THE GEST ORIENTAL LIBRARY, which has been on deposit for ten years at McGill University, was acquired last July by The Institute for Advanced Study with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation. It is now at Princeton where, under the arrangement between The Institute and the University, the collection will be administered as a part of the University Library. Of the six or eight major collections of Chinese books in this country only that of the Library of Congress exceeds it in size, and none of them matches it in scholarly value.
Obviously so large a collection as this could not be housed in the present building, and it is now virtually in storage at 20 Nassau Street, pending its temporary installation in a small building on the campus, where it will remain until permanent quarters can be provided for it in the new University Library Building.

Formerly called The Gesz Chinese Research Library, it was founded by Mr. Guion M. Gesz, an engineer and contractor of New York City, who, being attracted to Far Eastern culture through an interest in Buddhist philosophy, conceived the idea of establishing a Chinese library in a western university. Enlisting a personal friend, Mr. I. V. Gillis, Commander U.S.N. (retired), of Peiping, China, as resident collaborator of his Library in the Far East, the collection has been assembled as an organized working library, from its initial holdings of 8,000 Chinese stitched volumes to its present number of 130,000.

Definite emphasis was placed upon the acquisition of dictionaries, catalogues, and encyclopedias; and the collection is especially rich in historical and medical works, and in collective works of belles-lettres. It contains more than 10,000 Chinese folded books, "fasciculi," of Buddhist sacred writings, in print or manuscript, of the Sung, Yüan and Ming periods (A.D. 1232-1643); more than 500 Ming editions (A.D. 1368-1643) of non-Buddhist works; and more than fifty Palace or Imperial editions of the Ch'ing period (A.D. 1644-1911). The Library owns a complete copy of the Mongol Kanjur, or selected Buddhist texts, printed at the Court of the Chinese emperor of the Ch'ien-lung period (late eighteenth century), on loose leaves, 28 by 9 inches in size. Enclosed in wooden tops and bottoms, the set consists of 108 large volumes, with an extra one for the Table of Contents in the four languages of the Court: Chinese, Tibetan, Mongol and Manchu.

The Gesz copy of the complete Palace edition (A.D. 1739) of the then twenty-four dynastic histories is known to be the only one on the continent. In addition to Ming editions of several of the separate histories, the Library possesses numerous volumes on historical subjects in Yüan, Ming, Ch'ing and modern editions of Chinese standard works. Chinese encyclopedias and collected reprints or "collectanea" (ts'uung-shu) of earlier writings provide an inexhaustible and thus far little utilized supply of information on historical and other topics. Among these latter is especially to be mentioned the great K'ang-hsi encyclopedia (T'u-shu chi-ch'eng), the Library copy of which is an original Palace edition, dated A.D. 1726. The only other complete copy in the western world is in the British Museum.

Besides rare editions the Library has acquired the essentially important Chinese standard works in virtually all major fields of study. These standard works may well become the nucleus of a center of Far Eastern Studies.

The importance of such a collection will be increasingly evident. Whatever may be the result of the international contest now going on in the Far East, it cannot be questioned that the Orient, its culture and political development, is
of dominant interest to the West. An area that includes within it a third of the inhabitants of the earth, and possessing a culture older than that of Europe cannot be neglected.

A study of Chinese civilization is basic to an interpretation of the subsidiary cultures: Japanese, Korean, Manchu, Mongol, Tibetan, those of Indo-China and to a considerable degree of India.

There have been centers of Far Eastern studies in Europe for many years, and there is some interest in them in this country at Harvard and Yale, at Columbia and Chicago and in a few other universities. The location of this collection at Princeton offers us an unexampled opportunity. The work in the field of Oriental Art by Professor George Rowley, and the Princeton collections in that field are already of great importance; more recently the addition of Dr. Robert K. Reischauer to the staff of the School of Public and International Affairs has enabled a beginning to be made in the development of Japanese studies.

As an example of studies that are possible, it is interesting to report that an exceedingly well known authority in medicine is at present engaged in an examination of some of the medical texts of the Gest collection to determine whether or not there are elements of Chinese practice which may be adapted for use by the western physician.

