

BOOKS AT BROWN

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PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OF BROWN UNIVERSITY

FROM IMHOTEP TO LEEUWENHOEK

We hasten to point out that these are honored names in the annals of science. Imhotep, the physician-god of ancient Egypt, is the first scientist whose name has been preserved to us, while Leeuwenhoek is the Hollander whose discovery of micro-organisms late in the seventeenth century paved the way for the later researches of Pasteur and Koch.

Your editor tosses these names to you glibly because he is one of a little group of Friends of the Library that has been meeting frequently this year under the leadership of Professor Wilson of the Biology Department because of a common interest in the history of science. It is one of a number of similar groups that have been formed within the Friends and members are cordially invited to join those that interest them. Mrs. Alfred L. Lustig and Dr. Royal B. Farnum head the band of bookplate devotees, Mr. Clarence H. Philbrick is forming a poetry group, and plans for several others are still incomplete. As they develop, we shall tell you more about them.

The history of science "seminar" held about twenty sessions in nine different libraries. The general theme throughout the year was the development of biology from the earliest times to the end of the Renaissance, but often it strayed from that straight and narrow path to browse in pleasant pastures.

Everywhere librarians opened their vaults and allowed us to examine their choicest possessions—priceless mediaeval manuscripts, ancient Egyptian papyri and Chinese block books, the earliest of printed books and the most significant of later ones, Aldines by the score, incunabula by the hundred, volumes hallowed by association with great men of the past. Merely to hold these volumes was a liberal education—to see the richness of fine old leather bindings and the beautiful coloring of the illumination; to feel the silkiness of rice paper, the softness of vellum, and the crispness of rag paper mellowed by the centuries.

BEARING GIFTS!

No Greeks are these, but Friends of the Library. From March 17 to May 15, 1939, the Library of Brown University received these gifts from its Friends:

- From an anonymous donor. The first edition of Longfellow's *The Belfrey of Bruges and Other Poems*, Cambridge, 1845.
- From Dr. H. P. Abbott, '85. A nine volume edition of Schiller's works, and Addington's *The Life of Paul the Apostle*, London, 1784.
- From Professor James P. Adams. 3 typewritten and mimeographed items for the Archives Collection.
- From Mr. Herbert O. Brigham, '99n. Photostat of a broadside by a hitherto unknown printer of Newport, J. Weedon. The original is in the Newport Historical Society.
- From Mr. Zechariah Chafee, '80. Volumes 5-9 of *Index Kewensis*, and \$70 for typing the last portion of Benjamin F. Thurston's manuscript on "Brown Men in the Work of the World."
- From Mr. Howard M. Chapin, '08. *Chapters on Animals*, by P. G. Hamerton.
- From Professor S. Foster Damon. Hurricane edition of the *Pawtucket Times*, September 30, 1938, and 62 volumes.
- From Dr. Royal B. Farnum, Art. D. '35. Typewritten manuscript of his talk on bookplates at the meeting of the Friends of the Library at the Rhode Island School of Design on April 19.
- From Mr. Paul F. Gleeson, '32. *An Official Guide to Japan*, Tokyo, 1933.
- From Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed, A. M. '35. 11 broadside poems and 1 pamphlet poem by T. W. Parsons, for the Harris Collection.
- From Mr. Theodore Francis Green, '87. Copy of a radio address, for the Archives Collection.
- From Mr. Alfred H. Gurney, '07. Writings by four alumni for the Archives Collection—Carl Russell Fish, '97, Charles Wayland Towne, '97, Quentin Reynolds, '24, and Wyndham Hayward, '24.
- From Dr. Matt B. Jones, Litt. D. '36. Volumes 4, 6, 9, 17 of the Publications of the Marine Research Society, Salem.
- From Professor R. W. Kenny, '25. A nicely illustrated edition (Edinburgh, 1926) of Catlin's North American Indians, and Clark's *Lambert Wickes, Sea Raider and Diplomat*.
- From Mrs. Bella C. Landauer. An autograph letter from President Alexis Caswell, October 14, 1868.
- From Dr. Frank Grant Lewis, '93. 3 volumes for the Archives Collection and 2 for the Main Library.
- From Mr. Gorton T. Lippitt. 2 typewritten manuscripts, tributes to Mrs. Henry Lippitt on the education of her daughter, who had become deaf in her early childhood and whom Mrs. Lippitt taught to lipread. Mrs. Lippitt's splendid results with her daughter were largely responsible for the establishment of schools for the deaf using the lipreading method.
- From Mr. Grady McCarty Long. Photostats of 5 documents pertaining to land purchases of his ancestors, 1828-1849.
- From Mr. Albert E. Lownes, '20. A different edition of *The Snow-Flake* (Portland, 1867) for the Harris Collection, and a reprint for the Archives Collection.
- From Professor T. O. Mabbott. A manuscript by Robert Wilson, for the Harris Collection.

