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# Notes on the Harvard Libraries - Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume XXVIII.4

## Citation

Notes on the Harvard Libraries - Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume XXVIII.4. Harvard Library Bulletin XXVIII (4), October 1980: 456-460.

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## NOTES ON THE HARVARD LIBRARIES

### RETIREMENT OF MR. WILLIAMS

[The announcement of Mr. Williams' retirement which appeared in the July 1980 issue was written by him with his characteristic modesty. A more detailed notice is appropriate. — Ed.]

EDWIN EVERITT WILLIAMS, Associate University Librarian, Member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and since 1968, Editor of the *HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN*, retired on 30 June 1980 after forty years of service in the libraries of Harvard University. A native of California, Mr. Williams received his undergraduate education at Stanford (A.B. 1932). He earned an M.A. from the School of Librarianship at the University of California, Berkeley, worked first in the University of California Library, then spent three years as Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the American Library Association in Chicago before coming to Harvard in 1940 at the invitation of Keyes Metcalf, Librarian of Harvard College and Director of the University Library. Since that time, three Presidents of the University, several Deans of the Faculty, and four Directors of the University Library have had reason to be thankful that Mr. Williams chose to devote his professional life to Harvard.

His first title, which he held for ten years, was Assistant to the Librarian of Harvard College, and he soon established himself as a generalist who could successfully undertake almost any administrative assignment. Mr. Williams' keenly analytical mind and his great facility at writing, coupled with indefatigable industriousness, also made him in demand in the library world beyond Harvard. For four years Mr. Williams served on the Council of the American Library Association. He also chaired at various times ALA committees on acquisitions, organization, program evaluation, publications, and library surveying. At the request of the American Library Association he undertook a study published in 1943 which forecast international library relations in the postwar period; in 1947 he was co-author and editor of a volume of the proceedings of the Princeton Conference on International Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Exchanges, a conference of considerable significance among scholars interested in broadening cultural interchanges. In later years he was to make studies of the United States Book Exchange, a cooperative agency for distributing duplicate books and periodicals (1958-1959), the Laval University Library, and the Boston Theological Institute, all of which were regarded as unusually effective. Chief among his efforts for foreign research libraries was an extensive survey of Canadian university library collections which he made in 1962. His conclusions were published under the title, *Resources of Canadian University Libraries for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. "The Williams Report," as it came to be known, went through several editions in English and in French and had great influence on the subsequent development of Cana-

dian university libraries. In Massachusetts Mr. Williams served during 1955-56 as secretary of the Governor's Administrative Library Committee.

At Harvard, Mr. Williams' achievements were far-ranging. Notable was his supervision of the selection, acquisition, and cataloguing of the 75,000 volumes that formed the nucleus of the Lamont Library collection when the decision was taken to construct a separate library for undergraduates. Collection building then became one of his major interests, and he served as Chief of the Acquisitions Department of the College Library. In 1956 he was appointed Assistant Librarian for Book Selection. In 1959 his familiarity with the Library's collections had grown so encyclopedic that a position was created specifically to take advantage of his knowledge. He was appointed Counselor to the Director on the Collections in the Harvard University Library, a position in which he appraised existing materials, made recommendations for additions to the collection, suggested relocation of certain segments in order to make better use of stack space, and identified possibilities for "weeding." An important aspect of his work concerned preservation of books printed on deteriorating paper, and with characteristic thoroughness, he made himself so expert on the subject that in 1960 he was appointed secretary of the Committee on the Preservation of Library Materials of the Association of Research Libraries. Since then preservation has emerged as one of the most pressing considerations in every research library, and Mr. Williams has worked steadily at contriving a means for systematic assessment of the dimensions of the preservation problem throughout American research libraries. During the final two years before his retirement from the Harvard Library he planned and oversaw the use of large federal grants to the Library for microfilming in the interests of preservation. And even after retirement, he is continuing as a special advisor on book preservation to the University Library.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Williams had been engaged in another enterprise of immense importance to American research library collections when, at a meeting in Farmington, Connecticut, in 1942, a group of major research libraries agreed to cooperate on a scheme for acquiring newly-published foreign publications in common. Mr. Williams arranged the classification and division of responsibilities among the participating libraries, edited the "Farmington Plan Notes," wrote the *Farmington Plan Handbook*, and during the years 1951 to 1963 served as head of its office. Throughout the forties Mr. Williams also headed another cooperative acquisitions program, the Foreign Newspapers Project. Begun by Harvard, the project was later turned over to what is now the Center for Research Libraries.

