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Books Under Fire

EFFECT OF THE WAR ON EUROPEAN LIBRARIES
BY VERNA E. BAYLES

The Princeton University Library may seem far enough removed from the war—at present. Nevertheless, no day passes without some additional information which comes in and is preserved, in its varied forms, for future generations. For that reason it seemed important that the Friends should be made conscious of the way in which war records are made available at Princeton; that the Friends should be asked to assist us in collecting various kinds of ephemeral material. Miss Bayles, one of our library staff members, in the acquisitions department, here accentuates the present and future importance of the Princeton Library by assembling fragmentary information concerning the continual destruction of libraries in war-stricken countries.

"O books matter when civilization itself is at stake?" The New York Times asked the question editorially last May 22 when the Library of Louvain lay in ruins for the second time in little more than twenty-five years, its books reduced to ashes, and its staff scattered. It is certainly a question to make one pause and take stock of values—thinking of this great library destroyed completely in the last war, rebuilt and supplied with over 700,000 volumes, largely through American efforts, after the tide of war had receded in 1918. Nor was this the first time that a library had fallen victim to the fortunes of war. Centuries ago, in 48 B.C., Caesar's army burned the great library at Alexandria; later, in 389 A.D., the collection which replaced it, the "Daughter" Library, was destroyed at the order of Theodosius. For some strange reason, the belief persists among the intolerant that when the written or printed page disappears, the thought and idea are dead.

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After the occupation of Poland, reports began to come through of the burning of books and manuscripts. Poland has a library tradition which is among the finest in Europe, the library at the University of Cracow, which is the third oldest university on the continent, having been founded in the fifteenth century and ranking as the national library until 1928 when the official National Library at Warsaw was established. The extensive collection of manuscripts, incunabula, and modern printed Polish books housed here made this library a symbol of the high cultural tradition established long ago in Poland.

Information relating to the situation in occupied countries is practically impossible to obtain, but certain facts concerning Denmark have come to light in a recently reprinted speech of Dr. G. Krogh-Jensen of Frederiksberg delivered to the Association of Librarians at Copenhagen. While at the beginning of the war circulation showed a marked decrease, immediately after the occupation it began to climb and continued at such a rate that during the first six months Greater Copenhagen with its 800,000 inhabitants showed an increase of 400,000 volumes over the same period in the preceding year. Whatever the cause, and many have been advanced, such as the frequent blackouts, the impossibility of travel, the lack of opportunity for the endless discussions which took place during the first months of the war, the result is significant. Commenting on Dr. Krogh-Jensen’s conclusions, Mr. Magnus K. Kristoffersen has said, “The people... have turned to books for consolation and to keep their spiritual balance.”

Whether accidental or not, the destruction of the University of Louvain Library was certainly a thorough piece of work. The description of it by the librarian, E. Van Cauwenbergh, recently received in this country, is pathetically graphic: “I am indeed grieved having to tell you,” he wrote to Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, “that the library was nearly completely gutted by fire; that the fine stack rooms at the back, housing our precious collections, are no more and that only terribly twisted and molten girders remain of it. It is painful to behold. The first floors of both side wings partially escaped and here only we saved a few thousand books, but, alas, all the most precious are gone. Gone also the collection of incunabula, manuscripts, medals, precious china, silk flags and catalogues. Practically, we have to start again at the bottom.” For us, it is impossible to grasp exactly what it would mean to begin all over again to build a great library.

In Paris, after the fall of France, very little time elapsed before there began the systematic looting of the great libraries of the city. Under the leadership of the director of the Berlin State Library, a committee was formed—a Kulturdirektion which proceeded “to prepare the transfer of literary, artistic, and cultural treasures from the vanquished country to the victorious country.” The library of the Jewish Alliance was taken to Germany en bloc, as were all of the Masonic Libraries throughout the occupied territory. In these two cases the volumes were taken “for the purpose of study.” What may be regarded as really inseparable from the raiding of the libraries was the very thorough examination of bookshop and publishers’ stock for banned literature. All the writings of German refugees were included, as well as various scientific books which are regarded as being in opposition to the racial theories of the Nazis. This is the sort of thing that has been going on in Germany and Russia for many years, of course. It has been pointed out that not nearly so many books are burned as the reading public believes. They are simply removed to a safe place and reserved “for the purpose of study” by responsible persons.

This, of course, is deliberate destruction and confiscation, wanton in the case of Louvain, purposeful in the case of Cracow and Paris, where the motive was to destroy or to make inaccessible any and all written or printed works which might stand in opposition to the ideology of the Nazi regime, or to acquire books and manuscripts of value for the cultural centers of Germany. The havoc wrought by general air warfare has also produced equally disastrous results. In England, libraries at the present time are, and for many months past have been enduring the effects of indiscriminate bombing. Recently the American Library Association Bulletin carried the following announcement:

“The British Ministry of Information has released the information that in London the bombed buildings include the British Museum, the Tate Gallery, Imperial War Museum, Wallace Collection, Burlington House, Inner Temple Library, Public Records Office and University College Library. In
addition to the foregoing it has been announced in the English press that two of the Hampstead Libraries have been affected. One of the branches was completely gutted by fire started by incendiary bombs. And the Coventry Library was included in the damage in the great Coventry raid. Since then other libraries, museums, and galleries have suffered from enemy action. Birmingham and Bristol have both been badly treated in regard to their Art Galleries and Museums."

Reading such notices the most obvious thought is of the irreparable losses, and perhaps also of the task of salvage—a task which requires much care and patience. An example or two will serve to demonstrate what is involved. A library in the Hendon section of London suffered a direct hit by a high explosive bomb which pierced the roof and exploded beneath the floor. For several days the building was in danger of collapse, but finally the staff was allowed to return. To their great surprise, the catalogue was intact, although one cabinet had been blown to pieces, scattering drawers about the place, but with the cards still held in place by the rods. After gathering together the rescued books and cleaning them when possible, the total loss of volumes completely destroyed or beyond repair amounted to 721, with about 350 to be rebound—the money involved being about £250—or roughly $1000. A college library reports in the October, 1940 issue of the Library Association Record:

"After an intensive air attack during which a number of incendiary bombs were dropped, water used in extinguishing the fire was found to have damaged about sixty books which were treated as follows. The volumes were taken from the shelves, opened and laid out in a well-ventilated sunny room. Those which showed a tendency to stick together . . . were interleaved with absorbent paper. The following day . . . the books were placed upright and spread out fanwise, to facilitate drying, a portable electric fire being used to speed up the process where books made of handmade paper were concerned. In the evening the books were again spread out flat to minimize buckling, and the next morning again placed upright in the same fanwise position. This process was continued for a week, by which time the books were almost dry and it was safe to remove the interleaving paper. Where necessary the leaves were then ironed out with an electric iron at medium heat, a

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thin protective paper being used as a guard against possible scorching.

"No means have been found of removing stains from linen bindings, but leather and cloth covers have been successfully treated with furniture polish.

"As a result . . . not a single volume has had to be withdrawn from the library."

All of these effects result from damages incurred by direct acts of war. They are the obvious effects of which we read in the daily news, and of which even the man in the street is aware. But there are other and more general consequences to which all libraries, whether in the bombed areas or not, are subject when nations are at war.

The primary consideration, perhaps, which applies chiefly to university and research libraries along with museums and art galleries, is the selection and removal of rare and valuable books and documents to places of at least comparative safety. It is interesting to note that at the meeting of the Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare in Tubingen in 1935, Franz Hammer of the Wurttemberg Landesbibliothek gave an address in which he considered the problems involved in choosing from large collections items which might be regarded as irreplaceable, together with the difficulties of moving them. His findings led him to believe, or at least to hope that in any possible wars, libraries would be regarded as non-military objectives. The results of the invasion of Holland and Belgium last spring have shown that his hopes had very little if any foundation. This matter of selection would normally require a great deal of careful thought and planning but in these times war is so precipitate that surveys of a really adequate sort have been quite impossible and in many cases only the most obvious rarities can be moved.

