



THE COURIER

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THE COURIER



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Konrad Bercovici

Star-lit nights on the plains of the Danube, wild winds whistling up from the Black Sea, the flickering glimmer of distant camp fires, and the light lilt of a gypsy song: all this forms the picture which naturally comes to mind with the mention of the name of Konrad Bercovici, a name as essentially linked with the nomadic adventure of Romany life as is that of George Borrow, and a man who personally radiated something of the romance he wrote about so vividly in his Roumanian tales and novels.

Konrad Bercovici, born in Roumania in 1882, the son of Jacot and Mirel Bercovici, spent much of his youth among the tents of the gypsies who wandered in over the border from Hungary, sleeping by their fires at night, listening to their songs and stories, and learning their languages and dialects, until they came to accept him as one of their very own blood brothers.

Bercovici developed into a full-fledged gypsy, and a time came later when there was not a person in the whole wide gypsy world who could not tell who he was and for what he was distinguished. From such a background, enriched by a great deal of slow travel through Greece and Turkey, Palestine, Egypt, Persia, and India, most of Bercovici's books were evolved during his years as a producing author and certainly the world's favorite writer of gypsy tales and stories. (With the publication of his *Ghitza, and Other Romances of Gypsy Blood* in 1921, the great critic, editor, and anthologist, Edward J. O'Brien hailed Bercovici and Sherwood Anderson as the most significant new short story writers who had emerged onto the American literary scene in a long time; and there was a lot of tough competition back in those days too.)

For a number of years, Bercovici studied music in Paris, and there he developed his fondness for playing the pipe organ. (He became

good enough to give a recital at the Cathedral of Notre Dame.) It was also in France that he met and married Naomi Librescu, a fellow-Roumanian, and together they came to the United States in 1904, where one of his earliest employments was that of organist at the New York Grace Episcopal Church. Even after Bercovici became an established author, he continued his study of music and became particularly interested in symphonic composition. (He arranged a group of gypsy songs for his daughter Rada to sing at her debut as a concert singer in New York.)

During his early New York days, Bercovici studied the American language assiduously, and in the process of perfecting his speech, he memorized all of Samuel Butler's novel, *The Way of All Flesh*. Even so, he found that he had so much difficulty in making himself understood that often he pretended to be a deaf-mute. Later he spoke fluently in American, French, German, Greek, Yiddish, Italian, and Spanish. A year after he arrived in this country, he had become proficient enough in speaking and writing to sell his first story to a popular American magazine.

With his experiences while working for a New York charity organization as a basis, Bercovici wrote his first book-length work, a sociological narrative entitled *Crimes of Charity*, published in 1917, and followed this with *Dust of New York* (1918), a collection of fictional vignettes of the city's foreign quarters, especially the Jewish East Side where he lived. His stories and articles began to appear regularly in the better-known magazines and periodicals, and in rapid succession book followed book annually, sometimes several the same year, both here and abroad. His short stories depicted all phases of European gypsy life, and there were also novels, romantic biographies, and several descriptive volumes, many of which were translated into foreign languages and published in editions overseas which ran into the thousands. Prominent among these were *Ghitza, and Other Romances of Gypsy Blood* (1921), *Costa's Daughter* (1923), *Murdo* (1923, published in England as *Love and the Gypsy*), *Around the World in New York* (1924), *Iliana: Stories of a Wandering Race* (1924), *The Marriage Guest* (1925), *On New Shores* (1925), *Singing Winds* (1926), *The Volga Boatman* (1926), *Peasants* (1928), *Alexander* (1928; the French Academy of Letters voted Bercovici a member for this romantic biography of the great conqueror), *Nights Abroad* (1928), *Story of the Gypsies* (1928), and *The Incredible Balkans* (1933). In 1941 appeared his autobiography under the title *And This is Only the Beginning*. He died unexpectedly in New York City on 27 December 1961.



Konrad Bercovici
(1882-1961)

*(From the original oil portrait
by his daughter Mirel Bercovici)*

On a recent visit to friends on Syracuse University campus, Miss Rada Bercovici announced the gift to the Library of Konrad Bercovici's books and papers, manuscripts, published and unpublished, and the extensive correspondence he had received during his lifetime from literary friends, poets, authors, musicians, politicians, and other world-known notables and celebrities of all sorts. Miss Bercovici is joined in this magnificent gift by her artistically talented sister, Mrs. Mirel B. Abbot, who painted the portrait of their father reproduced here (greatly reduced in size) as an illustration.

On the occasion of this visit, Miss Bercovici presented to Dr. Wayne S. Yenawine, Director of Libraries, a collection of twenty-six superb original autograph letters written to her father and mother by Horace Traubel (1858-1919), poet, writer, and editor, and a close friend and literary executor of Walt Whitman. The remainder of the Bercovici gift will be sent to Syracuse University as soon as it is assembled, correlated, and marked for identification purposes.

It is indeed fortunate that Miss Bercovici and her sister, Mrs. Abbott, were foresighted in preserving and protecting these unusually interesting literary properties so they could all be placed together at Syracuse University for the advantage of students, scholars, and researchers interested in studying the life and work of one of the major figures in the field of modern American literature.