In 1964 Mr. Williams became Assistant University Librarian and in 1966, Associate University Librarian. For years he had drafted the Annual Reports of the University Librarian and the Librarian of Harvard College; his meticulously-compiled statistical charts, all cumulated without recourse to either adding machine or calculator, were regarded as models of informativeness; his skill at synthesis had long since made him the ideal choice for Secretary of the Faculty Library Committee where his Minutes were distinguished by their



clarity, brevity, and wit. It was only natural, then, that when, in 1966, the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN was revived after a lapse in publication of a number of years, Mr. Williams should become its Associate Editor. Two years later when Howard Mumford Jones, Abbott Lawrence Lowell Professor of the Humanities, *Emeritus*, retired as Editor, Mr. Williams succeeded him. Since then he has been responsible for 48 issues of the quarterly in which, as one colleague has put it, "he has maintained a neat balance between the local and the universal."

Quite apart from his work on the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN, there is scarcely a single report, survey, or official document of any description relating to the Harvard College Library or the University Library over the last forty years which has not benefited from Mr. Williams' editorial skills. Keyes Metcalf, on the eve of his retirement as Director in 1955, published a *Report on the Harvard University Library: A Study of Present and Prospective Problems*, a volume prepared in part by Mr. Williams and entirely edited by him. In 1961, he collaborated with Douglas W. Bryant, at that time Associate Director of the University Library, on a study of the future of the Library of Congress which Mr. Bryant undertook at the request of President Kennedy. In 1964, Paul Buck, Director of the University Library, published a collection of addresses and reports, many of which had been written in collaboration with Mr. Williams, who then edited them in a volume entitled *Libraries and Universities* which became Mr. Buck's valedictory to university administration. When, in 1965, President Pusey asked Professor Merle Fainsod, Mr. Buck's successor as Director, to assess the Library's future, Mr. Williams contributed extensively to the research and writing of *The Harvard University Library, 1966-76: Report of a Planning Study*, which proved uncannily accurate in its projections of growth and costs.

One of the most important of all postwar conferences on research libraries was held at Monticello, Illinois, by the Association of Research Libraries. Its importance lay in the fact that it was the first joint effort of librarians, scholars, and university administrators to come to grips with the implications of supporting and sustaining large research collections. The papers of that conference were published under the title *Problems and Prospects of the Research Library*, in a volume which Mr. Williams edited and for which he wrote a lengthy, lucid introduction. Some years later, as secretary of the Committee on Library Needs of the Commission on the Humanities, Mr. Williams was largely responsible for the library statement in the Commission's report which led to the establishment of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In such endeavors the shadow of his influence lengthened nationally.

His special talents as diplomat and negotiator were acknowledged by his colleagues on the library staff when in 1970 he was elected to the University Library Study Committee on Professional Library Personnel and became its chairman. For 31 months thereafter, this committee met regularly and issued a series of reports, later adopted as policy, on the organization, ranking and professional development of librarians at Harvard. In addition to writing

all the reports, Mr. Williams later wrote a history of the committee's work which is an invaluable record of some of the most change-filled years of the Library's long, eventful life.

Professional journals such as the *ALA Bulletin*, *California Monthly*, *College and Research Libraries*, *Library Journal*, *Library Quarterly*, *Library Trends*, *Libri*, *Modern Language Notes*, *Review of English Studies*, and *Romantic Review* have all carried the byline, Edwin E. Williams, from time to time. He also compiled a bibliography of works on Jean Racine.

The Harvard Library has been the professional home of many highly talented men and women in the nearly 350 years of its existence, but few have left a deeper imprint on its daily workings than Edwin E. Williams. Douglas W. Bryant, University Librarian, *Emeritus*, spoke for many of them in saying of him: "His broad learning and wide-ranging imagination have made Edwin E. Williams one of Harvard's, and the nation's, truly outstanding librarians for nearly half a century. His is an incomparable record of service to our profession and to our university."

PHILIP E. LEINBACH

RENE KUHN BRYANT

#### HOWARD MUMFORD JONES, 1892-1980

HIS TWO YEARS as Editor of the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN will always be proudly remembered by those responsible for this journal, though they may deserve little more than a footnote in an account of the long and distinguished career of Howard Mumford Jones, Abbott Lawrence Lowell Professor of the Humanities, *Emeritus*, who died on 11 May 1980. In 1966 Professor Jones was "recalled to active duty" to preside over the revival of the BULLETIN, which had suspended publication in 1960. Five of his articles have appeared since his retirement as Editor at the end of 1967, including "Nearing Pier 85," in the October 1978 issue, which was reprinted the following year by the University of Wisconsin Press as part of *Howard Mumford Jones: An Autobiography*. Professor Jones taught at Chicago, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, and Texas as well as at Harvard. In 1965 his *O Brave New World* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction.

