



Festschriften

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Festschriften

*Inscribed to the memory
of Robert Pierpont Blake*

IN the first part of this article we attempt (1) to summarize what has been written about Festschriften in general, (2) to list all the indexes thus far published of Festschriften in the humane fields, and (3) to give the first available statistics of Festschriften in one such field, namely the classical.¹ Part I is therefore intended to be a factual report.

The second part is in the realm of policy. On the basis of Part I, and of such reasonings as seem to apply, we have tried in Part II to consider, pro and contra, the policy of continuing to publish detached miscellaneous Festschriften. The verdict, which seems to find support everywhere except in practice, is contra, but it should be understood clearly that only Festschriften which are both 'detached' and 'miscellaneous' (terms defined below) come in question.

Although the article is based largely on experience in one field, and although classical Festschriften also provide most of the examples given, nevertheless the reasoning is intended to stimulate discussion in any of the fields, humane and historical, or even scientific, to which it may apply.

¹ The article arose out of an effort, by Miss Rounds and several collaborators, to compile an index of Festschriften in the classical field. Work was begun in February 1951. Later the other ancient fields were added, except the New Testament and Early Church (covered by the Metzger index, cited below). The Byzantine field to A.D. 1453 has also been included (western mediaeval studies are the scope of the Williams index, cited below). The classical part of the index is complete enough (over 20,000 cards) so that several scholars have found it useful to obtain lists of articles on their specialties. Others who wish lists on limited subjects may submit requests to Miss Dorothy Rounds, 395 Broadway, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

The idea of preparing an index of Festschriften in the classical field was mentioned some twenty-five years ago by Robert Pierpont Blake, then Director of the Harvard University Library and Professor of History. Blake's own first field was the classical (he was a pupil of William Scott Ferguson) but later his studies took him into most of the areas now included in the present index, especially the Byzantine. He was a learned and ever-helpful friend of learning. It has seemed appropriate to dedicate this article to his memory.

In common with most others, we use the term 'Festschrift' to mean a collection of essays written by several different scholars and published in honor of one scholar; rarely in honor of two scholars; sometimes in honor of a group, such as a university. The occasion is often specific, a birthday or some other anniversary, but not always and necessarily. 'Homage volume' is an English equivalent, and the French, along with their favorite 'mélanges,' use 'hommage'; but the German term, which recalls the country of origin and of greatest popularity, has become technical and exact in English.

A Festschrift can be written, and in Germany they often are, not so much to collect for posterity a group of contributions to learning as to celebrate worthily a memorable occasion, such as a 700th anniversary of a city. Contents and format will emphasize the festal character of the event itself.² None of these volumes is classical and they are not considered in the present article. Similar are the Festschriften, numerous and popular in Germany, in celebration of anniversaries of business and manufacturing concerns.³ These too are outside the present scope.

I. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS

Articles about Festschriften. It is perhaps significant that almost nothing has been written on Festschriften. One or two brief mentions are cited in Part II of the present article. The only lengthier, and yet itself brief, study is 'The Development of the Homage-Volume' by the late S. Griswold Morley, a genial scholar best known for his work in Central American archaeology.⁴ An invitation, he says, to contribute to an homage volume in honor of a scholar whom he had never met caused him embarrassment: he could not feel a hearty desire to honor a stranger, but he did not wish to rebuff a kind offer — even though, he adds modestly, it was tendered only to fill a gap. Collecting all the titles of Festschriften he could find, he achieved a total of 130 in all subjects.

He divides them among countries and periods. Only two were restricted to the recipient's own students; but the smaller volumes seemed

² Karlheinz Elbers, 'Gedanken über die Gestalten von Festschriften,' *Der Druckspiegel*, VII (June 1952), 248-252.

³ For a bibliography see W. Guthsmuths, 'Die Entwicklung der Festschriftsliteratur,' *Zeitschrift für Handelswissenschaft und Handelspraxis*, XXII (January 1929), 21-24.

⁴ *Philological Quarterly*, VIII (January 1929), 61-68.

the more sincere. Exactly half celebrated the sixtieth or seventieth birthdays. 'Although,' he remarks, 'the mere task of keeping alive, in the teaching profession, till the age of sixty, must awaken our admiration, still that hardly seems in itself sufficient motive . . .'

Morley expects the contents of *Festschriften* to be analyzed in library catalogues: an impossibility. He makes a valid point in stating that a *Festschrift* issued as part of a series does not usually get an entry in library catalogues.

The diversity and brevity of the articles troubled him; a friend had written, apropos of a recent *Festschrift*: 'The stuff is too scattered to be a contribution to any single matter; some is casual, and some unprintable. As a monument to its dedicatee it suggests a vague diletantism coupled with a curious vanity for geographically remote acquaintances.'

