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Syracuse University Library Associates

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*Syracuse University  
Library Associates*

# *COURIER*

NUMBER 1

APRIL 1958

## A Note To The Reader

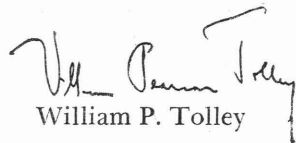
Like all publishing ventures, this modest periodical is a venture of faith. We hope that it will bring its readers a sense of the significant growth in the quality of our University Library and of the vital role it plays in our program of higher education.

As an organization the Library Associates is less than five years old. In this brief period, however, we have seen the doubling of annual expenditures for the purchase of books and periodicals and an almost explosive change in the number of gifts to the Library and the quality of library services to the faculty, students, and the general public.

In a university of steadily improving quality an adequate library is, of course, a moving target. But it has long been clear that we must have a new building and that we should plan for a library collection of at least a million volumes. Only a very aggressive and ambitious program can assure "a library adequate for the standing of this University."

The purpose of the Library Associates is to interest everyone we can in the progress and support of the Library. The *Courier* is published in the hope that the story of our Library needs will be better known. We shall, however, also report on new developments in the Library under the able and dynamic leadership of Dean Yenawine and, as space permits, on interesting books and ideas.

We hope you will like the *Courier* and we shall appreciate it if you will call it to the attention of your friends. We are confident that the more you know about the Library the greater will be your desire to help it grow. We are hopeful that it will also increase your sense of pride and achievement in the things that matter most in human history and that continue to add breadth and depth to the meaning of life for each of us.

  
William P. Tolley

## Balzac, Businessman

When, in the late summer of 1850, Honoré de Balzac felt death upon him, he lamented that there was still so much more work to be done. "If only I had Bianchon, he would save me." Dr. Bianchon inhabited the strange universe that Balzac's mind contained, a world of intimately known people on whom he drew for the materials of his *Human Comedy*. Some were giants, like Vautrin, the master thief, some pathetic creatures like the orphaned Victorine. But they all moved through a series of novels which Balzac hoped would form a resumé of contemporary society. For him they were real individuals driven by the pressures of the day and whose actions mirrored and explained the hopes and aspirations of a society in the process of changing from a nation under a despotism to one ruled constitutionally and dominated by the middle class.

His understanding of the age was not optimistic. When, in 1842, Balzac arranged for a collected edition of his work, he prefaced the set with an explanatory introduction in which he likened human society of the 1820's to that of the animals: man developed into specialized beings under the influence of environment, just as did the beasts. Society functioned like a jungle where the strong ate the weak. Balzac preferred to study the strong, the monomaniacs, men and women of such strong drives that they became almost obsessed with a single desire, all of whom were fighting for position, power, and the money that made these possible.

Balzac's biography reads almost like one of his own novels for he, too, continually sought money, for the same reasons as his creations. Like some of his characters, César Birotteau, for example, he had illusions about his business capacities that served to compound a tangled financial situation. In 1825, at the age of 28, he had borrowed from his mother and a lady friend to start a publishing venture. When this failed in 1826, he borrowed again to open a printing house. In September 1827 he went into bankruptcy, but, never daunted, he borrowed to establish a short-lived type foundry. The result was monumental debt.

With the passion of one of his characters, Balzac pursued the dream of an income large enough to repay his obligations and permit a life of ease. At one time he planned to purchase ancient Roman silver mines in Sardinia to treat the slag for precious metals, but a Genoese merchant to whom he had confided beat him to the concession. Later, on a visit to Poland, he dreamed of exporting oak timber to France, bought cheap at the source and sold high back home. Unfortunately his bubble burst because he had forgotten to solve the transportation problem. Unchastened, he put his ingenious mind to work at convincing a wealthy Polish widow, the Countess Evelina Hanska, to become his wife. For nine years she played coy, then, when she married him in 1850, he found she had turned her money over to her daughter!

