BIBLIA

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THE ANNUAL DINNER

THE evening of May 12 a dinner meeting of the Friends of the Library was held in the Shell Room of the RCA Building, Rockefeller Center. There were addresses by Mr. Lawrance Thompson, Mr. Neville Miller '16, and Professor Gilbert Chinard. Mr. Thompson stressed the indebtedness of the Library to its Friends, from Governor Belcher down through the years, how it would like to do something in return and offered closer cooperation with Friends who are book collectors. Mr. Miller described the present status of the President's Program, in so far as
it directly concerns the new Library building and its endowment. Professor Chinard spoke on the very great importance of the Library in an institution of learning. Mr. Lawrence Heyl, Acting Librarian, reported briefly on recent acquisitions and answered questions.

Professor Chinard very forcefully expressed the fact that buildings and equipment in an institution of learning become obsolete and have to be replaced, but a collection of books goes on through the centuries, becoming more, rather than less, valuable with the passage of time. A collection of good books is truly an investment for the future.

The regular funds of the Princeton Library are used largely for the purchase of books needed for current work. These funds are inadequate for any considerable buying of the older and rarer books which are needed for research. It is right here that the Friends are giving us excellent help. Each book secured with contributions has overcome one more deficiency in the Library, each one has made it that much more possible to carry on scholarly research.

At times collections made by scholars in special fields come on the market. Such collections should be secured en bloc, if possible, for often they are practically impossible to duplicate. In order to finance the purchases of such collections we need help. Exceptional opportunities of this sort will in most cases fall outside of the fields of purchase that can be covered by endowed funds, and this will continue to be so even after the additional endowments for book funds will have been realized under the President’s Program.

At the meeting the following members were elected to the Council of the Friends: Neilson Abeel ’24, Philip G. Cole ’06, Robert Cresswell ’19, André de Coppet ’15, Franklin H. Hopper ’00, Mrs. Allan Marquand and Elliott H. Lee ’16.

THE PRESIDENT’S PROGRAM

It is most gratifying to all of us who realize fully how imperative is the need for the new Library building (and who does not realize this?) to see how much publicity this need is receiving. The drive to raise the necessary amount of money is progressing from two angles. First, there is the excellent work going forward under the capable direction of Mr. Neville Miller, which is part of the plan for the realization of the President’s Program. Then there is the program of the undergraduate committee, which has set for its goal $100,000. In the April 1 issue of the Princeton Alumni Weekly the leading article, by Allen O. Whipple, Jr., ’39, demonstrates ably and conclusively the inadequacies for work in the present building. Such an article, written by a person who sees the picture from the point of view of the user and not as a member of the Library staff, is immensely convincing. The chart at the end of the article shows how the book circulation per student has quadrupled between 1900 and 1937, which leaves no question as to how much real use the students make of the Library collection.

Parallel to the imperative need for the new building is the demand for present
Whereas there is a purpose of erecting a collegiate school in the province of New Jersey for the instruction of youth in the learned languages, liberal arts, and sciences. WE the subscribers in order to encourage the same and to promote the said undertaking do hereby promise to pay the sum of one hundred pounds to each of our names at or before the first day of June next ensuing the date hereof unto Patrick Hunter Morris, and Thomas Johnson, Esq., of New Jersey, or to James Alexander and William Smith, Esq., of New York, or to either of the said persons, and we only intend to apply the interest of the money to be subscribed for the purpose aforesaid, and the subscribers are to be at liberty either to keep the money subscribed in their own hands, and to pay the interest after the said first day of June, yearly, or to pay in the principal subscribed when they please, in order to be put out to interest for the purpose aforesaid, witnessed our hands the twenty-fifth day of March, 1745.

John Burnet, John Burnet.

Proclamation money.

From Alexander, twenty pounds.

From Thomas Johnson, twenty pounds.

From John Miller, twenty pounds.

From Abraham Love, twenty pounds.

From James Murray, twenty pounds.

From John Smith, twenty pounds.

From Robert Christie, twenty pounds.

From James Robertson, twenty pounds.
funds for the purchase of books. On page 579 of the April 1 issue of the Alumni Weekly is a chart showing that our Library is now tenth in size among those of leading American universities. Had it not been for the addition of the Gesi Oriental Library (133,419 volumes), which came through a purchase out of funds of the Institute for Advanced Study with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation, we should be in eleventh place. Admittedly size is not everything, but up to a point it is a most important indicator. In an institution which has the educational program and ideals of Princeton the Library is the heart of all work carried on in the humanities and social sciences. Books are for students in these fields what the laboratory is to the worker in scientific lines. The scientist needs books, of course, in order to keep abreast of developments in his field, but the laboratory is his chief theater of operation. The worker in the humanities depends entirely upon books, and the social scientist almost as much so. The Princeton Library is rich in several fields but very inadequate in many others. In order that Princeton may be enabled to realize more fully its educational ideals the Library funds must be increased so that the requirements for research are more amply supplied. Facilities for research are most important in connection with the caliber of the faculty. The four-course plan which leads up to the senior thesis also requires a rich library upon which the seniors can draw for the material needed for their theses. Until the book funds are greatly increased all kinds of research, be it that of seniors, graduate students, or faculty, will continue to be greatly hampered.

