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## The Place of the Ranke Collection at Syracuse University: Some Brief Remarks

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# THE COURIER

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# *The Place of the Ranke Collection at Syracuse University:*

by James M. Powell

The vision of a few played a significant role in the development of American universities during the post-Civil War era. This period, which witnessed the rise of universities in America, was marked by the emergence of graduate education, the development of professional scholarship, and the building of the first university library research collections. Charles W. Bennett was caught up by the vision of Syracuse University participating in this significant movement within higher education in America. His success in securing the Ranke Collection for Syracuse University provided the university with the major history library in America at that time and laid a foundation for the possible future development of a great university. Bennett's dream remains at the heart of a Syracuse University that has traveled a considerable distance along the path he and his contemporaries charted. The Ranke Collection today serves the needs of an active group of scholars in the manner intended by Charles Bennett.

At present, we are completing the first year of a twenty-seven month grant (\$150,000.00), for the cataloging of the Ranke Collection supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the Snow Memorial Trust, Marie Little Bird, John Crawford, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, the Mobay Chemical Corporation, the Robert Bosch Corporation, the Siemens Corporation, the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach-Stiftung, the American Hoechst Corporation and Carl Zeiss Inc.. Further support has come from the Duetsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the official German Government Research Foundation, which has contributed substantially to the acquisitions program for the Ranke Collection. This project will result in a listing of the books in the collection in the National Union Catalog, the preparation of a guide to the manuscripts and a locator index for the pamphlet collection. We also hope to be able to publish printed catalogs for the manuscript and pamphlet collections. The work now under way makes clear the correctness of Bennett's judgment and his breadth of vision.

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