As yet no program for further development has been established either by The Institute or the University, but one is being carefully studied. It may be expected that a research group of scholars and postgraduates will in time be attracted to Princeton as a center for Far Eastern Studies.

NANCY LEE SWANN, M.A., PH.D., CURATOR

AN EXHIBITION OF SHAKESPEARE EDITIONS

The first exhibition of Shakespeareana at the Princeton University Library since 1916 was held in the Treasure Room last spring, from April 6 to May 5 in commemoration of the three hundred and twentieth anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

The exhibition was arranged primarily to show, in chronological order, the critical treatment of Shakespeare's text from the First Folio of 1623 to the New Cambridge edition of 1921. A special collection of adapted and stage versions of the plays was also shown; and, in addition, certain miscellaneous items, such as critical works.

The completeness of the various displays was due to the generosity of Henry N. Paul, of Philadelphia '84, and of John H. Scheide '96, in entrusting to the Library rare volumes from their notable collections.

Mr. Paul lent several copies of the first issues of editions of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a large number of the adapted versions and certain rare miscellaneous items.
Mr. Scheide’s loan of copies of the Second Folio, 1632, and of the Third Folio, 1664 (second issue), the latter being especially rare, made it possible for the Library to show together the four Folios of the seventeenth century. The First Folio, the gift of the late William Augustus White, and the Fourth Folio, 1685, also from the Library’s collection, completed this group of early editions.

Of later issues of the plays, practically every edition was shown that represented a contribution to the critical study of the text. Some of particular interest and importance were Nicholas Rowe’s Edition, 1709, containing numerous corrections, complete act and scene divisions, and lists of dramatis personae from the Paul collection; Alexander Pope’s Edition, 1723-25; Lewis Theobald’s Edition, 1733, the first which may be described as truly critical; Samuel Johnson’s Edition, 1765; Boswell’s Malone or the Third Variorum, 1821; and the New Variorum of H. H. Furness and H. H. Furness, Jr., 1871.

The collection of adapted and stage versions of the plays, mostly loaned by Mr. Paul, was one of the most complete to be brought together in America in recent years. These plays were popular on the stage during the Restoration and in the eighteenth century, and in some cases they displaced entirely the original versions. Some of the more notable volumes in this group were the celebrated Nahum Tate King Lear, 1681, with the notorious happy ending; the Dryden and Davenant Tempest, 1670; and the Colley Cibber Richard III, 1700, which long held the stage.

In addition, there were shown from the Princeton Library collections, the Thomas Otway Caius Marius, 1680, an adaptation of Romeo and Juliet with altered names; the James Thomson Coriolanus, 1749; and Edwin Booth’s Prompt-Book of Hamlet, 1878, the last a presentation copy from the Laurence Hutton collection.

A separate group consisted of critical volumes and of books containing allusions to Shakespeare. Here were displayed Thomas Rymer’s Short View of Tragedy, 1693, in which Shakespeare was attacked; Maurice Morgann’s Essay on the Dramatic Character of Sir John Falstaff, 1777, from the Paul collection; and a splendidly bound first edition of William Hazlitt’s Characters of Shakespeare’s Plays, 1817.

A volume of special interest was a copy of the 1645 edition of John Milton’s Poems, from the Library’s recently acquired Milton collection. This edition contains Milton’s famous tribute to Shakespeare, written in 1630. Milton, it is well to remember, knew Shakespeare’s plays only in the somewhat corrupt early seventeenth century printings. Playgoers until the nineteenth century often knew them only through greatly mutilated stage versions. Of the Library’s Shakespeare Exhibition, one of the chief purposes was to show the stages by which the original texts have been at least approximately restored for both reader and playgoer.

Alan M. F. Gunn
"COME TO THE THEATRE YESTERDAY"

The drama is one of the few arts which exists only while it is being performed; consequently it must be studied in the theatre. But an education in the theatre depends not only on the present, but on the past,—and on a realization of the relation between the present and the past. When the performance is over, it vanishes unless records are preserved which will assist its re-creation. That is why we have theatre collections.