THE BEGINNING OF PRINCETON

Through the generosity of the Friends the Princeton Library now possesses what is the keystone of a collection of Princetoniana. This most important item is the original subscription list for the “purpose of Erecting a Collegiate School in the province of New Jersey for the instructing of youth in the learned Languages, Liberal arts and Sciences,” dated March 5, 1745, a year and one-half before the granting of the first charter. The list is signed by Andrew Johnston, President of the Board of Proprietors and Treasurer of the College of New Jersey; Chief Justice Robert H. Morris; James Alexander, Member of Council; Judge Charles Read; William Smith, historian; John Johnston; John Burnet; John Coxe; and Abraham Lodge. Of these, William Smith was a member of the original Board of Trustees.

This document was secured at the auction sale of the property of J. Lawrence Boggs held on May 11, and was shown at the Friends’ dinner the evening of the following day. Mr. E. Byrne Hackett, who had conducted the bidding in most capable fashion, generously had the document framed so that it was possible to display it properly. A facsimile appears in this issue of Biblia.

At the same sale the Library secured a collection of manuscripts, letters, and documents, consisting mainly of papers of William Paterson, Princeton 1763,
later a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Most of these pieces are of
direct Princeton interest, and help very much to round out our collection of
source material on the history of Princeton.

There is also a collection of letter books and manuscripts by William Paterson.
The collection includes Paterson’s own copies of all of his letters to John Mac-
pherson, Jr. Although some of these were published in *Glimpses of Colonial
Society And the Life at Princeton College 1766-1776*, edited by W. Jay Mills,
Philadelphia, 1903, the others also contain a great deal of material of real value.
Mr. Mills says of the Paterson letters: “As a portrayal of New Jersey colonial
life by the pen of a Princeton alumnus they are unique.”

These three groups were purchased with contributions generously made by
Henry J. Cochran ’00; Mrs. Abraham Flexner; John W. Garrett ’95; Archibald
A. Gulick ’97; James H. McLean ’01; Mrs. Albert E. McVitty, Albert E.
McVitty ’98; Albert E. McVitty, Jr., ’32; Dean Mathey ’12; Williamson Pell
’02; and John H. Scheide ’96.

LUTHER MARTIN

We are greatly indebted to Luther Martin, 3d, president of the Alumni Asso-
ciation of the University of Pennsylvania, and a trustee of that institution, and
to John E. J. Fanshawe ’00, through whom the gift was received, for three items
of great interest. These are a manuscript letter of Martin, a broadside sheet, and
a pamphlet, all related to the career of Luther Martin of the Class of 1766. Mr.
Lawrence Thompson has prepared an article for the *Princeton Alumni Weekly*,
in which the historical background of these three pieces is fully described.

GARRETT COLLECTION OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS

The collection of Arabic manuscripts owned by Mr. Robert Garrett ’97, and
deposited in the Princeton University Library, comprises over 4,500 titles and is
the largest of its kind in America. Its value, however, lies not so much in its size
as in its contents. It has specimens representative of almost all Moslem lands,
scripts and disciplines. The authorship includes Spanish Moslems, Berbers,
Egyptians, Syrians, Arabians, and others of Persian, Turkish and Malay origin.
Almost all the great thinkers and authors of Islam, such as Avicenna, Averroës,
al-Rāzī (Rhazes) and al-Ghazzāli (Algazel), are represented by one or more
works. The dates of composition range from the eighth to the nineteenth century
and the provenance from Andalusia and Morocco to Burma. Certain copies in
the collection were made for members of Saladin’s dynasty, others for the
Mamlûk sultans of Egypt, and still others for the caliph-sultans of Turkey. Of
the Koran codices several folios compare favorably in elegance of calligraphy and
sumptuousness of illumination with their counterparts in Cairo, Constantinople
or anywhere else in the world.

Work on the catalog began some five years ago and was done under the super-
vision of Professor Hitti by graduate students, chief among whom were Nabih A. Faris, now research associate in the Department of Oriental Languages, and Butrus ʿAbd-al-Malik, now on the faculty of the Evangelical Seminary at Cairo, Egypt. For the last two years and a half the American Press in Beirut has been engaged in printing it. It is hoped that by the end of this summer the volume will be out. For the first time scholars anywhere will have a chance to acquaint themselves with the treasures of the Garrett Collection. The description of each manuscript is quite complete, giving full details of the physical form as well as the contents. A unique feature will be a report from the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., on the composition of the paper in forty-nine manuscript cuttings. The clerical work in connection with compiling the catalog, as well as the publication, was made possible by a grant from the General Education Board, through the Princeton Council of the Humanities.