In some cases, the British have found that methods of storage have been unsatisfactory, dampness and lack of air having almost as disastrous results as the damage resulting from bombing. Mold is a distinct menace when books and manuscripts are packed too closely together, even when air-tight. Vellum and parchment are affected by elements which do not harm paper. An interesting instance has been cited of a safe of parish records which were subjected to intense heat during fire. The paper documents were found to be intact, while the manu-
scripts in vellum and parchment had become a single gelatious mass. Unfortunately the librarian and archivist, working against time to save the treasures, have not always been able to find perfect storage space for all that they would save from destruction. The British Records Association has been of great assistance; its Technical Section issuing many helpful bulletins to aid librarians in choosing repositories for their books and manuscripts—when indeed there is any choice possible. In many cases, the chief aim has been to remove valuable collections to localities which are not considered to be likely targets for intensive bombing. It is of course a gamble, because this is a war in which some of the most unlikely places have been hit and military and industrial importance do not determine the points where the bombs shall fall.

Because the bulk of the books cannot be evacuated, most libraries must provide protection for them where they stand, "leaving no stone unturned and no sandbag unfilled," as the British Records Association warns, in the shelters prepared for them. An amusing report comes from Scotland of a library which has taken large sections of its little used and valueless books to pile on its roof in place of sandbags, its rarities having been removed to bombproof shelters. A similar story has been told of Foyle's enormous bookshop in London, in the heart of the area which has been bombed repeatedly.

Another effect on libraries is the necessity for far-reaching adjustments of staffs and readers to war conditions. At the onset of the war there were widespread and precipitous closings of libraries and museums, chiefly for evacuation purposes, which were of course to be expected. In France, all the great libraries—the Bibliothèque National, the Sorbonne, the Musée de l'Homme (at the Trocadéro), the Bibliothèque Fornay, the Library of the City of Paris, the famous Municipal Library at Lyon, and countless others in the northern part of France—were closed. Gradually through October and November of 1939, they re-opened, usually with hours somewhat restricted and service curtailed, but operating, nevertheless, on a partial normal basis. The greater number of municipal libraries ceased to maintain reading-room facilities, but continued lending books for home reading.

In England great libraries even throughout the heaviest bombing periods have remained open to the public, with the one exception of the London School of Economics and Political Science, and this is closed only because it has been requisitioned by the government, along with the other buildings of the School. In spite of the physical inconveniences and enforced adjustments, most librarians in England, especially in public libraries, report increased circulation. Blackouts have, of course, cut evening circulation to almost zero, but many libraries have attempted to offset this by opening earlier than has been customary. The results of these changes in hours have not been altogether satisfactory, because, while research workers and students are free to take advantage of them, the average citizen, with his usual, in fact increased, daily duties, is not. Furthermore, the nightly exodus to the air-raid shelters often begins as early as four o'clock in the afternoon, and the rush immediately preceding this hour becomes a great strain on the libraries which are all much understaffed because so many have been called to military duty or home defense service. Substitutes available for filling positions so vacated are often inadequately trained or inexperienced, or perhaps have become unfamiliar with library duties because of long absences from service.

Gradually, too, there has come to librarians a realization that a new field has opened up in the public shelters where many thousands in the great cities spend their nights. Many of these people have had little if any contact with libraries or books, but for that very reason there is an opportunity to build up "the library idea" which may continue into happier days.

Plans are developed for the establishment of shelter libraries wherever it is at all practicable, fresh and attractive copies, not discardings, being used to build up a stock, often from the various paper-covered series which cover so many fields of interest from mystery stories to up-to-the-minute studies in politics and economics. At little expense, a real need will be met, and at the same time perhaps an interest may develop which will lead to permanent contacts after the present emergency requirements have passed.

A further problem is presented by the mass evacuation to areas of comparative safety, in many cases, whole schools and colleges being suddenly settled in small communities; but, of course, without their library facilities, thus adding to the load of the already heavily burdened librarians. The Ministry of
Information has increasingly urged the public to make use of the libraries, adopting books "to supply the place of other amusements that are no longer practical or available." Nor is it for amusement alone that the circulation has increased. There is a continuous demand for technical books on engineering, aviation and in similar fields of interest, as well as for books on economics and politics.

Research, of course, goes on, at a somewhat slackened pace, because of the inaccessibility of much of the valuable material which such workers must have at hand. If it has not been moved completely out of reach, considerable time is often necessary to have it brought from its place of safety, if indeed such risk is allowed at all. Then there is always the imminent chance of having to repair to a shelter, just when one has reached a critical point in one's progress of searching,—which must be damaging to the progress. Perhaps there are some hardy souls who proceed in spite of bombs!

Add to all of these inconveniences and unaccustomed duties the enforced curtailment of light and fuel, and the task of carrying on in the libraries takes on a formidable cast. Adaptability is not generally considered the virtue with which librarians are gifted, but in England many services more or less foreign to the profession have been taken over by it in cooperation with the Ministry of Information which uses libraries as a distributing medium for many of its instructions and announcements. Other responsibilities include the selecting and collecting of reading matter for the men in service, and prisoners of war, the preparation of various types of reports: food control and air-raid precautions reports, casualty lists,—and even, upon occasion, coal distribution and the billeting of the homeless!

Another effect of war which is of much concern to librarians and archivists is the matter of "pulping." This is a problem to which most of us give little thought, if we are even aware of it, or, indeed, of the word itself. Paper is a munition of war, and invariably conservation of paper is one of the first requirements at the outbreak of hostilities. Frequently, the shortage becomes suddenly acute and there is a demand for the pulping of old paper. In the present war, Britain is particularly hampered by the fact that she has always been dependent on the Scandinavian countries for a large part of her wood-pulp, which source of supply is now completely cut off. As a result of the experiences of 1914-18, the British Records Association has already taken advance precautions against an emergency, urging librarians and archivists to make a preliminary survey of documents in their possession, assuring them at least roughly into two categories, those which must be preserved, and those which may be sacrificed. The second group may be further classified if time allows, but sentiment and aesthetic value are of no moment. This is a matter of essentials. The absolute date line which has been set is 1660—and nothing which dates earlier than this may be discarded. Among the documents dating later which should be preserved are such things as surveys, estate maps, minute books, court rolls, official lists of names, abstracts of titles, and papers of a similar nature.

If and when the government is obliged to issue a call for pulping, there will doubtless be many a minor heartbreak among local historians, librarians, and archivists who will see their cherished, if relatively unimportant, documents carried away in bulk by the paper merchants.

There are implications in the matter of pulping which should be of more than passing concern to Americans inasmuch as American history is so intimately associated with English history that the destruction of these archives will mean the loss of material which is essentially a part of our own historical and political background. We should therefore spare no effort to aid in preserving all such material by providing England with pulp along with other munitions of war—a task much easier and cheaper than that of supplying guns and ships and planes, but, ideologically at least, of as vital importance. Libraries and universities are founded and can flourish only on the principles of freedom of inquiry and expression—principles which are under direct attack in this war. They are in grave danger also from an undermining, which is the more insidious when it is the less obvious. A news reel being shown currently gives concrete proof of this danger, in picturing a postal or customs official in San Francisco burning tons of "subversive" literature. The actual destruction is relatively unimportant so far as the significance of the material is concerned. What is very important is that if we have not learned that the burning of the printed page does not destroy the idea, there is little use in opposing those who believe that ideas may be so destroyed. Moreover, regardless of the threat of such an act to
the principles on which our social and political institutions are based, the burning of books and pamphlets is a great waste of pulp which might be used to save some of the irreplaceable archives in England.

