

UNDERWORLD COURIER

Vol. 1

May 13, 1941

No. 15

Ed. note. The Courier did not get off last week, because the Underworld has been, for all the world, like a girls' school before exams. Heads were not wrapped in wet towels, but members of the library staff passed each other with vacant stares, or at most, with a worried: "Have you finished yours yet? ... How long it is?" Typists were at a premium, and at the last moment, our old-time emergency rescuer, Miss Good, had to be called in. All this, because we had been asked to prepare individual reports of our separate activities and of our suggestions for the future furtherance of such activities. These reports to be sent to Mr. Sachs before May 15th, so that he might have ample time in which to consider them before he, in turn, prepared his composite picture to lay before the Dumbarton Oaks Committee when they meet here on May 30th.

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As the Draft touches D.O. Zahn, of course, was rated A.1. He reports for duty on Thursday, May 22, at 7.15 in the morning. The word reached him yesterday, and he has already established priorities in books to be finished before leaving, and is getting others ready in neat piles for Mrs. Cabell to take apart, clean, guard and sew after he is gone. He has sold his car and bought a packing trunk for his belongings and is calmly prepared to enter the ranks. (Doubtless, he will be a corporal, at least, before many days!) He will be missed here as one of the Books' most helpful friends and we all wish him well.

Dr. Hauck who has led a student's sedentary life and is, moreover, 6', 6" tall, was rated F 4. He tells us - though it must be confessed that we have embellished the story - that he called up the draft board with the following result:
Dr. H.: "What grade is F 4?" Female operator at the other end of the wire: "The lowest." Dr. H. still slightly debonair: "Just what does it mean?" Female operator, tartly: "Physically, mentally and morally disqualified for service."
Dr. H., crushed but persistent: "Dont you mean 'OR'?" Operator, hanging up the receiver: "Oh, and/or".

Colloquia. As to the second of the Colloquium meetings organized by Prof. Morey for the discussions, among a small group of scholars, of problems taken from their work, or from that of the D.O. junior fellows, Miss Florence Day spoke about the glazed pottery of Mesopotamia in the Parthian Period. Her talk was illustrated by photographs and drawings from her own notes, thrown on the screen by means of our new lantern which can project opaque objects as well as normal slides. Miss Day speaks clearly and with assurance, and made her points well. A lively discussion developed afterward, in which Myron Smith, Dr. Holland and Professor Morey took part. Miss Day answered their questions ably and made an excellent showing

Colloquia, continued. throughout. One of the main points in her description of Roman-Syrian wares related to the so-called Parthian pottery was illustrated by the lamp from the attendant's desk at the main entrance to the new wing! We removed shade and globe and had it in a place of honor as Exhibit A. There is a resulting uneasiness in the thought of so really good an object being subject to the hazards of its exposed position. Even Stubbings begins to show signs of nervousness!

Finished and Unfinished business dating back, in inception, to pre-Harvard days.

The rope on both sides of the stairs leading to the lower exhibition room is now covered, knobs and all, with a lovely brown oasis leather. Zahn did a very clever job of it and very quickly. He - and everyone else - hopes that you will be pleased with it.

A copy of the new bookplate is attached herewith. This brings to mind our new method of bookplating. Lane (one of the "messengers", whom you will remember) now puts them on by application of heat and a special mounting tissue. So far as we know - without, however, exhaustive investigation - this method is unique with us. It has many advantages:- time-saving; prevention of moisture or paste discoloration (since neither water nor paste is used), and a welding of the plate to the cover with complete flatness and surety.

Your suggestion of various colors for the proposed special D.O. book-paper aroused much enthusiasm, and we have written V. Ruzicka asking her for color samples and for information as to the time required for making the roller and the necessary number of sheets for an edition of 350 copies. We hope that all will be settled in time, so that our first Paper may appear in this "custom" made dress.

Personal Notes.

M. Focillon sits out of doors, whenever he can be persuaded upon to leave his study. His appetite for work is unappeasable. To the delight of everyone, he quite often joins the fellows and members of the staff at tea in the Orangery. This, by the way, is now a daily institution and one that gives great pleasure, apparently.

Our map painter, Boyhan, is having an exhibition of paintings in Boston this month. He has sent us a notice and we all regret that no one of us is there to see it.

Among recent visitors are: Mrs. Edward Harkness; Mr. McKay (just returned from California with immediate news of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss which was eagerly listened to and passed around); Mr. William Church Osborn, who sent many greetings; Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Clinton Poole, who lunched at Dumbarton Oaks with Mr. and Mrs. Morey. They saw everything and spoke with the greatest admiration and understanding of the gift of D. O. to Harvard.