For many years Princeton has lagged behind other universities in the opportunities offered for the study of the theatre. The study has now received significant impetus in the acquisition of the William Seymour Theatre Collection through the generosity of Mr. Seymour’s heirs. Details of the presentation have already been given elsewhere (Princeton Alumni Weekly, December 11, 1936); it remains to say something about the collection itself, and to plead for its enlargement and improvement.

Mr. Seymour collected assiduously during his long career as actor and stage-manager. Among the most valuable items is a series of almost three thousand playbooks and prompt-books, many of which preserve by elaborate annotations the physical details of the actual productions. Most of these were associated with Mr. Seymour’s own career; others belonged to his father, the Irish comedian, James Seymour; to his father-in-law, the eminent tragedian, E. L. Davenport; and to his sister-in-law, Fanny Davenport. Playbooks and prompt-books already in the Library have been transferred to the theatre collection, making a total of about five thousand titles.

The proper cataloguing of the loose playbills and programs in the collection will be a long and arduous task, but there is a complete bound set of Haymarket bills from 1793 to 1811, as well as twenty indexed folio volumes covering the last century. The files of letters, clippings, photographs and engravings relate to scores of leading figures in American stage-history during Mr. Seymour’s lifetime, and this is not to mention the mementoes, memoranda, the records, the periodicals and the musical scores.

Over a hundred plays in manuscript include many so far unpublished and of considerable value. Some of these are to appear in print in the great collection being edited by Mr. Barrett H. Clark. The most startling single item is a holograph manuscript of W. S. Gilbert’s Pygmalion, revised for production.

There are more than 800 bound volumes, many of them rare, autographed or extra-illustrated; among these are the valuable Roscius Anglicanus, a history of the Restoration theatre, by John Downes, prompter from 1662 to 1706; a first edition of Colley Cibber’s Apology, extra-illustrated with 54 choice engravings; the Memoirs of Miss O’Neill with 60 portraits and views; The Story of Nell Gwyn, by Peter Cunningham, exquisitely bound, with 156 fine extra-illustrations; many valuable books on costume, including a full leather Racinet: Le Costume Historique in 6 volumes, with 500 plates; Scarf’s Recollections of the
Scenic Effects of Covent Garden Theatre, presented to E. L. Davenport by Macready, and many long sought old plays.

The most notable gift to the collection since its acquisition is the 1790 publication of The Contrast, by Royall Tyler, the first edition of the first comedy written by an American and performed by professionals. Only six copies hitherto have been known, three of which lack the illustration contained in ours. This comes through the generosity of Mr. Robert Williams '15, who is also presenting to the Library a number of other valuable old plays. Other additions include 125 books from the Princeton Triangle Club; substantial gifts from the Museum of the City of New York, Paramount Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Professor Richard M. Field and other friends; the receipts from the New York performances last spring of Peer Gynt by the Theatre Intime and Finch School, which enabled us to buy, among other things, rare plays and periodicals and the copy of Brereton's The Lyceum and Henry Irving, presented by Irving to Ellen Terry, and containing notes by Miss Terry.

Theatrical material in other parts of the Library will be transferred to the William Seymour Theatre Collection as soon as it is fully catalogued. Meanwhile it is essential that the curator shall continue to develop the collection by the acquisition of new material. At the moment we very badly need an "angel" who will assist us. There are no funds available for further buying, and much that is on the market is increasing in price. This is, therefore, a plea for some "Friends of the William Seymour Theatre Collection."

Readers of this periodical, however, can be of great assistance in other ways. I should lay a small bet that half of them have hidden away in attics or cupboards programs, plays, and other theatrical material which is mouldering and accumulating dust, and which will eventually be discarded or destroyed out of sheer desperation, unless its value to stage-historians is realized. The study of the theatre has been made difficult because its source-material has been perishable. In the William Seymour Theatre Collection, it will be preserved and catalogued, and made available to those alike who need it for research and those who want to catch again the fragile glamour of the past.