Perhaps the effects of this war on libraries under fire will serve to indicate the significance of its results to American libraries. Libraries are so much the source and inspiration of free inquiry and scholarship that we must use every effort to keep that spirit untrammeled. The chances are that in Europe at the end of the war such political and social disintegration will obtain as to make it no longer possible for libraries to exist on that basis of freedom so necessary for scholarship and research. The responsibility of maintaining a refuge for the exiled heritage of culture as well as for political exiles themselves will become America's, and of that responsibility our libraries will have a great share. Not only must they hold fast to the basic principles of freedom, but they must prepare to acquire and make accessible such of the world's recorded knowledge as will have been exiled from Europe. There is now in America perhaps half of the world's recorded knowledge, and at the end of the war efforts must be made to secure as much as possible of the rest by purchase or by methods of duplication.

Archibald MacLeish has said, "... Librarians are keepers of the records of the human spirit. ... In such times as ours, when wars are made against the spirit and its works, the keeping of these records is itself a kind of warfare." And for such warfare all libraries need friends as perhaps never before.

Propaganda in the Air

PRINCETON LISTENING CENTER COVERS THE WAR

BY HAROLD M. GRAVES, JR., '35

Scholars who have studied the molding of opinion in the first World War turn most often to the utter of pamphlets, large and small, printed by all countries as vital weapons of propaganda. Students of the second World War will find that the radio took the place, largely, of the pamphlets, as a factor in molding public opinion. One extremely valuable record of this activity will be the transcribed and phonograph radio broadcasts preserved by the Princeton Listening Center and filed for permanent keeping in the Princeton University Library. Mr. Graves, formerly director of the Princeton Listening Center, and now acting as director in the monitoring post of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, describes the function and value of the service.

ON NOVEMBER 27, 1939, the Princeton Listening Center made its first recording of a radio broadcast from Europe—as it happened, a half-hour news bulletin from London. Since that day, some 7,000 broadcasts from London, Paris, Rome and Berlin have been recorded and prepared in English texts by this project of the School of Public and International Affairs of the University.

On its fourth day, the Center was confronted by a major news event: the invasion of Poland by the Soviet Union. In its transcriptions now repose the semi-official broadcast versions of nearly all the tumultuous developments of the past 20 months—invasions, counter-offensives, raids, peace campaigns and battles of diplomacy. Here an evanescent kind of history has been given body: the fleeting spoken word has been intercepted and transfixed on paper.

International broadcasting is a relatively new development in international relations. To be sure, among crowded countries, domestic broadcasts from high-powered stations began to overflow national boundaries at an early date; the earliest conference for the allocation of world frequencies was held in Washington in 1927. The earliest major attempt to use international broadcasting deliberately as a political instrument apparently came with the institution of regular transmissions by the French to the various parts of their Empire in 1931. A
year later, the British Broadcasting Corporation followed suit, with its own Empire Service.

After the advent to power of Adolf Hitler, the world began to see how radio could perform as an aggressive weapon. There were seditious broadcasts from the Reich to Austria in 1933, terroristic programs to the Saar on the eve of the plebiscite in 1935, broadcasts of threat and intimidation to Austria again in 1938, and so on through the list of Germany's conquests. France extended its efforts in 1936 with programs in German, nominally meant for Alsatian listeners but clearly and purposely audible within the Reich. Italian broadcasts, attempting to undermine British domination in the Near East, attracted considerable attention in 1937. A year later, when the BBC began its first foreign-language broadcasts—in Arabic to the Near East—the battle was fully joined.

Although France has now been eliminated as a combatant, that battle has now reached tremendous proportions. The German Propaganda Ministry has divided the world into six parts, each of which is served with Berlin broadcasts throughout its waking day. Rome transmitters girdle the earth with 10 beams, and radiate programs in 23 languages, including Esperanto. In Broadcasting House, London, more than 23 languages, not counting dialects occasionally used, are spoken for listeners all over the globe.

As befits her place in world affairs, America's share of these broadcasts is considerable. Specifically designed for audiences in this country are three and a half hours of programs a day from Rome, six and a half from London and nearly eleven from Berlin—to say nothing of additional time devoted to American audiences by radio staffs in the Soviet Union, Japan, Australia and perhaps 20 other countries.

Throughout the world, journalists, scholars and governments themselves, approximately in the order named, have cocked attentive ears to this ceaseless outpouring of words. Perhaps the first consistently maintained American listening post was that established by the Chicago Times in the spring of 1939. An early British experiment, conducted under the scholarly auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was begun at about the same time. At the outbreak of war, official or semi-official listening posts were established by Sweden, France, Britain and presumably by Germany as well.
shorn of other initiatives, the French Government still maintains a monitoring service. In the United States, the major broadcasting companies and several metropolitan dailies regularly tuned in powerful receivers for news flashes after war came.

Princeton's project began during the third month of war, and in September 1940 was joined by a valuable academic ally: the Stanford Listening Center, which has faithfully recorded and prepared texts particularly from Tokyo, Saigon and Chungking, with occasional programs from such other points of origin as Sidney and Hsiingking. Some weeks ago, the Federal Communications Commission announced that it would establish a 24-hour watch on all short-wave broadcasts radiated to the Western Hemisphere. Unlike yesterday's, tomorrow's radio historian will not lack records.

From the standpoint of newsgathering, short-wave radio has been of uneven usefulness, commanding attention principally in times of considerable turmoil; it will be recalled, for example, that a considerable portion of the first newspaper reports about Germany's invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia came from radio sources abroad.

For the student of propaganda, international broadcasts have been of consistent value. Since broadcasters confine themselves to fixed amounts of time on the air, radio programs provide a unique body of propaganda material which can be subjected to quantitative measurement. The main drives of propaganda can be defined clearly and in terms of proportion of time devoted to various topics; and the actual, detailed mechanics of "The Strategy of Terror," for instance, can be outlined in anatomical fashion. Some of the Princeton Reports have illustrated this technique of analysis.

In some degree, moreover, propaganda by short-wave shares the characteristics of propaganda circulated in other media not so susceptible to measurement. The content of British propaganda motion pictures now beginning to be exhibited in this country follows patterns long ago established by the British Broadcasting Corporation in its programs for North American listeners.

For this reason, it is perhaps not necessary to review more than briefly the substance of the radio propaganda now being disseminated by the war's major belligerents. The prime in-
sistence of the British Broadcasting Corporation and its commentators has been on various aspects of British strength, for the very good reason that aid is most easily enlisted for an apparently strong cause. BBC news bulletins have endlessly recited the increase in war funds, the arrival of troops and ships from overseas and the steadily mounting production of military planes.

London stations have stressed the community of British interests with those of the rest of the world. Sharply on the heels of early American statements to the same effect, BBC commentators began to assert that Britain is America’s first line of defense. Flattering words have been spoken about American culture, and about America’s policy of aid to Britain; frank and specific requests for further cooperation have been radiated. German commentators and news announcers have spent most of their breath trying to create attitudes of defeatism and distrust concerning Britain. From day to day, the Berlin radio has painted a desolate picture of a hungry, bomb-shocked, isolated and enfeebled island, of an ancient and unscrupulous plutocrat among nations receiving just punishment at the hands of a young and virile Reich.

In countries allied with or friendly to Britain, German commentators have tried to create disunion which will paralyze action. Berlin programs for this country are employing corrosive anti-Semitic propaganda, together with conflicting appeals to workers, businessmen, isolationists, interventionists, racial and national groups. Changing a word here and there, Italy has been in radio propaganda as in all things the junior partner of the Axis. As a medium, radio seems to have contributed no new individual techniques to the art of managing public opinion. Its linguistic and repertorial devices, such as invective, simplification, concealment and distortion, are the same as they have been in other war propaganda for centuries. Rather, radio has combined in impressive fashion the techniques of other media, much as the German Army has created new combinations of old, already known weapons.

Entertainment, with which radio usually is associated, has not escaped political service. Radio may take the listener to the concert hall or the dance floor, and create in him a proper mood to receive the political discussions which shortly will assail his ears. Music may carry a political message directly; Berlin vocalists have parodied the popular tune, “Good Night, Sweetheart,” in their own words: “Good Night, England.” Radio may create blares of sound to inspire confidence and enthusiasm or plant fear and terror. In times when a military offensive was under way, in fact, the German radio has broken into the middle of its news bulletins with the swelling, pounding rhythmical song, “We Are Sailing Against England.”