But he had one sure way to make money, his pen, and with it he earned large sums, though he spent so lavishly he had to hide from both creditors and the tax collector. Eternally sanguine, he hoped his next book would end all financial worries, and when this failed to happen he turned to the stage as a quick way to get rich. Since he knew his books sold well, he drove hard bargains, as in the following contract:

Entre les soussignés [sic]<sup>1</sup>

M. honoré de Balzac, demeurant à Paris rue de Richelieu n.° 112 *d'une part* et  
M. Hyppolite Souverain, Editeur, demeurant à Paris rue des Beaux arts n.° 5  
*d'autre part*

ont arrêté les conventions suivantes

art I.<sup>er</sup>

M. de Balzac vend à M. Souverain qui l'accepte aux charges et conditions qui seront énoncées ci-après le droit de publier et de vendre en une édition in-octavo la pièce de théâtre: *Les ressources de Quinola*.

L'Édition ne pourra excéder six cents exemplaires y compris les troisièmes—  
En sus de ce nombre cinquante exemplaires seront remis à l'auteur, se qui porte le tirage total à six cent cinquante exemplaires.

Le délai d'exploitation est fixe à quatre vingt dix jours, à partir de la mise en vente qui devra avoir lieu cinq jours après le dernier bon à tirer de l'auteur, contresigné par l'imprimeur, quelque soit d'ailleurs les vus de la mise en vente.

Après ce délai M. de Balzac rentrera dans tous ses droits de propriété et pourra disposer de son oeuvre comme il l'entendra. Si M. de Balzac cédait la publication de la pièce aux divers magasins de pièces de théâtre les éditeurs ne pourront l'annoncer que le jour où M. de Balzac sera rentré dans ses droits.

M. de Balzac rentrera également dans ses droits entiers dès l'instant où il ne resterait à M. Souverain que dix exemplaires en magasin.

art II.<sup>e</sup>

Pour prix de la présente cession, M. Souverain a payé à l'instant à M. de Balzac qui la reconnaît la somme de cinq cents francs en un billet à trois mois de date [three words inked out] M. Souverain ne sera pas tenu de payer les corrections au delà de la somme de vingt-cinq francs.

Le present traité fait en présence et du consentement de M. Henri Pierre Foullon, rentier demeurant à Paris rue de Choiseul n.° 4.

Fait triple à Paris le vingt trois mars mil huit cent quarante deux.

Approuvé l'Écriture de Balzac

ci-dessus et D'autre

Part

Foullon

Approuvé  
trois mots  
rayés nuls

Approuvé l'écriture ci dessus  
et d'autre Part  
D. H. Souverain

Like his other schemes, his publications never produced the money he needed, however advantageous the terms. For years after Balzac's death in 1850, his wife paid off the debts incurred by a man who fought the world and, like many of his own creations, was finally overwhelmed by it. Balzac apparently never understood the difference between the world of his art and the world in which he lived.

Albert J. George

<sup>1</sup>This contract between Balzac and the publisher Souverain is the generous gift of Mr. George Arents, donor of the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room. Although the Royce Balzac Collection is distinguished for its published materials, it holds few manuscript items. This donation, and others like it, will serve to make the Syracuse holdings one of the best in the world.

## Salisbury Library

Syracuse University recently completed negotiations with Mr. G. Reed Salisbury of Broad Run, Virginia to purchase his magnificent collection of American first editions. This distinguished private library of over three thousand volumes brings to the campus the results of thirty years of discriminating book collecting. Beginning with Richard Mather's *A Humble Answer*, Mr. Salisbury collected superb copies of the great and oftentimes controversial work of American authors. The collection enormously increases the resources of the Library to support research in American literature.

By waiving the cost of fees and expenses incident to a public sale, Mr. Salisbury has made a personal contribution to his Alma Mater of over \$10,000. The substantial payments which must be made for the Salisbury Library will require your generous support. One Library Associate has made a special contribution of \$1,000 for this purpose and other members are urged to give likewise as they can.

## The Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room

The Library's handsome and superbly equipped new quarters for the preservation and use of rarities was the gift of Mr. George Arents in memory of his wife Lena Richardson Arents. The room has been visited by 631 persons since its dedication on April 30, 1957. Included are many Library Associates, visiting scholars and graduate students, librarians, and a host of Syracuse friends. Many have come to the room to use treasures now readily accessible and others have visited to enjoy the beauty of the room and its contents. The protection and care of rare books and manuscripts which the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room provides has attracted so many gifts that the Chancellor and the Director of Libraries are studying plans for enlarging the Room.

