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Spring 1993

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Syracuse University Library Associates

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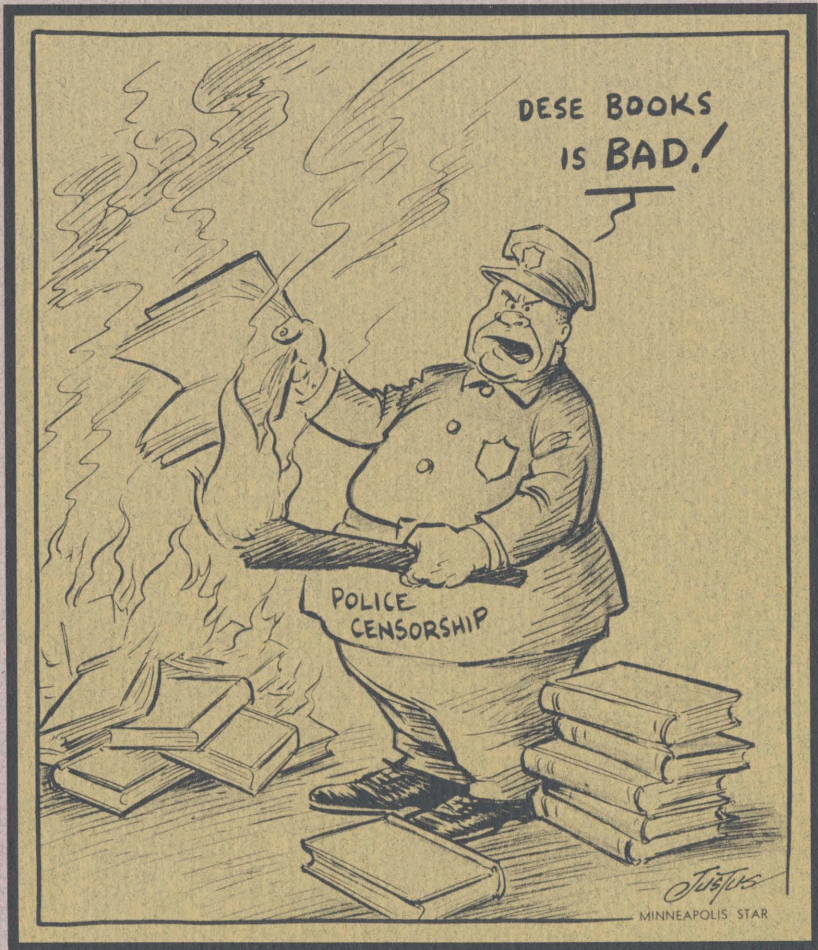
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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
C O U R I E R



VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 1, SPRING 1993

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
COURIER

VOLUME XXVIII

NUMBER ONE

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*This issue is dedicated with gratitude and affection
to Gwen G. Robinson*

News of the Library and the Library Associates

POST-STANDARD AWARD CITATION, 1993

For Gwen G. Robinson

Gwen Groves Robinson, distinguished scholar-editor of the *Syracuse University Library Associates Courier*, you have made significant contributions to Syracuse University and to the academic world at large.

Educated at Bryn Mawr College, Harvard University, and the Universities of Houston, London, and Florence, you began your professional career in the editorial offices of Appleton-Century-Crofts in New York City. Further editing and teaching appointments have added to your varied experiences from which Syracuse University so richly benefits.

Under your editorship, which began in 1983, the *Courier* has been transformed from a small journal to a substantial semi-annual publication that contains "articles related to unusual and interesting aspects of the Library's holdings and, in particular, to rare books, manuscripts, and archival collections in the George Arents Research Library". The *Courier* is widely recognized in the United States for its excellence, and recently one of Germany's leading scholarly publishers stated: "There is not one academic journal of this quality in Germany".

You combine your literary gifts with a keen eye for flaws in style and factual errors in the manuscripts you select. You indeed personify the characterization given to the first fine scholar-printers five hundred years ago: *accuratissimi*.