American radio has its Lum and Abner, its Amos ‘n Andy. The Berlin radio has had Schmidt and Smith for British listeners in the past, and in the present has Jim and Johnny for Canadians and Fritz and Fred for the audience in the United States. Jim, for example, is a kindly, pro-German Canadian milkman who chats on the front stoop with Johnny, his non-paying, unemployed customer, about the issues of the present war.

There are theaters in the international air, creating illusions of reality which overwhelm logic. The British Broadcasting Corporation has paid that distinguished revolutionary, George Washington, the tribute of dramatizing his life in a pro-British, pro-democratic playlet series entitled “These Men Were Free.” Pronouncing the Gettysburg Address in Teutonic accents, the German radio had radiated a pro-Nazi, anti-British dramatization of the life of Lincoln. In a still less subtle vein, British radio dramas have depicted life in present-day Poland and within the Reich.

Radio news and comment, particularly in the English-speaking world, but to a considerable extent elsewhere, have the authenticity of the printed word—ordinarily without that word’s susceptibility to logical re-examination. British commentators—many of them novelists, playwrights and journalists by trade—especially have exploited this quality of the spoken word with their skilful language; their rivals in Berlin, hobbled by the necessity of adhering to the line set down by the Propaganda Ministry, have been comparatively pedestrian.

Radio stresses also the importance of the subtlety of the human voice. From the published American edition of J. B. Priestley’s transatlantic talks from London, “Britain Speaks,” were deleted several passages uncomplimentary to Americans, at least partly for the reason that while the words may have
been tolerable as spoken, they would have aroused antagonism when seen in black and white.

If rational action is one goal of human development, it cannot be denied that international broadcasting has debased the political functions of radio—as is inevitable, however, when days are short and logical persuasion and demonstration are a luxury. The tool is no better than its masters, and the custom is no better than the times.

The development of radio, stimulated by the approach and actual occurrence of war, has had, nevertheless, at least two potentially good effects. One of these is a tremendous increase in the technical facilities available for international broadcasts. The British Broadcasting Corporation, which had only one short-wave transmitter in 1927, now has at least seven, each at least seven times more powerful than their almost primitive ancestor. Germany's short-wave broadcasting power has increased from four kilowatts in 1930 to 240 or more today. Likewise, it seems probable that the audiences for international broadcasts—although the audience are comparatively small in cases where long-distance reception offers difficulties—have increased in size. There are bigger and better receiving sets, bigger and better transmitters and bigger and better listening groups; perhaps some day they may help to preserve a wider and wiser peace.

Nazi Domination of the Press
PUBLISHERS IN FRANCE
CONFORM TO THE NEW ORDER

BY HENRY A. GRUBBY '23

German news agencies have not been boasting about the quiet way in which restrictions have been placed on publishing in France. Nothing has appeared on it in the newspapers, so far as we know. But the actual lists of books banned in France are preserved, in photostat form, in the Princeton University Library—and Professor Grubey, of our French Department, gives historical comment on this list, together with his own interpretation of the motives which dictated the choices made.

SINCE June 1940 this country's knowledge of what is going on in unoccupied France has been fragmentary, but even this fragmentary knowledge is considerable compared to our ignorance with regard to events taking place behind the dark veil of censorship draped by the Germans over Paris and occupied France. Among the rare glimpses which we have had behind this veil, one of the most revealing is that afforded by Princeton University Library's current exhibition of books withdrawn from sale in Paris by order of the occupying authorities.

The most important feature of this exhibition is a display of photostat copies of lists published in Paris last autumn of books which French publishers have withdrawn from sale, allegedly on their own initiative. To make more evident the types of books being banned, there is also on display a representative cross-section of the actual works that have fallen under the displeasure of the Nazi authorities.

That such action has been taken in Paris should surprise no one who has even the vaguest notion of totalitarian methods of controlling public opinion. Who has forgotten the book burnings that began in May 1933, shortly after the accession to power of the Nazis? First to be banned were the works of the great German Jewish writers, then works of a Marxist, Communist, or Socialist character and finally works of conspicuous enemies of the regime, within and without the country. The list of forbidden books grew larger and larger as new "enemies" of all types came to light. In the years between 1933 and the present, the German government has come to exercise a
steadily increasing control over the book publishing and the bookselling industries. This control has not contented itself with remaining restrictive; it has not limited itself to censorship; it has also made strenuous efforts to foster the production of literature expressing the National Socialist ideology. The fantastic extremes toward which government control of literature is heading in the Third Reich is shown by a recent dispatch from Nazi-controlled Budapest with regard to an attempt to make even detective fiction conform to the Nazi line. Detective stories of English origin or of English inspiration are to be banned in Germany. They are said to bring in insidious foreign ideas. Furthermore they are alleged to be permeated with "liberalism": this is manifested by the fact that the plots are usually shown to be stupid as compared to the brilliant amateur sleuths. Henceforth, we learn, the German appetite for detective fiction is to be appeased by home-made stories constructed along Nazi lines!

As we said above, in view of these facts it is not surprising that some sort of censorship of books should have been started in Paris a few months after the German occupation. We may ask: Is this the beginning of a systematic effort to mold the thought of the French people along lines that meet the approval of their conquerors? Is it the beginning of an attempt to destroy utterly the old French culture and replace it by some totalitarian monster? An examination of the undeniably authentic lists on exhibit in the Treasure Room of the Princeton University Library, and a consideration of the types of books on these lists may enable us to draw some conclusions.

The most considerable list is that apparently entitled *Liste Otto* and is dated September 1940. The title page declares that it consists of Ouvrages retirés de la vente par les éditeurs ou interdits par les Autorités Allemandes. ("Works withdrawn from sale by the publishers or forbidden by the German Authorities.") On the next page is a brief preamble explaining the purpose. Translated, it goes as follows:

Destinés of contributing to the creation of a more healthy atmosphere and with the object of establishing the conditions necessary for a more accurate and a more objective understanding of European problems, the French publishers have decided to withdraw from bookstores and from sale in general, those works which are included in the following list and in similar lists which may be published later.

The books involved are those which because of their lying and prejudiced character have systematically poisoned French public opinion. Above all the list is concerned with the publications of political refugees or Jewish writers, who, betraying the hospitality which France had granted them, advocated a war from which they hoped to obtain profit for their own egotistical aims.

The German authorities have noted with satisfaction the initiative of the French publishers, and in order to do their share have taken the necessary measures.

Paris, September 1940.

The list contains about 2000 titles, grouped by publishers. It consists of works of general interest, and does not include textbooks or technical works. Another list, entitled *Liste Berhard*, containing only 143 titles, is obviously earlier. This is indicated by the fact that works found in both the *Liste Berhard* and the *Liste Otto* are distinguished by an asterisk in the latter list. In addition to these two lists, the Princeton exhibition has on display a series of photostats of publishers' notices, taken from the *Journal de la Librairie* (the weekly periodical of French publishers containing the *Bibliographie de la France*) of October 11, 18 and 25, 1940. These notices list books, mainly textbooks (history, geography, German grammars and readers), which, on the order of the occupying authorities, are to be returned by all booksellers to the publishers on or before November 10, 1940. The booksellers are threatened that if they do not do this, the volumes mentioned will be confiscated.

