

The

H·A·L·C·Y·O·N

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

ISSUE N° 1

Editor: Alan Horne (978-7644)



The Halcyon?

The Editor feels that readers are entitled to some explanation of the title, *The Halcyon*, chosen for the Newsletter of the Friends of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

The halcyon is a kingfisher, a bird found in Australia, England and elsewhere. The first definition of the halcyon (or more properly, alcyon) in the *Oxford English Dictionary* describes it thus — “a bird of which the ancients fabled that it bred about the time of the winter solstice in a nest floating on the sea, and that it charmed the wind and waves so that the sea was specially calm during the period: normally identified with a species of kingfisher, hence a poetic name of this bird.” So “Halcyon days” has come to be used as a phrase describing a period of blissful peace and quiet.

In Greek mythology, (according to *The New Century Classical Handbook*, edited by Catherine B. Avery; New York: Appleton-Century Crofts, 1962) Ceyx, the son of Phosphorus, the Morning Star, went on a journey to visit the oracle of Apollo and was drowned at sea. His wife, Alcyone, the daughter of Aeolus, grieved so over the death of her husband that the gods in pity changed her and Ceyx into kingfishers, whose affection for each other in the mating season is proverbial. According to another version of this myth, Ceyx and Alcyone were so happy that they dared to compare themselves to Zeus and Hera. Their arrogance so annoyed the gods that Zeus sent a storm which wrecked the ship in which Ceyx was sailing and he was drowned. According to this version also, the gods in pity for Alcyone's grief, changed the pair into kingfishers, or into a sea-mew (Ceyx) and a kingfisher (Alcyone).

Thus our small conceit — we consider the Fisher Library the “king” of libraries, and those of us who are fortunate



enough to be able to spend some time within its walls believe them to be “Halcyon days.”

This is the first issue of *The Halcyon*, the Newsletter of the Friends of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto. We expect to publish two numbers each year to provide Friends and their friends with information which we hope will interest them. Your comments are welcome — please send them to the Editor, Alan Horne, Director, Development and Public Affairs, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5.

The Halcyon — an engraving of “The Great Brown Kingfisher” from *The Voyage of Governor Phillips to Botany Bay, London, 1789*. Other books on the European discovery of Australia are now on display in the Fisher Library's exhibition, “*Terra Australis Incognita*”, June through August 1988. (From the Shelden Collection, Fisher Library.)



Darwin's Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals: The Friends' Successful Fund-Raising Project in 1987

The most exciting single acquisition made by the Fisher Library during the past year was made possible through the generosity of the Friends and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This was the copy of the proof-sheets, extensively annotated, of Charles Darwin's *The Expression of the Emotion in Man and Animals* (1872) about which the Friends have heard before.

A modest appeal was launched by mail and a number of Friends responded enthusiastically and very productively. In all, the Friends contributed \$14,000 towards the cost of the proof.

In *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* Darwin initiated a study which today would be considered essentially psychological. It is, however, intimately related to his evolutionary studies, its impetus being a rejection of the concept maintained by Sir Charles Bell, that the facial muscles of expression in man were a special endowment. Darwin had for many years closely observed his children and his pets and made notes on the different ways emotions were expressed by them. He was thus able to formulate three principles underlying the expression of the emotions. First, certain movements and actions indicate a particular state of mind and will be reproduced when this state of mind is induced even though they are of no use. An example of this is a man snarling, although he no longer has large canine teeth with which to follow through the threat. The antithesis of this principle constitutes the second principle. When the state of mind is reversed the movements or actions will also be reversed. The third principle states that certain reflex actions depend on the structure of the nervous system.

The first edition was published on November 26, 1872, by Murray in an edition of 7,000 copies, very large for a Darwin first. A second edition was not needed until 1890, when it was edited by Darwin's son Francis, incorporating notes accumulated by Darwin between 1872 and his death in 1882. The first American edition was published by Appleton in

1873 and the work was translated into the major European languages. It is illustrated with numerous woodcuts and with seven plates of photographs reproduced in Heliotype, a very early example of heliotypes used in a book.