Robert H. Ball

TWO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

During the past four years, Francis H. Payne '91 has generously supported our rather extensive buying in the province of Victorian poetry. Last spring, consequent upon the establishment in the curriculum of a graduate course in prose fiction, he made the Library a special gift to allow the purchase of about sixty novels of the period 1750-1830. Included among these books are novels by many writers, of whom little is known, so that their works will be valuable material for the researches of our graduate students.
The fund presented to the Library by friends of Professor J. Duncan Spaeth, on his retirement from the Faculty last June, reached the total of $860.00. This money has been used for purchases in the field of American Letters, a subject which Professor Spaeth virtually established in the Princeton curriculum. Since the subject is fairly new at Princeton, there has been hitherto no systematic buying of Americana. Consequently the gaps in our collections are many and curious.

The money from the Spaeth Fund has been spent principally in three ways: for works by Southern writers, to supplement the extensive buying in Southern history; for gift books and annuals, in which much of the work of men like Poe and Hawthorne appeared; and for indispensable firsts of such men as Stephen Crane and Frank Norris. A few rarities were bought. To name two: Elihu Hubbard Smith's *American Poems: Litchfield, 1792*; *Love Letters of Nathaniel Hawthorne*, Society of the Dofobs: Chicago, 1907. This edition was limited to fewer than one hundred copies and was issued only to subscribers. The copy we have is made up of the bound proof sheets and contains letters and notes connected with the publication of the book.

The Library must continue buying American literature, although the money from the Spaeth Fund is now exhausted. It should have a special endowed fund for this subject similar to the Class of 1875 Fund for Poetry and the Parker Lloyd-Smith Memorial Fund for the Drama. Meanwhile, we hope that special gifts by those interested in the subject will enable us to keep on with the work so well begun by the friends of Professor Spaeth.

*Willard Thorp*

**SHELDON COLLECTION ENLARGED**

The Friends will recall the splendid gift, made by Mrs. Charles G. Osgood in 1934, of the private library of the late E. W. Sheldon '79. At that time, Mrs. Osgood reserved a number of the more valuable books for possible future sale. Some months ago she graciously permitted the Library to select, from among those so reserved, those which we felt were the most desirable additions to our collections. Fifty-six very important volumes were chosen. Among them were firsts of Scott’s *Marmion* and the *Lady of the Lake*; Shelley’s *Prometheus Unbound*, and *Posthumous Poems*; Keats’ *Lamia*, Coleridge and Wordsworth’s *Lyrical Ballads*, Darwin’s *Origin of Species* and many of the *Grolier Club* publications. The latter very nearly complete our file of the works issued by that Club.

The remainder of the reserve has been put in the hands of a New York bookseller, under a contract of sale which will presently yield several thousand dollars. In accordance with Mrs. Osgood’s wish, the receipts will be added to the capital of the Sheldon Fund ($23,000), established by Mr. Sheldon during his lifetime.
THE ONE HUNDRED BOOKS AGAIN

In the issue of *Biblia* for February 1936, a sad story was told which demonstrated that, of the one hundred great English books, the Princeton Library has examples, in the first editions, of only 18; Harvard has 79; Yale 74. This news stirred up considerable interest. In the first place, the Chapin Library of Williams College, with a proper pride, reported that it possesses 72 of the 100 volumes. Yale corrected the statistics and brought her total to 76.

The Henry E. Huntington Library at San Marino, California, reports that it has in its collections 95 of these books, with two of the remaining five in the second editions. No one is going to dispute such preeminence! The Huntington Library has paid Princeton the compliment of making this list in *Biblia* the basis for the assemblage in a special shelf of these 97 books. These will be shown to visitors who want speedy proof of the richness of that Library, and we are sure they will not be told of Princeton’s ignominious rating. Our number—18—has, by the way, been raised slightly since the list was compiled. In the recent Sheldon gift, made by Mrs. Charles G. Osgood, came the 1820 *Prometheus Unbound* and the 1820 *Lamia*; Thomas W. Hotchkiss ’89 has given us meanwhile the 1851 *Moby-Dick*. Thus the final score stands:

Huntington 95
Harvard 79
Yale 76
Chapin 72
Princeton 21

GIFTS AND TAXES

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by President Karl Compton of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but it is applicable to Princeton, and the Princeton University Library in particular:

“Some of you should examine the possibilities afforded by the tax laws whereby you may be able to contribute largely to our program at relatively small net cost to yourself. This is particularly true of those in the higher income brackets. The tax laws have been thus purposely framed to encourage private philanthropy. All gifts to colleges and universities are exempt from gift taxes and bequests are exempt from all Federal estate taxes. Individuals are allowed to deduct from taxable income up to fifteen per cent of their annual income for gifts to schools and colleges, and corporations can similarly deduct up to five per cent. These deductions count in the highest surtax brackets. A trust fund or an estate or an insurance policy has certain privileges if a college is the beneficiary. Under certain conditions an educational institution can receive a gift of cash or securities, and pay annuities to the donor or to persons designated by him under very favorable conditions.”
TWO IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS

For many years John H. Scheide '96 has been a generous Friend. Every now and then he finds something in a book catalog which seems of special interest to the Library and offers to purchase it for us.

He has added to our obligation by depositing in the Library two collections of manuscripts of the very highest importance.

The first is a portion of the oldest manuscript of the Bible extant. Some time ago there appeared on the market, from what source no one knows, a number of leaves of papyri containing portions both of the Old and the New Testaments, and Mr. Scheide was the fortunate purchaser of twenty-one of them, containing parts of Ezechiel, chapters 19-39. There is agreement among scholars that this manuscript, which is, incidentally, in a remarkably good state of preservation, dates at approximately A.D. 200. Other leaves are owned by the University of Michigan and by A. Chester Beatty '97.

Of scarcely less significance is an extensive collection of vellum documents, deeds, wills, charters, marriage settlements, bulls, etc., originating in Central Italy and dated from the tenth to the eighteenth centuries. Thus far, Mr. Scheide has deposited 2350 of them in the Library, and it is understood that as many more will be sent to us later.

These documents are a mine out of which our students of European history will dig all sorts of interesting facts regarding the social and economic life of the time.

MUSIC BOOKS AND PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

A collection of 100 books about music and 150 bound musical scores was received by the Library in December as a joint gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Paul Bedford '97. These volumes represent a part of what is known as the Carnegie College Music Set and are supplemented by an excellent modern phonograph, 945 carefully chosen phonograph records and well made storage cabinets.

This material is an invaluable aid to the work of the undergraduate courses in music, making it possible for properly trained students to work in certain fields for which the University collection had provided very few, if any, documents. The books and scores will be of service principally to the undergraduates taking courses dealing with the music of the last 300 years. No research material strictly speaking is included in this collection, but the current literature is well represented.

This gift is a substantial help toward the goal of so complete a library of scores and records that no student shall find us lacking any of the available tools for study. We cannot rest content until the Library contains every important phonograph record that is published and the complete works in score of all significant composers.

R. D. WELCH
THE HENRY VAN DYKE PAPERS

Shortly before he left Princeton to become Head Master of the Gunnery School, Tertius van Dyke '08, on behalf of the literary executors, presented to the Library the manuscripts, correspondence and other papers, of his father, the Reverend Henry van Dyke '73. A descriptive account of the collection, written by W. C. Ackerman '31, appeared in the *Alumni Weekly* on October 31, 1936.

Henry van Dyke's career was a singularly versatile one. Professor Spaeth, in the *Dictionary of American Biography*, characterizes him as "poet, preacher, author, university teacher, diplomat." He should have added "fisherman" to the list, for in this phase of his career, as in all of the others, he achieved distinction. His correspondence reveals him in all of these aspects. Opening any of the boxes quite at random, one finds letters from men of such diversified types as "Uncle Joe" Cannon, Sidney Lee, John Kendrick Bangs, Howard Chandler Christy, John Bigelow, Percy Mackay, Julia Marlowe, James Bryce—the list might be continued indefinitely. His capacity for friendship knew no limits and it included "all sorts and conditions of men."