There is every indication that these lists are not the final ones (see, for instance, the preamble to the *Liste Otto*), and hence the mere fact that a book is not found on one of them is not by any means a guarantee that it is approved by the German authorities. Nevertheless, an examination of the lists will give an idea of the types of works that are being condemned. The books found on the lists may be divided into two classes:

1. Books of a historical, geographical, political or economic character dealing with either World War, with Germany, German history, German politics, German thought, etc., in a manner distasteful to the present German government. This class includes all textbooks of modern French, German or European history, many geographies of France and Europe, all French textbooks used for the teaching of German, and a large number of works of all types dealing with the First and
Second World War or with twentieth-century European political or economic problems in general. Included are the writings of French politicians of all shades of opinion, from the Front Populaire to the Action Française, from Blum and Daladier to Léon Daudet and Jacques Bainville. All studies of Hitler and Hitlerism, ranging from Calvin Hoover to Hitler's own Mein Kampf, are banned, as might be expected. If certain works that one would have counted on seeing included in this class are neglected—famous appeals to the spirit of renoncement before 1914, such as Droulhioux's Charité du soldat or Bardeau's Colette Bauduche, or obscure anti-German works such as Aimé Mason's Invasion des barbares—it is probably because by September or October 1940 the censors had not had time to survey the whole field, and one can assume that such omissions are later to be remedied.

2. The second class is that of works, irrespective of their nature, written by enemies of the Nazi regime. This includes, of course, all works by German (or Italian) Jews and all works by refugees from Axis oppression. Works by certain French Jews are also included in this category. That the writings of all French Jews have not as yet been marked down for condemnation is shown by the fact that none of the writings of the late Henri Bergson are included in the lists. All works of Einstein, Freud, of the Marxists, and even of those in this class. Certain of the prose works of Heinrich Heine, such as the Reisebilder, are included, but not the Buch der Lieder.

Although Parisian readers who have a taste for modern history, politics and economics are seriously affected by this censorship, and although schoolteachers must be considerably embarrassed, to say the least, by the banning of modern histories and geographies, those interested in pure literature are little affected, at least by the lists issued in September and October. Very few French works of definite literary value are included, and for most of these the reason is obvious. There is Louis Aragon's Les Cloches de Bâle, with its definitely Marxist slant (that his works in general were not condemned is suggested by the fact that Les Beau Quarters is not on the list), and there are also Le Temps du Môpiry and L'Espoir of André Malraux, both clearly anti-Nazi. Malraux's other works, in which this trend is not apparent, are not included.

A more puzzling case is that of Duhamel's Civilisation, one of the finest books dealing with the War of 1914-1918, a series of penetrating sketches dealing with the experiences of a military surgeon in a base hospital. Profound sympathy for human suffering, and a sense of the horror and futility of war are the keynotes of the book. Why should such a work be banned? Because its trend is pacifist and thus contrary to Nazi ideology? Probably not. The Nazis have certainly no objections to the French being pacifists. Because all works on the First World War are to be banned? Hardly for that reason either: the book contains no manifestations of hostility to the Germans and no suggestions that the French were winning a glorious victory over them. Furthermore, a similar book by the same author, La Vie des Marécs, which must certainly have been on the same publishers' lists examined by the censoring authorities, was not singled out to be suppressed. A possible explanation of the treatment accorded to Civilisation, an explanation quite plausible in view of our knowledge of Hitler's fanaticism in such matters, is found in the fact that one chapter of the book is devoted to the burial, with military honors, as an equal, as a human being, of a Jewish lieutenant in the French Army.

The inclusion in the Liste Otto of certain other works is equally difficult to explain. Sometimes any explanation is impossible other than that the suppression of the book may have resulted from the carrying out of some ancient and obscure grudge. For instance, we might be completely flabbergasted to find on the Liste Otto Robert W. Service's La Piste de 98 (The Trail of the Yukon), if we did not recall that the same Service, in his Rymes of a Red Cross Man (1917), spoke several times of "the Joury Boches." The Boche does not forget things like that. In other cases the suppression may have been caused by a mistake. The authorities may have fancied that Géniaux's Le Choc des races contained material opposed to the official German theory of races. They would hardly have suppressed the book had they known that it dealt merely with friction between the French and the natives in their African possessions. But how can any one explain the censoring of Les Dions rouges by Jean d'Esn? This lurid tale of mystery, adventure and horror in the wilds of Laos is so completely divorced from reality that any attempt to find a political, historical, economic or social objection to it could hardly be successful.
As we suggested earlier, an important question brought up by this beginning of censorship in occupied France is the following: Does the suppression of textbooks of history indicate that an attempt is already being made to rewrite French history on an anti-democratic basis, and to suppress all favorable interpretations of the French Revolution and of the Third Republic? Although there is no indication that this is not the ultimate goal, the present lists suggest that the German authorities are not bothering about that, and there are reasons to believe that they can leave to their willing French slaves in Paris and in Vichy the attainment of that ultimate goal. All that the German authorities seem to be concerned with is September and October 1940 was in suppressing all textbooks that expressed, in any way whatsoever, hostility to modern Germany or modern Germans. As an example, we can look at the well-known, popular *Histoire de France* by Albert Malet, used widely in French schools. This work is divided into two volumes, the second of which treats France from the Revolution to the present. Only the second volume has been proscribed by the occupying authorities. It makes no attempt to go beyond 1918, and its treatment of the Third Republic, the period 1917-1918, is sketchy, superficial, inadequate, but even this contains plenty to offend the Germans. Only one page and one-half (pp. 697-698) is devoted to the First World War, but that page and a half, with its brief, bare, but definite, statement of Germany's defeat and humiliation cannot help but be unpalatable to a conqueror who is not magnanimous enough (or maybe not certain enough of his victory) to be able to laugh off a former defeat. But, in addition to this, the last hundred pages of Malet's book swarm with statements certain to wound the sensitive *Haezema* with their omnipresent, fundamental, unmistakable sense of inferiority. On page 593 the megalomaniac development of pan-Germanism is described caustically, on pages 532-533 there is an indignant account of the oppression of Alsace and Lorraine after 1871, and on page 636 the ferocity of the German when he is successful is characterized by a quotation from a German writer: "Moderation on our part would be pure folly; we should leave to the conquered only eyes with which to weep." Obviously such a cynical reminder of German aims should be concealed from the French if possible; better for them to discover these aims gradually and through experience. One may ask: If the Germans seem to be interested in banning among history textbooks only those which show hostility to modern Germany, why should a history devoted exclusively to the Middle Ages fall under their displeasure? It is true that one volume, entitled *Le Moyen-Âge*, is included among those withdrawn from sale by the publisher Hachette. It contains nothing that would seem to offend German susceptibilities; for instance, there is no suggestion that when the Empire was broken up after the death of Charlemagne, it was because the French considered the Germans inferior and refused to be united with them any longer! But if one looks at the names of the authors, one is immediately enlightened. The book is written in collaboration by Albert Malet and Jules Isaac. Obviously a history upon which a Jew has collaborated must contain something anti-Nazi.

A striking contrast to this totalitarian attempt to improve Franco-German relations by censorship is the characteristically democratic "gentlemen's agreement" entered into, a little less than four years ago, by French and German historians (and with entire good faith, at least on the part of the former) to revive histories used in schools in such a way as to eliminate all interpretations of facts which would tend to stir up hatred between the two nations. This agreement, published in the spring of 1937 and based upon negotiations begun in 1935, indicated that the commissions of historians of the two countries had decided upon a scientific, impartial interpretation of a large number of controversial points in Franco-German relations since the Middle Ages. Upon a relatively small number of points they were unable to agree, but it was suggested that ultimately, after a more detailed examination of the problems involved, a complete agreement could be reached. At the beginning of the negotiations, the French professors pointed out to the Germans, who wished that a government sanction be given to their efforts, that teaching was free in France, that history professors were allowed to use whatever textbooks they chose to use, and that writers of classroom manuals of history were allowed to write as they pleased. Nevertheless they were certain that the teaching profession as a whole, in the interest of cooperation and friendship, would accept the agreement en-
tered into by the Commission and attempt to carry it out loyally. It is worth noting and a curious coincidence, if nothing else, that the French professor of history who was the most active in these negotiations, the most desirous of revising French history textbooks so as to promote Franco-German amity, was none other than Jules Isaac, whose own excellent histories have just been banned by the occupying authorities.