—PHILIP K. HITTI

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ENGLISH POETRY

With funds made available partly through the generosity of the recently deceased James H. Lockhart ’87, and the Friends of the Princeton Library, Princeton has recently added to her rapidly growing collection of eighteenth century poetry some five hundred titles, for the most part first or second editions of individual poems. Though there are among them four first editions of Pope, three of Prior, two of Akenside, a first edition of Swift’s Miscellany of Prose and Verse, of Percy’s Reliques, and so on, the proportion of items of this kind is not high. The value and interest of the collection lie rather in the rich cross-section of minor poetic works of the century, representing not so much the outstanding poetic achievements of the age as the shifting tastes and wide variety of poetic experiments. Besides poems by such figures as Christopher Anstey, Charles Churchill, Samuel Garth, Lord Lyttleton, William Mason, Hannah More, Ann Seward, William Somerville, Joseph Warton, Gilbert West, Helen Maria Williams, and Edward Young, there are one hundred twenty-odd broadsides and poems by anonymous poetasters. The collection includes Hudibrastic verses, hymns, Pindaric odes, rhymed essays on reason and beauty, eclogues, ballads, romantic legends, satires, verse epistles, Ovidian imitations. Such a production as ‘fasbua: a Poem in Imitation of Milton (anonymous), 1706, shows that John Philips barely got a head start in inaugurating the century’s Miltonics; and the number of insipid eclogues give real meaning to Dr. Johnson’s protest in his Life of West against the “numbers without number” who rushed pastorals through the press as fast as they could find a printer, even sometimes before they could find a patron. Ridicle of current vogues is frequent—such as two parodies by George Colman and Robert Lloyd of the odes of Mason and Gray. Henry Brooke’s translation of Tasso’s Jerusalem (1738) is indicative of one of the strong trends
which set in early in the century (Dr. Johnson later planned a new edition of Fairfax’s Tasso), probably in the wake of the enthusiasm for Spenser. And of especial interest as a revelation of the growing antiquarianism is a copy of Francis Fawkes’s reprint in 1752 of A Description of May, verses prefixed by Gavin Douglas to his translation of the twelfth book of the Aeneid, the brief introductory note clearly recognizing the importance of the early Scottish successors of Chaucer.

There is among these items little poetry that rises above the mediocre; but the student of the eighteenth century will find much of curious interest and historical value, much concrete evidence of the various enthusiasms of the period, and especially of the early stirrings of romanticism.

Contributions for the first of two lots purchased in England were received from the following: Dickson Q. Brown ’95, John W. Garrett ’95, Robert Garrett ’97, Wilton Lloyd-Smith ’16, Charles W. McAlpin ’88, J. Harlin O’Connell ’14, Philip A. Rollins ’89 and John H. Scheide ’96. The second lot was too important to let go, and it had to be secured immediately, otherwise the material would have been dispersed among various purchasers. The Department of English most generously offered to forego the use of one of its funds for the next financial year and by special arrangement we were permitted to use the income on that fund at once. Should additional contributions come in they will help to relieve the Department of English of some of its debt.

**CHARLES KINGSLEY**

Unique is a word of which scholars are shy, but the adjective may safely be applied to an interesting pair of volumes which have just been acquired for the Francis H. Payne Collection of Victorian Literature.

Shortly after the death, in 1875, of the poet-novelist-preacher Charles Kingsley his widow published a Letters and Memories of His Life which was eagerly bought and read by Kingsley’s admirers all over the English-speaking world: Cambridge University students who had found him a guide not only to history but to life, women who marvelled at his understanding of the feminine heart, workingmen who had encountered with surprise a gentleman who comprehended their difficulties, scientists who had welcomed his demonstration of geology and evolution as evidences of God’s power, not the devil’s. Several editions of the work were needed both in England and in America.

When Mrs. Kingsley prepared, in 1879, a new edition, abridged but still in two thick volumes, she gave a copy to her eldest daughter Rose, Rose who was called “Charles Kingsley in petticoats,” Rose who shared most of her father’s tastes and had been his companion on his two longest journeys, to the West Indies and to California. This copy for Rose her mother lovingly annotated. She marked special passages in the letters which she had found comforting or illuminating. She wrote in the names of people which Victorian propriety had
constrained her to print as stars or initials. She added bits of personal information here and there to the text. She pasted in a poem which Charles Kingsley had written for her early in their married life. It had appeared in print but in a different version. She copied onto a fly-leaf the lines, beginning “Shrink not from grief” which Kingsley—he was a Queen’s Chaplain—had composed for Victoria’s album when he first visited her after the death of the Prince Consort. Mrs. Kingsley made, in short, a book of rare value to her daughter and of rare value to students of Victorian literature and Victorian social history. That book is now in the Princeton University Library.

