



BOOKS AT BROWN

VOL. V, NO. 3

MARCH, 1943

Published by the *FRIENDS of the LIBRARY* OF BROWN UNIVERSITY

A LIBRARY FOR LISTENERS

IF WE could stand watch 24 hours a day for 43 days, we might be able to play through the 6200 phonograph records in the Henry W. Sackett Collection, one major component in Brown University's resources in this field. The marathon thought is probably more worthy of a circus press agent than a FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY, but it may serve to impress you with the extent of this library of discs.

If, in addition to the Sackett Collection, you were to persevere through the gifts of Professor Raymond C. Archibald, Mrs. Caesar Misch, and others; the 'Carnegie' College Music Set; the discs in the Archives, Lincoln and American Poetry collections, you would probably agree that you had had enough without venturing further on the campus to explore the Modern Language Department's recordings of American dialects, speech correction, modern languages, the Brown Union lending library, or Sock and Buskin's assorted sound effects and incidental music.

The music records make not only a great but a live and constantly working collection, supplemented by a couple of thousand scores and several thousand reference works of all kinds, which are employed in the various listening rooms still available after space encroachments of an oil-short war year.

Let us now turn to the novelties and curios for our conversation pieces. Perhaps we can do our sampling without running the gamut of the special catalogue which shows everything from Alabama Camp Meeting to zither music:— bird songs, a fiddlers' convention, a circus organ, Lindbergh's welcome in New York, the hunting calls of the Galway Blazers, recordings of the actual Battle of the Marne including a gas shell bombardment, a Kickapoo medicine show, George Bernard Shaw, Handel's own music box, and a hurdy gurdy.

Off the main highway we go, chasing the rabbits of our curiosity like a terrier on a field trip. Does your interest tend to the first recordings or the superlative reproductions of today? To the infancy of composition

or its later childhoods? To the four corners of the earth or to the program that your own radio may have brought to your hearth?

Do you want to set the actual songs of the troubadours of the Courts of Love or the squawk of Arab sheiks beside your illusions of them? Are you familiar with ancient or alien instruments? Has the war killed any interest in Japs singing of the moon on ruined castles? Does it matter that regional music from Acadia to Zanzibar has been preserved by the phonograph scholars — or racial music, from Lead Belly's 'sinful songs' to the American Indians', as profusely represented at Brown? Or voodoo songs, or the five drummers of the Secret Society of Bini? Would you study the classic Greek music of long ago or the evolution and sophistication of jazz? Or football fighting tunes? Or ecclesiastic music of all the faiths? The Collection at Brown could accommodate your whim.

Perhaps you are interested in the personalities of music, the quick or the dead. You may find a fillip in names unknown if you started collecting late. Who, for instance, are the artists represented in the Archibald catalogue who warranted recordings a few decades back — Herwig, Verlet, Denera, Bosetti, Schwarz, Brothier, Korsoff, Osterkamp, Cernay, Hofgren-Woag, Bauge, Formichi, Rocca, Zeigler, Feinhals — strangers all to most who hear their opera today?

Many of the speaking voices also come from the past: William Jennings Bryan, Albert of Belgium, Coolidge, Grenfell, Tolstoi, Conan Doyle. Shackleton talks of the Pole, Parkhurst on feminism, Melba says farewell. Seventy-year-old Joseph Jefferson, speaking as Rip in 1899, has been re-recorded, while William S. Hart, Moran and Mack, Amos and Andy, and others represent the amusement world. Teddy Roosevelt is on a disc, and that other Roosevelt, 'Governor of New York.' Other presidential words are there, too, and Gandhi, Margaret Bondfield, M. P., Baldwin, the Queen Victoria Jubilee, Aimee Semple McPherson, the Levine who was flown across the Atlantic, the abdicating Edward, more electrifying than Edison, who is also there.

The souvenirs of the drama are impressive: Henry Ainley, the early John Barrymore, Gielgud, Tree, Terry, Sothorn, Marlowe, Forbes-Robertson, Hampden, Evans, most of them soliloquizing Hamlet's moot point. Orson Wells, disdaining a mere solo, does both Anthony and Cassius in one scene.