"Gentlemen's agreements" made by the Nazis are merely, as every one knows now, tricks intended to lull their foes into a sense of security, to put them to sleep, until the conqueror is ready to strike. Now the conqueror has struck, and the List Bernhard, the List Otto, the banning of textbooks are among the early consequences. It is probably only a question of time until longer and more inclusive lists are issued. Not even the classics will be safe; derogatory remarks about Germany are to be found even in Rabelais. The Herrenvoll, the apostles of the New Order in Europe, riding on the Wave of the Future, will never tolerate an author whose ignorance of German elegance was so shocking that he called one's four fingers and thumb "the German comb."

NOTES

1 For further information on the suppression of textbooks in both occupied and unoccupied France, see an interesting article by Joseph Congress in PM of March 14, 1941, entitled "History textbooks must obey Nazi orders."

2 The Nazis may have held against Isaac the additional fact that, earlier, he had criticized German interpretations of the origins of the First World War. (In an article "L'histoire des origines de la Guerre dans les manuels allemands," Revue d'histoire de la Guerre mondiale, Jan. 1932.)

3 Several notes on the negotiations between the commissions of French and German historians are published in Coopération intellectuelle, no. 84, December 1937, pp. 546-573. The agreement was published completely in a number of periodicals. See, for instance, Afreux littéraires, June 1937, pp. 333-355.

Special Collections at Princeton

VI. THE PIERSON CIVIL WAR COLLECTION

BY JOHN F. JOLINE, JR. '07

WARS in the past have left their own distinctly characteristic records in pictures and print. To accentuate the difference between library holdings in relation to wars past and present, it has seemed advisable to give some picture of the Pierson Civil War Collection. Mr. Joline, an active and sympathetic friend, has been making an acclamation into Civil War history and has also been a member of the alumni group reading American history with Professor Wertenbaker. He takes occasion here to suggest how the collecting methods of a nineteenth century alumnus may be applicable to the methods of any alumnus who sets out today to seize the moment for gathering in the contemporary material which may be sought in future years by future students and historians.

A HUNDRED years ago, on the last Wednesday of September, the class of 1840 went out from Nassau Hall. One of that class was John Shaw Pierson, of New York. He was eighteen years old, a second generation Princetonian (his father, Charles E. Pierson, M.D., was graduated in 1807), and stood fifth in scholarship rank. If he was otherwise distinguished from the rank and file of his fellow we do not know of it. About all we do know of his undergraduate life is that he lived in 29 West College and was a member of Whig Hall. Lansing Collins once wrote "it was in the life of the Halls that a man learned what loyalty to the College meant." Pierson learned that lesson as well as he did the rest, if indeed he needed instruction in that quality.

After two years of some other activity, of which we know nothing, the youthful graduate began the study of law in New York, was admitted to the Bar in 1843, and practiced until 1850. In that year he gave up his profession to become Marine Agent of the New York Bible Society. That he was a serious-minded young man, true to his Presbyterian upbringing, we may guess from his membership in the American Tract Society and the American Board of Foreign Missions. Convictions, rather than dislike of the law, may have influenced his change of occupation.

The marine branch of the Bible Society was concerned with placing not only a Bible or two but a library of reasonably entertaining as well as improving character on board ships sailing
from the port of New York. The agent was charged with this
duty, and must at once have been exposed to, not to say steadily
immersed in, books. He must have come to know every shop,
stall and dealer in the city, in the course of his thirty-three
years of effort for the Society. The value to a collector of such
knowledge and opportunity need not be pointed out.

Little is now known of Pierson's life at this or any other
period. There is evidence, however, that like most of the sons
of Nassau he found Princeton a good place to go back to,
and that he kept in touch with the town as well as the campus. In
1855 he married Miss Cornelia Tuthill of Princeton, a young
woman of great charm and some literary talent. It was a
congenial and happy marriage, according to Hageman, and one
can imagine the young wife abetting her husband's efforts
even a few years later, he made a beginning of the great
collection for Princeton.

It is difficult to determine exactly what was the immediate
inspiration of that beginning, but generally speaking the cir-
stances seem obvious enough. That Pierson, in common
with all thinking Americans, was intensely interested in the
whole struggle, the long trial to prove democracy's right to
survive, the culminating ordeal by battle; that he recognized
early the importance of the records to future generations,
though, be it noted, not as early as he might have; that he was
aware of the limitations of the College library (that so irritated
his near contemporary Charles Godfrey Leland) and deter-
mined to remove at least some of them; and that he refused to
allow slender means and modest position to deter him: all this
we may take for granted. The war came, was fought and
suffered, was at last over. Pierson had kept at his work, to the
intellectual benefit, no doubt, of many a Union soldier. He
now began to do something about the Civil War Collections,
happily for us. In 1869 came his first gift, the nucleus of the
collection that grew year by year. For this was to be different
in manner and method from most gatherings of books by in-
dividual collectors. It was not to be the usual filling of shelves
for one man's use and enjoyment, to be delivered as a whole
only at some future and uncertain date to some doubtful
legatee, duplicates and other waste included. Or to be sold at
auction. Was there a plan at the outset, or any agreement to
work together with the college? We do not know. The inference

is that Pierson, prompted by a natural affection for his college
and intelligent recognition of her needs, determined that the
records of the war should be open to faculty and students, sub-
ject to certain restrictions, as soon as acquired.

In 1870 Mrs. Pierson died. There were no children and
Pierson seems to have been left very much alone. This fact may
have contributed to a greater devotion to his purpose, a more
intense absorption in his avocation of forming the collection
for Princeton.

The "New Library"—Chancellor Green—was opened in
1873, and the first professional librarian, Francis Vinton, was
appointed. The vacuum of empty shelves brought the usual in-
rush of books, and the Civil War titles soon numbered three
hundred. By 1879 there were two thousand. In '83 Pierson re-
tired from his Society work, and the avocation became a
calling. In 1898 the number reached 5,000, and was finally to
exceed 6,600 books and 2,000 pamphlets. In the year before his
death in 1908 this loyal and indefatigable man sent us six
hundred and thirty-five volumes. The calling was at last a life
work and a monument.

Eight years ago Professor Albion wrote an able article for the
Princeton Alumni Weekly about the Pierson Collection. We are indebted to him for putting together most of the known
facts concerning the actual making of the collection, as well as
for his critical and stimulating sketch of the material itself. He
emphasizes both the extent and the ephemeral nature of war
literature. "Unless gathered at once, it is apt to disappear for-
ever. In many cases the oblivion is well deserved, but valuable
material often vanishes along with the trash." Pierson certainly
understood this. His aim seems to have been to make sure of
something about every phase, and everything about some
phases. There is a surprisingly small amount of trash, and al-
though there are several larger Civil War collections, none is
equal to this from the point of view of quality. Several hundred
of its titles do not appear in any of the others.

Just one book in the collection casts a thin ray of light upon
Pierson's methods. It is a stout, leather-bound quarto in manu-
script, much of it written by Pierson himself. On the fly leaf,
in his hand, is the legend: "Catalogue of Books, presented to
Library of Princeton University, upon the Civil War in U.S.,
& associated topics, by John S. Pierson." There is a note in red
ink: "Red ink signifies either that the book is paid for by college—or that it is placed by me (one my own giving) in the lower library for general use. J. S. P." Evidently the Librarian kept him posted and would notify him whenever there was an accession of Civil War material from any source, whether purchase or gift, to avoid duplication. That this effort was fairly successful would appear from the relatively small number of red ink entries. Occasionally a price is noted in pencil, or some indication of provenance as, for example, "gift of author," "obtained through R. F. Stockton." One wishes there had been more such notes. Rarely one comes across the source of any of his own purchases or acquisitions. There are a few dealers' catalogues on the shelves, with prices indicating another practical reason for contemporary effort. Again to quote Dr. Albion: "Whatever Mr. Pierson may have spent in the gathering of the collection would have to be multiplied at least tenfold to assemble the same to-day, and many of the books could not be duplicated at any price." Besides, it was quite different from the situation of the collector to whom money is no object, and who simply commissions his agents, "Get me everything." One can believe that John Pierson was more than compensated, if he needed compensation, by the joy of the true collector when he makes a real find, or by the deferred pleasure of knowing he has guessed right as to significance and importance of material. Not to speak of the joy of the hunt in and for itself.

