



# Notes on the Harvard Libraries - Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume XXVI.3

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# NOTES ON THE HARVARD LIBRARIES

## LIBRARY OF THE JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

A NEW UNIT is scheduled to join the Harvard University Library system this Fall, when the John Fitzgerald Kennedy School of Government occupies its new building on the site of the Bennett Street MBTA Yards at the corner of Eliot and Boylston Streets. The Littauer Library, which has served the School from its establishment in 1939 as the Graduate School of Public Administration, has also functioned as a departmental library for the Departments of Economics and Government of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Littauer will continue to serve these departments, but some of its holdings are being transferred to form part of the nucleus of the new, separate library for the School and for the Institute of Politics.

*Margery S. Blake* began work on 1 February as Acting Librarian of the new library. A graduate of Wellesley and of the Columbia University School of Library Service, Ms. Blake came to Harvard from Princeton, where she had been Librarian of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs since 1968.

## MR. CARPENTER'S REPORT ON THE KRESS LIBRARY

CHANGES during the past ten years in the Kress Library of Business and Economics are lucidly summarized by the Curator, Kenneth E. Carpenter, in his *Annual Report 1976-77* for this remarkable collection at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. Mr. Carpenter writes:

"A major change in the Library during the decade was in the nature of the collection. Because the rate of acquisition of foreign-language materials accelerated while works in English were de-emphasized, Kress has become a broadly international research collection. One reason behind the change in collecting policy was the existing great strength of the Library in English materials and the prospect of even greater strength, as a result of acquiring copies of everything in the Goldsmiths' Library in London, thanks to the microfilming of Kress and Goldsmiths' by Research Publications, Inc.

"Of course, we do continue to acquire English books. To give two examples from last year, Thomas Mortimer's *An Introductory Lecture, Delivered at the First Meeting of the Barnstaple Mechanics' Institute, 1830*, had never been used by historians, we suspected, mainly because it was not accessible in a library such as Kress. We felt sure that here it would contribute to someone's study, provided an entry was made under mechanics' institutions. Within a month of its arrival, a graduate student was working on it. While that pamphlet was acquired because it had perhaps been lost to scholarship as a result of library cataloging techniques, others are pur-

chased because rarity has prevented use. An example from last year is nine issues of a London prices current from 1676 to 1677. Each, a single sheet giving prices of various commodities and also exchange rates, is unrecorded.

"In contrast to these examples, most English works not already in Kress are of no particular importance. To have continued to buy insignificant works on subjects well covered, simply for the sake of completeness, would have meant ever decreasing return in research value per dollar spent. Buying foreign-language works, on the other hand, has led to formation of a library unique for the breadth and depth of its coverage of pre-1850 economic and business literature. The unique contribution of this collection to historical studies is that it facilitates and stimulates comparative and cross-cultural research. The value of such studies is widely recognized, but much less frequently undertaken, in large part because of the difficulty of tracking down scattered sources. In Kress the sources are together, and one can examine a host of topics on a cross-cultural basis—the role of pawnshops in the development of modern banking, the organization of charity, the decline of the guilds, the nobility in business, agricultural societies, or early industrial exhibitions, to give a few examples. One can also study the migration of ideas and techniques among the European countries. For instance, business and economic encyclopedias from a number of countries are in Kress. Similarly, Kress has collected translations as well as the originals.

"Such topics can be discussed as existing possibilities rather than goals for the future, because Kress now has a goodly portion of the total output from most countries. It was possible to reach such a stage in the relatively short period of a decade, partly because some of the most important and valuable books were already here. . . .

"Another reason why Kress was able to accomplish so much in one decade lies in the nature of the output in languages other than English and French. The amount published is both relatively small and relatively recent, largely after 1750, which means that the books are still available for purchase. Next to English and French, the German and Italian holdings are now particularly strong, but we also have much in Danish, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish.

"The addition of these foreign-language materials has called for change in the on-going efforts to inform historians about the Library. . . ."

After reporting on exhibitions, fellowships, and publications of recent years, Mr. Carpenter continues:

"The stimulus behind such publications and activities goes back to Claude W. Kress, who expressed the wish that the Library should not be just for Harvard scholars. From its very earliest days librarians attempted to carry out this wish. They made the Library accessible through publications, the first volume of the *Catalogue* having been published as early as 1939. At that time, actively making a library accessible meant informing the scholarly community of its holdings.

"The most important development of the last decade was action on the basis of a new concept of accessibility. Technological improvements and new com-

mercial possibilities meant that access did not need to be limited to readers in the Library or to on-demand requests for photocopies. Instead, accessibility could mean duplicating an entire collection and making it available in many libraries. The first step in this direction was taken when over two hundred pamphlets and broadsides were reprinted in thirty-two volumes as *British Labour Struggles*, by the Arno Press in New York.

"Shortly thereafter, publication of the entire Kress Library, plus the Goldsmiths' Library of the University of London, was undertaken by Research Publications, Inc., of New Haven, Conn. By the end of the decade that firm had filmed all pre-1801 publications and distributed copies to subscribers. Filming is now underway on the 1801 to 1850 publications. With subscribers in the U.S. and Canada, as well as the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, Kress holdings may be read in libraries around the world.