## Lena Richardson Arents Hospitality Fund

Announced October 30, 1957 by Chancellor Tolley

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney W. Davidson have established the Lena Richardson Arents Hospitality Fund, honoring their friends Lena Richardson Arents and George Arents in a generous and distinctive way. The fund will be used to entertain visitors to the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room, especially groups of students, alumni and friends. The genial and cordial atmosphere of the English coffee house of Sam Johnson's day can now be recreated at Syracuse University and the Lena Richardson Arents Hospitality Fund will help to fulfill Mr. Arents' cherished hope that the Rare Book Room will stimulate the love of fine books.

## Unsung Lyrics

Approximately 35 first editions of American poets of the early 20th century were the recent gift of Prof. Frederick Haywood, former member of the faculty of the School of Music. These books, from the library of his late wife, Jessie Ward Haywood, include many presentation copies, inscribed by the authors to Mrs. Haywood. Now available in the Library are first editions of: Joseph Auslander's *The Cyclop's Eye*; Khalil Gibran's *The Forerunner*; Leonora Speyer's *The Canopic Jar*; and Audrey Wurdeman's *Bright Ambush*.

## Editorially Speaking

The Syracuse University Library Associates had its first organization meeting on October 1, 1953. We adopted a constitution which states that its objectives are to increase the resources of the Library and to accelerate its development. Our program of activities has been fourfold:

- a. To acquire for the University by gift and purchase important books and special collections
- b. To stimulate student interest in books and in reading
- c. To improve the physical facilities of the Library
- d. To dramatize the importance of the Library in University life

The Associates have not been organized very long, but we have accomplished some things. There have been notable gifts of books, journals and manuscripts to the Library, and these have strengthened its collections in the fields of literature, history, art, law and business administration. With funds contributed by the Library Associates, the Library has purchased some outstanding additions to its special collections and to its holdings in the fields of literature, music, mathematics and the Middle East. Of first importance has been the purchase of William Hobart Royce's unrivalled collection of works by and about Balzac.

Largely due to the existence of the Library Associates, Mr. George Arents instituted the annual Award and medal presented to the senior who assembles the best book collection while a student at the University. The mounting interest in books also inspired Mr. Arents to create the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room in which for the first time the Library can place its rarities where they will be properly cared for and yet be accessible for use. Through Library Associates, there has also been established the Post-Standard annual Award for distinguished service to the University Library.

A little has been accomplished; a very great deal remains to be done. I should be concealing the facts were I to claim that the Syracuse University Library is on a par with the great university libraries of this country. I should be falsifying were I even to state that it is adequate to meet the demands of the students and faculty of this great institution. By no means do the books presently available suffice either for student needs or for the equally important research study of graduates in the various schools and of members of the faculty. Syracuse University occupies a fine position, a position of leadership in many of its activities but I must emphasize for its Alumni and friends that we do not have a library adequate for the standing of this University. Instead of 400,000 volumes, the University should have a million volumes.

I trust that Library Associates, supported by loyal Alumni and friends, will continue their efforts in building up the number of volumes on our shelves, to the end that the books which constitute the record of mankind, the books which contain all the knowledge of the world, may be available to those who come to Syracuse to study and prepare themselves for service to the people of our great country.\*

Adrian Van Sinderen

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\*Excerpts from the address delivered by Dr. Adrian Van Sinderen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Library Associates, at the dedication of the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room in the Syracuse University Library, April 30, 1957.

## “Did Chuchu Sweat?”

Ten Robert Louis Stevenson manuscripts and letters have been loaned by Mr. Sol Feinstone of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania for exhibit in the Library. One of the most interesting items is a manuscript of Stevenson's "Did Chuchu Sweat?"; a defense for his reference in *The Silverado Squatters* that a dog, Chuchu, was covered with sweat after a strenuous mountain walk. Readers of the story wrote him that a dog did not sweat and Stevenson, taking the criticism seriously, drafted a letter to the magazine which published the story and explained that an author was justified in taking liberties with facts.

## Washingtoniana

The Library has acquired as a gift of Dr. O. T. Barck, Professor of History, its first document signed by George Washington. It is an army discharge dated June 9, 1783, for one Joseph Hallock, "matrosse" (gunner's assistant), member of the "2nd New York Artillery Regiment," and bears a Badge of Merit for three years "faithful service." Washington's signature is clear and legible and the document is in fine state of preservation.