Dr. van Dyke's vigorous and effective service as Minister at The Hague during the early years of the war is reflected in his extensive correspondence at that time. Two letters from Rudyard Kipling, seeking aid in locating his son, who, it was soon learned, had been killed in action, are a striking example of many similar requests that came to him.

A large number of boxes are filled with the manuscripts, generally holograph, of his books, his addresses and his contributions to periodicals. A series of scrapbooks, maintained throughout his life, contain a systematic record of articles by and about him.

At present the correspondence is only roughly arranged, but later we hope to have it put in as good order as is the similar collection of the papers of Laurence Hutton.

A SIAMESE COIN COLLECTION

The collection of coins and medals which forms part of the treasures of the Princeton University Library has been recently enriched by the generosity of Dr. William Harris '92, principal of The Princess Royal's College, Chiang Mai, Siam. The gift consists of an assortment of coins dating from the thirteenth century to the present day. Many are of a style that has been in use for ages up to comparatively recent years.

There are many varieties among them: cowrie shells, actual sea shells which have supplied for ages convenient small change for the Pacific Asiatic coast; flower money, so-called because of a fancied resemblance of the surface to flowers; leaf-money, veined or lined like leaves; TOK money, thick heavy discs of many varieties with convex backs, many stained yellow or brown, having been poured on to egg-yolk or chicken-blood in the process of manufacture;
horse-hoof money; pig-mouth money; these last two from fancied resemblances to the objects from which their names are derived; bar-money, many examples of which are stamped with an elephant, some plain, some highly ornamented, of varying qualities of silver. None of these bears inscriptions or evidence of date or place. All come from northern Siam or across the Burmese border and some are mentioned in Siamese writings as having been in use as far back as the thirteenth century. There are also saddle-shaped lumps of solid silver; bullet-money, bearing small inscriptions, pictorial. The names indicate the bizarre character of the coins. Some were not intended for commercial circulation, but as dowry or wedding gifts.

In addition to these queer types there are about thirty-five modern coins of the past sixty years, dated and inscribed after the style of Western coinage.

Dr. W. Harding Kneedler, of the Class of '22, has supplemented the Harris collection by a gift of eleven copper and brass weights, beautifully carved in the shape of ducks, elephants, lions, etc.

The collection is fairly representative of the coinage of northern Siam, and will fill an important gap in the Asiatic portion of the University collection which already has a fair variety of Moghul and Chinese coins.

Shirley H. Weber

N.B. J. Christy Wilson '19 has supplemented his former large gifts to our coin collection by presenting 137 ancient coins which he found in the bazars of Tabriz, Persia.

THE ARTHURIAN LEGEND

As a memorial to her son, William Pitman Earle, III '38, who was killed in an accident a year ago, Mrs. W. P. Earle, Jr. has presented to the Library a collection of fifty-six volumes which illustrate the modern treatment of the Arthurian legend. The earliest is a copy of the second edition of Dryden's *King Arthur*, 1695. The remainder of the works are of the last century and the present. Tennyson is represented by “firsts” of the *Idylls of the King, Gareth and Lynette*, and the *Holy Grail*, the latter bearing the book plate of Edmund Clarence Stedman. The original edition of William Morris' *Defence of Guenevere* is supplemented by the one printed at the Kelmscott Press, and the later printing by Mosher.

Matthew Arnold was so dissatisfied with his *Empedocles on Etna* (1852), which contains his *Tristian and Iseult*, that he withdrew and destroyed the entire edition. Less than fifty copies had been sold and one of them found its way to the hands of Mrs. Earle.

The copy of Ralph Adams Cram's *Excalibur* is of peculiar interest, as it was presented by him to Julia Marlowe and it bears the Marlowe-Sothern book plate. The Arthurian poems of Thomas Hardy and of John Masefield are represented both by the limited and by the trade editions. Among other authors whose work
is included in the collection are Richard Wagner, Edward Arlington Robinson, Richard Hovey, Louis Ansneider, Swinburne, Symons and Chesterton.