A Book of Hours

The original *Horae*, or *Books of Hours*, were manuscript collections of approved daily prayers designed for the private devotional use of the religious laity, and were very popular and in fairly general use by the non-clerical members of the Catholic Church throughout the more important cities of Europe during the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. Great personages and prominent wealthy families were fond of having these collections handmade to order especially for themselves, and often the manuscripts were exquisitely illuminated with decorations and illustrations of an individual appeal.

Between 1490 and 1520 *Books of Hours* came to be produced in *printed* form, with Paris the center of this activity, but nothing ever came from any press which surpassed or even equalled the originality and artistic beauty of the *Horae* so skillfully executed by hand by the gifted monks, priests, scribes, artists, and others who engaged in this type of work. It goes without saying that examples of manuscript

Books of Hours are today greatly prized and constantly sought after by the most discriminating collectors and bibliophiles.

Recently there came as a gift to the Library by Mr. John M. Crawford, Jr. of New York City, a member of Syracuse University Library Associates, one of the most beautiful *Book of Hours* ever seen in this part of the world. It is indeed a masterpiece of craftsmanship, and Syracuse University appreciates greatly the kind thoughtfulness which prompted Mr. Crawford to make this valuable addition to the ever-increasing collections of rare books and manuscripts housed on the third and fourth floors of the Main Library.

This 444-page volume of *The Hours of the Blessed Virgin Mary* is written in a bold gothic hand in Latin and French on 222 splendidly preserved leaves of vellum, 6x8 inches in size, all edges gold, fifteen lines in black and red to the page, with wide margins, with the Calendar of months and days for certain prayers occupying the first twenty-eight pages.

The intricate initial letters, some large, some small, which appear on every page are in brilliant red and blue colors, with hair-breadth dorsal expansions of the designs in burnished gold; and there are four full-page religious scenes depicted in illuminated miniatures within wide decorative borders of flowers, fruits, vines, birds, scroll and latticework, and arabesque patterns of great variety in all the colors of the rainbow, highlighted by a liberal use of the richest of pressed gold leaf. The four large miniatures represent The Crucifixion, the Virgin and Infant, the Last Judgment, and Saint Francis of Assisi receiving the Stigmata. Each has extremely well-executed backgrounds of contemporary scenery. Fifteen pages of the text have elegant full-border decorations similar to those surrounding the miniatures, and the one on page fifty contains the coat-of-arms of the family for which the manuscript was made.

The last twelve pages of the manuscript contain entries in French of births and deaths in the Du Quesnoy family for the period 1521-95, along with a list of the names of previous owners of this precious work. An unsigned entry at the top of the first page of this section, written by an early owner, states that this manuscript book was given to him in the year 1410, which of course is evidence only that the book was completed either that year or sometime before that date.

Unfortunately, the gifted person who manufactured this manuscript did not include his name with the dates of commencement and completion, as is sometimes found to be the case in *Books of Hours*. It would be interesting to know how long this labor required, since

it all seems to have been the work of only one industrious, determined, and talented individual.

The manuscript is preserved in a French green morocco binding (with gilt lettering and raised bands on the spine) which dates back to the early part of the eighteenth century.

Those who have been privileged to see this *Book of Hours* since its recent arrival at Syracuse University Library have marvelled in awe at its unusual beauty. "It is exquisite and magnificent in every way," said Mr. M. Peter Piening of the School of Art, "and Syracuse University has every right to be proud of such an extraordinary gift." A man not connected with Syracuse University in any way, but who is a recognized expert on the period of French art and history during which the manuscript was written, declared that "These miniatures are of the finest quality and could only have been done by a great master. I have seen, examined, and studied masterpieces of the miniaturist's art from California to New York, to London, to Paris, to Rome, to Vienna, and dozens of places in between, and I have never seen any better miniatures." A third commentator, Mr. Roderick Benton, the well-known gentleman and scholar of Skaneateles, New York, who has been in the book business for more than twenty-five years, and who is an acknowledged authority in many fields, said this *Book of Hours* was "unique and very valuable" and one of the very finest pieces of such superb workmanship he had ever seen.

In the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room anyone who wishes to do so may have the pleasure of seeing this manuscript volume which has been in brilliant preservation since before the time Christopher Columbus was born.



Lord Robert Cecil

Edgar Algernon Robert Cecil (1864-1958), 1st Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, known also as Lord Robert Cecil, was the third son of the third Marquess of Salisbury, and one of the outstanding British statesmen of his time. He was a leading supporter of woman suffrage, and as an active Conservative politician, he displayed his abilities in various important ministerial positions in England throughout World War I. In collaboration with President Woodrow Wilson and General Jan Christiaan Smuts of South Africa, he played a notable part in drafting the Covenant of the League of Nations, continued to be an ardent advocate of that organization, and worked untiringly throughout his

life in the interest of international peace. In 1937 he was awarded the Alfred B. Nobel Peace Prize.

From his private papers in the library of his home at Bellapais along the Potomac River, near Alexandria, Virginia, Commander Leander McCormick-Goodhart, retired diplomat, patron of the arts, and a distinguished member of Library Associates, has presented to Syracuse University two personal letters by Lord Robert Cecil, written back in 1907 and 1912, respectively.

