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Recent Gifts

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RECENT GIFTS

In August the University Library was presented by the Misses Vankirk, of Philadelphia, with fourteen hundred books in memory of their father, the Rev. John Vankirk. A brother, Walter Vankirk, was a graduate of the College in the class of 1899.

These books comprised in large part a personal library collected by Mr. Vankirk, and in addition to useful duplicates of important standard works in ancient classical and English literature are especially rich in rare works of humor, travel, and biography. In the latter group are numerous original memoirs of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries which are of great value to students and of which the Library has previously not had copies.

The collection includes several splendid examples of sixteenth and seventeenth century black letter folios and quartos. A particularly interesting group of these represents a field of which the Library has hitherto had but few examples—that of fine early Dutch printing. Outstanding among them are the *Historien der Nederlanden* to 1612 by Emanuel van Meteren (1647); the *Cronyke van het Leven en Bedryff van alle de Coningen van Engeland* (Amsterdam, 1649); and the works of Jacob Cats, including his *Gedachten op Slapeloose Nachten* (Amsterdam, 1700). The latter work consists of two magnificent folio volumes with superb portrait and innumerable curious plates or *Emblems*, picturing the thoughts. Amongst the many illustrated books in the collection, however, the choicest probably is the superlative folio of engravings commemorating the visit of Louis XV to Strasbourg in 1744, an outstanding example of its art in that period.

Such a gift appreciably enhances the resources of the Library.

JOHN C. MENDENHALL.

Mr. Henry Reed Hatfield has recently given \$610. to enable us to purchase certain essential works of reference and several long "runs" of important periodicals in the field of chemistry. All of the books thus acquired have been added to the Walter Hatfield Memorial Library of Chemistry, which was established by Mr. Hatfield many years ago in a room provided by him as a memorial to his brother.

A gift of \$500. has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Singer for the purchase of desirable additions to the Godfrey F. Singer Memorial, which was described by Dr. Mendenhall in our June issue.

From Dr. E. B. Krumbhaar has come a copy of the *Bibliotheca historica* of Diodorus Siculus, printed at Hanau in 1604 at the famous press founded by André Wechel and carried on after his death by Marni and Aubri. This copy, bound in heavy boards and remarkably well preserved, is of additional interest because of the signature, on the fly-leaf, of Thomas Arnold, of Rugby.

Dr. Burr has continued to manifest his constant interest in enriching our collections with noteworthy books in many different fields. Among his more recent gifts are the commentary of Petrus Victorius on Demetrius Phalereus; several of the early editions and commentaries to be added to the Aristotelian collection; a 1567 edition of Virgil; a Lucretius of 1768 and an Aristophanes of 1770; and many other classical works and commentaries. Special mention should be made of the *Florilegium diversorum epigrammatum veterum*, Geneva, 1566. This is a splendidly preserved copy, bound in vellum, of the edition of the *Anthologia graeca* (based on the work of Maximus Planudes first published in 1494), printed by Henri Estienne, under the patronage of Ulrich Fugger.

Another handsome gift from Dr. Burr, received as the *Chronicle* is about to go to press, is the first volume of *Woodcuts of the XV Century in the . . . British Museum*, edited by Campbell Dodgson. The British Museum has one of the largest five collections of woodcuts of the northern countries, and practically the entire collection is to be reproduced, in the exact size of the originals and with splendid workmanship. The first volume, recently published, is a worthy companion to Stanley Morison's *German Incunabula in the British Museum*, presented by Dr. Burr a year or more ago. The remaining volumes of the catalog of woodcuts will be received as they are issued.

Dr. Theodore W. Koch ('92 College) librarian of Northwestern University, has given a copy of his *Mirror of the Parisian Bibliophile*, a translation of the "satirical tale" of Alfred Bonnardot. This delightfully whimsical story of love, intermingled with the idiosyncrasies of a book-collector and a picture of the second-hand book-trade, has certainly never

appeared to better advantage than in this limited edition, which appeals strongly to all lovers of fine books. In paper, typography, cloth binding of light blue with delicate gilt tooling, and the enticing sepia illustrations by José Longoria, it exemplifies the best of craftsmanship. The introduction and the copious notes (out of the ordinary reader's way at the end of the book) are equally rich in value to the bibliographically-minded book-lover. The whole work is a splendid example of the kind of thing Dr. Koch loves to do, by way of diversion, and does so surpassingly well.

Among books purchased this year with money contributed by Friends of the Library is a set of the "definitive," complete edition of Froissart, in the French, with the variant readings of the several manuscripts.

WHAT THE LIBRARY DOES

We have no love for statistics, but tolerate them only when and so far as they may be necessary. Nevertheless, perhaps a few statistical facts concerning the Library's work may be of interest.

With more than 811,000 volumes (inclusive of the Biddle Law Library), we rank ninth in size among American university libraries.

In normal times we add about 2,000 volumes each month. Reduced funds have diminished this average, and in the last year we acquired altogether, by purchase and by gift, 16,626 volumes; about 8,000 less than we had come to consider normal.

We serve approximately 11,500 borrowers: in round numbers, 2,400 Faculty members and graduate students; 6,000 undergraduates; 1,900 alumni, not now directly connected with the University; and 1,200 other borrowers.

Last year we issued, for use outside the building, nearly 130,000 volumes. This is but a small fraction of the number used from open shelves in the reading rooms and from books reserved for required collateral reading, to be used only in the building. With an adequate open-shelf collection of general literature, available to undergraduates, the home circulation would undoubtedly—invariably—increase by, who can say how much? Perhaps 10 per cent.; perhaps 20; perhaps 30.