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The Courier, Number 1, April 1958

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The
Ernest S. Bird Library
Dedication Issue

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The Courier, Number 1, April 1958

by Wayne S. Yenawine

This issue of *The Courier* is a far cry from “Number 1, April 1958.” The dramatic changes and scholarly attainments of the Library Associates journal mirror the corresponding development of a great university during the past fifteen years.

The Courier began in the imaginations of three faculty members, Mary Marshall, Bill George, and Tony Pace; and of Donald Bean, then the director of Syracuse University Press.¹ Mr. Bean knew Harvey Satenstein, manufacturing supplier of New York City, and together they designed the first issue, prevailing upon their mutual friend, New York artist John De Pol, to create the wood engraving for our emblem. Fortunately, those around shared my enthusiasm about starting *The Courier* and we were thrilled to see “Number 1” ready for distribution to Library Associates. What a modest, homely beginning it was!

Yet significantly, there on the front page of my cherished copy of *The Courier*, Number 1, Chancellor Tolley observed in 1958, “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.’” My predecessor as Director of Libraries, the late Wharton Miller, reiterated the urgent need to replace the Carnegie Library. With the strong support of Library Associates and Trustees of the University, we promoted the fund raising and planning for a new research library building. My successor, Warren Boes, has dedicated his energies and creativity to the achievement of our great purpose. I say “our” because a new library building has been a prime objective of many persons, the motivation of countless man-hours of work, and the aim of innumerable gifts.

In this special issue of *The Courier*, Library Associates, Alumni, Faculty, Students and Staff of Syracuse University salute the thousands of dreamers and designers, planners and promoters, benefactors and builders who together account for the magnificent Ernest S. Bird Library. Now a distinguished library will be restored as the center of a great university’s intellectual resources, a heart with a strong beat again. All of us who are privileged to share this moment in time have a great sense of fulfillment.

Mr. Yenawine was the Director of Libraries at Syracuse University from 1956 to 1965.

¹ These names should be preceded by that of the author, who was the initiator, promoter and first editor of *The Courier* – Ed.



Syracuse University
Library Associates

COURIER

NUMBER 1

APRIL 1958

A Note To The Reader

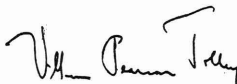
Like all publishing ventures, this modest periodical is a venture of faith. We hope that it will bring its readers a sense of the significant growth in the quality of our University Library and of the vital role it plays in our program of higher education.

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