The earlier one was addressed to the Commander himself when he was a young Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and Lord Robert Cecil was a member of Parliament, enjoying the reputation of one who took heterodox positions from the Conservative party point of view. The second letter, dated 25 March 1912, was written to John Barber White, prominent American lumberman (born in Chautauqua, New York, 1847), who was well-known here and abroad for his interest in forestry and the conservation of natural resources, about which he wrote numerous articles and pamphlets. Lord Robert Cecil's letter relates to one of these publications.

These two letters by this prominent British statesman are now in the Manuscript Division in the Main Library, and may there be examined by any interested person.

Harry Leon Wilson

Are there any senior members of Syracuse University Library Associates who do not remember when they first read and relished *Ruggles of Red Gap*, *Bunker Bean*, *Ma Pettengill*, *Professor How Could You!*, and *Merton of the Movies*?

These are some of the more memorable books (a few appeared serially in *The Saturday Evening Post* when it was a nickle a copy) which made Harry Leon Wilson one of the most popular and widely admired American writers of his time. He was born in 1867 and died in 1939, and the first book *about* him has just recently been published under the title: *Harry Leon Wilson: Some Account of the Triumphs and Tribulations of an American Popular Writer*. The book comes from The Press of Western Reserve University (2029 Adelbert Road, Cleveland, Ohio), and the author is Dr. George Kummer, since 1947 a member of the Department of English at Western Reserve University, who has published articles on Herman Melville's lectures in Ohio, the authorship of *The Harp with a Thousand Strings*, antebellum humor in the Buckeye State, and on "Anonymity and Carlyle's Reputation in America".



The Board of Trustees of Syracuse University Library Associates and conferees at a recent meeting. See opposite page.

Harry Leon Wilson's was a peculiarly American career, rising to heights of popular success and then falling to depths of financial failure and artistic frustration. Being an unusually courageous and gallant man of firm stock, he faced both success and failure with uncomplaining stoicism, and was working on a new book right up to the very last.

Dr. Kummer has had (as every biographer should) unlimited access to original source material, including institutional manuscript collections and private family letters and papers, and the result is that he has here produced an excellent account of the rise and fall of an American writer whose portrayals of a generation of Americans have proved their permanent validity over the years since their creation in the mind of Harry Leon Wilson.

The Photograph Opposite

On the page opposite is the first photograph ever taken of the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University Library Associates in conclave assembled. This meeting was held on campus last November. Beginning at the lefthand corner and reading clockwise, those shown are: Martin H. Bush, Library Staff; Newell W. Rossman, University Vice President for Development; Chester Soling, Trustee; Gordon N. Ray, Trustee; Raymond Hust, Trustee; David A. Fraser, Jr., Library Staff; Chancellor William P. Tolley, Ex Officio; David A. Fraser, Chairman of the Board; John S. Mayfield, Trustee and Secretary of the Board; Frank C. Love, Trustee; Mrs. Olive B. Price, Trustee; Warren Day, Trustee; A. Ralph Eckberg, Trustee; Volker Weiss (rear), University Faculty and Chairman, Senate Library Committee; Mrs. L. L. Witherill, Trustee; David A. Jaquith, Trustee; Mrs. William Cornell Blanding, Trustee; Wayne S. Yenawine, Ex Officio, University Director of Libraries and Executive Secretary of the Board; and Allen F. Martin, University Director of Alumni Affairs.

Other Trustees: Ray W. Barker, Allan B. Coughlin, W. Carroll Coyne, Charles E. Feinberg, Sol Feinstone, Mary H. Marshall, Donald T. Pomeroy, Murray M. Salzberg, Mrs. Leland W. Singer, Mrs. Lyman J. Spire, and Francis A. Wingate, Treasurer of the Board.

From the Wainwrights

From Admiral John D. Wainwright, an officer (now retired) distinguished by his brilliant service in the United States Navy, and Mrs. Wainwright, both Washington, D. C. members of Syracuse University

Library Associates, comes a gift for the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room in the form of an unusually interesting 12mo volume on laid paper entitled *Davideis: The Life of David: King of Israel*, a 159-page sacred poem in five books by Thomas Ellwood, printed by Johnson & Preston in Wilmington, Delaware, way back in 1797, 167 years ago.

The book is in the original binding and in comparatively good condition considering the facts it has been owned and read by several generations of the Wainwright family and that it appears to have survived a fire of some kind which fortunately scorched only the top and bottom edges of the leaves.

The author of this unusual work, which incidentally was originally intended for his own diversion only, was a man with a most exemplary character, a liberal education, and a hard-headed conviction which got him into trouble often enough. Thomas Ellwood was born at Crowell, Oxfordshire, England, in 1639, and is most often remembered now because of his friendly relationship with John Milton, the school teacher, historian, pamphleteer, politician, publicist, and poet. When Ellwood was not behind bars, he could usually be found in the company of Milton, at the latter's residence in London. Ellwood also met and became an intimate friend of the Quakers William Penn and Isaac Pennington, and soon he threw in his lot with the despised "people of God" and became a zealous, vigorous, obstreperous member of the Society of Friends, a sect of which little had then been heard. His unbounded enthusiasm for Quakerism set him at cross purposes with the public authorities, and on several occasions he was arrested and sentenced to various terms in the old Bridewell and Newgate prisons and Aylesbury gaol. One day after he had resumed his visits with Milton following one of his incarcerations, the poet gave him for perusal the manuscript of a blank verse epic poem entitled *Paradise Lost*. On returning the sheets to Milton, Ellwood said, "Thou hast said much here of Paradise Lost; but what hast thou to say of Paradise found?"; and when Milton sometime later showed him *Paradise Regained*, it was with the remark, "This is owing to you, for you put the idea into my mind to write it which before I had not thought of." To Ellwood's timely hint the world is therefore indebted for this sequel of highest inspiration and hardest achievement. When Milton became blind, it was Ellwood who was always available and eager to read to him and to indulge in the immense pleasure of conversing with the great Puritan.