PAUL ELMER MORE FUND

The endowment fund for books in the field of literary criticism, established in honor of Paul Elmer More, has grown steadily during the past year. Contributors to this fund, to date, have been:


Mr. More’s death on March 9, after a long illness, was an irreparable loss to letters, to religion and to Princeton. The manuscript of his last book, Pages from an Oxford Diary was turned over to the Princeton University Press late in February and will be published in late spring or early summer.

THE FRANCIS C. MACDONALD COLLECTION

There have been very few members of the Princeton faculty, in the present generation, who have had a wider, or more intimate, circle of student friends than Professor Francis C. MacDonald ’96; and his influence, in developing among them a love of good literature, has been lasting.

While Professor MacDonald was not a “collector,” in the restricted sense, he built up, during the forty years of his connection with the University, a private library, largely of English and American literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, amounting to about 4500 volumes.

Some months ago his doctors persuaded him that the Princeton climate was too treacherous for him, and he emigrated to Hawaii, deciding that it was unwise to take his books with him. Learning of this, a group of his former students determined to purchase his library and present it to the University.

The gift was enthusiastically welcomed. While a majority of the titles were already represented in our catalog, we were able to use the MacDonald copies either as replacements for books battered and dog-eared by extensive reading, or as supplemental to those on our shelves. Whenever books are on the reading lists for undergraduate courses, duplicates, sometimes a good many of them, are required, and it is always convenient to have an extra copy at hand when the other is in use.

Aside from the books on literature, criticism and history, Professor MacDonald had several hundred books on Siam, the country of his birth, and for several years, his residence. While a detailed examination of these books has
been deferred until those more immediately useful have been cataloged, enough is known about them to demonstrate that the group is of great value.

In each of the volumes will be placed a book plate, designed by Professor Francis A. Comstock ’19, on which is inscribed, “Presented to Princeton University Library, by friends of Francis C. MacDonald, Class of 1896. Member of the Faculty 1905-1936.”

TWO CLUB HISTORIES

Interesting phases of social life of the City of New York in the nineteenth century are reflected in two privately printed volumes which have just been presented to the Library. The first is the Mother of Clubs, being the History of the First Hundred Years of the Union Club, by Reginald T. Townsend ’12. The copy is of particular interest since it is inscribed by all the distinguished group of gentlemen who are now officers and governors of the Club.

An exceedingly amusing feature of the volume is the diary, of almost Pepysian interest, of a member of the Club, from June to December 1839. The anonymous diarist was a true gourmet, and he meticulously records what he ate and how he liked it, the amount of water he drank at Saratoga Springs, and of champagne at the Club and elsewhere. He was emphatically a gentleman of leisure, and no theatrical performance nor exhibition of pictures seems to have escaped him. He pronounces George Barnwell, heard on December 7 as “very lachrymose and insufferably dull. A big fat woman played Millwood, with a red rose stuck in her bosom.”

Those of us whose hair is sufficiently gray can remember the four and six horse coaches and drags occupied by members of the Four Hundred, which, from time to time, were seen on the Avenue and on the roads of the surrounding country. Mr. Reginald W. Rives has told the story of the Coaching Club in a sumptuous volume, an inscribed copy of which he has been good enough to send to Princeton. The Club was formed in 1875, and while it is still in existence, the last formal trip made by its members was in 1916.

COVENTRY PATMORE

Coventry Patmore, whose The Angel in the House sold in the reign of Victoria close to a quarter of a million copies, has recently emerged from the disfavor into which popular Victorian poets have fallen in this century. The amount of attention which he is at the moment receiving from the biographers and scholars may even be the prelude to a Patmore vogue. We should be glad to see him saved from this, though it might help to establish generally what is certainly a fact, that he is among the first poets of the Victorian age.

The Library, through the gift of Francis H. Payne ’91, has just added to its Patmore items a copy of the second part of The Angel in the House (The Espousals, 1856) which is rich in interest. Presented to Frederick Locker, himself
the author of a volume of verse that was published in many editions, it bears
the inscription: "F. Locker, Esq. The MS. Corrections are partly unpublished

These emendations are extensive and will be of great use to anyone studying
the numerous alterations which Patmore, impelled by the momentous spiritual
changes in his life, made between the first edition in 1856 and the last revision
published in 1886.