Yet on the whole Morley finds that the articles in *Festschriften* are of good quality. He continues: 'Most of the friends with whom I discuss the subject express violent opinions; they look upon the *Festschrift* as a noxious weed to be uprooted. But they all contribute.' He enunciates some sensible rules. The result depends primarily upon the editor. Then finally, 'The friends of a faculty man distinguished chiefly for his longevity and good nature had better lay in his lap some other gift than a tome browbeaten from a chilly world of erudites. Let them give him a watch and chain, a jeweled sword, or a check for a thousand dollars.'⁵

With a more direct knowledge of the German tradition, Alfred Gudeman of Munich published 'The Homage-Volume Once More,'⁶ a brief sequel to Morley's article. Gudeman deals solely with classical and mediaeval *Festschriften*, noting first that the very titles of some conceal the fact that they are *Festschriften* and almost defy the cataloguer. An example is *Antike Plastik* (Berlin, 1928), in honor of Walther Amelung, with 188 contributions—the largest number of contributors in any *Festschrift* known to Gudeman. Morley had suggested that one of the reasons why certain very eminent scholars never received a *Festschrift* was their own refusal or reluctance to contribute to those for others. Gudeman points out that in some cases a scholar's

⁵ After Morley's death a volume of *Morleyana* (1950) was issued, consisting of very brief but generally hearty and personal matter. No article of scientific import was admitted.

⁶ *Philological Quarterly*, VIII (October 1929), 335-338.

opposition to the idea of a Festschrift for himself did not prevent his contributing to volumes for others.⁷ He notes that editions are 'generally extremely limited' and that 'really valuable contributions . . . might just as well have never been penned.' The quality of the articles submitted is not, however, invariably higher than that of scholarly journals: journals too contain some poor stuff, although *their* editors can reject contributions. The collection of a fund for research is mentioned as a substitute for a Festschrift.⁸

Indexes of Festschriften. The need for indexing the material in Festschriften, apart from such inclusive listings of articles as the annual ones in *Bibliotheca philologica classica* and *L'Année philologique*, has been fully recognized only recently. The following are known to us:

Camillo P. Merlino, 'A Bibliography of Italian Homage Volumes,' *Italica*, VII (March, June 1930), 4-19, 47-51 (Subject Index). Dates of Festschriften: 1886-1927. Fields covered: literature and linguistics. Number of Festschriften: 19. Number of articles: 613.

Jacob R. Marcus and Albert Bilgray, *An Index to Jewish Festschriften* (Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, 1937). Dates of Festschriften: to 1936. Field covered: Biblical history. Number of Festschriften: 53. Number of entries in index: ca. 4,000.

Bruce M. Metzger, *Index of Articles on the New Testament and the Early Church Published in Festschriften* (Society of Biblical Literature, *Journal of Biblical Literature*; Monograph Series, V; Philadelphia, 1951). Dates of Festschriften: to early 1950. Period covered: to A.D. 500. Number of volumes: nearly 600 (list pp. 1-39). Number of articles: 2,150. \$2.70. Supplement in preparation.

Harry F. Williams, *An Index of Mediaeval Studies Published in Festschriften with Special Reference to Romanic Material* (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1951). Dates of Festschriften: 1865-1946. Period covered: fifth century to early sixteenth. Number of volumes: 498. Number of articles: 5,238. \$4.00.

Herbert H. Golden and Seymour O. Simches, *Modern French Literature and Language: A Bibliography of Homage Studies* (Harvard University Press,

⁷ Gudeman instances Diels and Wilamowitz as examples of scholars who opposed Festschriften for themselves, though Diels, he says, gladly contributed to other volumes whenever called upon to do so. Actually, we know of four contributions by Diels and of two by Wilamowitz. Further, *Symbolae Osloenses*, Fasc. VII (1928), was dedicated to Wilamowitz on his eightieth birthday, although the principal tribute to the event was, as Gudeman states, the presentation to him of the largest fund for research hitherto collected on such occasions.

⁸ See note 7.

Cambridge, Mass., 1953). Dates of Festschriften: 1880-1951. Period covered: from 1500 to 1951. Number of volumes: 309. Number of articles: 1,594. \$4.00.

Hedwig Schleiffer and Ruth Crandall, *Index to Economic History Essays in Festschriften, 1900-1950*, with a Preface by Arthur H. Cole (published by Arthur H. Cole; distributed by the Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1953). Periods and areas covered: all. Number of volumes: 519. Number of articles: 1,532. \$2.50.