Ellwood was the author of many broadsides, tracts, "Answers", "Sober Replies", discourses, epistles, and several polemical works in defense of the Quaker doctrine and activities, a work entitled *Sacred*

Co. of 40000 of 1700 at Aylesbury for the
County of Bucks.

Whereas Isaac Penington, John Dance, John Hoar,
Thomas Ellwood, Thomas Lane, William Suggs,
Thomas Doll, Joseph Ray, Leonard Starnes and
Richard Crompton have been convicted before us two of
his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in this County of
unlawfully assembling themselves together and ex-
ercising of a seditious worship not authorized by
the laws of this land, nor allowed by the Liturgy or
practice of the Church of England and have refused
to give recognizance to appear before his Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for this County to answer for
the same. There was therefore in his Majesty's name
to wit to command you to receive of 40000 in safe-
custody of the bodies of the said persons till they shall
do the same as directed by and in pursuance of laws given
under our hands to wit the first day of July in the year
of our Lord 1665.

Thomas Clayton
Ambrose Benet

WARRANT OF COMMITMENT OF ISAAC PENINGTON AND THOMAS
ELLWOOD TO AYLESBURY GAOL, 1665.

(Reproduced by kind permission of Sir Richard Tangye.)

From the Syracuse University Library copy of *The History
of the Life of Thomas Ellwood*, edited by Samuel Graveson,
London, 1906.

Notice: COMMITMENT.

Histories of the Old and New Testaments, and some collections of hymns and religious verse, among which one was *Daiveis*, first published in 1712 and followed by various editions up to 1936. He died in 1713, and the year following appeared his autobiography under the title *The History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood . . . Written by his own Hand*. This volume is important for the lively picture Ellwood furnishes of his inward struggles, of his passive resistance to the monstrous tyranny of his paterfamilias (his father once whaled the day-lights out of him for wearing his Quaker hat to the dinner table), and of his fanatic share in the persecutions to which all of his fellow-Friends were subjected. Ellwood's descriptions here of prisons and prison life in the seventeenth century have particularly high historical value since he had actually been on the inside looking on the outside.

Had Thomas Ellwood lived to be 112 years old, he would have had the joy of seeing his *Daiveis* published in the British colonies of North America by none other than the great Benjamin Franklin (only forty-five at the time) who, with his partner David Hall, thought well enough of the Quaker's work to issue an edition in Philadelphia in 1751. James Chattin, also of Philadelphia, published editions in 1753 and 1754, and Franklin and Hall followed with editions in 1760 and 1762. The book was very popular in the City of Brotherly Love and its environs. At Wilmington in 1765, the work was issued by James Adams, and twenty years later Joseph Crukshank of Philadelphia came out with his edition. Eliphalet Ladd got into the act up in Dover, New Hampshire and issued his Granite State edition in 1792. Then was published the Wilmington edition by Johnson & Preston in 1797, a copy of which came into the Wainwright family and stayed there until recently presented to Syracuse University by Admiral and Mrs. Wainwright. On the blank pages of this copy fore and aft appear in ink several times the name and date: *Joshua Woodward, August the 13th Day 1813*. Woodward was the grandfather of Admiral Wainwright's mother; and laid in is an unidentified newspaper story about John Wainwright, the Admiral's father, owning this "ancient volume".

In the monumental and authoritative work *American Bibliography*, by Charles Evans (14 vols., issued at various places, 1903-59), the Johnson & Preston edition of 1797 is described in Volume Eleven as item No. 32079, with the note that at the time of publication of this volume (1931), the great bibliographer knew of only four copies in existence, all in the United States.

John A. Dahlgren



No officer of the United States Navy enjoyed a greater intimacy with President Abraham Lincoln, or was held in higher esteem than John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren, born in Philadelphia in 1809, the same year that saw the birth of the sixteenth President in the backwoods of Kentucky.

At the age of seventeen Dahlgren joined the navy, served for a number of years with the Coast Survey, and in 1847 was placed in charge of Ordnance at the Washington, D. C. Navy Yard and made Professor of Gunnery at the new U. S. Naval Academy, established two years previously at nearby Annapolis, Maryland.

Dahlgren built an ordnance laboratory at Washington, the first in the navy, which included a cannon foundry, gun-carriage shops, and an experimental battery; and it was there also that he designed the nine- and eleven-inch smooth bore guns which came to be known as the *Dahlgrens*.

In the War between the States, Dahlgren received the important command of the entire Washington establishment, being one of the three officers at the depot who did not resign his commission because of Confederate sympathies; and shortly thereafter he was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance of the entire Navy Department.

