

Syracuse University

**SURFACE**

---

The Courier

Libraries

---

11-1959

## Courier Number 5, November 1959

Syracuse University Library Associates

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/libassoc>



Part of the [American Politics Commons](#), [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Syracuse University Library Associates, "Courier Number 5, November 1959" (1959). *The Courier*. 23.  
<https://surface.syr.edu/libassoc/23>

This Journal Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries at SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Courier by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact [surface@syr.edu](mailto:surface@syr.edu).



*Syracuse University  
Library Associates*

## *COURIER*

NUMBER 5

NOVEMBER 1959

### The Governor Harriman Papers

The Presidential libraries established in recent years have attracted attention to the unique opportunities collections of executive papers offer political scientists and students of American history. At Syracuse these opportunities have now been extended to the field of State government by the gift to the University Library of the papers of Governor Averell Harriman of New York.

The interest in such collections is intensive. It may be recorded that the first request for the papers of the Harriman administration was received four days after it took office. In the end Governor Harriman decided they should come to us as an expression of his "very warm appreciation for the part that Syracuse plays in the life of our State." Chancellor Tolley wrote "Because of your truly remarkable career of public service, these papers will be a boon not only to the students in the Maxwell School but to the University and scholarly world as a whole."

The papers are notable in that they cover not only the four years of the administration, but also the period of its genesis in the pre-convention and election campaigns and in the organizing period that followed. Altogether there are some six hundred thousand items. The Harriman collection includes a large number of photographs, tape recordings, newsreels and kinescopes made during the administration, as well as a range of plaques, awards and gifts presented to the Governor at the time. The collection is now housed on the top floor of the library in a large air-conditioned area especially arranged for this purpose.

At the time the papers were presented, Governor Harriman arranged for the donation of funds to provide the services of an archivist to organize the papers so as to make them of the most use to future scholars. Mr. James K. Owens, formerly of the National Archives, has been engaged as University Archivist with this task as his first assignment.

The top floor of the library is now also the site of the New York State Government Research Project which is preparing a history of the Harriman administration under the direction of Daniel P. Moynihan, formerly Acting Secretary to the Governor. Owing to the confidential nature of the papers, however, they will not be made available to the general public until 1965.

## Dynamics of Rare Books

Members of the undergraduate English honorary society, Rho Delta Phi, were guests of the Library in the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room to see a selection of the treasures there and hear comments on them by four members of the English Department—Professors Sanford B. Meech, James H. Elson, Walter Sutton, and Robert A. Durr. Mr. Lester G. Wells, Rare Book Librarian, assisted the faculty by preparing the exhibition of books.

Dr. Meech, whose recent book on Chaucer has now been published by the Syracuse University Press, commented on our fine 1911 facsimile of the most beautiful of Chaucerian manuscripts, the Ellesmere MS. He called special attention to Thomas Tyrwhitt's five-volume edition of *Chaucer's Canterbury Tales* (1775-76), a landmark in Chaucer studies because it was the first scholarly edition to establish the canon of the poet's works and restore an understanding of the proper pronunciation of Chaucer's language and versification, the secret of which had long been lost. The Library is fortunate to have the fine set of Tyrwhitt, a gift of Dr. Meech from his personal library. Dr. Meech also commented on the beautiful Kelmscott Chaucer, printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press (1896), recently given to the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room by Adrian Van Sinderen.

Dr. Elson characterized the Geneva Bible of 1578 (sometimes called the Breeches Bible), John Florio's translation of Montaigne's *Essayes* (London, 1617), and Hobbes' *Leviathan* (1st ed., London, 1651) as three books which significantly influenced the thinking of Englishmen. He also commented on a famous book on witch-craft, Glanvill's *Saducismus Triumphatus: or Full and Plain Evidence Concerning Witches and Apparitions* (2nd ed., London, 1682).

Dr. Durr spoke on a wider selection of eighteenth-century and early nineteenth-century books including our first edition of Dr. Samuel Johnson's great *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) with its famous definitions of *oats*, *patron*, *lexicographer*; Allan Ramsay's *The Tea-Table Miscellany* (1st ed., 1724), the first British book to contain genuine folk-songs; Hugh Blair's *A Critical Dissertation on the Poems of Ossian* (1st ed., 1763); Henry Fielding's three-volume *Miscellanies* (1st ed., 1743) illustrating the great novelist's other gifts as playwright, poet, and magistrate; our facsimile of the first edition of William Blake's *Songs of Innocence*; Sir Walter Scott's *Border Antiquities of England and Scotland*, (1st ed., 1817); and the first edition of Keats' *Lamia, Isabella, The Eve of St. Agnes, and other Poems*, (1820).

Dr. Sutton commented on a

distinguished group of American books including the first edition of Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851) which was dedicated to Hawthorne and marked the beginning of Melville's reputation as a serious writer of symbolic fiction or the beginning of the end of his career as a commercially successful writer; and Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* (1st ed., 1855, and 2nd ed., 1856). He spoke about Mark Twain's *Innocents Abroad* (1869) as full of frontier irreverence and the product of an unpassionate pilgrimage to Europe, and Mark Twain's *The Mysterious Stranger* (1916) as that grimly pessimistic fable incongruously produced in a child's gift-book format. Then from our fine Stephen Crane Collection Dr. Sutton discussed two novels—*Maggie, a Girl of the Streets*, (1st ed., 1893), privately printed under the pseudonym Johnston Smith and one of the first of the modern 'city' novels, and *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895), the first of American naturalistic war novels.

