



Foreward: "Evidentiary marks"

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Foreword:
“Evidentiary Marks”

William P. Stoneman

Those who know Roger Eliot Stoddard well will not be surprised by the appearance of this double issue of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*. In his more than forty years of collection building Roger has been acutely aware of the long and distinguished tradition in which he has participated. In his influential 1985 exhibition catalogue *Marks in Books, Illustrated and Explained*, Roger observes that “librarians at Harvard have taken a special interest in evidentiary marks.” In “RES Gestæ, Libri Manent,” Roger is leaving his own evidentiary marks of a career developing the collections of his predecessors, “building on strength,” and establishing new collections for his successors, “bridging the gaps.” The results of such a career are extraordinary.

Even those who think they know Roger Eliot Stoddard well will be surprised by the contents of “RES Gestæ, Libri Manent.” Colleagues from the library world will stand amazed by the network of long-lasting friendships he has enjoyed with book dealers on three continents. Those friends from the trade, meanwhile, will find here gratifying evidence of the breadth of uses to which Roger has put their wares over the course of a career committed to collection-building, teaching, and research.

My colleagues at Houghton Library and I are grateful to Professor Ann Blair and to our distinguished fellow collection builders and bridgers represented by Gerd-Josef Bötte, Antoine Coron, Claudia Funke, James N. Green and Richard Ovenden for sharing their thoughts and putting Roger’s achievement at Houghton in a national and international context. We thank him for his effort; we honor him for his achievement; we acknowledge Roger Eliot Stoddard has left his mark.

WILLIAM P. STONEMAN is
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