

News from

General

Because of the European War, American scholarly libraries are finding it increasingly difficult to keep necessary collections of foreign periodicals and books up to date. It is apparently the feeling among U.S. college and university libraries that subscriptions must be continued for the leading foreign journals, part of which are still coming direct to the United States and part of which are being stored abroad.

East

Bard College Library, Annandale-on-the-Hudson, New York, has received a number of valuable Hardy items as a gift. These include the McCutcheon copy of Thomas Hardy's *The Dynasts* with the dedication to Algernon Swinburne; the manuscript of his poem *The Oxen*; a Hardy letter to Professor Barry in Cambridge, England; and two privately printed poems.

Brooklyn College Library, Asa Don Dickinson, librarian, is featuring a reading program based on the A.L.A. reading list, *Our American Democracy*. All of the copies of books on the list are available at the main desk and a prize of \$10 has been announced for the best essay on "Our American Democracy." To be eligible for the contest which closes the end of the fall semester, a student must have read at least three titles on the list. Five hundred copies of the A.L.A. reading list have been made available for interested students.

The Connecticut College Library at New London, Lavina Stewart, librarian, is planning to build a stack addition, to provide adequate space for the 90,000 volumes which now crowd the shelves, and which will include 100 carrells. The

additions are made possible through the generosity of the late George S. Palmer and Mrs. Palmer, donors of the library, who left a gift for the purpose in 1931. This is to be supplemented by a \$40,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, N.H., Nathaniel Goodrich, librarian, has recently received and will add to their Treasure Room a 72-volume gift collection comprising one of the finest and most valuable Joseph Conrad collections in existence. The gift is from George Matthew Adams, New York author and book collector, and includes every one of Conrad's books in mint condition and in the first edition. Dartmouth College Library also received an Aldous Huxley collection of 100 items from Richard H. Mandell of New York City. In this collection, every volume is a first edition by or about Huxley.

The School of Commerce Library at New York University has received from a large private investment firm an extensive collection of books, periodicals, financial reports, and clippings on business and commercial subjects forming the equivalent of about 10,000 volumes. The collection covers all phases of economics, money, banking, investments, agriculture, manufactures, mining, transportation, government, and public finance. In addition to that, another valuable collection of material on labor problems was received from Labor Bureau, Incorporated. Arrangements have been made by which New York University Library, R. B. Downs, director, will acquire the library of the Hebrew Technical Institution in

the Field

New York City. The collection, numbering 20,000, is particularly strong in industrial and vocational education.

New York University Library also reports an index to American periodicals completed after six years of extensive research by a staff of W.P.A. workers. It includes 700,000 cards including authors' entries, subjects, poetry, fiction, songs, and book reviews, some 1800 volumes of 351 periodicals covering the period in the United States from 1728 down to 1859. The index has opened up a large amount of hitherto inaccessible literature in a variety of fields.

When the new Rush Rhees Library of University of Rochester, John R. Russell, librarian, was opened in 1930, only five of the nineteen levels in the book stacks in the tower were filled with shelving. Because of a constantly expanding book collection, three additional levels have been shelved recently. These new levels will increase the space available so that 290,000 books can be housed in the stacks. A locked section on the fifth level was fenced off to care for the rare book collection.

The University of Vermont Library at Burlington, Miss Helen Shattuck, librarian, has received two letters written by a blind man fifty years ago to the editor of a Burlington paper. Roland E. Robinson was a famous Vermont author who published the majority of his books after he became blind. The first letter included information relative to Indian names of Vermont mountains, rivers, and landmarks. The second letter included personal data of Mr. Robinson's life. Both letters were given to the Vermont

library by Professor G. W. Benedict, emeritus professor of Brown University living in Providence, and a grandson of Professor George W. Benedict, University of Vermont faculty member from 1825 to 1847.

Yale University has a special division of the graduate school which provides fellowships for advanced study, cutting across departmental lines. Libraries and museums of art, public forums, and extension work in public school systems, represent the outstanding fields of work for these fellowships.

South The cornerstone of the new Merner-Pfeiffer Library building at Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tennessee, was laid Wednesday, November 20, 1940, with appropriate ceremonies.

Middle West Herman H. Henkle, director of the library school, Simmons College Library, Boston; G. Flint Purdy, librarian, Wayne University, Detroit; and Donald Coney, librarian, University of Texas, Austin, are co-authors of a professional survey of the Indiana University Library, sponsored and just published by the American Library Association. The survey, made at the request of Indiana University president, Herman B. Wells, includes prospective reorganization plans for the University of Indiana Library.

The cornerstone of the Henry Pfeiffer Memorial Library was laid October 17, 1940 on Founders' Day, at MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois.

The John Hall Sherratt Library at Rockford College was dedicated October

20, 1940. The total cost of \$130,000 was donated by alumni and friends of the institution.