'The sound of poetry is part of its meaning,' and the poet's own voice gives authentic readings as to rhythm and intent. Quite properly, then, the extraordinary riches of the Harris Collection are augmented by the recordings of outstanding contemporary poets reading their own works: Auden, the Benets, Coffin, Cummings, Eliot, Fletcher, Frost (who

comes to our next meeting), Hillyer, Jeffers, Johnson, Lindsay, McCord, MacLeish, Markham, Millay, and down through the alphabet to such as Sandburg, with or without his 'git-tar,' and works read the Steinway. There is even our John Hay's 'Jim Bludso,' recorded from the Louttit program over WPRO. The effectiveness of this growing collection of poetry readings is lost through the library's lack of player and listening room in its own building.

The historical department includes the voices of Brown Presidents from Andrews to Wriston and a few other items of Brunoniana, like Chief Justice Hughes, J. P. Adams praising University Hall, and Quentin Reynolds, LL. D. Here, incidentally, is a field which needs development, for the voices of alumni and faculty should be added to our Archives in abundance. There is only one recording of Brown music. And wouldn't sentimental alumni like the chapel bell, a chapel-sung doxology, and the Commencement March?

Of other opportunities, I think immediately of several: first, the acquisition of new recordings as they are made, to maintain the present eminence in music, of which I realize I've said too little; second, discs of the Add-a-part type which invite the practice-performance of an amateur musician in person who might otherwise not have a chance to participate in a concerto, quartet or sonata; and third, recordings of the presently unrecorded. Professor Coolidge referred to the last in his splendid talk before the FRIENDS recently, showing how Brown could take the initiative in 'Society' recordings of on-coming contemporary American composers, including Rhode Islanders. Currency could well be given to some of the early Americana in the John Hay as yet only in manuscript or sheet music. Perhaps the FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY should rush in where other angels fear to tread.

W. C. W.

DESIDERATA

LINCOLN COLLECTION

Abraham Lincoln died seventy-eight years ago. The number of books published about him runs into the thousands, and every year sees new tributes, new arguments, and new editions of well known biographies. The aim of the Library's McLellan Lincoln Collection is high for things in print by and about Lincoln. Nothing short of completeness is desired, but completeness without funds is practically impossible.

New publications for the Lincoln Collection — and there were about fifty last year, not including magazine articles — have been bought regularly out of the general Library funds. Older books have been bought from funds contributed during the past two years by several

FRIENDS. Mr. Z. Chafee started the ball rolling, Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf, Mr. W. Easton Louttit, Jr., and one or two others gave it a push until several hundred dollars were available. A special fund for the purchase of the Croasdale painting of Lincoln was provided by the late Senator Jesse H. Metcalf, Mrs. William E. Louttit, and Mr. Chafee.

Now all this has been spent. The new treasures added to the Lincoln Collection include the portrait mentioned above; about fifty books, ranging in price from one to five dollars; eleven broadside proclamations in 1865 on Lincoln's assassination made by the Governors of as many states (a fine collection), and three other 'mourning' broadsides; five manuscript letters written by contemporaries of Lincoln, expressing their opinions of him; a commission signed by Lincoln in 1863; two engravings; a hitherto unknown lithograph, which is historically incorrect in its portrayal but nonetheless a good Lincoln item; a ballot of the 1860 election; a newspaper; and a piece of sheet music.

Booksellers' catalogs are interesting to read and check, and every other day a new catalog arrives with Lincoln items, but there is no fun checking when you know you can't buy. Are there any FREINDS interested in giving the Lincoln Collection a tangible boost?

C. H.

SOME NEEDED INEXPENSIVE TITLES

Benson, Louis F. <i>Studies of familiar hymns.</i> 1st and 2nd series. Philadelphia, 1921-3.	\$2.00 each
Bishop, Morris, ed. <i>Treasury of British humor.</i> N. Y. 1942.	\$3.00
Brownell, Baker. <i>The philosopher in chaos.</i>	\$2.50
Burke, William J. <i>American authors and books, 1640-1940.</i> N. Y., 1941.	\$5.00
Coleman, Satis N., and Bregman, Adolph. <i>Songs of American folks.</i> N. Y., 1942.	\$2.25
Cormack, Maribelle. <i>A recruit for Abe Lincoln.</i> N. Y., 1942.	\$2.00
Costa, Luiz Edmundo da. <i>Rio in the time of the Viceroy.</i> Rio de Janeiro, 1936.	\$1.25
Friedman, Harry A. <i>Newspaper indexing.</i> Milwaukee, 1942.	\$2.50
Henry, Jules. <i>Jungle people; a kaingang tribe of the highlands of Brazil.</i> [1941].	\$3.50
Holme, C. G., ed. <i>Modern photography.</i> [1943].	\$2.50
Kerr, Wilfred B. <i>The maritime provinces of British North America and the American Revolution.</i> Sackville, N. B., 1942.	\$2.25
Koelliker, Albert von. <i>Erinnerungen aus meinem Leben.</i> 8vo, orig. cloth. Leipzig, 1899. Illus.	\$5.00

