

## Messenger. No. 2 July 1960

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Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, July 1960

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*Mr. Griffin*

FRIENDS  
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THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

# MESSENGER

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*Published Occasionally*

*Madison*

*No. 2, July 1960*

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## Notable Gifts of 1959/60

Once again Mr. Norman Bassett and Mr. R. E. Onstad (both of Madison) have won our gratitude. Mr. Bassett made possible the purchase of additional rare Twain items, and Mr. Onstad, for the Research Products Corporation, once more enabled us to obtain the English translation of an expensive Russian scientific periodical.

From the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, we received \$300 for the purchase of insurance books to honor the memory of Mr. Theodore R. Schmidt of Kewaskum.

Miss Edna Ferber presented us with the manuscript version of the "Giant," and with it the research notes she gathered while preparing this book.

A notable collection of writings by and about Wordsworth was given by Mr. Hamilton Beatty, now of Cleveland, Ohio. This collection was made by the late Arthur Beatty, formerly a professor of English at the University, and father of the donor.

Ornithological books are always welcome, and of this kind Mrs. Warner Taylor gave a considerable number, all in excellent condition, and some of considerable rarity.

Over the years the Library has benefited from the generosity of members of the faculty. Two recent examples of this good will are Gian Orsini (Italian) and David Baerreis (Anthropology). Among general collections of books in private hands there frequently can be found a number of value to a library. Of such books we received gifts from Mrs. Don Anderson (Madison); from Mrs. H. B. Whaling (Cincinnati), who presented several hundred volumes previously owned by Judge Jefferson Simpson of Shullsburg; Mrs. Stephens Gould (Madison); and from the late Mr. E. J. B. Schubring (Madison).

A steadfast Friend is Mr. Lloyd E. Smith of Racine, who again presented us with a variety of good books, including some first editions of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

News releases issued by foreign governments are of prime importance to research in the social studies, which explains our gratitude to Mrs.

Marguerite Cartwright of New York City for a file of releases of the government of East Nigeria. For this gift we wish to credit Mr. Fishel of our State Historical Society with an assist. We are glad to report that this kind of assistance has been and will continue to be reciprocated by the University Library.

Of economics books we received a useful number from Mrs. Wehrwein, widow of Professor Wehrwein.

More than 200 volumes in medicine were given by Mrs. Robert Van Valzah, of Goby, Virginia.

To supplement our steadily growing collection in Hebrew, we received books from Mr. Hayim M. Howard (Los Angeles), and Mr. Samuel Saffro (Milwaukee).

Louis Kaplan

## UW Acquires Unique Spanish Collection

Among recent arrivals in the processing areas of the Acquisitions Department is the Biblioteca de Obras Anormales, a collection amassed during thirty years by a Catalan bibliophile. Its 2,700 items are indeed out of the ordinary and consist of books, broadsides, leaflets, pamphlets, cartoons, and manuscripts on a wide variety of topics: history, science, philosophy, religion, politics, literature, and art. Materials included date from the fourteenth century to the present.

After inspecting the collection in detail, Professor R. P. Sebold

of the Spanish Department described it as unique, at least in the United States, and doubted that certain of the items could be found even in Spain. Many titles were "read and mentioned by major [Spanish] authors, but never reprinted and now usually regarded as having totally disappeared." The Biblioteca is especially important as a cross-section of the popular literature and ephemera of the eighteenth century and could become a significant source of research data in such areas as the eighteenth century antecedents of *costumbrismo*, the social background of the late eighteenth century novel, the early influence of Rousseau on Spanish literature, contemporary views on Carlos III's "enlightened despotism," attempted governmental reform of theaters, and so on and on.

The collection is in excellent condition. Unbound materials are in marbled folders, and many in book boxes. Though the great mass of materials is in Spanish, there are items in French, Italian, English, Latin, Portuguese, and Catalan.

Books, manuscripts, and ephemera of the eighteenth century are most numerous, but there are many items both earlier and later, going back, for example, to a manuscript account of criminal proceedings taken against an Aragonese water vendor in 1321, and including a letter of the wife of Juan I of Aragon dated 1396, one from Fernando of Aragon to the Archbishop of Zaragoza in 1513, a literary document composed at Zaragoza in 1312, and



particulars of the case of Elvira Alvarez, condemned by the Inquisition for heresy in 1489. Various ephemeral booklets concern such topics as gardening, dancing, bull-fighting, bicycle riding, and the art of self defense. There are, in addition, many scarce polemical tracts, governmental edicts, and copies of ancient manuscripts.

Lloyd W. Griffin, Chief  
Humanities Reference Division

### Once Again, on Being a Friend

Now and then a privately owned book collection comes into view, the importance of which is fully understood by its owner. In such instances, our task is clear enough—how to persuade that person to give his books to the University. Understandably, with some owners, considerable persuasion is required.

More often, persons unknowingly own books that are needed by the Library, and little persuasion is needed to enroll them among our list of donors.

In both circumstances described above, any person not a member of the Friends *might* be instrumental in “nailing” down a gift. But by virtue of membership in the Friends, a person is more likely to be alert to the needs of the Library, and more likely to act as agent when the opportunity arises.

To promote alertness on the part of the Friends is obviously important, and this purpose is in

part served by this periodical. Even though the expense of publication is modest, state funds are not available; and for this reason, the dues paid by Friends, though modest, serve a useful function.

### French Satirical Journals

The French have always had a certain flair for satire,—whether expressed in the drama of a Molière or in the lithographs of a Daumier. Both media, literature and art, join hands in the satirical journal, which came into being in Paris during the first quarter of the nineteenth century and which has had a lusty following ever since.