Denkmann Memorial Library, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, William Baehr, librarian, has enlarged an unused section of its basement to provide additional stack room for 40,000 volumes. These additions to the stacks are a \$12,000 gift from the original donor of the library building. Recent offerings of Swedish publishers are being received at Augustana through the newly organized Institute of Swedish Culture which has its headquarters on the campus. In this way the extensive holdings of the library's Swan and Linder collections are being greatly supplemented, increasing the value of the college as a center of Scandinavian research.

The December, 1940, issue of *Minnesota Libraries* is devoted to an examination of the college libraries in Minnesota including liberal arts, teachers, and junior colleges. The reports and studies are summed up in an interpretative article by Frank Walter, librarian, University of Minnesota.

December 9, 1940, the president and librarians of Kent State University, Akron University, Hiram College, and Mt. Union College, met at Kent to discuss library improvement. Dr. Charles Ketcham, president of Mt. Union, has invited them to the campus at Alliance, Ohio, to consider a union catalog system and to consider securing the resources in the various fields. Dr. Keebrick, president of Kent State University, cited as an illustration that while Kent would be making special efforts to emphasize political science, Mt. Union might expand its religious section and that both collections, under the union system, would be

available to each of the four institutions.

A special bequest from Donald C. Love, a native of Nebraska, makes possible the construction of a new library building at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Robert A. Miller, librarian. The approximate cost will be \$750,000. A planning committee has been appointed and construction will be begun in the spring of 1941. The University of Nebraska also announces the acquisition of the collection of private papers and journals of J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska pioneer, originator of Arbor Day, and secretary of agriculture in Cleveland's second administration. It is estimated the collection contains 75,000 letters and 2000 printed copies.

Several hundred
South West volumes and a large
collection of rocks
and fossils belonging to the late Professor
G. E. Anderson of University of Oklahoma have been presented to the geology
library of that institution.

An original manuscript letter written by Empress Carlotta of Mexico when she was in France trying to get aid for the former emperor, Maximilian, has been added to the Latin American collection of the University of Texas Library, Austin, Donald Coney, librarian. More than 600 manuscripts, documents relating to politics in Mexico and Texas, have also been added to the university library's collection. These cover the period of the early 1800's.

Over a million volumes were circulated during the past year at University of Texas Library. This is the second consecutive year that previous circulation records have been broken. The library has also received as a gift the original manuscripts and library of Dr. Frank B. Marsh, an authority on ancient history.

Part of the first library brought to the American continent—original autographs of the owner still legible—has been acquired by the University of Texas Library, Donald Coney, librarian, for its Latin American collection. These include five volumes on religion and a copy of the first European edition of More's *Utopia* published in Switzerland. The four-hundred-year-old books were among a collection of 150 brought to the New World in 1528 by Juan Zumarraga, first bishop of Mexico and sponsor of the first American printing press.

Far West Dorothy Bevis of University of California Press, was guest speaker at the first meeting of the Bibliophile Society at Mills College, Evelyn S. Little, librarian. She addressed a student group on "The Amenities of Book Collecting."

At Mills College Library, a student library committee is now serving on the one hand as a channel for clearing constructive suggestions of students to the librarian, and on the other hand, to interpret library services to the student body. A standard library test was given to the members of the freshman class for the first time. The general opinion of a few faculty members who also took the test was that it was much too difficult and too highly specialized for anybody but library school graduates.

A bust of Albert Einstein presented to the University of California Library at Berkeley by two San Francisco attorneys has been placed in the Main Catalog Room of that library. On Saturday, November 16, the fourth meeting of the Northwest College Librarians Group was called to order by Mr. Warren L. Perry,

librarian, College of Puget Sound, Tacoma. Tentative plans were presented for a proposed library building at the College of Puget Sound. Charles W. Smith, University of Washington Library, Seattle, presented a progress report of the new union catalog at the university. In the afternoon, Dr. Chapman, professor of English at the College of Puget Sound, spoke on his work in editing a literature anthology in the College of Puget Sound Library. Miss Janet Walker was elected chairman of the group, and Father David, secretary, for the next meeting to be held in Portland. Twenty-four librarians representing 16 colleges and universities were present.

University of California Medical Center Library at San Francisco has recently established a circulating periodical service for California physicians. The service costs are borne by the borrower.

University of California Library at Berkeley, Harold K. Leupp, librarian, has recently received from Dr. Richard B. Goldschmidt, professor of zoology, a very unusual collection of letters. The letters include correspondence with the founders of modern zoology and many other scientists. There are also letters from eminent artists, writers, musicians, and philosophers.

Dr. Herbert I. Priestley, director of Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley, announces that approximately 200,000 pages of valuable source material relating to the history of California has been gathered by professors and students traveling in North and South America and presented to the Bancroft Library. Most of the material will be preserved on film.