—MARGARET FARRAND THORP

BOOKS PRESENTED BY EDWARD DUFF BALKEN ’97

Since the last issue of Biblia we have received from Mr. Balken a group of most interesting books. There are two handsome folio volumes containing in manuscript form Lettres du Roy et de la Reine Mère à Messieurs les Duc de Nevers et de Nemours, 1614-1626. The manuscript is beautifully written in a cursive hand, and came from the Phillips Collection. The bindings are old French calf, with the arms of M. Gabriel Bernard De Rieux. There is also a copy of Montanus, De Nieuwe en onbekende Wereld, published at Amsterdam in 1671. This book is of special interest because of the fact that it contains one of the very earliest views of New York. Mr. Balken also presented a copy of that very singular book Le Tableau des Riches Inventions . . . dans le Songe de Poliphile, in the Paris 1600 edition. We were enabled to replace a poor copy of Doughty’s Arabia Deserta, in the first edition, with one in immaculate condition. It speaks well for our clientele that the copy already in the Library had received so much use in years gone by, before the Doughty revival. The other books in the collection are also of great interest. These are: Sebastian Franck, Weltbuch Spiegel Tübingen, 1534; Colonel Tarleton, History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America, London, 1787; Lafitteau, De zenden der Wilden van Amerika, The Hague, 1731; Slatyer, Palae-Albion, The History of Great Britaine, in English and Latin verse, London, 1619; Sheridan, Love Epistles of Aristaenetus, London, 1771; and Grotius, Annales et Historiae de Rebus Belgicis, Amsterdam, 1657.

LIBRARY Gossip and News

Questionnaires concerning private book collections were sent to the Friends in March. Fifty-one were returned. The answers show how varied and interesting are the collections of books of the Friends. These furnish very valuable information for the Library, for they help to enlarge the field in which material necessary for scholarly research can be furnished. A large proportion of the responses tell us that the books in these collections may be consulted or borrowed for use in the Library by responsible persons. Malcolm O. Young, Reference Librarian, is often asked to help scholars locate the material they need; he is now in the happy
position of being able to find books not available in other institutions. Also, exhibitions are constantly on display in the Treasure Room, under the direction of Lawrance Thompson, and there will be times when books in private collections will help to round out such exhibitions. A notable instance of this was the Victorian Literature exhibit, for which Morris L. Parrish '88 graciously lent some very fine and interesting items.

The questionnaires show, among other things, that the interests of the Friends include angling, cartography, incunabula, Edgar Allan Poe, botany and horticulture, Joseph Conrad, the 1890's in English literature, Herman Melville, Christopher L. Morley, Western Americana, Edmund Spenser, history of medicine, and political effects of radio broadcasts.

Paul Bedford '97 responded to the list of special needs which appeared in the February issue of Bibli by generously offering to donate a globe of the world. A handsome eighteen-inch globe was purchased for the Chancellor Green Reading Room, and one of our real needs has been met. It is fortunate that in these times of stress a special service will enable us to keep the globe up to date.

Thomas H. English '18 continues faithfully to help us in the field related to the Southern States. Every once in awhile a package arrives containing material that will enhance our collection.

We received from the estate of Joseph T. McCaddon a very interesting collection of material relating to the circus. Mr. McCaddon was connected with the Barnum and Bailey circus, and so had opportunities to gather unusual material. This material has been placed in our William Seymour Theater Collection.

Charles H. McIlwain '94 presented the Journal of the Votes and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Colony of New York, April 9, 1691 to December 23, 1765. These handsome volumes were published at New York by Hugh Gaine in the years 1764-1766.

Some weeks ago the Acting Librarian had the pleasing assignment of going to the home of the late Charles A. D. Burk '09, in order to select any books that seemed desirable for the Library. The trip resulted in 184 volumes, several of them very interesting and unusual. There were, in addition to some old books on chemistry, a field which had a special appeal for Mr. Burk, several volumes of early travel and exploration.

Thomas S. Dignan '26 generously made a special contribution which enabled us to secure twenty-eight volumes of English fiction of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This is a field of special interest and these acquisitions were very helpful.

There have been some interesting exhibitions on display in the Treasure Room of the Library during the past months. The outstanding ones were: Victorian Literature; Herman Melville; Nassau Hall; Persian and Mogul Indian Miniatures, the property of Robert Garrett '97; and the current display of books from the collections of undergraduates. We are always happy to have as many of the Friends as possible visit the Treasure Room.