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EDISON RECORD LABEL

From the Syracuse University Audio Archive and Re-recording Laboratory

THE COURIER

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

VOLUME XIV, 1 & 2

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News of the Library and Library Associates

Ralph Ketcham, professor of history at Syracuse University, spoke at the Fall Luncheon Meeting on October 29, 1976. His topic, "In Pursuit of the Founding Fathers," described some of his experiences in search of original materials to do with the leaders of the American Revolution.

Professor Ketcham is the author of numerous papers, an editor, consultant, and author of several books. His most recent works are *From Colony to Country*, *The Revolution in American Thought, 1750-1820*, and *From Independence to Interdependence*.

At the Board of Trustees meeting which was held before the luncheon, it was agreed that the projected site of the book fair and auction was too expensive. The Auction Committee chairman, Mr. Wechter was to search for another place, preferably on the Syracuse University campus.

After a time-consuming search and a thorough review of the alternatives Mr. Wechter concluded that the scheduling difficulties were such that the book fair and auction would have to be postponed. Reinforcing this decision was a delay in the receipt of donations of auctionable items.

Those most involved with the auction plans regret the necessity for postponement. All concerned expect to combine their best efforts to have another auction scheduled soon.

For the Visually Handicapped.

Special equipment for the visually handicapped is available now at the Syracuse University Libraries. In addition to a Braille dictionary and encyclopedia, the libraries' audio-visual department has installed a talking calculator, a tape recorder which can speed up or slow down without distortion, and a viewing device which magnifies printed material up to six hundred times.

Mr. George Abbott, media librarian, notes that the new viewing device supplements a magnifying viewer placed in the library in 1972 by the Lighthouse of Onondaga County.

Syracuse University Libraries' 600,000-piece microfiche collection, one of the largest among major university research libraries, is now available to those with limited vision.

Leopold von Ranke Collection

Syracuse University has received a \$150,000 grant to catalog two major historical collections in the George Arents Research Library for special collections: the Leopold von Ranke Library and the Jan Novotny Collection.

The project, in which the library and the history department of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs are cooperating, is directed by James M. Powell, professor of medieval history, principal investigator, and Donald C. Anthony, director of Libraries, associate investigator. The project is expected to take 27 months.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has given an outright grant of \$49,980 and a matching grant of \$50,037. As a condition of the latter, Syracuse University has obtained a pledge of \$25,000 from the John Ben Snow Trust of Pulaski, New York and is seeking the remainder of the matching funds.

Syracuse University acquired the library of von Ranke, the great German historian, in 1887 and Novotny's library in 1962. The Ranke collection contains more than seventeen thousand volumes, many extremely rare, and several thousand pamphlets and manuscripts. It is concentrated chiefly in the fields of medieval and early modern European history and contains the largest body of Venetian historical manuscripts in North America.

The collection of Novotny, a Czech economic historian, is concerned mainly with the economic history of the early modern period and contains more than one thousand rare and important items in this field, many printed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Powell said the two collections "dovetail nicely."

The project has already aroused considerable scholarly interest. Karl Bosl, professor emeritus at the University of Munich and Germany's leading social historian, said: "I believe that the heritage of Ranke's thinking in universal history of Europe and the Western world will and can flourish and be influential on the broad-minded background of the American world. The von Ranke collection in the Syracuse University Libraries will be an incentive and inspiration for American scholars and students in universal history and in European history. The treasure of rare books is impressive because a European bibliography for the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries is regrettably lacking."

Leonard E. Boyle, professor of palaeography and diplomatics at the University of Toronto, said: "A catalog of the Ranke Library will be a very great boon to scholars, especially with respect to the pre-1700 imprints. The proper systematic cataloging of the manuscript material should show that Syracuse possesses a rich and enviable treasure indeed."

A professor of modern German history, Mack Walker of Johns Hopkins University described the Novotny collection as "extraordinarily rich" and

said the von Ranke materials "are probably as extensive as any collection I know of in this country. At the very least there are the foundations here for a collection of international importance."

Cataloging the two collections is expected to have a long-term impact on the study of European history at Syracuse as well as making them available to scholars throughout North America by listing them in the National Union Catalog.

"This is a first step toward establishing an international historical research center here, and a recognition of the importance of Syracuse University's contribution to the historical enterprise," Powell said. "A center devoted in a special way to the history of Europe in the Middle Ages and Early Modern period [will bring] closer together two fields of history that have too often been pursued apart, to the detriment of both. These collections can become a meeting ground for those who are concerned about the formation of the institutions, ideas, values and social structures of the modern world. In the Ranke and Novotny collections Syracuse University possesses a resource that embodies significant aspects of the political, cultural, religious and social fabric that form the matrix of modern society, both European and American."

Syracuse University was fortunate in acquiring von Ranke's library. Charles W. Bennett, a librarian and a former student of von Ranke, had long dreamed of obtaining the collection and had been in close touch with Dr. John Reid, a benefactor of Syracuse University, regarding the funds to purchase it. Von Ranke, who died in 1886, wanted the Prussian National Library to purchase his collection and keep it intact. However, when the Prussian government and von Ranke's heirs were unable to agree on the price and the disposition of the collection, Bennett was able in 1887 to obtain it for Syracuse University, which had been founded only seventeen years earlier.