From Mr. Wallace G. Maxon. 78 volumes on various subjects for the Library, and 35 volumes for the Pembroke College Carnival book stall.

From Mrs. I. Harris Metcalf. 138 additional volumes for the Isabel Harris Metcalf Peaceana Collection.

From Mr. William Davis Miller, '09. 5 volumes for the Archives Collection.

From Mr. Carleton D. Morse, '13. A pamphlet poem for the Harris Collection, and *A Study of Some Early Islamic Textiles, in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, by Nancy P. Britton, for the Art Department.

From Dr. Victor H. Paltsits, Litt. D. '36. *The Church Book of Bunyan Meeting, 1650-1821*, being a reproduction in facsimile of the original folio in the possession of the Trustees of Bunyan Meeting at Bedford.

From Mr. Albert H. Poland, '09. Three postcard views of Brown University, printed for "Old Home Week" July 18 to August 3, 1907, for the Archives Collection.

From Mr. Reginald Poland, '14. Illustrated Catalogue of the official art exhibition of the California Pacific International Exposition.

From Professor C. A. Robinson, Jr. Two copies of his revised and rewritten edition of *Hellenic History* by G. W. Botsford.

From Professor Robert F. Seybolt, '10. 56 items for the Archives Collection, 27 volumes for the Main Library, 2 autograph letters, and \$50.00 for the expenses of cataloguing.

From Col. G. A. Taylor, '01. *Vendors of Song*, compiled by L. V. Gordon (New York, 1939), containing a poem by Col. Taylor.

From Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, '95. \$100 for the purchase of books in the field of Romance languages.

From Mr. Benjamin F. Thurston, '80. The final portion of his "Brown Men in the Work of the World."

From Mrs. Maurice K. Washburn. About 500 volumes.

From Professor J. Walter Wilson, '18. 4 reprints for the Archives Collection.

From Mr. George C. Wing, Jr., '00. "Her Majesty Montana," a series of 28 radio broadcasts by Charles Wayland Towne, '97.

From President Henry M. Wriston. 39 books, pamphlets and magazines, and a copy of *The Architecture of Duke University*, by William Blackburn, published on the occasion of the centennial celebration of Duke University, at which Dr. Wriston spoke.

Bookplates have been received from twelve of the Friends.

JAM

Every year the Corporation of the University sets aside a large part of its income for the purchase of books. This, plus the income from certain special funds, cares for the bread-and-butter needs of the library, but no one gets fat on bread and butter. Once in a while we need jam. Jam for a librarian need not be an expensive luxury. It can be, if he thinks in terms of Gutenberg Bibles and Shakespeare folios, but it need not be.

Every budget sooner or later reaches the point where it can "budge" no farther. Brown's library budget buys only the most necessary books. It can't begin to buy the ones that are merely "desirable." The "want list" is always a long one. In the last

number of *Books at Brown* we mentioned some of the books that were wanted and enough of them now grace the shelves, thanks to good Friends of the Library, that we are emboldened to try again. Last time we mentioned some pretty fancy books. This time we shall include none more expensive than a good novel, a fair dinner or a bottle of vintage wine. Five dollars or less will put any of these on the shelf for present and future generations of Brown men and women:

Jacob Deschin. *New Ways in Photography*.

Donald Budge. *On Tennis*.

Japan-Manchoukuo Year Book, 1939.

Bruce Pattison. *Music and Poetry of the British Renaissance*.

Thomas D. Clark. *The Rampaging Frontier*.

J. S. Bodenheimer. *Problems of Animal Ecology*.

Edna St. Vincent Millay. *Huntsman, what Quarry*.

Randolph G. Adams. *Three Americanists*.

These are all current books. Once in a while older first editions can be bought at this modest price. The Library would like to round out its set of first editions of Harriet Beecher Stowe. A missing volume is her *Little Pussy Willow*, published at Boston in 1870, and quoted in a recent catalogue at \$4.50.

Of course there are many more books on the wanted list and not all of them can be had so inexpensively—and, although they are not on the list, we are sure that Dr. Van Hoesen won't turn down those Shakespeare folios or even the quartos—but this time we'll be modest.

O Sons and Daughters of Brown, give us *Little Pussy Willow*!

MEETINGS

On February 6 at John Hay Library Professor Wilson and Mr. Lownes exhibited and discussed early books on anatomy and zoölogy.

At the Library of the Rhode Island School of Design on April 19 Mrs. Lustig exhibited examples from her fine collection of American and European bookplates. Dr. Farnum spoke of bookplates in general and Mr. Dodge described the making of them. Dr. Farnum presented copies of the winning bookplate in a competition at the School sponsored by the Friends of the Library. It was designed by Garvin Morris, a Senior in the Department of Graphic Arts. Dr. Van Hoesen announced that Mrs. Lustig's collection will be given to the University.

As is customary, John Hay Library will hold "open house" on Class Night and Commencement Day with an exhibition of recent gifts from Friends of the Library.

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