Your own scholarship is well demonstrated in seven essays you have contributed to the *Courier* between 1988 and 1993. Courageously you broached a subject usually considered dull: punctuation. With a mystery writer's instincts you have pursued hidden clues, and your delightful style brings the subject to life as a significant part of our cultural history. The English author John Ryder



Gwen G. Robinson

expresses his esteem for your work in his newly published *Intimate Leaves of a Designer's Notebook* as follows: "to Gwen Robinson whose work in progress, *The Punctator's World*, has surely opened new perspectives on textual development from the spoken to the written to the printed word . . ."

With gratitude for your outstanding contributions we are delighted to present to you the 1993 Post-Standard Award for Distinguished Service to the Syracuse University Library.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Records

This summer the Department of Special Collections became the repository for the permanent records of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF). The collection, which occupies thirty-four linear feet, is a wonderfully rich addition to the Albert Schweitzer holdings already at Syracuse.

The ASF was founded by American friends of Albert Schweitzer in 1939 to support his hospital and medical work at Lambaréné in Gabon, Africa, and to disseminate his philosophical and ethical principles, characterized by the phrase "reverence for life".

The collection includes AFS office files; financial records; minutes, reports, agendas, and other papers of the board of directors; documentation of programs and projects; ASF publications; and material on the Albert Schweitzer Hospital, the Association Internationale de l'Hôpital Albert Schweitzer à Lambaréné, and the Albert Schweitzer Center. There is also substantial Schweitzer memorabilia, including 91 letters and other writings (originals, copies, and translations) by Schweitzer, along with photographs by Charles Joy, clippings, articles, and publications dated as early as 1905. *Gift of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.*

Reed, John

The Library has acquired a copy of John Reed's first book, a forty-eight-page poem called *The Day in Bohemia; or, Life Among*



Albert Schweitzer (with Sizi the cat) at his writing table in the hospital at Lambaréné. Photo: Charles R. Joy.

the Artists (New York: 1913, [printed for the author by Riverside, Conn.: Hillacre Book House]). This book, of which only 500 copies were printed, adds to the Library's already considerable holdings of primary and secondary Reed material that may be found among the papers of his biographer, Granville Hicks.

John Reed (1887–1920) was an American journalist and proponent of revolutionary politics. After graduating from Harvard in 1910, he wrote articles for various publications. For *The Masses*, a radical magazine, he covered the Paterson, New Jersey, silk workers' strike of 1913. For the *Metropolitan*, he wrote from Mexico about the revolt of Pancho Villa, thus gaining a reputation as a war correspondent. His visit to Russia when the Bolshe-

viks seized power in 1917 resulted in his book (still in print) *Ten Days that Shook the World* (1919). However, *The Day in Bohemia* was published while he was in transition from Harvard playboy to defiant social activist.

Writing in *John Reed: The Making of a Revolutionary*, Hicks noted: “Long before he could regard it as the scene of his success, John Reed loved New York”.* Reed moved there in the spring of 1911 to claim, with characteristic immodesty, the success he felt his one-act plays (called “sophomoric” by Hicks), short stories, poems, and essays deserved. Reed took a room in Greenwich Village with three Harvard friends, and a job with Lincoln Steffens on the muckraking *American Magazine*. By day he enjoyed the company of Ida Tarbell, Albert Jay Nock, Samuel Hopkins Adams, Edna Ferber, and Dorothy Canfield; and by night the camaraderie of Washington Square literary life. However, in June 1912, Reed’s blossoming career was interrupted when his mother summoned him home to Portland, Oregon, to attend his dying father. During his three months at home, Reed’s nostalgia for New York life inspired the witty and intensely personal poem *The Day in Bohemia*.

Dedicated to Lincoln Steffens—“one of us, the only man who understands my arguments”—the poem describes a full day in Reed’s New York, beginning in the morning with his roommates at 42 Washington Square, each poised for literary success:

What care we for a dull old world censorious
When each is sure he’ll fashion something glorious?