Each year the English Department sponsors a meeting of students as a part of the University's program of introducing students to notable books which give distinction to the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room. Mr. Wells also is host each year to undergraduate and graduate students in English, history, and geography seminar classes. Rare books and manuscripts are ex-

erting a dynamic influence in teaching at Syracuse University.

Mary H. Marshall

## More William Morris

As a postscript to the recent note about our growing William Morris collection, Library Associates will be pleased to learn that the Library now has a copy of the 1894 edition of the Kelm-scott Press's *The Story of the Glittering Plain* written by William Morris and illustrated by Walter Crane. Laid in this copy are several association items with important holograph notes.

The copy bears the inscription in Morris's holograph: "To Sydney C. Cockerell from William Morris, January 22, 1894." Cockerell was Morris's secretary and consultant on typographic and artistic matters. The book was issued on February 17. Cockerell has added in his holograph the following note: "This copy consists of the sheets that were sent in from the Press for William Morris to inspect as each was finished. Thereto is added at the beginning the original agreement between Morris and Walter Crane in the handwriting of the former, and at the end the original draft of the colophon, also in his writing."

Acquired with the book are two letters from Crane to Morris dated October 16 and October 21, 1894 concerning certain technical details in connection with the productions of the Press.

Also, there are two letters from Crane to Cockerell dated June 13, 1889 and September 16, 1908. All of these letters are related to the five Morris letters which were the gift of Mr. Sol Feinstein.

*The Story of the Glittering Plain* is illustrated with 23 woodcuts by Crane engraved on wood by his cousins A. & E. Leverett. Morris designed not only the titles, the ornamental borders and initials but also the "Troy" type used in the printing of the text. The Library's copy is one of 250 copies printed on paper and is bound in limp vellum with green silk ties. Seven copies were printed on vellum.

The 1891 edition without illustrations was the first book produced at William Morris's Kelmscott Press; the illustrated 1894 edition was the twenty-second. Kelmscott Press books will be especially welcome gifts as the Library completes its collection of the works produced by William Morris.

## Notable Acquisitions

The Library recently acquired three landmarks in the history of English literature with special funds donated by Mr. George Arents, Honorary Trustee of Library Associates. The rarest and most significant in the history of literature is Samuel Richardson's *Pamela: or, Virtue Rewarded* . . . printed at London in 1741-42 as a four-volume set. Samuel

Richardson is considered by scholars as the first and most influential of English novelists. *Pamela* has been variously characterized as: "the first novel of manners in English literature;" "the first sentimental novel" in English; "the first English novel to emphasize character development;" "the first regular modern English novel." The Library's copy is bound in full polished calf and the condition of all of the component parts is extraordinarily fine. There are but few copies of this very scarce book in American libraries; it is seldom offered for sale.

Another notable acquisition is a first edition of Anthony Trollope's *The Macdermots of Ballycloran* published in 1847 at London in three volumes. This is a copy of the first book written by one of England's great novelists. The Library's copy is in the original cloth binding and is in an extremely brilliant condition. The three volumes are enclosed in a full green levant leather slip case. Inasmuch as most of the copies were purchased by lending libraries, Syracuse University is fortunate to have such a fine, brilliant copy. It has been stated that the number of known copies in the original cloth does not exceed four.

The third landmark is a copy of the first edition of Sir James M. Barrie's *The Little Minister* published in 1891 at London in three volumes. *The Little Minister* established the literary rep-



utation of the author and is a most unusual item in this condition. The Library's copy bears no evidences of ever having been used; the pages are uncut and unopened. It is autographed by the author on the front fly-leaf of the first volume and bears the date March, 1929. Volume 1 contains 16 pages of advertisements—one of the several "points" peculiar to a first edition.

These three works add distinction to the University's collection of English novels in the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room.

## Manuscripts

The Library's Manuscripts Collection has grown apace during the past few months largely due to the munificence of friends.

The Library received as a gift from Mr. Alfred A. Knopf the original typed manuscript of Edward Garnett's "Stephen Crane and His Work," corrected and edited by the author who included the literary essay in his *Friday Nights* (Knopf, 1922).

Mr. Jule Styne, composer-producer of current Broadway musical shows, presented to the Library many items including the original manuscript of his musical comedy, "Say Darling," and the original manuscript of his widely acclaimed television production of "Ruggles of Red Gap."

Professor Raymond Piper,

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, added a highly significant letter in English from Gandhi dated March 29, 1933, Yeravda Central Prison, India. The Mahatma answers a series of philosophical questions asked him by Professor Piper.

A portion of the original manuscript of Robert Louis Stevenson's "St. Ives" was received recently from Mr. George Arents.