These proof-sheets, extensively revised by Darwin in holograph, constitute the earliest surviving state of the text, as the original manuscript survives only in fragments. They consist of twenty-four gatherings which were sent separately to Darwin by the printer and each gathering is dated, from July 19, 1872, to September 25, when the preliminary pages were revised. Perhaps the most dramatic textual change made by Darwin occurs on the first page of the text. There the title of the book has been altered from "Expression of the Emotions in Man and the Lower Animals" to its final form by the elimination of the words "the Lower." The revisions continue throughout the book and constitute a source for important studies of the text.

These are the only proofs of any of Darwin's books to be available on the market for many years. The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library has been extremely fortunate to be able to add them to the world's most extensive Darwin collection and has been further fortunate to be able to call upon the resources of the Friends in such a satisfying manner. If *The Halcyon* might be permitted to propose a toast it is *To the Friends; Floreat Bibliophilia!*



Acquisitions During 1987-88: Another Million Dollar Year!

During the past year, the collections of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library have continued to grow at an impressive rate, the growth stimulated considerably by many important donations. In 1987-88 the Library received gifts-in-kind worth approximately one million dollars. The selection of donated collections and single items which follow highlights just some of the major gifts received.

Louis Melzack added substantially to the collection of Canadian historical manuscripts he has presented to the Library over the past several years. Especially gratifying were the additions to the Morris family papers, a collection of

material relating to William, James, Alexander and Edmund Morris, whose political importance during the latter half of the 19th century is well recognized. Edmund added lustre to the family by becoming an important artist. Among the many important printed books given by Mr. Melzack was a copy of the very rare *Some Particulars Illustrative of the Life and Opinions of Andrew Jackson*, printed by William Lyon Mackenzie in York in 1829; a John Neilson broadside of 1799 called *Table of Measured Distances and Post Fares Between Quebec and Montreal*; and a volume of pamphlets that belonged to Francis Maseres, the Attorney-General of Lower Canada between 1766 and 1769. This volume includes the third English edition (1776) of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and Maseres's own *Considerations on the Expediency of Admitting Representatives from the American Colonies into the British House of Commons* (1770). The copy of *The Independent Reflector*, the first magazine to be published in New York (1752-53) belonged to William Smith, one of the journal's three authors, and is annotated by him. He became the Chief Justice of Quebec in 1786 and held office until 1795.

Dr. Daniel Lowe added to the spectacular collection of botanical drawings and watercolours another series of important manuscripts executed for the East India Company between 1789 and 1813 under the direction of the botanist William Roxburgh. Also included in last year's accession was a signed and dated watercolour by George Ehret.

Robert Hunter sent from Florida the file of his correspondence with the artist Thoreau MacDonald, particularly significant because of his 1942 book on MacDonald. Margaret Edison also added some original art work to the Thoreau MacDonald Collection which she donated many years ago.

Professor Phyllis Grosskurth donated her files of drafts and research material for her recent book on Melanie Klein; and added to the previously donated collections of sources for her award-winning biographies on Havelock Ellis and John Addington Symonds.

Suzanne Gayn added a further accession to the large and important collection of diaries, correspondence, photographs, books and pamphlets based on the life and career of her late husband Mark Gayn. The Gayn Collection provides eye-witness source material for the most important political events in the modern history of China, Japan and the Soviet Union. A catalogue of this



"The Dance of Death" from H. Schedel. *Liber Chronicorum* (The Nuremberg Chronicle), 1493.
(From the Bagnani Collection, Fisher Library.)

collection is now available from the Fisher Library.

Another significant addition to the Library's collections of manuscripts on the Far East came from George J. M. Gale of Montreal. His father, Dr. J. S. Gale, a Presbyterian missionary from 1888 to 1927, greatly influenced Western understanding of Korean culture through his writings and translations and his collection of papers provides an important research resource.

