



# Notes on the Harvard Libraries - Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume XV.1

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# NOTES ON THE HARVARD LIBRARIES

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

Dec. 18 [1841] The reason offered why the legislature should not give money to Harvard College to build their Library, was that Harvard had so much already. But that is the very reason why it should have more: that certainly is its strongest claim at this moment. If I have a valuable antique in my possession, I should not give it to a stage driver, but to some collector who had already a cabinet . . . for then it would be sure to be seen by the greatest number of those whom it concerned.

— Manuscript journal of Ralph Waldo Emerson

One hundred and twenty-five years later, Emerson's argument still commands assent. The Harvard College Library must continue to grow and to respond to the needs of faculty, students, and the world of learning and letters. But the book funds that provide its acquisitions are limited in extent and largely restricted as to subject matter. Therefore the provision of additional unrestricted income for acquisitions is both necessary and valuable even beyond its expression in dollars and cents. It provides the flexibility and the means to take advantage of special opportunities to add to Harvard's collections and to strengthen them where the needs are greatest.

This is a cordial invitation to join the Friends of the Harvard College Library and to participate actively in the constant effort to keep the Harvard Library in the forefront of the great libraries of the world.

In 1966, when the Friends of the Harvard College Library made their first general appeal in more than a decade, 266 donors contributed \$13,315, enabling the Library to acquire significant books and manuscripts in the fields of Renaissance thought, French and German literature, the history of science, and the fine arts. Special contributions to the Friends in memory of their late Vice-President, Donald F. Hyde, made it possible to purchase a copy of Horace Walpole's second book, hitherto lacking in a strong collection.

All members of the Friends were invited to the opening of the loan exhibition of selected pieces from the Johnson collection formed by Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Hyde, and to a preview of the Theatre Collection's exhibition on the Romantic Ballet, with lectures by Ivor Guest and Dr. Edwin Binney, 3rd. Friends also received copies of the catalogues of the Johnson exhibition and of a special showing of books and manuscripts collected by Philip Hofer, as

well as *Europe Informed*, a catalogue prepared by Professor Francis M. Rogers for the Sixth International Colloquium on Luso-Brazilian Studies.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Houghton Library occurs in 1967, and Friends will be invited to the preview of an exhibition to celebrate the occasion. In addition to the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN and the library reports and exhibition catalogues that they receive, Friends will have the privilege of purchasing certain library publications at a ten-percent discount.

Friends contribute \$25, and larger donations will always be welcomed. A student membership with all privileges is available at \$10 to men and women actively working toward a degree, and for one year after they have received it. Gifts of books and manuscripts that fit into the Library's collections will be equally welcome. All contributions are tax-deductible within legal limits. A gift can be doubled without further expense to the donor if the firm with which he is associated participates in a plan for matching contributions to educational institutions.

All inquiries and communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Friends of the Harvard College Library, The Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138.

## THE ULTIMATE QUIZ

Research libraries are solemn institutions, but it is possible to have fun even in a research library. In 1927 the late Samuel C. Chew, a distinguished member of the English Department at Bryn Mawr College, put together a set of one hundred questions designed to test the knowledge and resources of scholars. These first appeared in *Vanity Fair*. Through the courtesy of Professor Mary K. Woodworth and Janet M. Agnew of the Bryn Mawr College Library this famous quiz (known as "The Ultimate Horror in Questionnaires") has been recovered.

1. Who declared that the bull and the bug were never worshipped half enough?
2. What is a *Palmese*?
3. What was the name of Captain Ahab's first mate?
4. Which of the prophets was in exile in Babylon?
5. Who wrote *The King's Quair*? *The Queen's Quair*? What is a Quair anyhow?
6. The portrait of which Doge was suppressed? Name the authors of three dramas on his life.
7. Who painted the *Dombild* at Cologne?
8. Which Italian artist worked at Avignon? What was the name of his brother-in-law?

