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SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
C O U R I E R



VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 2, FALL 1988

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
COURIER

VOLUME XXIII

NUMBER TWO

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News of the Library and the Library Associates

RECENT GIFTS TO THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

In late June of this year the George Arents Research Library received a gift of ten Roosevelt letters, of which seven were written by Franklin D. Roosevelt himself, two by his private secretary, and one by Eleanor Roosevelt. Chancellor Emeritus William Pearson Tolley and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spector joined in bringing this group of related documents to Syracuse.

The letters are addressed to Miss Thelma Burnett (later Mrs. John J. Curley), a physiotherapy technician specializing in poliomyelitis victims. During 1926 and 1927 Miss Burnett worked at the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation (Centre for the Study and After-Treatment of Poliomyelitis) and knew Franklin Roosevelt, himself a polio victim and president of the institution's trustees. About this time Miss Burnett married John J. Curley, an electrical engineer, and moved to Syracuse, New York.

Roosevelt's letters, which are short but warm, respond to Mrs. Curley's worries over the fact that her husband did not have a job. Also, they tell of the latest improvements at Warm Springs. "They have nearly seventy patients and we have begun the erection of the big new winter swimming pool with a complete glass roof over it and the two new sun parlors." In a letter of 27 October 1928, Roosevelt states: "I am going back there immediately after the election, no matter what the results".

By 1944 Mrs. Curley had become Lieutenant Curley, stationed in the British Isles, and Roosevelt was in the White House. Thank-you notes for small gifts from England, written by Roosevelt's private secretary, attest to the Lieutenant's continuing correspondence and devotion.

The single letter from Eleanor Roosevelt is on Democratic National Committee stationery, dated 18 October 1928. Mrs. Roosevelt

is pleased that Mrs. Curley is supporting the President and hopes that "you will go to hear my husband when he speaks in Syracuse, and you may find yourself more interested in Smith than you now are in Hoover".

Although there are not many of these letters, they give an important glimpse of Franklin Roosevelt at several stations of his career: at home in Hyde Park, New York; as vice-president of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland (New York City) and partner in the law firm of Roosevelt and O'Connor (New York City); in the Executive Mansion in Albany; and, finally, in the White House.

Carolyn A. Davis
Manuscripts Librarian

Notable additions to the Library's Rudyard Kipling Collection were made during the past year by William P. Tolley. The collection of books by Kipling was strengthened by the acquisition of a set of page proofs for the English edition of *The Muse among the Motors* (1904). These proofs exist in only two known copies and the work was never actually published in this form in England. One copy of only twenty of this same title that were printed in the United States for copyright purposes in 1904 complements this gift. The American copyright edition of *Pan in Vermont*, printed from type prepared for its magazine appearance in *Country Life in America*, December 1902, and surviving in only ten copies, was also among the latest gifts to the Library from Chancellor Tolley.

The Kipling Collection at Syracuse University includes a number of galley and page proofs of different works corrected by the author. An important addition to this part of the Collection are the corrected proofs for the second edition of *Letters to the Family* (Toronto, 1910), an account of Kipling's visit to Canada, with his autograph corrections and alterations on more than fifty pages. Accompanying this set of proofs is a unique publisher's proof of the book with a trial binding and preface but with blank leaves in place of the main body of the text. Kipling has added his corrections to the cover, title page, and prefatory leaves and, commenting on the drab paper wrappers, writes: "This is rather a dreary colour. Can't you give us something a little more cheerful. RK." When the book was published it was bound in pale blue wrappers, presumably to Kipling's satisfaction.



Rudyard Kipling, as drawn by Steven Spurrier.

Finally, through the generosity of Dr. Tolley, the Library has received a group of four letters (1903–1904) from Henry James to his nephew, William James II, and an interesting caricature of Kipling by the English artist Steven Spurrier (1878–1961), reduced and reproduced here. The Spurrier pen-and-ink drawing shows Kipling in Indian costume brandishing a quill pen dripping phrases from “The Absent-minded Beggar”. Though no further identification was needed, the artist has added in the background the titles of Kipling’s best-known stories. Spurrier’s caricature was published in *Bystander*, no. 35, August 1904.

The Henry James letters offer interesting insights on his life in London and include mention of a “pilgrimage . . . in Kipling’s motor” to Batemans, Kipling’s Sussex home. James writes: “. . . the beauty of the twenty-mile spin was surpassed only by the beauty of the delicious old house, an absolutely intact old treasure of Charles I’s time, as remarkable for its position and preservation as for its intrinsic interest. It’s an oddly discordant setting for its owner’s furious modernism and journalism—or rather but *would* be if his excellent appreciation and affection for it, and his and his wife’s very intelligent way of living in it, didn’t pleasantly bridge the hiatus.”

Mark F. Weimer
Rare Book Librarian

LIBRARY ASSOCIATES SPRING PROGRAM

The Syracuse University Library Associates program for the 1989 spring semester is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| February 2, 1989 | Stanton L. Catlin |
| Thursday, 4 p.m. | Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts, Syracuse University |
| 1916 Room | THE COMMISSIONING OF THE DIEGO |
| Bird Library | RIVERA MURALS AT CUERNAVACA |
| March 2, 1989 | Walter Hamady |
| Thursday, 4 p.m. | Printer and Publisher, The Perishable Press, |
| 1916 Room | Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin |
| Bird Library | NEW POETRY AND THE PRIVATE PRESS |
| | co-sponsored by The Bibliographical Society of
America and the Library Associates |

- April 4–5, 1989 A Celebration of the Music of Ernst Bacon
 Director of the School of Music, 1945–1947
 Composer-in-Residence, 1947–1964
 Professor Emeritus, 1964-
 Concerts, lecture, and exhibition
 co-sponsored by The Society for New Music and
 the Library Associates
- April 4, 1989 THE MUSIC OF ERNST BACON AT
 Tuesday, 8 p.m. CROUSE COLLEGE
 Crouse College
 Auditorium
- April 5, 1989 CIVIC MORNING MUSICALS: THE MUSIC
 Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. OF ERNST BACON
 Hosmer Auditorium
 Everson Museum
- April 5, 1989 CONVERSATIONS WITH ERNST BACON
 Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Artist in Society: Harmony and/or Dissonance
 1916 Room Ernst Bacon, Composer
 Bird Library Dorothy Riester, Sculptor
 Thomas Mortland, Philosopher
- April 28, 1989 Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting
 Friday, 12 noon Speaker: Michael H. Hoeflich
 Drumlins Dean, Syracuse University College of Law
 800 Nottingham Road THE IMAGE OF LAW IN VICTORIAN
 LITERATURE

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' interests lie in strengthening these collections through the acquisition of unusual books, manuscripts, and other research materials which are rare and often of such value that the Library would not otherwise be able to acquire them.

The Associates welcome anyone to join whose interests incline in the direction of book collecting or the graphic arts. The perquisites of membership include borrowing privileges and general use of the Syracuse University Library's facilities and resources, as well as invitations to exhibitions, Associates-sponsored lectures, and special events of the University Library. In addition, 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 the holdings of the George Arents Research Library for Special Collections.

SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS are as follows: Benefactor, \$500; Sustaining member, \$200; Individual member, \$50; Faculty and staff of Syracuse University, \$30; Senior citizen and student, \$20. Checks, made payable to Syracuse University Library Associates, should be sent to the Secretary, 100 E. S. Bird Library, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY 13244-2010. For further information about the programs and activities of the Library Associates, telephone (315) 443-2697.

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