Professor Stillman Drake again donated books to further enhance one of the best Galileo collections in the world. His spectacular addition for last year was Galileo's own copy of the 1623 *Il Saggiatore*, with a note in Galileo's own hand.

Norman Robertson, a 1914 graduate in mathematics from the University of Toronto, for many years collected books on the history of mathematics. Last year

he donated his collection, which included a copy of Christopher Huygens' *Horologium* (1673), presented by Huygens to Sir Christopher Wren. It also included an important copy of the second edition of Newton's *Principia Mathematica* (1712), annotated by an as yet unidentified Trinity College contemporary of Newton.

David Lank of Montreal provided the Library with a spectacular copy, bound in contemporary vellum, of the first volume of the great Blaeu atlas of 1659. It contains the rare Spanish edition of the text together with seventy-one hand-coloured maps and plates. Mr. Lank, through this gift, wished to honour his daughter Cynthia, a 1986 honours graduate of Victoria College, and acknowledge his many years of friendship with Sydney Fisher.

Ron Peters, the President of the Friends of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, further enhanced another of the

Library's collections of traditional strength, the DeLury Collection of Anglo-Irish Literature, with his gift of a large George Moore collection. It included several presentation copies: a first edition of *Evelyn Innes* (1898) presented to Eliza Area (who may have been his mistress), a copy of *Parnell and His Island* (1887) presented to A. J. A. Symons, and *Reminiscences of Impressionist Painters* (1906) with a contemporary inscription to Elizabeth Yeats.

The School of Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario sent a collection of some 50,000 catalogues from antiquarian booksellers and auction houses. Ranging from mid 19th century to the 1970s and originating in North America, Great Britain and Europe, this accession doubles the size of the Fisher Library's collection and makes it the most important research resource of its kind in the country.

Two important acquisitions are noted more fully elsewhere in *The Halcyon* — the Bagnani Collection, the gift of Mrs. Stewart Bagnani; and the most exciting single acquisition of the year, the purchase of the proof sheets of Darwin's *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* (1872).

The Fisher Library also acquired several important books and manuscripts through purchase. With assistance from the Friends and from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Library was able to purchase a collection of English almanacs issued between the years 1632 and 1832. The one hundred and eighty-seven separate publications, representing for the earlier period the most widely dispersed form of literature, apart from the Bible, were accumulated by the members of one family: the Palmers of Ecton, Northamptonshire. Many of the almanacs are interleaved and annotated with notes of the weather and of contemporary events. They are rare, in that few — and occasionally no — copies are recorded in the standard bibliographical sources.

Two years ago the Library received a SSHRC grant for the history of bibliography and the remainder of the fund was spent during the last fiscal year. Several of the classic works of bibliographical history, such as Thomas Hyde's *Catalogus Impressorum Librorum Bibliothecae Bodlejane* (1674) were added to the Duff Collection. It was most pleasing to be able to acquire the Birdsall family copy of the *Bookbinder's Price-Book* (1813) and the *Bookbinder's Manual* (1829) because of the Library's Birdsall Collection of Bookbinders' Tools. Rachel Grover presented a copy of the 1896 edition of William Blades's *The Enemies of Books*, an evocative association because Blades discusses in this work his having obtained a live book worm from the Birdsall Bindery to determine whether it would eat Caxton leaves!

The Hannah Collection of the History of Medicine is supported by an annual grant from the Hannah Institute and thus one of the best collections of medical books on the continent grows steadily. Last year such outstanding — and rare — works as John Douglas's *A Medical Topography of Upper Canada* (1819), Richard Mead's *A Treatise Concerning the Influence of the Sun* (published in 1748 and particularly appropriate because of Johnson's famous remark about Mead), and Girolamo Ruscelli's *A Verge Excellent and Profitable Booke of ... Medicines* (1569) were purchased. A more modern but equally rare book

that turned up was Sophia Jex-Blake's *Puerperal Fever* (1877), the thesis of the pioneer female doctor who was largely responsible for women being able to practise medicine as the equals of men. It is not recorded in the *National Union Catalog*.