However partisan or prejudiced Pierson may have been personally, there is no evidence of it. On the other hand, there is ample testimony that he set out to be scrupulously fair. Aim and method were at one to accomplish this end. He wrote, had printed, and in the language of an old librarian's report quoted by Dr. Albion, "dispursed through the South several hundred copies of a circular in the librarian's name, addressed to the alumni of the college, inviting them to supplement his labors by sending such books as they may suppose to present more fully or faithfully, the Confederate side in the struggle." Until the war, and at times since, Princeton has been known as the most northern of all the southern colleges. It may well have been that this appeal, and the response, explain why a southern librarian once said that the Pierson collection contained the best group of Confederate printed material at the North.
Another phase of the war, regardless of sides, that especially interested Pierson was that of personal experience. At the beginning his group heading was "Personal Narrative," but he soon found that impracticable. Personal narratives were to be found in almost all groups: Foreign Opinion, Military History, Memoirs, History of Individual Regiments (a majority are personal), Prisons, and others. Wherever they occur, that group is as full as he could make it.

Pierson would probably have agreed with Little Aleck Stephens that slavery was the cornerstone of secession. At any rate, he intended future students to have no lack of sources on both sides of that fence, and specialized to the extent of over five hundred titles.

In general, the range is wide and deep. In point of time it reaches from the first days of the Republic under the Constitution, to Fitz Lee and Joe Wheeler wearing the blue in 1865. (Dr. Wertensbaker says that one day that summer one of Fitz Lee's old troopers met him on the street. "General," he said, "I'm in no hurry, but I hope I die before you do." "Why, Tom, what makes you say that?" "Well, suh, I just want to be there to hear Jubal Early cuss when you come in in that Yankee uniform." As for space, it covers practically every state and territory, North and South; and Mexico, Canada, Europe, and the British Isles. Only a part has to do with military affairs, full and fine as this part is, from the Official Records to an almost complete run of regimental histories. Political, social and economic history has its important place, from primary causes through compromise and conflict to the dark and fatal stain of reconstruction. These classes particularly are documented and footnoted, so to speak, by hundreds of pamphlets, many of them of great significance either as valuable contemporary comment or unique details of personal experience in battle, camp or prison. Pierson has set an example to collectors of any period of strife by preserving these most perishable tribles, unconsidered by the many but snapped up by him.

Literature is represented by several divisions, including Poetry, Drama, etc., Humor and Caricature, and Fiction, the last with a surprising number of titles, well over three hundred. There is no evidence that Pierson had any feeling for first editions as such, but as a matter of course many of his acquisitions were first issues, and here we find an occasional unearned in-
crement of unusual interest. In the poetry, for instance, a little
crowded by the efforts of departed and unsung favorites of the
time, quietly appears Melville’s Battle Pieces. Among the novels,
amost submerged, are Crane’s Little Regiment and the 1895
Red Badge. Also there is the first issue of Miss Ravenel’s Conversion
from Secession to Loyalty, by J. W. De Forest, an almost un-
known book which was reissued by Harpers in 1939. In his
introduction to the new edition Professor Gordon S. Haight of
the Yale English Department, after noting that the well-known
writing men of the day exhibited a unanimous coolness, if not
repugnance, to military service, says it is not surprising that
they were not inspired to write any great work of fiction. “The
surprising thing is that for seventy-two years America has had a
great novel of the Civil War and ignored it.” De Forest, ob-
scure as a writer, served for three years as a captain of volunteer
infantry.

One can approach some idea of the collection as a whole
with the aid of the list of titles in the sixth volume of the printed
Princeton University Library Classified List, but that is rather like
seeing a vast sweep of country from a mountain top. To be-
come in any real way familiar with what is there, and to gain
some appreciation of the plain, quiet man who brought it to-
gether, one must go to the shelves. Knowing even a little of the
story, one cannot fail to be impressed by the intelligent fore-
sight, courageous persistence and love for Princeton of John
Shaw Pierson, A.B., 1840.

SPRING has descended graciously on the Princeton cam-
pus, and the fragrance of the magnolia blossoms comes in
through the library windows, these days, to mingle with that
pleasant muskiness of old leather-bound books. It would be
easy enough for us to tell you that it was all Spring’s fault; that
if only the days had stayed cold, the trees bare, the birds far
away, our Friends would have had their April issue of the
Chronicle before May. Perhaps we shouldn’t have mentioned it;
perhaps nobody would have noticed.

Blame Spring for our banter-mood. While we’re in it we
have a query. Don’t any of you Friends want to chat with each
other about new discoveries, bibliographical yarns, association
copies, Princeton items? And wouldn’t it be nice to have a
place to shake out these little stories for each other? Well, you
have the place: in this “Notes and Queries” column. After all,
this is your Chronicle, and we in the Library would be delighted
to have a little more back-talk from anyone who can balance
some of our Library boasts with boasts of his own.

Mind you, we’re serious about this. And we’ll meet you half
way. In the next issue will appear the first in a new series of
articles, to be entitled, “What do the Friends Collect?” A
rhetorical question, purely, because we will give you the an-
swers. That will begin the boasting and will precipitate con-
siderable back-and-forth between the Chronicle and the Friends.
If you have some good stories about your own collecting ex-
periences and your own books, send them along. More of this
in our “Notes and Queries” for June.

The latest development of the Friends’ graphic arts experi-
ment under the direction of Elmer Adler at 40 Mercer Street
is causing considerable excitement on the campus. Shortly be-
fore the beginning of the Easter vacation, neatly printed an-
nouncements were sent out inviting students and alumni and faculty members to become founding members of The Princeton Print Club. The dues, five dollars a year, entitle each member to several very attractive privileges: first, once each year the members will receive an original signed proof of a print made at Princeton by an artist especially invited by the Print Club; second, each member will be invited to attend a special exhibition of the guest-artist’s works; third, each guest-artist will speak to the Print Club concerning his own technique and in some cases will demonstrate the making of a print. But there is an added function of even greater importance: the Print Club will conduct a print-lending service which permits Princeton students to borrow framed prints for use in decorating their own dormitory rooms. The prints which will be secured for this lending service will be purchased from the funds in the Print Club treasury and these prints will be accumulated to form a permanent collection owned by the Print Club.

Any Friend who is interested in becoming a member, or in supporting this practical educational program may do so. The annual membership fee is five dollars; a sustaining membership has been established for the special Friends who may care to further the project with donations of fifty dollars or more. Please send your subscriptions to The Princeton Print Club, 40 Mercer Street.

The first artist, now visiting Princeton under the auspices of the Print Club, is the well-known wood engraver Thomas W. Nason. He has been making sketches around the campus during the past week.

The catalogue of the recent sale of the late A. Edward Newton’s books (A-D) in New York is a Princeton-association item, for the “Introduction” was written by our own Professor Charles G. Ogood, whose long friendship with Newton was responsible not only for the latter’s visits to Princeton but also for the latter’s occasional gifts to the Princeton Library. The “Introduction” has a serious fault: it isn’t long enough. When Professor Ogood starts turning off his felicitous phrases and sentences, we are ready to listen or read indefinitely. Here is a sample from the “Introduction.”