The scholars at Syracuse University had little conception of the content or size of the collection. Although there was great pride in the acquisition and a library building was erected to house it, the work of preparing the seventeen thousand volumes for use proceeded very slowly.

The initial cataloging, in 1914 and 1915, was marred by incorrect main entries, errors in titles, problems of volumes representing two or more editions of a work in a single set, inadequate information regarding publication and haphazard entries in general. The three thousand pamphlets and four hundred manuscripts in the von Ranke collection have never been cataloged.

Until the Bird Library was opened in 1972, the resources of the university were inadequate to maintain the kind of library essential for exploiting the von Ranke collection, Powell said. The John Ben Snow Foundation helped greatly with a gift of \$100,000 to the Leopold von Ranke Room of the Bird Library.

To assist in the project, a professional cataloger, a bibliographical

assistant, a clerical assistant, a faculty associate and two graduate assistants will be hired.

Completion of the project, Powell said, "will enable Syracuse University to overcome many of the difficulties that stem from past neglect and to make a very significant contribution to humanistic studies in the United States."

by Henry L. Hovemeyer,
Syracuse University News Bureau

Library Acquisitions

The following items have been purchased by Library Associates for the Syracuse University Libraries:

Catholic Church, Pope, 1305-1314 (Clement V). *Registum Clementis Papae V ex Vaticanus Archtypis Sanctissimi Domini Nostri Leonis XIII Pontificis Maximi*. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms, n.d. 9 volumes.

Charles Paul De Kock. *The Novels of Charles De Kock*. Boston, Quinby, 1899-1904. 25 volumes.

Encyclopédie des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes au XXème Siècle. New York, Garland Publishing, n.d.

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. *Catalog of Printed Books of the Folger Shakespeare Library*, Boston, G. K. Hall, 1970. 28 volumes.

David F. Foxon. *English Verse, 1700-1750: A Catalogue of Separately Printed Poems with Notes on Contemporary Collected Editions*. London, Cambridge University Press, 1975-

In memory of A. McKinley Terhune.

Marion Sader. *Comprehensive Index to English-Language Little Magazines, 1890-1970*. Series 1. Millwood, N.Y., Kraus Thomson, 1976.

In memory of Marian Layne Hier Henes.

The Acquisitions Committee felt that it would be appropriate to support the need for certain additions to the von Ranke Collection and \$1500.00 was allocated for this purpose.

Members Honored

The *Syracuse Post-Standard* Women of Achievement Awards, announced annually on January 1st, include four members of Library Associates this year.

Rhea Eckel Clark, whose career has included the presidency of Cazenovia College and director of the New York State Council of the Aging, was named the All-Time Woman of Achievement.

Freda Darrow, whose award was based on her volunteer activities in the area of religion is also active in support of libraries as a volunteer worker and trustee.

Antje B. Lemke, known to all our members for her participation in Library Associates as chairman of the Acquisitions Committee and of the Publications Committee, was cited for her concern for human welfare and social reform. Her newest responsibility in these areas is the executive directorship of the Albert Schweitzer Friendship House in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Betty Levenstein received the award for her devotion to community service. She has been active in many organizations in Syracuse involving education and children. A graduate of Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, her special volunteer interest has been the Planned Parenthood Center where she is the supervisor of the library and chairman of the Education Committee.

And more —

Professor Jozef J. Zwislocki, director of the Institute for Sensory Research at Syracuse University, has won the 1976 Centro Ricerche Studi Amplifon prize for his research in the acoustics of sound transmission and neural coding in the inner ear. Professor Zwislocki received the award last November in Milan where he lectured to guests of the non-commercial Italian foundation which supports research in the field of audiology and hearing conservation.



Do You Know About Syracuse University Library Associates?

We are a group of men and women from among the Syracuse University alumni, faculty, students, and friends which exists as an expression of support for the Syracuse University Libraries.

We have enhanced the Syracuse University Libraries' resources through the acquisition of rare books, manuscripts, and important materials which would not otherwise be purchased out of the libraries' regular budget.

Our members have the satisfaction of a constructive association with Syracuse University, as well as the companionship of a cordial group of interesting and accomplished people. Membership benefits include borrowing privileges at the Syracuse University Libraries and a subscription to *The Courier*. Those in the Syracuse area attend lectures and luncheon meetings featuring talks on topics relating to books and libraries.

Would you like to help us help the libraries? Yearly membership fees are: Student and Senior Citizen, \$5.00; Regular, \$15.00; Sustaining, \$100.00; Sponsor, \$250.00 or more. Below is a tear-off sheet for membership application or information. Checks should be made payable to S.U. Library Associates.

To: Syracuse University Library Associates,
611 Bird Library, Syracuse University
Syracuse, New York, 13210

Please enroll me as a member of Syracuse University Library Associates.

Name Enclosed \$

Address Zip

. . . I would like to know more about Library Associates before I join. Please send a membership brochure. Thank you.

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