



Foreword to Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume XV.1

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FOREWORD

THIS issue marks the reappearance of the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN after an interruption of six years. It is a welcome development made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of George L. Lincoln, '95, and by contributions to a fund to honor the memory of William A. Jackson, Houghton's first librarian, to whom this issue is dedicated and who surely would have been the first to applaud the decision to resume publication. When the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN was inaugurated in its present format in 1947, Keyes D. Metcalf, then Director of the Harvard University Library, wrote: "It is published in the belief that one of the great libraries of the world cannot meet in full the responsibilities inherent in its position unless it has a regular publication which will make known to the Harvard community and to the scholarly world in general its collections, its experience, and its ideas." The obligation is even more urgent today as the Library approaches the 8,000,000 mark and its imperial domain embraces more than ninety separate locations from Cambridge and Boston to Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D. C., and I Tatti in Florence, Italy.

The aims and purposes of the BULLETIN can be briefly summarized:

First, it plans to publish articles which will be generally informative about the collections in the Harvard libraries and the significance of these collections for scholarship. It will seek to represent all the important components of the Harvard library system, and not merely the central collections.

Second, it will be particularly receptive to articles embodying important research and discoveries based on materials in the libraries and museums of the University. It will be pleased to consider such articles from all who have worked in the Harvard collections, regardless of institutional affiliation.

Third, it hopes to provide a forum for discussion of the future of university research libraries in general and of the policies, problems, and plans of the Harvard University Library in particular. It will not deal with the technical aspects of librarianship, but will be particularly eager to explore areas where the concerns of scholars and librarians intersect.

Finally, it will welcome general articles which undertake to interpret developments in the world of books and scholarship, whether they be in the humanities, the natural or social sciences, or some phase of culture broadly construed. While preference will be given to contributions from members of the Harvard community, the editorial policy will not be parochial. The primary purpose will be to obtain papers of general intellectual appeal which demonstrate the vital influence of books and scholarship on the life of mankind.

When a new publication is launched (or an old one revived) in this age of a bewildering profusion of journals, it is appropriate to ask how its audience and readership are envisaged. As the statement of the aims and purposes of the BULLETIN makes clear, it is directed toward a variegated constituency. A prime target is that not inconsiderable body of scholars in Cambridge and round the world who use or hope to use the rich resources of the Harvard Library. Librarians, bibliographers, collectors, and bibliophiles will, of course, find significant materials and items of interest in every issue, as the editors carry on the traditions of the old BULLETIN. But beyond these staunch supporters, it is hoped that the BULLETIN will have a broad appeal, not merely to the tried and good Friends of the Harvard College Library and other units in the Library system, but to the Alumni generally, and to all those who are interested in the state of learning and Harvard's contribution to it, to those who see libraries, not merely as storehouses for books, but as workrooms and laboratories "for the men [and women] who are to give direction to the world's thought." As with all enterprises, only experience and experimentation will reveal whether these diverse goals can be realized. Meanwhile, the editors will always welcome criticisms and suggestions for shaping the contents of the BULLETIN to meet the interests of its readers.

The Library has been especially fortunate in enlisting the services of Professor Howard Mumford Jones to edit the BULLETIN and Edwin E. Williams of the library staff to serve as associate editor. Under their direction, the BULLETIN will appear four times a year, and the average issue will number approximately 100 pages. Annual subscriptions are at the rate of \$10.00 a year, with single numbers priced at \$2.50. Friends of the Harvard College Library will receive the BULLETIN regularly in recognition of their contributions to the Library.

MERLE FAINSON