An incunabula edition of Petrarch's *De Remediis* (Cremona, 1492) and a stunning copy of Boccaccio's *Philocolo in Lingua Vulgare Tosca* (Venice, 1514) are examples of important books added to the collections of early Italian literature through the Buchanan/Italian Fund, administered by the Selector for Italian and Fine Art.

A very rare and very important Mexican book, José Antonio de Villascenor y Sanchez' *Theatro Americano* (1746) was acquired by the Selector for Hispanic Studies, another single example of the strengthening of a substantial and funded subject area.

Books and manuscripts are not now acquired as they once were, due to inadequate budgets and declining buying power. Subject funds are most often used to purchase carefully selected single items to build on existing strengths. Collections are often added through donations and these are selected as well. Although these collections, and many not mentioned specifically in this outline, are often the best of their kind in Canada and many have international importance, they will continue to need developing. The skill and tenacity required to build research collections of books and manuscripts is still a vital part of modern academic librarianship.



Meetings of the Friends in 1987-88

Four regular meetings and one special event were sponsored by the Friends during 1987-88. In October 1987, a reception was held to honour Stewart Bagnani and to open the Bagnani Collection exhibition, which itself marked the official acquisition of the magnificent collection of books formed by the late Gilbert Bagnani, who taught for many years in the Department of Classics. The highlight of the display was a copy of the 1493 *Nuremberg Chronicle*, the first printed book to be extensively illustrated; but the collection contains beautiful view books from 17th century Rome, 18th century works on classical antiquities, the arts in 17th century France, books on the Grand Tour, and 18th century English literary and artistic works. This collection has strengthened the holdings in several areas. At the opening, Richard Landon briefly described the collector and the significance of the books and Stewart Bagnani reminisced charmingly about the careers of her husband and herself. Many old friends of the family attended, as did some of Professor Bagnani's colleagues from the Department of Classics.

In November the Friends enjoyed a discourse by Eric Korn, the well-known columnist for the *Times Literary Supplement* and antiquarian bookseller from London. The title of his talk, "Vixerunt Sapientes



Mrs. Stewart Bagnani with Carole Moore (Chief Librarian) and Richard Landon (Head, Fisher Library) at the reception to honour Mrs. Bagnani in October 1987.

et Ante Sapientum: or, Wise Before the Event" provided the clue that he would be dealing with forgeries. He discussed the only known Darwinian forgery, a pamphlet called *Shall We Have Common Sense?* written by George Washington Sleeper. Allegedly published in 1849, this pamphlet contains remarkable anticipations of the theory of natural selection and the germ theory of disease. It was exposed as a forgery of the early 20th century by Edward Poulton in 1913 and 1914, using analytic techniques of paper examination and typography which anticipate the work of Carter and Pollard on the forgeries of T. J. Wise.

In January, Professor G. E. Bentley, Jr., of the Department of English spoke on "Blake's Grain of Sand — the Footloose Scholar and the Friendly Quarry: Blake Collectors from Aukland to Algiers." He described discursively and entertainingly some of his adventures in the course of conducting research on the books written and printed by William Blake. Blake books have been found in every sort of place from royal palaces to thatched cottages and Professor Bentley, whose bibliography of Blake is a standard source of information, provided the audience with a vision of the scholar-adventurer in action.

In March, Margaret Maloney, the Head of the Osborne Collection of Early Childrens' Books, Toronto Public Library, presented an illustrated lecture called "Looking-Glass for the Mind: Reflections from the Osborne Collection." She was able to display graphically to an appreciative audience some of the treasures of the internationally renowned Osborne Collection and emphasize their potential for research purposes. It was a pleasure to welcome to the Fisher Library the representative of a distinguished collection situated just two blocks down St. George Street.