Locker or some subsequent owner of the book has inserted the following letter
from Patmore to the publisher Moxon. So far as we know it has not been pre-
viously published.

British Museum.
Dec. 3. 1852.

My dear Sir,

I am about to republish my poems revised and curtailed; and about as
many new ones with them. I have heard you say generally that you do not
intend to publish any more new poetry, but as you published the first ed-
tion, I think it proper to have your distinct refusal before placing the mss.
in the hands of another publisher. Will you favor me with a line at your
earliest leisure.

Yours faithfully
Coventry K. Patmore.

p.s. Of course I expect to take the whole expense myself, and should give
ample security, or a considerable money deposit, if required, to make up
any loss that might accrue.

I am also about to publish a small volume on architecture, developing
the views expressed by me in an article wh. appeared in the Edinburgh Re-
view last year upon Ruskin. I should be glad to know if you would like to
undertake its publication—also upon my own risk.

E. Moxon Esq.
Dover St.

The 1853 volume, Tamerton Church Tower and Other Poems, bears the imprint
of Pickering.

BOOKS BY PRINCETONIANS

A special exhibition of published volumes and manuscripts by alumni, dis-
played in the Treasure Room during the last two weeks of February, attracted
wide interest on the part of alumni and other friends of the University. During
the Washington’s Birthday week-end the Treasure Room had more visitors
than at any previous mid-winter gathering of Princetonians and their friends.

Few who inspected the exhibit could have failed to gain a new realization of
the long literary productivity of Princeton alumni, and of the range and quality of their works. The span of Princeton authorship was shown to stretch from the Class of 1751 to the Class of 1936, and to cover all fields of literature. Nine Pulitzer Prize winners were represented. The material, which also included pictures, letters and other mementoes of several authors, was assembled under the direction of Professor Willard Thorp of the Department of English.

In order to make room for the showing many cases of the Treasure Room’s rarities had to be removed temporarily from view, but even with virtually all of the room’s display facilities preempted space was inadequate to represent all alumni with published writings to their credit. It was possible, however, to show works by nearly one hundred authors.

The exhibition renewed the hope that facilities will sometime permit a display of the extensive Princeton Collection, which, as a nucleus, would make it possible to attempt a complete exhibition of Princeton authorship. To this end it is also hoped that alumni authors will keep the collection abreast of their published works and will realize the richness which will accrue to the collection through the deposit or presentation of manuscripts of their writings.

LIBRARY GOSSIP AND NEWS

The late James Barnes ’91, previous to his death, designated a number of his books which he wished eventually to be in the Princeton Library. One day last October Mrs. Barnes graciously turned them over to us. Almost all of them are “colored plate” books of the early nineteenth century, works by Egan, Milford and their school, illustrated by Cruikshank, Rowlandson, and similar artists of the time. The gift supplements effectively our very rich resources which we owe to Mr. Meirs and our chairman Mr. Brown.

Wilson Farrand ’86, a member of the Board of Trustees since 1914, signalized his retirement from teaching and his removal to Princeton by presenting the Library with a large share of his private library, not far from 1000 volumes. Although many of the books were already represented on our shelves, we are finding a large number very useful indeed.

During his long career as an exponent of the highest ideals of physical education Dr. Joseph E. Raycroft was a constant buyer and collector of books within that field, and after his retirement last June he presented them to the University, with the understanding that they are to be maintained as an office library for his successors at the Gymnasium. Approximately 1000 volumes are now being cataloged.

The Reverend W. G. Van Tassel Sutphen ’82 has been a golf enthusiast for a good many years, as his books, the Golfer’s Alphabet, Golfsicide, and the Nineteenth Hole testify, and during these years he has collected books on the royal game. A short time ago, he generously sent the Library seventy-five of them.
If any of the Friends desire to improve their golf by consulting the pundits, these books are at their service.

The months which have passed since the last issue of Biblia have been so many, and the number of gifts has been so large, that space permits no more than a mention of the names of the generous givers. At each meeting of the Board of Trustees a full report on gifts is presented, however, and public acknowledgment is made through the press.