Given command of the South Atlantic Blockade Squadron, Dahlgren put a stop to blockade-running out of Charleston, South Carolina, but his failure to take the city provoked a great deal of hostile criticism among his own people in the north. In February 1864, he led a successful expedition up the Saint John's River to aid in throwing a military force into Florida, cooperated with Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman in December 1864 to take Savannah, Georgia, and in February 1865, he finally entered Charleston harbor and helped in the occupation of that evacuated and burning city of secession and nullification. During 1866-8, this man of science, inventive genius, and professional skill was put out to pasture as commanding officer of the South Pacific Squadron, but shortly afterwards was recalled to Washington to serve again as Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and then as Commandant of the Navy Yard. He died on 12 July 1870, and was buried with appropriate honors beside the remains of his first wife in the family plot in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.

His widow and second wife, Sarah Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren (1825-98, author of a number of novels and books of travel) wrote her husband's biography, *Memoir of John A. Dahlgren*, published in Boston, 1882, in the preparation of which she of course used not only her

1862

he is in good spirits -

Still there are unpleasant rumors about town - Paper falling back before a heavy force - and as the Papers can not publish a word, matters seem worse than they are -

It is certainly the least auspicious appearance of success in crushing the Confederacy -

They muster in force - 250,000 - and press forward.

We have, when McC. is in line with the Paper about 150,000, with a host of raw levies coming in - The ground gained so slowly is being lost rapidly.

On the other hand they have been repulsed at Baton

A page from the Diary of Admiral Dahlgren

personal recollections, but also the superb collection of the Admiral's papers and diaries. The book contains copious extracts from the diaries, but in abbreviated or edited form, so that a vast amount of information and data on the old sailing navy, naval gunnery and ordnance, and the extensive sea operations during the Conflict of 1861-5 remain unmined and unpublished to this day.

This collection of primary historical and biographical material covering the early life and professional career of one of the major American naval figures of the time includes original manuscript diaries, memoranda books, autograph letters, narratives of cruises and coast surveys, beginning with Dahlgren's schoolboy notebook and extending the entire span of his industrious life down to within three months of his death at the early age of forty-seven. In scope, authority, and importance, and for their penetrating, frank, and frequently provocative observations on men and events, these diaries rank along with those famous and valuable ones of Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Navy Secretary (published 1911, 3 vols.) and George Templeton Strong, New York gentleman and scholar (published 1955, 4 vols.). The mass of manuscripts on ordnance, illustrated with Dahlgren's own sketches, the narratives detailing his operations in and around Charleston, and the numerous references to his friendly relations with Lincoln all form that type of rich material which historians, researchers, students, and scholars delight to dig into for the production of books and monographs and the collection and dissemination of useful knowledge.

Through the good offices of the gentlemen of Goodspeed's Book Shop of Boston, Syracuse University was recently privileged to acquire this marvelous collection by purchase and add it to the expanding holdings in the Manuscript Division on the fourth floor of the Main Library. Part of the price paid came from funds donated by members of Syracuse University Library Associates.

The cataloguing of the collection resulted in the general division of the material into the following eight categories:

1. School notebook, signed by Dahlgren and dated 1 January 1823, containing his definitions and problems in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry, neatly written and with decorative chapter headings; followed by six pages of *Journal*, Philadelphia, 1 June 1824—7 October 1825, totalling eighty pages, folio, flowered boards, roan back.

2. Manuscript narrative of Dahlgren's second cruise, 1829-31, on the U.S.S. *Ontario* in the Mediterranean, fifty-eight pages, quarto, unbound.

3. Manuscript notebook entitled *Memoranda . . . Coast Survey*,

March–December 1834, 127 pages, quarto, bound in marbled boards with roan back.

4. A group of forty autograph letters signed, signed memoranda, etc., by or to Dahlgren, 1847-70, including his letter to Secretary of the Navy Welles, written on board the *Harvest Moon* at Port Royal, South Carolina, 7 February 1865, offering his resignation as commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron on learning that a fancied personal enemy of his had been put in charge of the land forces in South Carolina.

5. A group of thirteen volumes, including eleven containing Dahlgren's manuscript diaries from 6 January 1840 to 26 April 1870, one *Hasty Memoranda* and one notebook, both containing material of a journal sort. Over this period of thirty years of active naval service there are occasional gaps but very few in the war-years diaries, though some leaves are missing or misplaced. The earliest diary entry begins in mid-sentence; the two journal-memoranda books overlap the diaries in dates.

6. A group of 150 autograph letters signed to Dahlgren from leading ordnance experts, naval engineers, and line officers and government officials, concerning his contributions to naval armament, several of which have manuscript sketches of ordnance and related equipment. Most of the letters were written by Henry Augustus Wise, U.S.N., later Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, a Virginian who sided with the United States in the war; next most prolific of the letter writers are Percival Drayton, ordnance expert and naval officer, and Robert B. Forbes, sea captain and inventor of maritime improvements. Others in this group include: Silas Bent, naval officer and oceanographer; Robert P. Parrott, army officer and inventor of the deadly Parrott gun and other armament; George Steers, naval architect; Henry DuPont, soldier, industrialist, and statesman; Admiral Andrew H. Foote (a temperance reformer who secured abolition of the spirit ration in the navy), and others including Commander Catesby ap R. Jones, ordnance expert, assistant to Dahlgren, and later the Confederate naval officer who commanded the *Virginia* (which incidentally was armed with six captured smooth-bore Dahlgrens) in its duel with the *Monitor*.