With Library Associates' funds the Library acquired nineteen original letters of Sainte-Beuve to Antonio Devaquetz; one hundred and forty-five letters from Alphonse de Lamartine to his niece, Valentine de Cessiat; eight letters of Richard Francis Burton and three of Thomas J. Wise.

## Library Exhibitions

Several series of exhibits were shown in the Carnegie Library during the year 1958-59. Hundreds of visitors each week saw dramatic interpretations of the Library's resources and learned through exhibitions about men and events important in the academic life of the University.

Exhibitions held in the Foyer of the Library included: Glimpses of the history of Syracuse University; Salute to the United Nations; International Geophysical Year; Christmas Books for Children; John De Pol, Contemporary American Wood Engraver and Book Illustrator; Russia and the U.S.S.R.; Music in Print

and on Recording; Frederick W. Goudy, American type designer; Robert Frost; and Communications—the American Press.

Exhibitions of the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room included: Fakes, Forgeries and Facsimiles; Charles Darwin; Flaubert and Baudelaire; Negro History Week; Christmas; Theodore Roosevelt; Noah Webster; Mark Twain First Editions; Edward Fitzgerald; and Title Pages—The Windows and Doors of Books.

Exhibitions in the Circulation Department included: Onondaga County History; Pasternak's Nobel Prize; Christmas Around the World; Rudolf Bultmann; Oskar Kristellar; Northrop Freye; Barbara Ward; Morris Bishop; Kingsley Amis.

The exhibits featured books and other library materials which would help to illustrate the wealth, excellence and variety of collections in the Syracuse University Library. Several were directly related to convocations and lectures held on the campus.

## Memorial Funds

Friends have established a Memorial Fund for the purchase of library books inscribed in honor of:

Mrs. Nellie J. Wood

\* \* \*

"When we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness." Vincent Starrett

## New Members

Mr. David Fraser, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announces with sincere pleasure the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. T. Crouse Barnum  
Bruce M. Borthwick  
Mrs. Harold H. Bristol, Jr.  
Perc S. Brown  
Mrs. C. A. Call  
James J. Campbell  
Charles H. Coman  
Mrs. Diane Sautter Cook  
Allan B. Coughlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Denton  
Miss Leni N. Friedman  
Mrs. Lewis Greenky  
Roger J. Herz  
Robert Murphy  
George H. Murray  
Norman S. Pattison  
William P. Polito  
Miss Eleanor Reich  
Robert A. Rowe  
Dr. Edward T. Ryan, Jr.  
Frederic Irving Ryor  
Chester Soling  
K. L. Teegarden  
Lawrence S. Thompson  
Miss Naomi Woronov

## Tax Deductions and Appraisals

Gifts to the University for the Library are tax deductible. All gifts are acknowledged in a form which may be used to substantiate deductions. The Library of course suggests that donors consult their own income tax advisors, but several general con-

siderations may be mentioned. Gifts of money naturally need no interpretation. Gifts of books or manuscripts may be reported at their market value, as determined by a recent bill of sale or by an appraisal. In some situations it is of advantage to the donor to spread the gift of a large collection over several tax years, although the entire collection may be deposited in the Library at one time.

It is the policy of the Library, as a party at interest, not to make appraisals of large collections for donors. It is always glad however to arrange for an independent appraisal by a competent and impartial appraiser.

## Preserving Voices of the University

A growing collection of tape recordings now supplements the book holdings of the University Library. It is a very special collection in that it orally documents the voices and views of campus personalities.

Included in the recordings are such prominent campus visitors

as John Ciardi, Norman Cousins, Senator Paul Douglas, Roscoe Drummond, Robert Frost, Fred-  
eric Melcher, S. R. Ranganathan, Eleanor Roosevelt and Dorothy Thompson. They may have appeared for a formal address or they may have been responding informally to significant topics of the day, but their comments are now preserved in a library of sound together with their published articles and books.

In addition, as funds become available, plans will be developed to preserve in recorded form classroom sessions of professors notable as outstanding teachers.

Thus, many of the unique treasures of Syracuse University's cultural life which might otherwise remain only in the memories of those who heard the "live" presentation, will henceforth be made permanently available in the Library.

## In Memoriam

With deep regret, the Executive Secretary records the loss from our membership of Eugene Meyer, deceased July 17, 1959.

---

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES  
publishes the *COURIER* several times each year for its members.

*Editorial Committee*  
Miss Mary H. Marshall  
John W. Brooks  
Donald P. Bean

*Managing Editor*  
Wayne S. Yenawine  
Syracuse University Library  
Syracuse 10, New York

Designed and produced by the Syracuse University Press, Syracuse 10, New York.



# COLLECTING CANONS

## OF THE

*Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room*

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

---

*ANY* BOOK printed before 1601.

English books printed before 1720.

Books in other languages printed before 1660 of  
recognized literary or historical significance.

Manuscript books.

American books printed before 1820.

Books printed west of the Appalachian Mountains in accordance with schedule of dates in Douglas C. McMurtie's "History of Printing in the United States."

Association, inscribed, and autographed books.

First editions of importance and books printed  
in limited editions.

Fine bindings, finely illustrated books, and literary curiosities.