- Lothian, Lord. *The American speeches of Lord Lothian, July, 1939 to December, 1940.* London, 1941. \$2.00
- Meir, Norman C. *Art in human affairs.* New York, 1942. \$2.25
- Miller, Edmund M. *Australian literature from its beginnings to 1935.* Melbourne, 1940. \$3.75
- Peattie, Roderick, ed. *The friendly mountains.* N. Y., 1942. \$3.75
- Popley, Herbert A. *Music of India.* N. Y., 1921. \$1.70
- Robinson, James H., and Rolfe, R. W. *Petrarch, the first modern scholar and man of letters.* 2ed., N. Y., 1914. \$2.00
- Ronco, Amadeo. *Manual biobibliografico de escritores.* Buenos Aires [1938]. (est.) \$5.00
- Sachs, Wulf. *Black Hamlet, the mind of an African negro revealed by psychoanalysis.* [1937]. \$2.75
- Saintsbury, George. *Collected essays.* N. Y., 1923. \$14.00
- Sandburg, Carl. *A Lincoln and Whitman miscellany.* Chicago, 1938. \$15.00
- Scholefield, G. H., ed. *A dictionary of New Zealand biography.* Wellington, 1940. \$12.50
- Schuyler, Livingston R. *The liberty of the press in the American colonies before the Revolutionary war.* N. Y., 1906. \$1.00
- Singer, Godfrey P. *The epistolary novel.* Philadelphia, 1933. \$3.00
- Sonneck, O. G. *Bibliography of early American secular music.* Washington, 1905. (out of print) \$7.00
- Spallanzani, Lazaro. *Dissertations relative to the Natural History of Animals and Vegetables.* Translated from the Italian. To which are added Two Letters from Mr. Bonnet to the Author. And (to each Volume of this Translation) an Appendix, the first containing a Paper written by Mr. Hunter, F.R.S. and the Experiments of Dr. Stevens on Digestion; the second a Translation of a Memoir of Mr. Demours, and Mr. Debraw's Paper on the Fecundation of Bees. 2 vols., 8vo, cont. half calf. London, 1784. Illus. \$35.00
- Thompson, R. C. *Chemistry of the ancient Assyrians.* London, 1925. (est.) \$5.00
- Upcott, John D. *Sir Francis Drake and the beginnings of English sea power.* London, 1927. \$1.00
- Verneuil, Louis. *Fabulous life of Sarah Bernhardt.* N. Y., 1942. \$3.50
- Virchow, Rudolf, Johannes Mueller. *Eine Gedächtnissrede, gehalten bei der Todtenfeier am 24. Juli 1858 in der Aula der Universitaet zu Berlin.* 8vo, orig. wrappers. Berlin, 1858. \$8.50
- Wallis, Edward T., ed. *The national catalog of United States coins.* 4th ed. Los Angeles, 1938. \$2.50

- Warden, C. J., Jenkins, T. N., and Warner, L. H. *Comparative psychology*. N. Y., 1940. V. 3 only. \$4.50
 Wilmerding, Lucius. *Government by merit, an analysis of the problem of government personnel*. N. Y., 1935. \$3.00

WITH APPRECIATION

The FRIENDS will be glad to know that the Latin-American fund has gone over the top with a total of \$1175 collected. Donations, additional to those already acknowledged, are from:—Mrs. Gammell Cross, Mrs. Daniel Beckwith, Dr. Harlan P. Abbott, '85, Mr. Edwin B. Mayer, '09, Mr. William A. Needham, '15, Mr. Dennis F. O'Brien, '98, and Mayor Dennis J. Roberts. Mr. Samuel Zemurray, President of the United Fruit Company, also made a substantial contribution.

Mr. Z. Chafee, '80, has again made a contribution which may be used for either student help or other library needs.

An anonymous donor gave \$15.00 for the Lincoln Fund.

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