In preparation: Dorothy Rounds, 'Index of Articles Relating to Antiquity Published in Festschriften, 1864-1953.' Periods and areas covered: the ancient Near East (with the assistance of Robert H. Pfeiffer); Minoan-Mycenaean; Old Testament (Louise P. Smith); Greece and Rome; Roman law (Eberhard Bruck and others); Byzantine (William MacDonald and Paul G. Manolis). Total number of Festschriften: ca. 750. Number of articles: more than 5,000.

Statistics of the Publication of Festschriften. Tables 1 and 2 (as complete as they could be made in March 1954)⁹ cover all Festschriften which contain more than one scholarly article each in any one of the following fields: Minoan-Mycenaean (actually very few); Greek; Roman. There are 75 Festschriften in Roman law, but these have been excluded from the tables because their numbers, etc., are affected by special circumstances; the study of Roman law stands somewhat apart from other classical studies. The number of Festschriften containing only one classical article each, and hence also excluded here, is at least 16.

No account is taken of the length of the Festschriften: a single volume containing only five essays is counted as one Festschrift, equally with a Festschrift of 239 articles bound in two volumes.

From the data in Table 1 and the same information presented graphically in Fig. 1, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The huge number of classical Festschriften is revealed. (The last figure will be augmented by a few more of 1953, our terminal date.)
2. Less than one fourth of the personal volumes are parts of serials.

⁹In the accompanying tables, and in the graph shown in Fig. 1, the heading 'Detached, for Persons' signifies that the Festschriften are not parts of any scholarly journal or other serial publication, but are separate publications. The second heading, 'Parts of Serials, for Persons,' signifies that the Festschriften are either regular numbers, or entire volumes, of journals, or supplements thereof, or in some other way are parts of serial publications. Volumes published to celebrate some anniversary or other event in the history of a Gymnasium, university, or other society are usually but not always detached. One society (Versammlung Deutscher Philologen und Schulmänner) did have Festschriften periodically.

3. The proportion of volumes incorporated in serials increased in the decade 1936-45. In the war years, that is, necessity played a part, not policy — as is shown by the reversion since World War II.

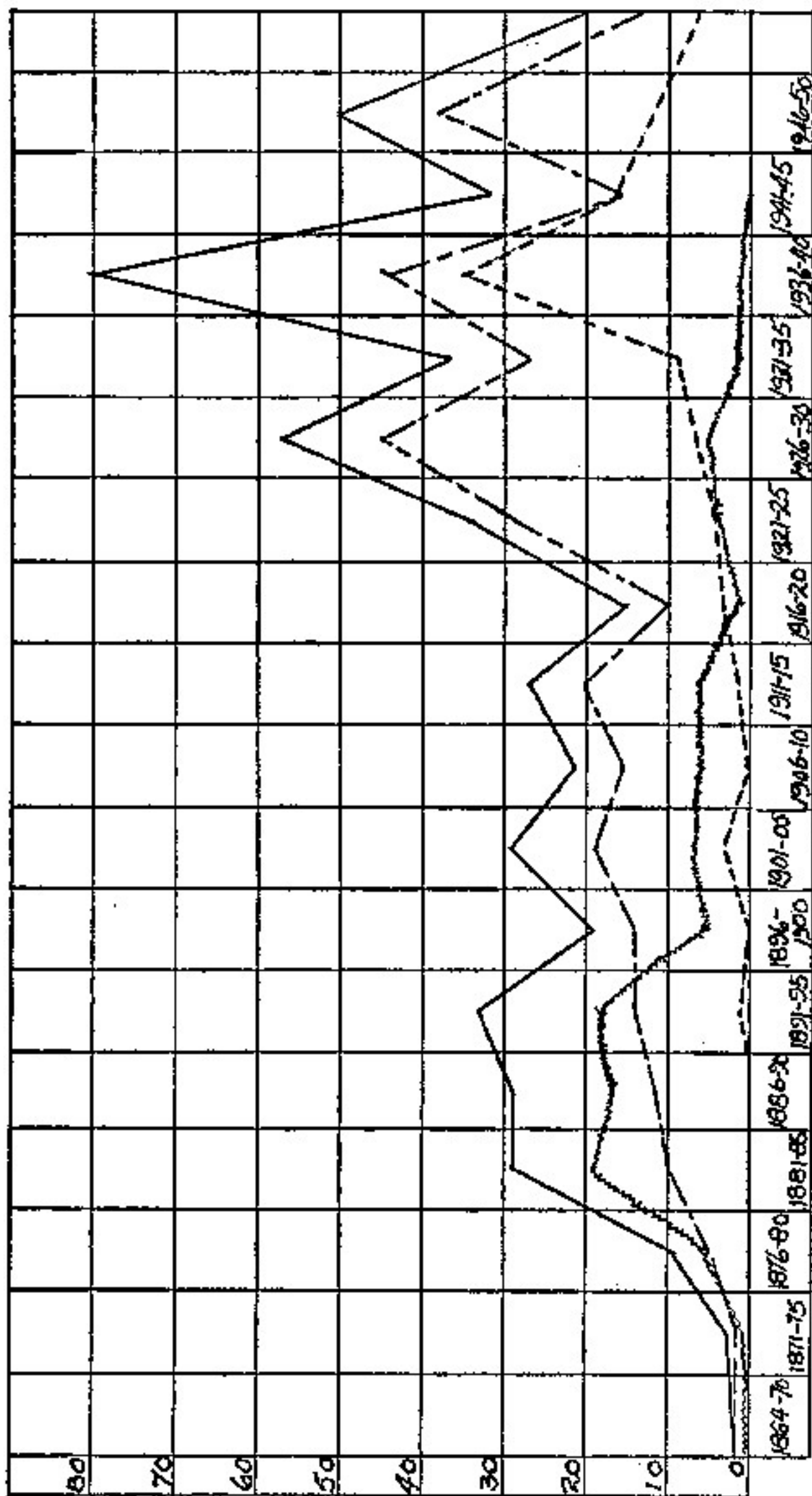
4. Festschriften for Gymnasia, etc., appear to be extinct. (As Table 2 shows, most were German.)