A special meeting was held in February when we were able to take advantage of the presence in Toronto of Christopher de Hamel, a Director of Sotheby's auction house. He agreed to address the Friends on a cold February afternoon and there was a gratifyingly large turn-out to hear him describe, and illustrate with slides, the great collection of manuscripts owned by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, something of a puzzle as a number of the manuscripts disappeared during the Second World War. His lecture was a masterful unravelling of a complex mystery and provided the audience with another aspect of the history of book collecting.

THE CATE- CHISME OR MANNER

to teache children the Christian religion,
wherin the Minister demandeth the ques-
tion, and the childe maketh answer.
Made by the excellent Doctor and Pastor
in Christes Church, Iohn Calvin.



Ephe. II.

*The doctrine of the Apostells and Prophetes is
the fondation of Christes Church.*

BY IOHN CRESPIN.

M. D. LVI.

Title-page of John Calvin. The Catechisme or Manner to Teache Children the Christian Religion, 1556. First edition in English of the influential text which focused on spiritual salvation which formed the mainstream of Puritan thought and doctrine as it developed over the next two hundred years. An illustration used in Margaret Maloney's talk to the Friends. From the Osborne Collection, Toronto Public Library.



Who are the "Friends"?

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is the centre at the University of Toronto for rare books, manuscripts and special collections. The Library has become the largest and most diverse cultural resource of its kind in Canada. The particular strengths of the collections include Canadian history and literature, English literature, Italian literature, European philosophy, and the history of science and medicine from the Renaissance to the twentieth century. These collections are well known throughout the academic world and are extensively used by scholars from Canada and abroad. The general public also is encouraged to make use of the Library's resources.

In 1984, a "Friends" organization was founded to bring together those who are committed to strengthening the Library's outstanding collections and to encouraging a greater awareness of the Library's resources. The inaugural meeting was held on March 21 1984, under the chairmanship of Roger Wilson. A steering committee was established to plan programmes and conduct campaigns and is now chaired by Ron Peters.

Membership in the Friends now numbers more than 180.

We encourage those who are not members to join and support the Fisher Library. Programmes include lectures and receptions held in the Fisher Library in the Fall and Spring terms, for which speakers come from the University, the local community and the international world of rare books. Individual membership is only \$25.00; other categories of membership are "Supporting" — \$100; "Associate" — \$1,000-\$4,999; and "Patron" — over \$5,000. Cheques should be made payable to the University of Toronto and sent to Alan Horne, Robarts Library, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5.

The generosity of private collectors and donors has been central to the growth of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Gifts of books, manuscripts and, of course, money are very important to the development of the Library, and we are eager to attract them. Income tax receipts will be issued by the University for donations over the basic annual membership fee of \$25.00. Gifts-in-kind — that is, books, manuscripts and other material — are generally considered charitable donations and an amount equal to their evaluation is usually tax-deductible.



Plans for 1988-89

The following programme of meetings for the Friends of Fisher, in its draft form, is given to whet the appetite for the coming season. (All subject to confirmation and exact dates.)

October 1988

A reception to celebrate the seven millionth book acquired by the University of Toronto Library (to be presented by the Friends of Fisher — more information about this will be mailed to members)

October 1988

Professor Jack Robson will talk.

November 1988

Dr. Christopher Ridgway, Librarian of Castle Howard in Yorkshire, England, will talk on "The Sociology of a Country House Library: The Book-Collecting Earls of Castle Howard"

January 1989

Tom Taylor, Texas bookseller, will talk on Texan forgeries.

March 1989

David Lank, FRSA, Chairman of the McCord Museum of Canadian Social History in Montreal, will give an illustrated talk on Victorian animal art.

The

H·A·L·C·Y·O·N

University of Toronto Library
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5