#### MAJOR GIFTS TO THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

TWO MAJOR GIFTS were announced at the meeting of the University Library Visiting Committee on 18 April. A pledge of \$1,000,000 was made by Roy E. Larsen, '21, prior to his death last year to endow the position of Librarian of Harvard College. Yen-Tsai Fêng, therefore, will soon have the distinction of being the first Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College.

An anonymous gift of \$1,554,000 has been made to finance renovation of the exterior of the Widener Library building, including roof, wall, and window repairs.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

*Robert Berring*, Associate Librarian in the Law School since 1978 and Acting Librarian during 1979/80, has been appointed Deputy Law Librarian. He will continue to be in charge of day-to-day management of the Law School Library, and will serve as the primary contact for interlibrary communication and problems concerning the Library's operations.

*Rae Ann Nager*, Curator of the Keats Collection in the Harvard College Library and Editor of the *Keats-Shelley Journal*, left the Library in July. The new Editor of the *Journal* is Professor Stuart Curran of the University of Pennsylvania. Miss Nager is completing work for a doctorate in comparative literature at Harvard.

*Paul J. Rinaldi* has been appointed Reference and Collection Development Librarian in the Kennedy School of Government Library. Mr. Rinaldi, a graduate of Providence College and the Rutgers University Graduate School of Library Service, had been Business and Economics Bibliographer and Reference Librarian in the Boston University Libraries since 1978.

## MOROCCAN EXPEDITION

FIVE LIBRARIES, including Harvard, sponsored a book-buying expedition to Morocco this April by Fawzi Abdulrazak, Arabic Specialist in the Harvard College Library. In addition to manuscripts, lithographs, and out-of-print books that will come under an exchange arranged by Mr. Abdulrazak, the Middle Eastern Department of the College Library has enlarged its Moroccan collection by 472 titles thank to his efforts.

## COUNTWAY INTERN

ONE OF THE THREE Health Sciences Management Interns sponsored for 1980-81 by the Council on Library Resources and the National Library of Medicine will be Kenneth R. Weeks, Assistant to the University Librarian, University of California, San Francisco, who will spend the year as an intern with Robin LeSueur, Librarian of the Countway Library of Medicine.

## BLACK WOMEN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

A GRANT from the Blanchard Foundation of Boston has been received to support the Schlesinger Library's Black Women Oral History Project. Previous grants from the Rockefeller Foundation have provided funds for the project, which began in 1976. Ruth E. Hill is the Project Coordinator.



## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

DANIEL AARON is Victor S. Thomas Professor of English and American Literature at Harvard; his books include *Men of Good Hope: A Story of American Progressives* (1951), *Writers on the Left: Episodes in American Literary Communism* (1961), and *The Unwritten War: American Writers and the Civil War* (1973).

M. D. FIELD, Reference Librarian in the Littauer Library at Harvard, is the author of *The Structure of Violence: Armed Forces as Social Systems* (1977) and of a number of articles, including "The Early Evolution of the Authoritative Text" in the January 1978 HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN.

EDITH EMERSON WEBSTER GREGG (Mrs. Ward I. Gregg) is a member of the Radcliffe Class of 1931. She edited *One First Love: The Letters of Ellen Louisa Tucker to Ralph Waldo Emerson*, which was published by the Harvard University Press in 1962.

LEO M. KAISER, Professor of Classical Studies at Loyola University of Chicago, is the author of many articles, including contributions to seven previous issues of the BULLETIN.

DAVID J. NORDLOH is Associate Professor of English at Indiana University. His dissertation at Indiana (1969) was "A Critical Edition of W. D. Howells' *Years of My Youth*" and he is one of the editors of the *Selected Edition* of Howells that is being published by the Indiana University Press.

E. W. PITCHER is a member of the Department of English of the University of Alberta. His publications include several contributions to *The Library*, and his dissertation, at Leeds, was "A Study of Short Prose Fiction Published in Britain in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries, with a Catalogue of Tales in Seventy-Five Representative Collections, 1785-1820."

MERTON M. SEALTS, JR., is Henry A. Pochmann Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin; one of his books, *Melville's Reading* (1966), was originally serialized in the BULLETIN and, more recently, he has contributed to the January 1978 and July 1979 issues.

ALAN SEABURG, Curator of Manuscripts at the Andover-Harvard Theological Library, was Archivist of the Unitarian Universalist Association before coming to his present position at Harvard in 1970. His article, "Some Unitarian Manuscripts at Andover-Harvard," appeared in the January 1978 BULLETIN.