Dr. Houck read Mrs. Bliss' letter about the inscription immediately and tucked it into his pocket. (Editor's note - I inserted the name Hendrickson - not Henderson - as the former is an important latinist at Yale and his name was the one that came to my mind instantly when reading Mrs. Bliss' letter. It was a joy to have the circumstances leading up to the final carving of that inscription brought again to the foreground of one's mind.)

Mr. Davis, perhaps because he is now on his own in making contracts, perhaps for some other reason, takes an actual part in the building. It would do your hearts good to see him with his coat off, whistling, wielding a saw with

the rhythm of a real woodsman. He has been making the doors for the little Acorn and those of us whom have seen him at work have all commented upon his youthful, vigorous appearance.

Straus Library Is Dedicated as Children's Own

Branch at 348 East 32d St.,
First for Youth Alone, Is
Opened at Ceremonies

The first branch of the New York Public Library, solely for the use of children and young persons, the Nathan Straus Branch Library at 348 East Thirty-second Street, was dedicated yesterday afternoon.

Children of the neighborhood, for whom library facilities have been difficult to obtain for some time, gathered in front of the building before the dedication began. Their interest and enthusiasm was taken by library officials and the branch's staff as a omen of the success of the venture. Their shouts in the street could be heard during the dedication speeches.

Frank L. Polk, president of the board of trustees of the New York Public Library, presided. Among the speakers were Hugh Grant Straus, son of the late philanthropist for whom the library was named, and Stanley M. Isaacs, Borough President of Manhattan.

Organized groups from schools, boys' clubs and social agencies will be made members first. Registering the groups will take at least two weeks, and then individual registration will take place. When details have been cleared up it will be possible for any one in the city twenty-one years old or younger who belongs to some branch library to use the branch and borrow its books.

Library Brightly Decorated

The building is three stories high, brightly decorated and well lighted. The ground floor is for young persons from ninth-grade age to twenty-one. The books there range from heavy tomes, of which there are not many, to the latest novels.

The second floor is for younger children. The furniture is scaled down and the shelves are low. There are elongated lecterns for the picture books of the very young and little low tables and chairs before a fireplace for group reading.

Above the children's room is a story hour room, also furnished in miniature, where members of the Public Library's work-with-children staff will read aloud. Next to it is a group discussion room where older groups may meet for play reading, discussion or other joint activity, which the staff of six will encourage. There are also day quarters for the staff.

Miss Margaret Scoggins, librarian, said yesterday that she would strive to create a friendly atmosphere in the branch. She said that the young had some difficulties in the regular branches because the demands of grown-ups had come first. Here, she added, they will have a place all their own.

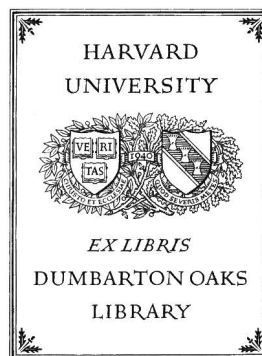
Branch Has 11,000 Books

The 11,000 volumes, more than half in children's books, contains the latest material. Books for older members have been selected for their diversion value rather than for research, and Zane Grey is as well represented as Dickens.

Miss Scoggins will offer information on reading trends to any organization wishing it.

The building was erected in 1908 by Nathan Straus as a laboratory for testing milk in his pioneering drive for pasteurization to prevent tuberculosis. In 1920 it was presented for the same purpose to the city, which later used it as a milk-distributing center. It has not been used for two years.

In 1940 the Board of Health turned it over to the library. The funds, \$60,000, spent for books and renovation, were provided by the Tunnel Authority in payment for the St. Gabriel's Park branch library, at Thirty-sixth Street and Second Avenue, which was torn down to make an entrance for the Queens Midtown Tunnel. The heirs of Nathan Straus were consulted in the operations. Mr. Straus died on Jan. 11, 1931.



Mr. Macgill James called today and added some more information to the collection of facts about William West. He spoke of him as a fashionable portrait painter of his time, with portraits of Byron, Byron's mistress, Holman Hunt, perhaps Keats and others, to his credit.

There are a number of his paintings in Baltimore and a Dr. J. Hall Pleasants of Baltimore has the most information about West. He is a member of the Maryland Historical Society, and has collected about 5,000 photographs for the Frick Art Reference Library. An exhibition of West was held in Lexington, Kentucky and at that time an article about him appeared which is probably in the possession of Dr. Pleasants.

A number of his paintings have been mistaken for Sullys.