Relishing his day among his *American Magazine* colleagues, Reed continues:

So I arrive at work at half-past ten
Sneak to my desk, and madly seize my pen. . . .
Then with closed door we go in secret session,
Allume the fragrant weed! Rest feet on desk!
Work is an eccentricity grotesque!

* Granville Hicks (New York: Macmillan, 1936), 67.

He was proud of his election to the Dutch Treat Club, which placed him in the company of successful literary contemporaries Rupert Hughes, James Montgomery Flagg, Irvin Cobb, and Julian Street:

Souls of Scribblers dead and gone,
Where in Hades have ye known
Better wit or worser grub,
Than Tom Masson's Dutch Treat Club?

Irreverently, Reed describes his friends at a vibrant literary tea that occurs later that day:

With arguments fantastic and absurd,
Each one attempts to sandwich in a word.

The poem continues with a description of an evening of revelry, followed by his late return to Washington Square:

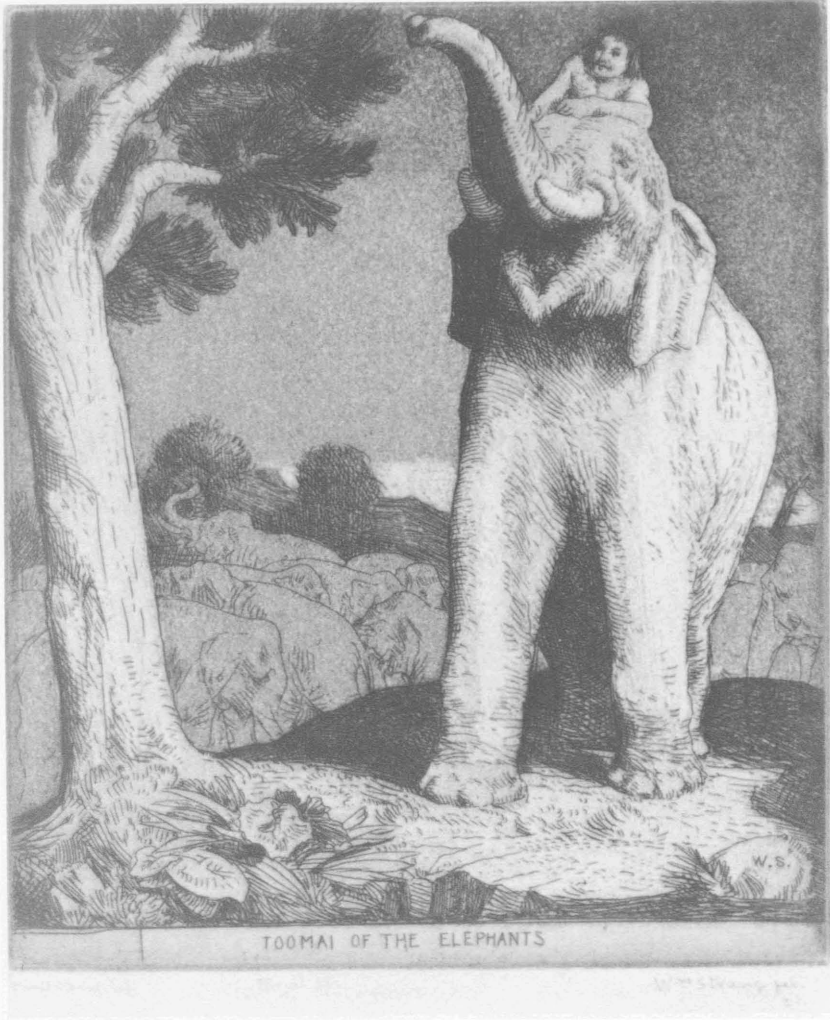
Slyly and quickly we become undressed
Slyly and silently we seek the nest.
I doze; but hear, ere yet oblivion
Enfolds,—REEVES lecturing the rising sun,
and ROGERS, plangent on his Remington.