5. There is a marked correlation, in recent decades especially, between periods of prosperity and the publication of Festschriften, with a peak in 1936-40.

6. No trend of feeling about Festschriften per se is discernible, except that the tendency to produce them has not encountered any effective criticism.

TABLE 1
CLASSICAL FESTSCHRIFTEN (ALL COUNTRIES)
BY DATES

	Detached, for Persons	Parts of Serials, for Persons	For Gymnasia, Universities, Societies	Totals
1864-70	1	0	0	1
1871-75	1	0	1	2
1876-80	5	0	5	10
1881-85	10	0	19	29
1886-90	12	0	17	29
1891-95	14	1	18	33
1896-00	14	0	5	19
1901-05	19	3	7	29
1906-10	16	0	6	22
1911-15	20	1	6	27
1916-20	10	3	2	15
1921-25	28	4	4	34
1926-30	45	7	5	57
1931-35	27	9	1	37
1936-40	44	35	1	80
1941-45	16	16	0	32
1946-50	38	12	0	50
1951-53	13	7	0	20
Totals	331	98	97	526



——— TOTALS
 - - - - - DETACHED, for PERSONS
 - - - - - PARTS of SERIALS, for PERSONS
 ~~~~~ for GYMNASIA, UNIVERSITIES, SOCIETIES

Fig. 1



TABLE 2  
 CLASSICAL FESTSCHRIFTEN (ALL PERIODS)  
 BY COUNTRIES

|                | Detached,<br>for<br>Persons | Parts of<br>Serials,<br>for Persons | For Gymnasia,<br>Universities,<br>Societies | Totals |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| Belgium        | 3                           | 8                                   | 0                                           | 11     |
| Bulgaria       | 4                           | 2                                   | 0                                           | 6      |
| Canada         | 2                           | 1                                   | 1                                           | 4      |
| Czechoslovakia | 3                           | 0                                   | 0                                           | 3      |
| France         | 35                          | 5                                   | 0                                           | 40     |
| Germany        | 167                         | 37                                  | 91                                          | 295    |
| Great Britain  | 16                          | 7                                   | 0                                           | 23     |
| Greece         | 4                           | 0                                   | 1                                           | 5      |
| Hungary        | 5                           | 0                                   | 0                                           | 5      |
| Italy          | 25                          | 7                                   | 0                                           | 32     |
| Netherlands    | 11                          | 1                                   | 0                                           | 12     |
| Poland         | 4                           | 2                                   | 0                                           | 6      |
| Russia         | 2                           | 0                                   | 0                                           | 2      |
| Scandinavia    | 8                           | 6                                   | 2                                           | 16     |
| Spain          | 5                           | 2                                   | 0                                           | 7      |
| Switzerland    | 13                          | 6                                   | 2                                           | 21     |
| United States  | 24                          | 14                                  | 0                                           | 38     |
| Totals         | 331                         | 98                                  | 97                                          | 526    |

NOTE: Eight scholars have two Festschriften each; two scholars have three Festschriften each.

The salient facts in Table 2 are as follows:

1. Germany has outdistanced all others in all categories: the Festschriften of all other countries listed together do not equal hers.
2. Belgium has done best, proportionately, in entering Festschriften in series: elsewhere only a minority have been so published.
3. Great Britain has abstained from Festschriften more than any other large country. Switzerland, a small country, has almost as many as Great Britain. (Recent publications would triple the number for Greece if Byzantine volumes were to be included.)

## II. THE PUBLICATION OF DETACHED MISCELLANEOUS FESTSCHRIFTEN

If Festschriften were few in number, it would matter little whether they were a wise form of scholarly publication. Most scholars have

certainly supposed that the total number of Festschriften in their field was not very great, and hence have not been troubled.<sup>10</sup> Now we know better. If indexes of Festschriften had no other importance, they would still be important as revealing the sheer numbers of Festschriften: in economic history, 519; in New Testament and Early Church studies, nearly 600; in mediaeval studies, 498; in modern French literature, 309; in classical studies, 526. In these five fields, not counting any others, the total of 2,452 volumes means a large expenditure of scholarly effort to produce them, of funds to publish and to buy them, and of time to read them — except that on the whole they are not much read. Indeed the totals of all these expenditures are so much greater than anyone had believed hitherto as to make the question, Should Festschriften be continued? virtually a new question.