9. Who desired that a theme of Handel's be carved on his tomb-stone? Why was the request not carried out?
10. Which Gothic cathedral has the longest nave? Which the highest vaulting?
11. What is wrong with this statement: "*The Burial of Count Orgáz* is in the little town of San Tomé in Spain"?
12. What great picture is in each of the following towns? — (a) Colmar; (b) Castelfranco; (c) Beaune; (d) Borgo San Sepolcro.
13. Where is Smithfields? Why is it so called?
14. What plant is supposed to shriek when torn from the earth?
15. What and where is the *Völkerschlachtdenkmal*?
16. Where are the sculptures from the pediments of Ægina?
17. What is a Midrash?
18. Where is *El Ultimo Suspiro del Moro*? Where is the Tang-i-Alláhu Akbar?
19. What are the approximate dates of the Sung Period?
20. Who asked to be placed on Sunium's marble steep? Where is Sunium?
21. The masterpiece of which English poet is written in Bernesque verse?
22. What, where and why so called is the Dance of the Seises?
23. Who declared that a robin red-breast in a cage does what to what?
24. Who was the Donna Lombarda?
25. What cities returned to what city the missing panels of the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*?
26. With what writers is Tours associated?
27. Name two works of Jane Austen's left unfinished at her death.
28. What is the Cycle de Mme. de Sabatier?
29. Who were: (a) Soames; (b) Peter Quint; (c) Eloa; (d) Doctor Hornbook; (e) Bosola?
30. What was the relationship between Mary Shelley, Fanny Imlay, and Jane Clairmont?
31. Why is the fish a symbol of Christ and an attribute of Tobias?
32. What are the Seven Acts of Mercy?
33. Who was Alcofribas Nasier? The authenticity of which of his works has been disputed?
34. What and where is the Moabite Stone?
35. Was Antigone put to death? If so, how and why?
36. What is prick-song? A rebeck? A sackbut?
37. What is the Second Annunciation?
38. Who wrote? —  
 (a) The garden like a lady fair was cut.

- (b) *J'aime mieux ma mie, au gué!*  
 (c) Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight.  
 (d) *Ibant obscuri sola sub nocte per umbram.*  
 (e) *Waterloo! Waterloo! Waterloo! morne plaine!*  
 (f) *O patria mia, vedo le murae gli archi . . .*  
*Ma la gloria non vedo.*  
 (g) *Schön war ich auch, und das war mein Verderben.*
39. What was the name of Doctor Johnson's cat and of Byron's dog? What was the name of Thomas Hardy's dog? (in 1927)
40. Cite four descriptions of the plague in literature.
41. Who was "B. V." and why did he use these initials?
42. Why is Virgil numbered among the Prophets of Christ?
43. Which mediæval philosopher championed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception?
44. Who sat by the crater of Etna? Who jumped down into it?
45. Who designed the *Puits de Moïse*?
46. Where are the *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*? What became of the *Heures de Turin*?
47. With what author or artist is each of the following cities particularly associated? — (a) Rouen; (b) Olney; (c) Nuremberg; (d) Chambéry; (e) Arqua; (f) Grasmere; (g) Giverny; (h) Brescia; (i) Lausanne; (j) Fiesole?
48. Who considered Venice and Chamonix his "two homes on earth"?
49. Name three painters of the Breugel family.
50. Who composed 104 symphonies?
51. Name four series of engravings by Dürer.
52. Who wrote a Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt?
53. Who painted the Dos de Mayo?
54. What is a Jesse window?
55. Who was the superannuated man?
56. Which English author was called "the Snake"? Which "Cousin Hadji"? Which "Albé"? Which "Yorick"? Which "Topsy"?
57. Who is the patron saint of automobilists?
58. Name two English poets who wrote tragedies on Sophonisba.
59. How was the Menai bridge to be kept free from rust?
60. What was the name of Poe's mother-in-law? Of Byron's illegitimate daughter? Of Wordsworth's French sweetheart? Of Comte's *amie*? Of Flaubert's Mme. X?
61. For what is Warburton's cook famous?
62. What French epic poem was first published with complete text in England?

63. Who wrote *Sintram and His Companions*? Who were his companions?
64. Name two versions of the legend of Saint Ursula in painting.
65. In what work by what composer do the violins sound "Hee-haw"?
66. In what poem does Satan appear disguised as an aged man in rural weeds?
67. Distinguish between the Pinetà and Number 2, The Pines.
68. Name four paintings at Dresden other than the Sistine Madonna.
69. Which giant was compared by what poet to what leaning tower?
70. Who visited William Drummond?
71. Name four living writers who are entitled to place "O.M." after their names. (Living in 1927)
72. Distinguish between Alceste and Alcestis.
73. Where in Italy has a memorial to Milton been erected recently?
74. Of what virtue is the unicorn the symbol?
75. Who wrote the *Stabat Mater*? Who wrote *O quanta qualia*?
76. Who was willing to pose nude for what sculptor because there was a fire in the room?
77. Which spirits were enveloped in a two-forked flame?
78. Where is the Venus of Cyrene? Poussin's Venus? The Venus against a dark background sometimes ascribed to Botticelli?
79. Who was Saint Wilgeforte?
80. Which apochryphal gospel gives details of Christ's descent into Limbo?

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The remaining twenty questions in "The Ultimate Quiz"  
will appear in the next issue.

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1966-67

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