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LIBRARY CHRONICLE

ISSUED FOUR TIMES A YEAR
BY AND FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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"FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY"

On February 20, a group of twenty-four men met at the Lenape Club, by invitation of the Provost, and formed an organization to be known as "Friends of the University of Pennsylvania Library." Dr. Penniman, presiding, told of the purposes for which such an association had been planned, and Mr. Chester E. Tucker gave an account of a recent meeting of the Friends of the Johns Hopkins University Library, setting forth the many advantages that have resulted from the movement there. It was then unanimously voted to organize the "Friends of the Library," and the following officers were elected: Mr. John Cadwalader, president; Mr. C. Seymour Thompson, secretary; Mr. F. Corlies Morgan, treasurer. It was voted that an executive committee of five be appointed by the president.

After conclusion of the business part of the meeting, Dr. Penniman displayed a number of volumes of incunabula and other rare books of early date, from his own library, and talked in most interesting informal manner concerning them. Among these books was the "Prognosticon" which is briefly described by Dr. Penniman in this number of the "Library Chronicle."

It is planned to publish quarterly a bulletin, called the *University of Pennsylvania Library Chronicle*, with the purpose of keeping all Friends informed concerning the Library's activities, resources, service, and needs.

Membership in "The Friends" is open to everyone who gives annually to the Library the sum of five dollars or more, or books of sufficient value, and to such others as may be elected to honorary membership. Checks should be drawn to the University of Pennsylvania, and sent with membership application to the Secretary of the organization, at the University Library.

All who become members before May 1, 1933, will be known as founder members of the association.

TWO MESSAGES

“The true University,” Carlyle said, “is a collection of books.”

The University of Pennsylvania, in its seal, recognizes the importance of books to an institution of higher learning. Our Library, founded in 1749, and nurtured in its early days by Franklin, the founder of the University and of the first public library in America, is today one of the ten largest university libraries in the United States. It is the largest scholarly library between the country's most notable book collections, located in New York and Washington.

In organizing the “Friends of the Library” here we are adopting an idea which one of the University's former faculty members, the late Sir William Osler, developed at Oxford. The purpose of the Friends of the Library, here as there, is to foster a closer relationship between book-lovers and a great storehouse of knowledge; to cultivate an interest in books, and to bring to the Library the support of a loyal group of alumni and the public.

The funds of few libraries are so plentiful or so unrestricted as to place them in a position to purchase choice rarities and collections which unexpectedly become available. A mobile fund of modest size for books, provided annually by the Library's friends, would be the equivalent of an endowment twenty times as large; such a fund would make it possible for us to buy books which can seldom be purchased out of the Library's current funds.

This organization of “Friends” will be of immeasurable benefit to the University. It will be the medium through which our present book treasures, acquired in numberless collections from donors running through two centuries, may be made better known to all who would be interested in them.

The organization of the Friends of the Library marks a new and important step in the development of the scholarly traditions of the University.

THOMAS S. GATES

The size of a university library and the use that is made of it by faculty and students are indicative of the intellectual vigor and vitality of the university itself. The library contains in the form of books and documents records of the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of mankind. It is, therefore, a treasury of the world's most valuable possessions. It is in a true sense the center of the university. No university worthy the name can exist without a great library, but great libraries exist without being necessarily parts of universities.

It is valuable for any library to have as many persons as possible actively interested in it, both as users of the library, and also as contributors, in one way or another, to its well-being and usefulness. A number of years ago,

there was formed at Oxford a group who called themselves "Friends of the Bodleian." The work of this group is described in its title. Whatever concerns the well-being of the Bodleian Library is of interest to its "Friends," and may be brought to their attention with the assurance of sympathy and assistance. Similar groups of "Friends" have been organized in connection with other libraries, both in Europe and America. The "Friends" meet at intervals to hear reports of the library and to discuss its needs and its work, seeking to enrich the library and to render it more useful.

A number of persons have expressed the hope that an organization would be formed of Friends of the University of Pennsylvania Library. I believe that this should be done because I know that there are many who are interested in the Library and would be glad of the opportunity to join with others in helping to increase its usefulness and its possessions. Many have contributed in various ways to create the Library as it is, and many more will continue the work of keeping the Library abreast of the scholarly needs of the University.

JOSIAH H. PENNIMAN

ROSENBACH FOUNDATION LECTURES

"An American Bookshelf in 1755" is the theme of three public lectures being given under the auspices of the Library by Dr. Lawrence C. Wroth, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library of Brown University, on the A. S. W. Rosenbach Foundation Fund. This fund consists of \$20,000 given by Dr. Rosenbach for the endowment of a fellowship in bibliography, designed to foster the fundamental interests of the Library by stimulating knowledge and appreciation of books. The fellowship makes possible an annual course of lectures in bibliography, delivered at the University and published by the University Press.

Dr. Wroth's lectures constitute a valuable study of the output of the colonial press and the literary background of a well-read American of the pre-Revolutionary period. The first lecture, on February 16, discussed the historical and political works which were most influential in forming men's thoughts; the second, given on March 2, considered the religious philosophic, and scientific publications of the period. The concluding lecture, date to be announced, will treat of works of purely literary intention. These lectures will be published by the University Press, probably in the fall.

Dr. Wroth is president of the Bibliographical Society of America, and is widely known as one of the foremost of American scholars in the field of bibliography and the history of printing in America.