Although Part II of the present article deals primarily with the classical field, there is no reason to doubt that the findings are typical for all fields. No blame is imputed to anyone for any past publication, but it is urged that policy for the future be seriously considered.

The natural starting point is the rational basis for the existence of any Festschriften at all.

*Reasons for Publishing Festschriften.* In many other professions, the rewards for success, such as wide public recognition, are of a kind impossible of attainment for most persons in the profession of scholarship (if they remain scholars). Rewards within the scholarly profession are limited, are often capriciously bestowed, and are frequently conditioned upon the expenditure of large amounts of time for trivial administrative purposes. Salaries for lawyers and physicians mount high at the peak of a successful career; professors' do not. More than it should be, scholarship is a life of devotion in which the only great reward is likely to be its own content.

For such a life, a Festschrift is the most honorable and the most appropriate of all possible rewards, because it serves, or rather is intended to serve, the grand object of all scholarly devotion, namely the increase

<sup>10</sup> My own notion of the number of classical Festschriften was probably typical. I supposed vaguely that in all there existed several score of Festschriften. Some years ago a graduate student provided a surprise by finding titles of 130, exactly as many as Morley found in all the fields together. — S. D.

No list exists of all Festschriften. We have learned of several persons, mostly librarians, who have set out to list all Festschriften, or to list large parts. In every case the effort has been abandoned.

of scholarly interest and knowledge. At the same time a Festschrift is personal: a public and tangible tribute to one scholar by other scholars.<sup>11</sup>

The present article does not for a moment question these aspects; nor would there be any use in doing so. Undoubtedly Festschriften will continue to be published. The problem is to ensure that they are designed and published in such a way as actually to serve the ends of scholarship instead of defeating them. It is a poor reward for scholarship that buries what scholars write and makes scholarships more difficult for everyone.

In fairness the measures which might help, and to some extent do help, to rescue detached miscellaneous Festschriften should be listed. No volume published today is likely to be utterly lost. Most countries have what corresponds to Library of Congress listing. Few volumes escape the vigilance of Jules Marouzeau and Juliette Ernst, and so *L'Année philologique*, in its now numerous pages, is likely to contain some mention. Reviews help. Offprints do a little. Microfilms could be exploited. Though slow and laborious, inter-library loans, at least within the United States, may bring some wanted volumes within reach. And finally an index of Festschriften may assist in the work of rescue.<sup>12</sup>

All of these measures are partial, uncertain, or even desperate. If scholarship in general had to depend on such measures to make books known, the books might perhaps be known; but if all other books were in the position of most Festschriften, scholarship would be virtually impossible.

Something should be said here about the quality of articles in Festschriften. If the contents of Festschriften were negligible, it would not matter if they remained unknown or inaccessible. In fact Festschriften are sometimes represented as being full of trivial matter. It is said that the usual response to an invitation to contribute to a Fest-

<sup>11</sup> Yet there may be an element of caprice here too. Many scholars of the highest distinction have never received such volumes, as Morley pointed out (see p. 285 above and *Philological Quarterly*, VIII, 65). Obvious additions in the classical field to the examples given by Morley are Michael I. Rostovtzeff and Tenney Frank.

<sup>12</sup> The bibliographical difficulties in compiling a complete index of Festschriften may be illustrated by the fact that the one in economic history, cited above, though compiled by two bibliographical experts, under the direction of the Librarian of the Harvard Business School, and with all the aid Miss Rounds could then furnish from the cards of the index of classical Festschriften, could be supplemented by her later to the extent of thirty-four additional classical titles.



schrift is to extract from the bottom of a desk drawer some article left there unfinished because it seemed unworthy; to add a few notes and if possible a reference to the scholar who is to be honored by the Festschrift; and to send it off, sure that it will be printed. No doubt a certain number of articles in Festschriften are of just this origin. Somewhat coldly, it might well be reasoned that a volume issued in a few-score copies, sold in still smaller numbers, reviewed with only one sentence to each article, and available only in a few of the largest libraries, is no place to publish an article which deserves to be known widely. This logic might determine the action of an alert scholar, and the detached miscellaneous Festschrift, which was bound to have an obscure existence anyway, will receive one more article which helps to make the obscurity natural and deserved.