The Memorial Library has recently acquired a sizeable and broadly representative collection of these journals, ranging in date from the Revolution of 1848 to the days of World War I. It is a really unusual acquisition, composed for the greater part of complete sets, many of which are not to be found even on the admirably stocked shelves of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

It is not possible, in a short note, to do more than give a few random remarks on the nature and subject of these journals, which are as varied as their titles, ranging from *A bas les tyrants* to *La Trique*. Most have one thing in common: they are opposed—and violently opposed—to some point of view: religious, social, political, even literary. This explains why many of them ran afoul of the censor and expired after only a few months—or days

—of existence, for satire is nearly always the weapon of defense, against the powers that be. As verbal invective combines with the art of caricature, it is frequently the latter which prevails by the immediacy of its impact in these boisterous publications. The art is often crude, but it is forceful; at times it reveals the masterful hand of a Steinlen or a Gill. The text is not always elegant, but one finds therein an occasional contribution by Zola, Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, and even a short story by Maupassant, which, for understandable reasons, has not been reprinted in any edition of his so-called complete works.

A few oddities deserve special mention. There is *La Critique illustrée*, featuring original photographic prints as illustrations as early as 1865; *La Scie*, with folding caricatures and amusing transparencies; *Le Géant*, which for the first time made use of chromolithography in a periodical publication.

In general, it can be said that this new collection has much to offer scholars with a multitude of interests, whether they be in the graphic arts, sociology, literature, or in the vast reaches of cultural history. Together with the many other journals of similar nature, which the library has been quietly acquiring, these newcomers form a body of relatively unexploited research material which is probably without an equal outside of France itself.

W. T. Bandy

French Department, U. of W.

## Schubring Gift

When the late Mr. Schubring in the spring of 1959 gave his books to the Library, the University News Service issued a news release, written by Vivien Hone. An abbreviated version of that news release is reproduced below.

The books which have been the lifetime good companions of a prominent Madison attorney and his wife will begin a second career in pleasure and knowledge for readers when they are installed this month in the University of Wisconsin Libraries.

It is difficult to imagine new quarters more fitting than UW shelves for the 1,800 volumes which retiring Lawyer Schubring and his wife have given to Wisconsin on the eve of their departure for a new home in the West. The Schubring ties with the state of Wisconsin, with this University town, and with the University itself are strong—and even the books themselves, in their quality and variety, speak of a reading taste which a Wisconsin education helped to shape.

The private library includes scientific materials, works of modern fiction, modern American and English essays, books on sports, and volumes on travel and art. The collection is especially strong on art subjects, Memorial Library officials say.

Mr. Schubring was one of the seven original founders of the Madison Club. Mrs. Schubring, an early vice president of the Madison branch of the American

Association of University Women, helped to found the College Club and also was a founder of the Dane County League of Women Voters.

Books were a nourishing stream throughout the busy years. "We are both great readers," Mr. Schubring points out. "For 50 years we've bought books."

The recently presented gift to the UW Libraries, mirroring all the above mentioned interests of two intellectually vigorous Wisconsin alumni, also mirrors a continuing concern with matters of history and natural science. After a glance at the titles, it is no surprise to learn that Mrs. Schubring is a Fellow of the American Geographical Society or that the Schubrings hold life memberships in such organizations as the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters; Wisconsin State Historical Society; Museum of Natural History, New York; and National Parks Association.

None of the 1,800 books from the Schubrings can be called "rare," but the variety of works and inclusion of many standard texts makes the collection especially useful for UW students and other readers. Some of the texts will replace old, wornout items, some will go to the browsing collections, some to the reserve book department, some to Memorial Library stacks, and a number will be used at the UW-Milwaukee Library.

It is just such family libraries which are being sought by the

organization known as Friends of the UW Libraries, Director Kaplan points out. Through efforts of the group, many volumes from home bookshelves have been put to use or will ultimately find their destination in UW research and instructional programs.

Vivien Hone

### Three Early Gifts to the University of Wisconsin Library

1849 The University Library owes its origin to friends who had at heart the welfare of the University of Wisconsin in its struggle for survival. Horace A. Tenney of Madison, first curator of the cabinet and librarian, made a gift of forty volumes which marked the beginning of the great collection which is today housed in the Memorial Library. Hence his name must be first among a great many which should be engrossed on a scroll of remembrance. Tenney begged assiduously among his friends, such men as Simeon Mills and the Honorable Henry Dodge, until he had acquired about six hundred volumes by December 1850. Although today that collection seems very small, a century ago it meant a great deal to the University, and the donors, known and unknown, deserve our gratitude.

1868 Rasmus B. Anderson, anxious to establish Scandinavian studies in the University, realized that he could get nowhere without a collection of books, so he

set out to raise money. He interested the noted violinist, Ole Bull, who gave a benefit concert, which resulted in several hundred dollars for this fund from which the Mimer's Subdivision of the library was created. Many other friends of Norse ancestry added to the fund or the collection from decade to decade until it is now as notable as the musician who gave it its start. Books from the personal libraries of Professor Anderson and his successor in Scandinavian Studies, Julius E. Olson ('84), have been incorporated in it.

1878 Cyrus Woodman established a fund of \$5,000 for use in creating an astronomy library in the Washburn Observatory. The income of this fund, which has grown by increment, is still used to purchase books in memory of this friend. The personal library of Professor James C. Watson, the first director and designer of the Observatory, was upon his death in 1880 added to the Woodburn Library.

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