

# FRIENDS

OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

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 one of the largest cultural resources of its kind in Canada. The particular strengths of its collections include Canadian history and literature, English literature, Italian literature, European philosophy, Judaica, 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 intensively used by scholars from Canada and abroad. The general public is also welcome to make use of the Library's resources.

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, financial support are very important to its continuing development. In 1984, a "Friends" organization was founded to bring together those who are committed to strengthening the Library's outstanding collections and dedicated to encouraging a greater awareness of the Library's resources. The support of the Friends has made possible several key acquisitions to enhance collection strengths in the history of science and medicine as well as Canadiana and the book arts. In the past year alone, we added two important early English texts as well: Luther's *A Treatise touching the Liberty of a Christian* (1579) and, most importantly, the 1481 printing of Cicero by William Caxton, now the oldest English-language book in Canada.

We encourage you to become a member of the Friends and support the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Benefits include invitations to lectures and special events, and the Friends' newsletter, *The Halcyon*. Evening lectures are designed to appeal to the interests of the Friends and to highlight the special collections of the Library. Catalogues of exhibitions displayed in the Fisher Library are available upon request.



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**Thank you!**

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