Such reasoning has plenty of cogency, but actually it does not operate much of the time. Morley, to be sure, tells of an eminent *and* unusual scholar who always published articles in Festschriften when invited, but never put into them any material which he had not published elsewhere.<sup>13</sup> This is exceptional. Probably few scholars know the facts about the circulation of Festschriften; or they do not think. They are flattered, and rightly, by the invitation to contribute, and they aspire, again rightly, to appear with distinction in a company already distinguished. Most rightly of all, they wish to honor worthily an esteemed friend, a master in the profession; *he* at least is likely to read it! Metzger claims that 'the average article in *Festschriften* is of a high caliber: for every scholar, and particularly a disciple, is quite naturally eager to do honor to his teacher or colleague, by producing a contribution of lasting significance.'<sup>14</sup>

*The Reason Against: Limited Circulation.* The argument against miscellaneous detached Festschriften is based on the fact that their cir-

<sup>13</sup> *Philological Quarterly*, VIII, 67.

<sup>14</sup> *Index of Articles on the New Testament and the Early Church Published in Festschriften*, p. vii.

Having made out cards for not a few articles in classical Festschriften, I have formed an opinion only slightly lower than Metzger's. Very rarely have I encountered articles which seemed to me to have no value at all; almost every one has seemed to contain durable substance. Some few, indeed, are among the most valuable articles known to me: e.g., William F. Albright on the Canaanites (Phoenicians) in the Waldo Leland volume mentioned below. One other instance: Adolf von Harnack contributed no fewer than a dozen articles to Festschriften (see the index to Metzger's *Index*). — S. D.



ulation necessarily is severely limited. The reasons for limited circulation are several.

In the first place, such volumes are difficult to finance. They are therefore printed in small editions. This is the main reason why, despite their huge numbers, Festschriften are comparatively infrequent in booksellers' catalogues.<sup>15</sup>

Secondly, the difficulty of finding money to pay the expenses of publication also sometimes (though not often) imposes a tendency to welcome contributions so short that, unless an article contains some new text or object or other unpublished datum, it is difficult for the author to make a substantial contribution. Picking at random, we have examined the volume for Alfred Ernout (*Mélanges de philologie, de littérature et d'histoire anciennes offerts à Alfred Ernout*, Paris, 1940). The contents appear to be excellent. Yet in 406 pages there are 46 articles, an average of less than nine pages each. The volume is a series of good notes, sound but limited: not salable. If any brief article were to be singled out, as an exception to prove a rule, it would be the delightful page by Arthur S. Pease entitled 'Rough' (*Studies Presented to David Moore Robinson on His Seventieth Birthday*, ed. George E. Mylonas and Doris Raymond, Saint Louis, Mo., 1951-53, II, 445). It should be added, however, that in the Robinson volumes no limit of length was set. At the other extreme is a Festschrift 'article,' discovered by Metzger, 674 pages in length.<sup>16</sup>

In the third place, there is little or no advertising. Among bibliographies, only the largest can cope with Festschriften. The one (selective) bibliography of all classical studies drawn up for current use, John A. Nairn's excellent *Classical Hand-List* (3rd ed., Oxford, 1953) has no section for Festschriften. It lists just one such volume and neg-

<sup>15</sup> Through the cooperation of the Director, Keyes D. Metcalf, and in recognition of Miss Rounds's work, the Harvard Library began in the spring of 1953 to purchase all available classical Festschriften not on its shelves. Since then only about a dozen, including several just published, have been acquired; the scores missing are simply not on the market.

<sup>16</sup> If the knowledge were available, much might be written about the troubles and struggles and inner history of the production of Festschriften, especially when the editor is inexperienced in both fund-raising and printing. Probably many a volume has been bailed out, at the end, by selfless colleagues. Again, we happen to know of at least one volume which was projected in honor of a most eminent scholar, but after the solicitation of articles the person responsible failed to carry on. The volume never appeared; much good energy was wasted. This may have happened many times.

lects 525. The editors could hardly have done otherwise.<sup>17</sup> Reviews, to be sure, are printed, but we have yet to read one thorough enough to convince a scholar that the volume is worth the cost of purchase. Indeed an adequate review of a miscellaneous volume of say a score of essays is usually beyond both the powers of the reviewers and the space available.<sup>18</sup>

Finally, few scholars ever buy a detached miscellaneous Festschrift — and for good reasons. It means purchasing a whole volume for the sake of a few articles or perhaps for only one. There is some chance that to a recognized expert in a given field an offprint of a relevant article will be sent, so that purchase is unnecessary. Recognition of this fact in turn leads alert publishers in the United States to limit severely the number of offprints, so that here too scholarship is defeated.<sup>19</sup>

These negative reasons are hardly at all offset by library purchases. Suppose that a library were to have bought, catalogued, and shelved all the detached classical Festschriften for scholars issued in the five years 1936–40, and that the average cost for all this, per Festschrift, were only \$7.00 (the cost of cataloguing, etc., in most large libraries is \$3–\$5 per volume): in these years, for this one class of Festschriften alone, \$308 would have had to be expended. Hence no library in the