Stanford University Library, Nathan van Patten, director, has received a col-

lection of Americana gathered by Superior Judge Elmer E. Robinson of San Francisco. The collection includes some 500 books, 100 pamphlets, and tracts, 130 letters, and a large group of newspapers dated from Colonial and Revolutionary times.

University of Oregon Library staff has begun the publication of a staff association mimeographed publication entitled *The Call Number*, which is now in its second volume. Included in the numbers of the publication are book reviews, staff notes, and library notes of interest, particularly to the libraries and institutions of the Pacific coast.

The University of Oregon Library at Eugene, Matthew Hall Douglas, librarian, announces the acceptance of the library of Philip R. Brooks as the gift of Mrs. Lester Brooks of Portland, who will provide \$5,000 for a special room on the third floor to house one of the finest personal library collections in the Pacific Northwest region. Included in the book collection are many fine editions and standard sets of English and American authors, and translations into English from French authors. It is planned that this room will be a comfortable study lounge for graduate students.

The State Board of Higher Education has authorized the University of Oregon to issue a series of library research monographs from funds available for publication, including bibliographies of unique or unusual collections of research materials in the university library as well as descriptions of unique or rare manuscripts and discussion of bibliographic problems relating to these manuscripts.

On the third floor of the University of Oregon Library is a room containing photographs representing the early beginnings

of the university down to the present.

Washington State College Library, Pullman, W. W. Foote, librarian, now includes among its treasures the smallest Bible in the world—one and one-half inches long and one-half inch thick, containing the full text of the New Testament. The Bible is equipped with a miniature magnifying glass fitted into the back of the binding. It is a replica of the family Bible of William Shakespeare and contains a facsimile of Shakespeare's family record.

Personnel

Frances Armalas, Illinois '40, recently became a new member of the catalog department, University of California Library, Berkeley.

Mrs. Helen Black, California '39, has been appointed assistant in the documents division, University of California Library, Berkeley.

Mrs. Nelle C. Brown is now clerical assistant in the catalog department, at University of California Library, Berkeley.

Mrs. Inez Colby, who has been with the library for more than 26 years, resigned her position in the catalog department of University of California Library, Berkeley, October 3, 1940.

Agnes M. Cole, in charge of Bancroft Library, cataloging, at University of California Library in Berkeley, resigned June 30, 1940.

The following appointments have been made at the University of California Library, Berkeley:

Ruth French, Columbia '29, previously on the staff of Columbia University Library, has recently been appointed senior bibliographer.

Mrs. Eva Fram, California '39, is an assistant in filing.

Agnes M. Johnson, Columbia '33, formerly at Kern County Library, has been appointed bibliographer.

Mrs. Lisl Loeb, California '40, is now assistant in the catalog department.

Anna F. Pitney, California '40, is an assistant in the accessions department.

Mrs. Alice F. Reynolds, Columbia '38, is an assistant cataloger for the Bancroft Library.

Dr. Diether von den Steinen has been appointed curator of the Chinese and

Japanese language collection. Dr. von den Steinen spent eleven years in China.

Ruth L. Steinmetz, assistant chief of the bibliography division, has been assigned to the School of Education Library.

Robert Vosper, California '40, is assistant in the reference division.

Jerome K. Wilcox was promoted from assistant librarian to associate librarian July 1, 1940.

Gordon Wilson, California '40, is now assistant in the catalog department.

Further Lists of Books for College Libraries

(Continued from page 118)

selection aids. The *Booklist* aims at the prompt evaluation of books considered suitable for immediate library acquisition; the *A.L.A. Catalog* is an expression of the deferred judgment on such titles as basic books. Again, this sampling is not infallibly conclusive, but it is further indicative of those discrepancies in book selection aids. In this check 100 haphazardly selected titles from the *Booklist* were checked against the *A.L.A. Catalog, 1932-1936*. Of the 100 *Booklist*-cited titles only 37 were included in the later publication. In this random sampling, therefore, 63 per cent of the immediately accepted titles were rejected in the later compilation of books desirable for permanent library acquisition. It seems reasonable to suppose that a similar variation might be expected among those titles recommended in corresponding current and basic lists aimed at college book selection.

One still further possibility, if support should warrant it, would be the adoption of both procedures: a quickly prepared quarterly list (like the *Booklist*).

Twenty issues of this would become the basis, not of cumulation, but for the compilation of a revised authoritative and tested selection (like the *A.L.A. Catalog*) to be issued as the next inclusive five-year volume in a series including the original book, the existing 1931-1938 supplement, and the proposed 1939-1941 selections.

All these proposals are unofficial, tentative, and suggestive. So far as I know, no scheme of procedure has been adopted or even planned in detail by any organization. Before there is a commitment to any plan I believe that there should be some canvassing of the opinions of, and some investigation of the possibilities of participation by, official representatives of the various learned societies whose fields of interest are included in the publication. In addition to such extra-professional discussions I am sure that the publishing department of the A.L.A. and the officials of the Association of College and Reference Libraries will welcome your letters of comment and advice.