7. About 200 unorganized pieces of Dahlgren ephemera, manuscripts, and printed articles.

8. Manuscript narrative in an unidentified handwriting, fifty-six pages, small folio, preserved with other Dahlgren papers, consisting of Chapters I through V (first page missing), plus the first page of

Chapter VII, containing the author's story of his war service beginning 20 July 1861, the day before the first Battle of Manasses, at which he was present with the 71st New York Regiment; Chapter I contains an excellent unpublished account of the battle, and is followed by a narrative of the author's service along the Potomac and in Virginia in the summer of 1861. In addition to descriptions of forts, positions of the rival armies, personalities, etc., there is a particularly moving account of the confused conditions and unstable morale in Washington, D. C. immediately after the near-catastrophe at a little place called Manasses Junction, just thirty miles southwest of the White House in July 1861.

Here is truly a trove, scarcely scratched, now awaiting scholarly exploration and exploitation. It is for the asking.

The latest Dahlgren news: Early this year John Vinton Dahlgren, Jr. died in Paris, France, and on 13 January was buried in the Dahlgren Chapel at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. In the crypt where he was interred are the bodies of his parents, John Dahlgren, who was in the Class of 1889 at Georgetown University, and Elizabeth Drexel Dahlgren. They donated the chapel as a memorial to a son, Joseph, who died in infancy. John Vinton Dahlgren, Jr., who was seventy-one, studied Engineering at Harvard University, and served in the United States Army during World War I. He was the grandson of Admiral Dahlgren, for whom Dahlgren Hall at the United States Naval Academy is named as well as the little town of Dahlgren, in northern Virginia.



Robert Frost's Library

Anything which pertains to the late Robert Frost is of interest to the people of Syracuse University because of their love of the man and their admiration of his poetry. Still fresh in the memory of many is the time he spent on the campus not many years ago.

The following dispatch was recently sent out by the Associated Press from New York City to its newspaper-subscribers throughout the country, and is quoted here because of the unusual situation which developed following Frost's death and also because of the lesson which may be drawn from these facts:

The gift of Robert Frost's 3,000-volume library to New York University instead of to the Amherst College Library named for him has caused some surprise and indignation among his friends and associates.

It has also provoked some differences between the late poet's daughter and his personal secretary.

"This collection was given to me by my father with absolutely no conditions attached," said his daughter, Mrs. Lesley Frost Ballantine of New York. "It's my library to give where I want it to be."

But Mrs. Theodore Morrison of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Frost's personal secretary and confidant, said:

"While he was in the hospital, he begged us all not to forget Amherst. If they had been so kind in dedicating his Robert Frost Library, he hoped the Library would get as many things as possible. Something went wrong."

Mrs. Ballantine, wife of Dr. Joseph W. Ballantine, a member of the New York University faculty, said she had considered giving the collection to Amherst, but "the more I thought of it, I wanted to be near it myself."

The poet, who died January 29 of last year at the age of 88, received a master's degree from Amherst in 1918, and was on the college faculty for years. In 1948 Amherst conferred an honorary degree on the Pulitzer prize winner.

Last October Amherst held ground-breaking exercises for a new \$3.5 million library building to bear his name.

The New York *Times* published the statement that the annual report of Amherst President Calvin H. Plimpton would contain these words: "We are led to believe that some of Robert Frost's library, perhaps in the end all of his books, will come to us from his estate, a singularly happy prospect for the Robert Frost Library."

The college learned of Mrs. Ballantine's decision to give the collection to New York University too late to delete this passage from the report before it was mailed out.

Editor's Note: All of this is most regrettable. If you intend to become more closely identified with Syracuse University by making a gift of something or a donation of *anything*, you should act now. It is suggested you write immediately to Chancellor William P. Tolley, Vice President Frank P. Piskor, Vice President Newell W. Rossman, or Director of Libraries Wayne S. Yenawine. Any kind of arrangement

can be beneficially made to guarantee that your wishes will be respected and carried out *to the letter* exactly the way you want, either now or after you "have shuffled off this mortal coil", so no marring difficulty will ever arise similar to that which accompanied the disposition of Robert Frost's library. You should act *right now*. This afternoon may be too late. Tomorrow may be too late.



Dorothy and Red

James Vincent Sheean of Christian County, Illinois, world famous traveler, correspondent, and writer, and author of such memorable volumes as *The Anatomy of Virtue* (1927), *Personal History* (autobiography, 1935), *A Day of Battle* (1938), *Not Peace But a Sword* (1939), and a host of other popular books, spent hours and hours and days and days among the Archives of Syracuse University Library last year, studying the private papers, correspondence, and diaries of his friend, Dorothy Thompson Bard Lewis Kopf, (1894-1961, A.B., Syracuse University, 1914), and produced the 363-page work entitled *Dorothy and Red*, the star-crossed romance of "the greatest of American journalists married to the greatest of American writers" (Sinclair Lewis).