This original letter adds luster to our collection of published works by and about Washington, presented to the Library recently by Mr. David Fraser and including a copy of "Parson" Weems' *Life of George Washington*, Philadelphia (1832).

## Relic of Holy Island

The Library has purchased with Library Associates' funds a copy of the exquisite facsimile edition of the "Lindisfarne Gospels." The original is one of the treasures of the British Museum. The gospels were written down by the Bishop of Lindisfarne, an Irish religious community, about 700 A.D. The manuscript is elaborately decorated and in addition to the Latin text has an inter-linear gloss in Anglo-Saxon. This is one of the facsimiles of famous manuscripts printed during the past decade by famous European publishers, notably Swiss, to show all of the structural details of the originals. These facsimiles make available for scholarly use manuscripts located in foreign libraries.

## Early English Books

With funds allocated by Library Associates for the purchase of "Short-Title Catalogue" books, we have been able to purchase approximately forty items, the subject matter of which comprises literature, history, and social movements. These are English books printed previous to 1700 and are of scholarly service to students of English history and literature. One of the most interesting is Joseph Glanville's *Saducismus Triumphatus or Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions*, London, 1682. Glanville, English clergyman and philosopher, herein stated his belief in the existence of witches and sorcerers and cites some twenty-six relations or stories to substantiate his belief. The book is being used in a graduate course which explores the influence of witchcraft upon the philosophical thought of the seventeenth century.

## English As It Was

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary is commonplace but many members of the faculty need the works of Webster's predecessors for reference in their research. Mr. George Arents and Mr. Michael Straight have contributed several 16th and 17th century English dictionaries to the Library. Important works needed in the rapidly growing collection of early dictionaries include Cawdrey's *A Table Alphabeticall* (1604), Cockeram's *The English Dictionarie* (1623), Blount's *Glossographia . . .* (1656) and Cole's *An English Dictionary* (1676). The Library is searching for copies of these and other early English dictionaries and will appreciate your help in obtaining them.

## A Missing Link

One of the few works lacking in the Library's fine collection of Mark Twain first editions is a copy of *The Stolen White Elephant*, published in 1882. This work was not in the collection of Mark Twain first editions presented to the University by Dr. Adrian Van Sinderen from his private library nor among the distinguished Mark Twain first editions acquired with Mr. G. Reed Salisbury's collection of American authors. Perhaps among Library Associates there is a copy which the owner would like to donate.

## William Dean Howells

The Dikaia Foundation of Delta Upsilon honored Lester G. Wells, Rare Book Librarian and Archivist at Syracuse University, with a grant sufficient to buy many of the first editions of William Dean Howells. Still lacking in the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room are Howell's *Italian Journeys* (1867), *No Love Lost* (1869), *The Parlor Car* (1876) and *The First Cricket* (1876). Library Associates who can donate any of these books will promote the research of Professor Edwin Cady who is writing a critical-biographical study of Howells.

## Memorial Gifts

Members have created permanent memorials in the University Library by contributing funds to the Syracuse University Library Associates for the purchase of books inscribed in honor of:

Lewis W. Crawford  
Kenneth Erskine  
Mrs. Bertha Swartz Krathwohl  
Ursula Little  
Charles L. Raper  
Mrs. Nannie S. Smith  
Mrs. Sarah R. Taylor  
Mrs. May Lewellyn Yenawine



## In Memoriam

With deep regret, the Executive Secretary records the loss from our membership of:

Walter S. Bourlier, deceased December 12, 1957  
Ernest H. Hawkins, deceased January 15, 1957  
Judge Frank P. Malpass, deceased June 4, 1957  
Mrs. Martha K. Phillips, deceased November 13, 1957  
Ernest I. White, deceased October 20, 1957

## Membership Notes

The Syracuse University Library Associates is open to all alumni and friends who contribute ten dollars or more each year in which dues are paid. Each member is registered with the Executive Secretary and each member receives an annual membership card.

The privileges of membership include:

Invitations to exhibitions, lectures and other special events at the University.

Use of collections in the libraries on the campus. Borrowers' cards are issued at the Circulation Desk on the second floor in Carnegie Library.

The services of professional librarians in reference and bibliography.

Opportunity to purchase most Syracuse University Press books at a discount.

Free subscription to the *COURIER*.

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### SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

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