Books Acquired in Memory of Wayne S. Yenawine

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Books Acquired in Memory of Wayne S. Yenawine

Dr. Wayne S. Yenawine was Director of the Syracuse University Libraries and Dean of the Library School (now the School of Information Studies) from 1956 to 1965. Under his direction both the Libraries and the School experienced great change. It was during this period that the Library Associates was formed.

Leaving Syracuse to direct the University of Louisville Libraries, Dr. Yenawine moved, a few years later, to the University of South Carolina as a member of the faculty of its school of library science. He died in February 1981, at the age of 69.

Dr. Yenawine and his family made many friends during their years in Syracuse, and his son Martin remains an active member of our community. His family suggested that contributions in his memory be made to benefit the Libraries and some 35 gifts were received.

The Libraries are grateful both to the Yenawine family and to the individual donors whose gifts made possible the purchase of the following books for the collections.


Books acquired with the monies given in memory of Wayne S. Yenawine are representative of the types of materials purchased for the Libraries’ history collection. These books were purchased for immediate usefulness more than for aesthetic qualities. The books are illustrative of the choices that librarians must make in these times of spiraling book costs. There is often simply no money to buy a book which may be needed in the future.

The three volume *History of the Patriarchs of the Egyptian Church* was purchased to support in-progress research on the Crusades. Like many materials used by historians, these documents did not fall into the “history section” of the Library of Congress Classification System, and they shelve in Humanities Collections (Bird, third floor) rather than in Area Studies (Bird, fifth floor) where the Library of Congress “history section” is shelved. Historical research does not follow the Library of Congress classification system’s definitions or the Libraries’ subject arrangements. These books are but one of many collections of published original sources in the Libraries.

The monographs in this gift were purchased to support the teaching of a graduate course on the Italian Renaissance, History 615, taught by Professor Edward Muir. Three of the four books displayed are required reading for the course. Each book applies a new methodology using familiar sources or examines sources not used previously. The monographs serve as research models for advanced history students. They complement the Italian Renaissance materials in the Ranke Library and other special collections. If the Libraries could not acquire such titles to keep students in touch with the latest research and to encourage them in their studies, the special collections would become an unused treasure rather than a resource that fosters knowledge and an understanding of ourselves and our past.

The history titles acquired in memory of Wayne S. Yenawine are important to current research and teaching. They add to the richness of the Syracuse University Libraries and help to make the Libraries truly the heart of the University.

Marcella Stark
History Bibliographer