The book was published at the beginning of this season by Houghton Mifflin Company (Boston: 7 Park Street; New York City: 53 West 43 Street), and was reviewed from coast to coast, favorably and unfavorably.

The latest news is that *Dorothy and Red* has gained a place on the list of non-fiction bestsellers, compiled by *Book Week* of the New York *Herald Tribune*, based on reports from eighteen booksellers over the country. This rating as one of the currently most popular books of special literary interest will undoubtedly call for additional editions to meet the increasing demands for copies of the work.

For his work Vincent Sheean needed to study only a comparatively small portion of the vast amount of materials Dorothy Thompson gave to Syracuse University, so there remains a large mass of files of unpublished correspondence and boxes of documents, newspaper and magazine clippings, and scrapbooks of pictures and photographs, waiting to be examined and used by qualified researchers interested in any of a dozen or more different fields of American life and endeavor covered by the collection.

The Latest about the Greatest

The Library of Congress was established by an Act of the Congress of the United States, approved 24 April 1800, which provided "for the purchase of such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress at the said city of Washington, and for fitting up a suitable apartment for containing them."

By 1814 the Library had exceeded 3,000 volumes; but on 24 August of that year it was completely destroyed in the burning of the Capitol during the invasion of Washington by our British cousins during what many called "Mr. Madison's war".

The original collection was more than replaced in January 1815 through the purchase by Congress of the private library of Thomas Jefferson consisting of more than 6,000 volumes. This collection became the nucleus around which the present collections of the Library have been formed, although more than half of it was destroyed in a second fire in the Capitol on Christmas Eve 1851.

Between 1815 and 1897 the Library was strengthened through becoming the depository for foreign government documents (1840), for copyright deposits (1846, 1870), and for the library of the Smithsonian Institution (1866). Special purchases by Congress included the Force Collection of Americana (1867), the Benjamin Franklin Collection (1882), and the Rochambeau Collection relating to the American Revolution (1883). Congress also appropriated funds for the purchase of the papers of George Washington (1834), James Madison (1837), Thomas Jefferson (1848), and James Monroe (1849), as well as those of Alexander Hamilton (1848), and Benjamin Franklin (1882), but these did not come to the Library until after 1900. Among significant gifts of the period were the Toner Collection of Americana (1882-96), the Cushing and Rockhill Collections of Chinese Literature (beginning in 1879), and the Sultan Abdul Hamid II Collection of Turkish Literature (1886). By 1897 the collections comprised some 740,000 volumes in addition to 18,000 bound volumes of newspapers, 200,000 pieces of music, 250,000 prints, and 40,000 maps and charts.

The main building of the Library of Congress was completed in 1897, and its principal collections were then transferred from the Capitol. The present system of cataloguing and classification was begun at that time, and was followed by the organization of the printed catalog card distribution service (1901), the establishment of the Legislative Reference Service (1914), and the creation of the National Union Catalog (1927).

The important purchases of the Library of Congress have included the Yudin Collection of Russian Literature (1907), the Vollbehr Collection of Incunabula, including a copy of the Gutenberg Bible (1930), the Pinckney Family Papers (1939), and the Herndon-Weik Collection of Papers of Abraham Lincoln (1941).

Principal gifts presented to the Library of Congress have been the Hubbard Bequest for Fine Prints (1898), the Coolidge Foundation for Chamber Music (1925), the Wilbur and Benjamin Funds for American History (1925, 1927, 1933), the Rockefeller Gifts for American History and the National Union Catalog (1927), the Carnegie Fund for Fine Arts (1927), the Guggenheim Fund for Aeronautics (1929), the Huntington Funds for Hispanic Literature (1927, 1928, 1936), the Pennell Fund for Fine Prints (1937), the Whittall Foundation for Chamber Music (1935), the Porter Fund for Consultants (1938), the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection of Rare Books (1943), and many gifts of the personal papers of the Presidents and other leading men and women.

The Annex to the Library (behind the main building, connected by underground passageways) was completed for occupation in 1939, providing the entire establishment with a total of approximately thirty-six acres of floor space and 270 miles of bookshelves.

At the end of the latest fiscal year, 30 June 1963, the collections of the Library of Congress included more than 12,752,000 volumes and pamphlets in addition to 156,000 bound volumes of newspapers, approximately 18,610,000 manuscript pieces, 2,746,000 maps and charts, 252,000 reels and strips of microfilm, 75,000 reels of motion pictures, 2,141,000 volumes and pieces of music, 125,000 phonograph records and tapes, 3,124,000 photographic negatives, prints, and slides, and 588,000 fine prints, and much other material such as microcards, microprint cards, posters, broadsides, and so forth.

While this is the Library of Congress, it is also a general reference library for use by the public. Admission is free, and no introductions or credentials are necessary. The purpose of the Library is the widest possible use of its collections consistent with their preservation and with the primary obligations of Congressional and other governmental service.

Two of the most outstanding men in their respective fields are connected with the Library of Congress: Mr. Frederick R. Goff, Chief of the Rare Books Division, and Mr. David C. Mearns, Chief of the Manuscript Division. Besides being scholars of the first class, these two are fine gentlemen, and if you are ever in Washington, D. C., visiting or sightseeing, or working in the Library of Congress, and if

you inform either one that you are a member of Syracuse University Library Associates, the red rug will be rolled out for you and you will receive every courtesy imaginable, and it will all be an enjoyable experience you will remember for a long, long time.