“Those who knew Ned Newton well during the growth of his library might have discerned in it a mingling of the spirit of hard-headed scholarship with romance. . . . He was keenly aware of the incomparable service American collectors were rendering to American scholars and scholarship, and upbraided the academic Olympians for their sluggish recognition of it. But he could also understand the man who could luxuriate in sentiment over a rare old book; such as loves to ask himself: Who in all the centuries have touched this book as I am touching it now? Or how many generations has it passed, quiet and undisturbed, on a darkened shelf, enclosing its own dateless life, while the life of men swirled and eddied around it unconcerned? Or perhaps with some hunted or overwrought figure in periwig or farthingale, it has withdrawn behind the pannel of an old country house, and in one of those intervals of silent eternity that point the lives of troubled men and women, transmitted a flash of the eternal to show them their way through the night. And now it is mine—for a season—and then at length another’s, and still another’s, transmitting its humanity to generation after generation, fortifying civilization to withstand the constant menace of mortality.

“Sentimental, yes. But all normal men are sentimental at times, and no means of release for their sentimentality has yet been devised so innocent and salutary as an old book.”

War and the rumors of war have inspired this number of the Chronicle. And we may as well confess to you, gentle reader, that there is a not too subtle purpose back of our story-tellings: we want you to turn collector of “World War II” literature of the sort which might escape us here at the library—the printed material which crosses your desk and may be finding its way, too swiftly, into the waste-paper basket. If you will put beside that basket a small box and pile this printed material (folders, broadsides, handbills, posters, pamphlets, propaganda periodicals) into the box, and then mail it along to us whenever it fills up, we will be very grateful to you for helping us preserve this ephemeral material.

A foot-note on the book trade which is, after all, a part of the library’s underpinning is perhaps worth adding to “Books Under Fire.” “The Great Fire of London, 1940” took page 2 in the January 4 issue of the Publishers’ Circular. Page 1 was occupied by the “Analysis of Books Published during 1940 in
the United Kingdom." The heart of the British wholesale book trade was bombed out on December 29 with an estimated loss of 5,000,000 books, but to those who want to know if they can obtain English books, advertisements such as Longmans’ "Founded 1724, burnt out 1861, bombed out 1940. We are still publishing," and that of George Gill & Sons, Ltd., "Owing to enemy stupidity we have established ourselves at 67-68 Chandos Place where you will be welcomed to view the new premises," are the answer.

For the record, the editor asked Miss Bayley to make a brief list of articles which she had consulted in writing "Books Under Fire." In submitting the following selective list, she pointed out that it was far from complete and that it could be enlarged daily.

"Documentary records." Librarian, V. 30 : 12 (Sept. 1940).
"Economics by mechanization." Librarian, V. 29 : 238 (July 1940).

"War conditions and record work." British Records Association, Technical Section Bulletin, No. 7 : 3.
Watson, J.—"Against vandalism." Magazine of Art, V. 33 : 370 (June 1940).

Mr. Heyl’s recent Chronicle article on "Little Magazines" has sharpened our eyes to the new appearances of this curious brood on the news stands, these days. An article in a recent

"There is a revival under way, it seems, in avant-garde writing in this country. The past fall has seen a burgeoning of little magazines such as has not been in many a year. New Directions, the principal bound organ of advanced writing in America, announces a crowd of new names for its 1940 issue. The shades of the Twenties are abroad, returned to day-light for the first time since politics took over. There are other signs. One can suggest various factors that account for all this: the collapse of the intellectual authority of Stalinism, which in past six or seven years suffocated more embers than it fanned; the relative exhaustion at this moment of accepted writing; the influx of writers and artists from Europe. . . ."

In the Pierson Collection are Civil War records of the students and alumni of various other colleges, but unfortunately none was ever compiled for Princeton, although our participation must have been at least as full and honorable as that of any institution north of the Mason and Dixon line. Probably we had more men in the Confederate service than had any northern college, which very fact, considering contemporary feeling, may have had something to do with our failure to publish a Princeton in the Civil War. Is it too late now? Would an appeal, "dispersed" among the alumni, North and South, for information from local sources as to participation of Princetonians in the irrepressible conflict, fill the gaps in our present meager and scattered records?

While we are on the subject, when Pierson sent out his letter to the southern alumni, we wonder if he did not have in mind that day in the spring of '61 when the whole college went to the railroad station down by the canal to cheer and sing God-speed to their friends and classmates leaving for their southern homes. Practically all of these southern boys, a third of the undergraduates, went their way to death or glory in the Confederate army. Of most of them, for us, the rest is silence.

Biblia

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PRINCETON LIBRARY

Volume XII, Number 5

April 1941

A meeting of the Council of the Friends was held on March 14, at 40 Mercer Street, Princeton. The meeting was preceded by a buffet supper, and fourteen members were present. Mr. Cresswell presided at the informal discussion. Financial matters were taken up and the aims and policies of the Friends were examined. Several interesting and valuable ideas were suggested, but no formal action was taken.

THE CHRONICLE

The editors of the Chronicle wish to record their thanks to the Princeton University Press for the friendly spirit of well-wishing and generosity which the Press has shown from the beginning of our enterprise. During the course of this spring, the Press has been distributing several hundred copies of a four-page leaflet describing the purpose and accomplishment of the Chronicle. The response from this advertising program has been gratifying. Although the campaign is not yet completed, the paid subscriptions have increased from the February total of 75 to the present new "high" of 109.

Encouraging as this may be, it by no means solves the problem of making the Chronicle self-sustaining. At present, about 1100 copies of the Chronicle are distributed to the Friends free of charge. To cover the annual cost of printing the Chronicle in
its present size, the amount would be equivalent to 700 subscriptions at two dollars a year. At present, we still need considerable help to cover expenses for the completion of the present volume.

Several of the Friends have expressed their desire to pay their annual subscriptions for the *Chronicle* as one way of demonstrating their active interest and approval. It is possible that as others come to understand the problem they may volunteer to join the ranks of paying members. For the present, however, the Council of the Friends has decided that such subscriptions should remain voluntary.

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS**

We purchased at a sale at the Parke-Bernet Galleries a very interesting notebook, entirely in the handwriting of Woodrow Wilson. It consists of 79 pages of notes, Greek and Latin exercises, etc., written at Davidson College and at Wilmington, N.C., and is dated 1874-75. It is signed in five places as Thomas W. Wilson, T. W. Wilson, and in shorthand three times "written by Thomas W. Wilson." This splendid item, which cost $110.00, and for which John H. Scheide '96 generously paid the charge, forms a fine addition to our already significant Wilson Collection.

Several books and manuscripts have been received as gifts from the Friends since the last issue of the *Chronicle*. Lack of sufficient space prevents us from listing in detail more than a few of them. These selected ones follow: from Pierre F. Cook '92, Lossing's *Field-Book of the Revolution*, two volumes of history of Dover, N.J., and four items for the Princeton and manuscript collections; from Dr. Henry E. Hale '92, twenty photographs of members of the Class of '92; from Wheaton Lane '25, a collection of Garrett D. Wall letters and papers; letters by Robert Fulton, Herman LeRoy, and Woodrow Wilson, menu of a dinner in Wilson's honor given by the Class of '79 at the Princeton Inn, March 12, 1897, and a copy of *George Washington* by Wilson; from Prof. Frank J. Mather, Jr., 72 volumes, of interest because of their illustrations, for the Illustrated Books Collection in McCormick Hall; from Benjamin E. Messler '03, 5 items for the Princetoniana Collection; from Sterling Morton '06, another collection of miscellaneous pamphlets and periodicals, dealing with current problems; from Prof. George M. Priest '94, a medallion of Goethe, and 7 volumes in German; from Francis F. Rosenbaum '20, a framed stipple engraving of Napoleon together with a letter in the handwriting of General Bertrand, signed by Napoleon, and dated Sept. 6, 1808, a framed mezzotint engraving of Napoleon together with a letter signed, a framed letter to Captain Noirtat signed by Napoleon, and dated August 1, 1796, a framed lithograph portrait of Josephine together with an autograph letter signed "Lapagerie Bonaparte," dated Dec. 7, 1799, a framed lithograph of "Napoleon at the Encampment," 137 volumes of Napoleoniana; and from John H. Scheide '96, a group of Princeton publications.

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