



*The Tradition of  
Princeton Collecting*

The generosity of loyal graduates and their families has sustained Princeton University for almost 250 years. Even before the Harvey S. Firestone Library opened its doors in 1948, Princeton University had developed generations of Princeton alumni who were to become both ardent collectors and donors to the library. Many generous gifts of books and manuscripts to the Library were recognized early in its history as worthy of preservation in the secure and reverential confines of "The Treasure Room" of Pyne and Chancellor Green. These two buildings, wonderful surviving examples of Victorian eclectic architecture, are now used for the student center, classrooms, and faculty offices, but once housed a much smaller but already significant Princeton University Library.

This brochure and accompanying exhibition, "The Treasure Room Revisited," reintroduce a selection of some of the most important of our early alumni donors to the Library. From the Class of 1840 to the Class of 1936, we find some of the major collectors and donors who helped to establish the present strength of the Princeton University Library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

JOHN SHAW PIERSON  
(1822-1908)

*Class of 1840*

An outstanding student, John Shaw Pierson, son of Charles E. Pierson, M.D., Class of 1807, was graduated from the College of New Jersey fifth in his class. Although he studied law and was admitted to the Bar, he finally opted to become Marine Agent of the New York Bible Society. His work entailed equipping ships in the Port of New York with their own libraries, a job which gave him profound knowledge of the book trade, retail and wholesale, in New York and elsewhere.

That knowledge guided him well in his own collection of Civil War material, a project which lasted for 40 years despite a shoestring budget. Princeton received the nucleus of the collection in 1870. By 1908 the John Shaw Pierson Collection on the Civil War had grown to more than 6,600 books and 2,000 pamphlets to form an outstanding research collection on the Civil War period.

ALLAN MARQUAND  
(1853-1924)

*Class of 1874*

After graduating from the College of New Jersey, Allan Marquand went on to earn advanced degrees in theology from the Princeton Theological Seminary and in philosophy from the Johns Hopkins University.



Returning to teach at Princeton in 1881, Marquand lectured on logic and was a tutor in Latin until President McCosh suggested he switch to the History of Art. McCosh detected a too "unorthodox, un-Calvinistic bent" in Marquand's approach.

Marquand taught for the Department of Art, serving as chairman until 1910. Over the years he collected an outstanding private art library, incorporating additions and suggestions from both students and visiting scholars. The core of the collection, 5,000 volumes, was transferred to the campus in 1900. In 1908 he formally presented his library to the University. The Marquand Library is now among the finest art libraries in the world.

MOSES TAYLOR PYNE  
(1855-1921)

*Class of 1877*

No individual has made more of a difference to the growth of the Princeton University campus than Moses Taylor Pyne. Pyne was wholly or in part responsible for making possible the acquisition of much land and the construction of many university buildings, including Pyne Library (underwritten by his mother) before Firestone was built. President McCosh named Pyne a trustee at the age of 28, a position of influence that enhanced his position at meetings of the South East Club, a group of college intimates. Cleveland Dodge is supposed to have split the cost of McCosh Hall with him over a toast at dinner there one night!

The scores of books Pyne bought every year were acquired with Princeton's needs in mind. Although not a numismatist, Pyne gave the Library more than one thousand coins of high quality. Together with four others he also acquired and donated 623 cuneiform tablets between 1912 and 1913.



CYRUS H. MCCORMICK  
(1859-1936)

*Class of 1879*

Cyrus H. McCormick was a member of Princeton's distinguished Class of 1879, which included President Woodrow Wilson. Son of the inventor of the reaper and president from 1884 until 1935 of International Harvester, McCormick and his family had a lifelong interest in Princeton, most notably in the Art Museum, and the Departments of Art and Archaeology and of Architecture.

McCormick's chief collecting interest was New World exploration, in particular the history of Virginia (the ancestral home of the family), which was reflected in many gifts of books and manuscripts during his lifetime and the donation of his library by his widow in 1948. McCormick also helped to underwrite the purchase of the Rudolf Brünnow collection of cuneiform tablets in 1913 and the Brünnow Library in 1918.



JUNIUS SPENCER MORGAN  
(1867-1932)

*Class of 1888*

At his death in 1932 in Valmont, Switzerland, Junius Spencer Morgan, nephew of the great J. Pierpont Morgan, was honorary chairman of the newly founded Friends of the Princeton University Library. The first child of George Hale and Sarah S. Morgan, he attended schools in England and New Hampshire before enrolling at Princeton.