Two Plunges for a Pearl

Edward James Mortimer Collins, also known (but not any better) as just plain Mortimer Collins, and also (but a lot better) as the “King of the Bohemians”, was an English novelist and poet, “a blatant pot-house parasite”, and “a scurrilous scribbler”, who died of heart failure in 1876 at the age of forty-nine after having written a book entitled *The Secret of Long Life*.

In addition to five books of verse including the satirical poem *The British Birds: A Communication from the Ghost of Aristophanes*, Collins ground out two two-volume lengthy works of fiction, and then fifteen three-volume bulky novels with each book running well over 200 pages. There is no record of what he did in his spare time, but it is known that he was married twice, and was a fine chess player.

One of the triple-deckers which flowed from Collins’s prolix pen was a really innocuous, but highly spirited, glob of fiction entitled *Two Plunges for a Pearl*, issued by Tinsley Brothers, London publishers, in 1872. The size was crown octavo, Vol. I had 226 pages; Vol. II, 216; and Vol. III, 218; and the regular (or trade) binding was red fine-morocco cloth, blind-blocked on front, with pale yellow endpapers. There was also a Presentation binding of bright green morocco cloth, blocked in gold on front and spine, with grey-chocolate endpapers, and all edges gilt. (The novel had been serialized in the magazine called *London Society* from January through November 1871.)

Some time later, possibly in 1873, the novel was published in New York under the imprint of D. Appleton & Co., bound in paper wrappers at six bits a copy.

The Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at Syracuse University has been looking high and low all over nearly everywhere for a copy of *Two Plunges for a Pearl*, and so far he has not been able to discover the merest clue to the whereabouts of a copy of this apparently elusive work available for acquisition. Do you have a set of the three volumes of the London edition of 1872? Do you have the bound or unbound copies of *London Society* for January-November 1871 in

which the work appeared serially? Do you have a copy of the paper-bound New York edition issued by Appleton? Are you sure you don't? Will you look? Will you search through that pile of old books in the attic corner, or down in the basement in that old trunk (Do you remember what's in that old trunk?), or out in the garage or the barn where you put some boxes of "things" for temporary storage how many years ago? Who knows, maybe you'll find something for which you've been looking for a long time, and maybe also you'll come across a copy of *Two Plunges for a Pearl*, perhaps the one the "King of the Bohemians" gave your own grandmother on that trip to London when she was a beautiful young girl. Will you help a Curator in distress?

If you should be fortunate enough to discover a copy, it will certainly be most graciously accepted as a gift, but if you don't wish to donate it, then there will be no difficulty in setting a price acceptable to you.

There are, of course, other books wanted for the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room. A list of 115 titles has recently been prepared of highly desirable books which would be gladly accepted as gifts, and if there is any Library Associate who would like to have a copy of this, it will be supplied immediately upon application to the Editor of *The Courier*. This list was compiled at the suggestion of a Library Associate who was interested in making a donation in the more permanent form of *wanted* books which would carry bookplates bearing his name as donor along with that of someone whose memory he wished to commemorate.



Last Time Around

Are you interested in any of the following:

Honoré Balzac
Lucian of Samosata
Lodovico Ariosto
John Wilkins
Cyrano de Bergerac
Daniel DeFoe
Edgar Allan Poe
Jules Verne
Herbert George Wells?

Back in May and June 1960, there was held in Syracuse University Library an exhibition of selections from the William Hobart Royce Balzac Collection in the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room. At the

same time the Library issued an attractively printed seventeen-page illustrated catalogue of the exhibit which included a scholarly commentary by Dr. Albert J. George, Chairman, Department of Romance Languages, and a descriptive listing of the various Balzac items by Mr. L. G. Wells, Rare Books Librarian. This pamphlet was distributed *gratis* as long as the one and only edition lasted.

In 1959 there was held an exhibition of publications from the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room dealing with fictional accounts of trips to the Moon—stories of inter-planetary travel—written from about A.D. 160 to 1901. This included works by the last eight authors in the above list, all of which were described briefly in a leaflet prepared for the occasion by Mr. Wells. Requests by mail for this printing continued coming in during the months following so that the number was soon exhausted and unfilled requests began to accumulate. In 1962 the second edition was issued with a revised and corrected text in a more attractive format with a number of unique and unusually interesting illustrations. The demand for this required all the copies on hand.

Rummaging around recently in a back cupboard on the top floor of the Main Library, the Editor of *The Courier* came upon two handfuls of copies of the Balzac exhibition catalogue and of the second edition of "Fictional Accounts of Trips to the Moon". There are at present no outstanding unfilled requests for these, so they are being held for those members of Syracuse University Library Associates who would like to have copies of one or the other or both. There are only a few of each, and they will be sent *gratis* on a basis of first come, first served. If you are interested, it is suggested you write rightaway to the Editor for this is the last time around for these unique publications.

Memorials

Additional contributions have been made to the existing Memorial Funds for:

Blanch Merritt Baker

Michael J. Alama



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