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Grundy Steiner in a review of Nairn (*Classical Journal*, XLIX, April 1954, 336); 'A small section listing the most significant commemorative *mélanges* would seem to be in order, especially since these books . . . fail to be included anywhere.' The problem of selecting any small number, however, would be insuperable.

<sup>18</sup> No class of reviews is so poor as those of Festschriften. The nadir was reached recently in a 29-line 'review' of the sixty-dollar two-volume David M. Robinson Festschrift by one of the contributors to it, whose judgment includes the unfortunate statement that 'there is little which is exciting, mainly because the conventions of sound scholarship are so faithfully observed.'

<sup>19</sup> A detached volume of mixed classical studies, containing, among others, a few excellent articles, published in the United States in 1936, sold six copies, we were told, in its first eight years. Allowing for such possible factors as a large number of gift copies, and/or unpopularity of the recipient, the sales may be typical.

In the classical library best known to one of us, a collection which consists of seventy shelves of books, periodicals, and offprints, there are ten Festschriften plus half of an eleventh (one volume, a gift, out of a two-volume set, bestowed in the hope [?] that the recipient would buy the other). Of these ten and a half Festschriften, only one was acquired by separate purchase. This one is a volume in a series, is more or less unified in content, and would have been bought anyway to complete the series. Four are in serials. All the others were gifts: the ones not given as new volumes came from the libraries of older colleagues who had themselves written for the volumes in question, and doubtless received them free.

United States owns any very large proportion of the classical Festschriften.<sup>20</sup>

In short, the verdict can hardly be doubtful. William Hardy Alexander, reviewing a detached miscellaneous Festschrift of good quality, has pronounced it: 'This reviewer believes that Festschriften . . . might well be allowed, or even helped, to expire. . . . The younger generation of philologists should be warned that Festschriften are positively the graveyards of scholarship.'<sup>21</sup> The recipient of a Festschrift, and perhaps the contributors, are gratified, at the expense of the whole profession. When the facts are faced, it would seem that the gratification would tend to disappear.

As an example of a detached Festschrift one may without invidiousness single out the volume presented to Waldo G. Leland. The eminence of the recipient, to whom organized humane studies in the United States owe as much, perhaps, as to any living person, and the quality of some of the articles, which would be hard to surpass, make the choice forgivable; and in any case the faults of the volume are not due to him. This Festschrift contains samples from so many humane fields that it has no unity whatever. In fact no two articles are in any one field. Hardly anyone would be willing to buy the volume; but then it was limited to 325 (numbered) copies, so as to become soon virtually unobtainable. It has no named editor, and the name of Leland does not appear in the title, which is in no way distinctive: *Studies in the History of Culture: The Disciplines of the Humanities*. The remainder of the title-page reads: 'Published for the Conference of Secretaries of the American Council of Learned Societies by the George Banta Publishing Company. Menasha, Wisconsin, 1942.' Where should one look for the volume in a library catalogue?

<sup>20</sup> The staff of the Harvard Library, acting on behalf of Miss Rounds, has negotiated some 86 inter-library loans.

Metzger quotes (*Index*, p. xi) a book by Henry B. Van Hoesen and Frank K. Walter, *Bibliography, Practical, Enumerative, Historical: An Introductory Manual* (New York, 1928): 'Memorial volumes ("Festschriften") and similar collections of works by many different authors have been the despair of librarians and bibliographers.' In the Harvard Library, Festschriften for Gymnasia are divided between 'Philol' and 'Educ.' Other classical Festschriften are scattered among 'Philol,' 'Class,' 'Arc,' 'FA' and — significantly — 'Deposit' (i.e., the New England Deposit Library in Brighton, Massachusetts).

On the actual circulation of the classical Festschriften in Widener, we have no figures; but our impression is that whereas some circulate almost constantly, others have never been taken out, or only once or twice.

<sup>21</sup> *Classical Weekly*, XLVI (2 March 1953), 153.



The David M. Robinson volumes, already mentioned — to take a second example of a detached Festschrift — are so large and so recent that no one can write on Festschriften today without some reference to them. This is the largest of all classical Festschriften, being comparable to the six volumes of mediaeval studies in honor of Cardinal Mercati; those who had the sixty dollars' worth of good fortune to be asked for reviews appear to have been stunned. Well they might be; so enormous an aggregation of material, virtually a conspectus of classical scholarship in our time, defies judgment. One can only have a feeling: and our feeling is that the excavator of Olynthus would have been honored more by say eight or ten good essays all on Olynthus, a volume to be included in the lengthy and rich Hopkins series which he founded, to be priced within reason, and to be blessedly thin, light, and useful for us all. Perhaps in due course such a volume will come into being.