The Day in Bohemia illuminates the life of a young man preoccupied with his own literary ambitions. Within a year his self-absorption would be transformed into a sober commitment to the cause of the masses. *Purchased with Library Associates funds.*

William Strang Etchings

The Library has acquired twenty-eight original etchings by William Strang (1859–1921). These were proofs of the publication, printed by Strang's son, *A Series of Thirty Etchings by William Strang, Illustrating Subjects from the Writings of Rudyard Kipling* (London: Macmillan, 1901). These rare etchings are considered to be excellent examples of the art of William Strang.

The son of a builder, Strang was educated at Dumbarton Academy and at the Slade School, where he studied under Alphonse Legros, the French graphic artist. Strang produced woodcuts, en-



William Strang illustration for “Toomai of the Elephants”, in which Little Toomai, on the back of Kala Nag, witnesses the nocturnal dance of the elephants.

gravings, and more than 700 etchings, among them portraits of Kipling and Thomas Hardy. With delight in the fantastic and macabre, in 1892 he created illustrations for his own ballad, “The Earth Fiend”. A dark and fantastical atmosphere also pervades the etchings gathered here. *Purchased with Library Associates funds.*

PROGRAM FOR 1993-94

The Syracuse University Library Associates program for the academic year 1993-94 will be as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| September 7, 1993
Tuesday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library | René Girard
Andrew B. Hammond Professor of
French Language, Literature, and
Civilization
Stanford University
PRIMITIVE RELIGION AND THE QUESTION
OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE GOSPELS |
| October 7, 1993
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library | Carol V. R. George
Professor of History
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
GOD'S SALESMAN: NORMAN VINCENT
PEALE AND THE POWER OF POSITIVE
THINKING |
| November 4-6, 1993
Thursday-Saturday
1916 Room, Bird Library | Book Sale
Co-sponsored by the Library Associates
and the Syracuse University Library |
| December 10, 1993
Friday, 5 p.m.
Faculty Center
401 University Place | Annual Holiday Reception |
| February 24, 1994
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library | Constance B. Schulz
Professor of History
University of South Carolina
THE USES OF PUBLIC HISTORY |
| April 14, 1994
Thursday, 4 p.m.
1916 Room, Bird Library | Greg Johnson
Professor of English
Kennesaw State College
JOYCE CAROL OATES: A STUDY OF THE
SHORT FICTION |

May 13, 1994
Friday, 12 noon
Goldstein Student Center
South Campus

Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Patricia Battin, President
Commission on Preservation and Access

THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES, founded in 1953, is a society whose efforts are devoted to the enrichment of the Syracuse University Library and especially the rare book and manuscript collections. The Associates make it possible to strengthen these collections through the acquisition of unusual books, manuscripts, and other research materials that are rare and often of such value that the Library would not otherwise be able to acquire them.

Those with an interest in history, literature, book collecting, and the graphic arts are welcome to join the Associates. Perquisites of membership include general use of the Syracuse University Library's facilities, as well as invitations to exhibitions, Associates-sponsored lectures, and special events of the University Library. Members at the patron level may borrow books. In addition, all members will receive our incidental publications, typographic keepsakes, and the *Syracuse University Library Associates Courier*, a semiannual publication that contains articles related to unusual and interesting aspects of the Library's holdings and, in particular, to rare books, manuscripts, and archival collections in the George Arnts Research Library.

SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS are as follows: Benefactor, \$500; Sustaining member, \$200; Patron, \$100; Individual member, \$50; Faculty and Staff of Syracuse University, \$35; Senior citizen, \$25; Students, \$15. Checks, made payable to Syracuse University Library Associates, should be sent to the Secretary, 600 E. S. Bird Library, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. 13244-2010. For further information about the programs and activities of the Library Associates, telephone (315) 443-2697.

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