the presses, machinery and paraphernalia needful for printing and binding, not only the university’s ordinary publications, but also books of the highest typographic rating.

Incidentally, we well may wonder whether, when he first saw the new plant in full operation, his memory did not swing back through more than fifty years and picture himself as a little boy standing beside his own hand-press and enthusiastically if anxiously pulling from its platen the initial copy of “Merry Moments,” a tiny but thoroughly well-made booklet of which he had been sole author, compositor, proofreader, printer and publisher.

Not content with giving the Princeton University Press, Mr. Scribner, throughout nineteen years, was active in its supervision and management.

Finally, he bequeathed to this Press $50,000, thus making a vigorous start toward the assembling of an endowment fund whereby there might be printed, for learned scholars and for the university’s benefit, erudite works which, though important to students, would not be financially attractive to most publishers.

Also there was his connection with our association, Friends of the Princeton Library. Having advised as to the association’s formative details, he attended the dinner at which the adventure assumed definite shape.

Two weeks later he journeyed to Princeton and was present at the April meeting of the university’s trustees. A few days afterward Charles Scribner, when as yet in full possession of his keen intelligence and his endearing personality, arrived suddenly at his appointed hour.

A university can afford to be highly selective in the objects of her affection and also can be very tender in her loving. That is why beside Charles Scribner’s casket there was placed the most cherished and most rarely granted tribute Princeton can accord to any of her sons: a wreath of ivy which, by the university president’s order, had been cut from the walls of Nassau Hall.

P.A.R.