No comment seems necessary on such series as the Bedřich Hrozný volumes, five in number, in which some scholars appear with *two* honorific articles; or the unabashed succession of four Henri Grégoire volumes. If single articles be considered, we venture to say that to bury the first proof of the sensational fact that Minoan Linear B is Greek in an obscure Festschrift seems a dubious service to scholarship.

*Policy for the Future.* There appear to be two ways, and only two, of ending the wastage involved in detached miscellaneous Festschriften. One way is to make them cease to be miscellaneous; the other is to publish no more detached volumes.

A few, but only a few, classical Festschriften are not miscellaneous but are concentrated on one field, on one period, or on one subject. Such volumes usually receive the same sort of recognition they would get if the whole was by one author; they become part of the 'literature' on their field. If they are not excellent throughout, a few outstanding articles will redeem the rest. On the other hand, the obstacles to creating such volumes are formidable, as is shown by the fact that there are so few. To limit the scope of a volume is automatically to exclude many friends, especially colleagues, who would like to contribute but necessarily cannot.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Some volumes, a very few, are unified by intent, as may be shown by the title, e.g., *Essays in Aegean Archaeology Presented to Sir Arthur Evans*, and several others are unified to a greater or less extent by the natural association with the recipient: e.g., the Festschrift for Paul Kretschmer's seventieth birthday (1936), largely linguistic.



The easier procedure is to make the volume in question part of a series, i.e., to dedicate a regular number or numbers to the scholar in question, and to invite contributions from the various friends and colleagues who ought to be asked.<sup>23</sup> Failing this, the collection of essays should be made a supplement to a series; a supplementary volume can reasonably be made distinctive. This tends to ensure advertising, sales, reviews, and indexes. Most libraries, for instance, which buy a journal buy its supplements also, on 'continuation' orders; and so with various monograph series.<sup>24</sup> True, there is an obstacle here too; a feeling that a totally detached volume is a more distinctive honor than one which will stand on a shelf in a row with others bound just like it. Whatever the present strength of such a feeling, it may be expected to disappear as recognition spreads of the waste and trouble in the detached honorific volume.

DOROTHY ROUNDS  
STERLING DOW

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Though it is not classical at all, we mention here with praise the admirably conceived volume for Robert Livingston Schuyler, which consists of essays each dealing with one important English historian: *Some Modern Historians of Britain: Essays in Honor of Robert Livingston Schuyler*, ed. Herman Ausubel (New York, 1951).

<sup>23</sup> Morley's objection (see p. 285 above) that such Festschriften are not usually given an entry in library catalogues will be recalled. There is no solution, it seems to us, except to alter practice in this respect.

<sup>24</sup> Since the two volumes in honor of William Scott Ferguson, produced by his students jointly, present an interesting example, and since sales are no longer in question, we hope it may be pardonable to recall the plan. Two groups of scholarly contributors had to be considered, Ferguson's students and all others. The students could not be held to any one subject or even any one field; to them, accordingly, was assigned the regular annual volume (LI, 1940) of *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*. Other contributors were selected and invited to write on Athenian history only, and a supplementary volume, the first (and thus far the only) supplement to *HSCP*, to be sold separately at a higher figure, was designed for these contributions: *Athenian Studies in Honor of William Scott Ferguson* (Cambridge, Mass., 1940). This latter volume, though printed in an edition of the same number of copies as the regular number, and though more expensive, and though not in the regular series, and though the war prevented any European sales, sold out well in advance of the regular number. This is a tribute first to the contributors; second to the fact that unlimited space was allowed them; third to the fact that they were encouraged to submit studies of importance known to be in hand; lastly to the fact that all the studies were historical and were centered upon one subject.

Linnaean books from the Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium continue on deposit in the stacks of the Houghton Library, whence they may be drawn for consultation in the new Herbarium.

Mrs Lazella Schwarten, formerly Librarian of the Arnold Arboretum, is now Librarian of both the Arnold

Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium and is in charge of both libraries in the new building. She is assisted by Mrs Patricia Lewicki and Mrs Yvonne Meigs. Dr Richard Schultes has recently been appointed Curator of the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames and is in charge of the Orchid Library.

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