"No other library the size of Kress is available, it seems, to so many scholars. In a sense we have attained the ultimate in carrying out the wishes of Claude Kress, but in another sense much remains to be done to help historians exploit these riches. . . ."

Having indicated a number of the indexes and bibliographies that would be useful, Mr. Carpenter's *Annual Report* concludes:

"Never have conditions been so favorable to extensive bibliographical work. The multilingual collecting of the last decade, plus the microfilm project, have resulted in more economic literature being available in one place than ever before. The increasing number of bibliographic tools, most notably the *National Union Catalogue, Pre-1956 Imprints*, also makes bibliographic work easier.

"During the 1930's Herbert Somerton Foxwell dreamed of a bibliography of all early economic literature. The major result was Henry Higgs, *Bibliography of Economics 1751-1775* (1935), a work which is inadequate. Apart from the fact that Higgs was not really a bibliographer, he and Foxwell aimed too high. The foundation had not been laid for a bibliography covering the economic literature of all countries. Indeed, it still is not time to talk of a universal bibliography of economics, but it is time to nibble away steadily at the whole and even take a big mouthful on occasion. The activities of the past ten years both challenge us to go further and guarantee, through the presence of the microfilm edition in libraries around the world, that our efforts will bear fruit in greater understanding of the past."

#### HOUGHTON LIBRARY ACCESSIONS RECORDS

A GRANT from the National Endowment for the Humanities is enabling the Houghton Library to microfilm its accessions records and manuscript indexes, which cover acquisitions of the library since it opened in 1942, giving dates of acquisition, sources, funds, and prices, as well as inventories of manuscript collections. Electroprints from the film will be supplied to the *National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections* and the *Guide to Archives and Manu-*

*scripts in the United States.* In addition to records from 1942 to date, the project will reproduce seventy-five bound indexes describing manuscript collections acquired by the College Library prior to 1942.

#### PERSONNEL CHANGES

*Anne G. Davies* was appointed Head of Technical Services in the Gutman Library of the Graduate School of Education on 27 March. A member of the Class of 1950, Mrs. Davies returns to Harvard from a position as chief of technical services in the Massachusetts State Library.

*Marcia G. Ford* has resigned as Systems Librarian in the Countway Library of Medicine to become Deputy Director of the Technion Medical School Library of the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Mrs. Ford had been on the Countway staff since 1966.

#### RESEARCH LIBRARIES GROUP

HARVARD'S DECISION to withdraw from membership in The Research Libraries Group, Inc., was announced in April. This consortium has been described in previous issues of the BULLETIN: XXII:3 (July 1974), 355-356, and XXIV:1 (January 1976), 5-16. Harvard will continue to cooperate with other libraries in efforts to solve the problems that led to establishment of RLG; but it had become evident that continued participation in the organization was not, for Harvard, the best means of doing so.

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

RICHARD A. COSGROVE is Associate Professor of History at the University of Arizona. His dissertation (1967) at the University of California, Riverside, was "Sir Eyre Crowe and the English Foreign Office, 1905-1914."

MARCEL FRANÇON, Associate Professor of French Literature, *Emeritus*, at Harvard, has contributed to four previous issues of the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN. N. 16, terza serie (ottobre-dicembre 1975) of *Francia, Periodico di Cultura Francese*, a "Numero Speciale Dedicato a Marcel Françon," included a list of 20 of his books and editions and 252 articles and notes that he has written.

MASON HAMMOND, Pope Professor of the Latin Language and Literature, *Emeritus*, and Honorary Associate of Kirkland House at Harvard, is a member of the Harvard Class of 1925. Two of his recent books, both published by the Harvard University Press, are *The City in the Ancient World* (1972) and *Latin: A Historical and Linguistic Handbook* (1976).

ROBERT D. HUMIE, who was teaching at Cornell when his three previous contributions to the BULLETIN were published, is now Professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. In 1976 the Clarendon Press at Oxford published his *The Development of English Drama in the Late Seventeenth Century* and the University of Pennsylvania Press published *The Country Gentleman*, a "lost" play by Sir Robert Howard and George Villiers, Second Duke of Buckingham, which he edited with Arthur H. Scouten; for his edition of *The Frolicks*, see the note on Professor Milhous which follows.

JUDITH MILHOUS, Assistant Professor of Theatre History and Dramatic Literature at the University of Iowa, was the co-author (with Professor Humie) of articles in the October 1974 and January 1977 issues of the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN and co-editor of *The Frolicks or The Lawyer Cheated* (1671), by Elizabeth Polwhele (Cornell University Press, 1977).

ANTONIO RODRÍGUEZ-BUCKINGHAM, Director of the Division of Library and Information Science at St. John's University, Jamaica, New York, was formerly Librarian of the Tozzer Library of Harvard's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. His dissertation (1977) at the University of Michigan, "Colonial Peru and the Printing Press of Antonio Ricardo," was an outgrowth of research on which he first reported in the January 1968 issue of the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN.

P. J. WALLIS is Reader in Historical Bibliography of Education at the School of Education, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. His numerous published works include (with Frank J. G. Robinson) *Book Subscription Lists, A Revised Guide* (1975) and (with Ruth Wallis) *Newton and Newtoniana 1672-1975* (London: Dawsons; New York: Science History Publications; 1977).