Best known for his extraordinary Virgil collection, donated to the Library between 1889 and 1932, he was awarded Italy's Commendatore of the Order of the Crown for his work in "spreading culture of the Old World in the New." In fact, both the Princeton University Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art owe many of their finest prints and engravings to his donations.



RICHARD WALN MEIRS  
(1866-1917)

*Class of 1888*

Born in the vicinity of Walnford, New Jersey, Richard Waln Meirs received his early education in his native Monmouth County and at the Eastburn Academy in Philadelphia. Meirs worked in the banking and investment field, serving as director of a number of banking and railroad companies. In addition to his fondness for early American firearms, he collected works by artist and illustrator George Cruikshank.

When his Cruikshank collection was donated to the Princeton University Library in 1913, it already included such treasures as the 1823 edition of "The British Essayists" and the original drawing for the frontispiece of "Ingoldsby Legends" (1870). The collection has since been augmented by further donations and library purchases to become one of the finest in the world.



MORRIS L. PARRISH  
(1867-1944)

*Class of 1888*

Born in 1867, Morris Longstreth Parrish was a member of an old Philadelphia Quaker family. A Philadelphia stockbroker by profession, he was a prominent figure in the social life of that city and a dedicated collector of Victorian literature. Although he never completed his undergraduate degree at Princeton, the University awarded him an honorary M.A. in 1939 in recognition of his humanistic achievement as one of the century's outstanding literary collectors. When he died in 1944, his collection included more than six thousand volumes by and related to Victorian novelists, ranging from Anthony Trollope and Lewis Carroll to the Brontës.

"Dormy House," his permanent residence in Pine Valley, New Jersey, from 1925 on, was the scene of frequent gatherings with bookmen, scholars, and fellow bird-watchers. When his collection was bequeathed to Princeton, it was installed in the Firestone Library in a replica of the handsome Dormy House library.



PHILIP ASHTON ROLLINS  
(1869-1950)

*Class of 1889*

A deeply rooted Easterner (a native of New Hampshire), Philip Ashton Rollins brought the West to Princeton. When he was a successful New York lawyer making frequent trips west, his former Princeton geology professor William Berryman Scott challenged him to elevate his Western interests beyond dilettantism. Rollins responded by writing the authoritative account of the American cowboy and assembling what was, at the time of his gift to Princeton in 1947, one of the great private collections on the American West. He founded the Friends of the Princeton University Library and served as its first Chairman. He gave the Bridger Room to house his collection when Firestone Library was newly built.



HOWARD CROSBY BUTLER  
(1872-1922)

*Class of 1892*

Howard Crosby Butler was among the foremost American archaeologists of his day. Taught Latin at an early age by his mother, he was attracted to art and archaeology by the lectures of Allan Marquand and the writings of Count Melchior de Vogué, whose successor he became in the investigation of Syrian antiquities. He organized three Princeton expeditions to Syria, in 1894-95, 1904-05, and 1909. Two later expeditions to Sardis were cut short, the first by World War I, the second by the Greco-Turkish War and Butler's premature death.

Also an architectural historian, Butler was the first director of Princeton's program in architecture, established largely through his efforts. He was also the first master of the Graduate College. Butler's personal means were modest. He collected with Princeton in mind during intervals of fieldwork; his excellent relations with the Ottoman authorities facilitated permission to export. Some 300 coins in the Library's numismatics collection, chiefly of scholarly interest, were given in his name.



JOHN HINSDALE SCHEIDE  
(1875-1942)

*Class of 1896*

John Hinsdale Scheide worked for the Ohio Oil Company after his graduation from Princeton until 1904, when he contracted tuberculosis and retired from full-time business. When his father died in 1907, he inherited a substantial library of history, Bibles, autographs, voyages, and travels. While a student at Princeton, Scheide had been deeply impressed by a professor's suggestion that the two most important events in modern history were the invention of printing and the discovery of America. These two fields became major subjects of his own book and manuscript collecting. Among the outstanding results of his searches are the rare Eliot American Indian Bible of 1663 and a pristine copy of the Gutenberg Bible.



ROBERT GARRETT  
(1875-1961)

*Class of 1897*

Robert Garrett was something of a Renaissance man. While still an undergraduate at Princeton, he won two gold medals and one silver at the first modern Olympic games in 1896. A dedicated Princetonian, Garrett was invited by Woodrow Wilson in 1906 to serve on Princeton's Board of Trustees, where he was to remain for 40 years as a charter trustee and 16 as an emeritus trustee.

Before embarking on his successful business career in the family's investment banking firm, Garrett had already developed an abiding fascination with the Near East and manuscripts in ancient, medieval, and non-Western scripts. In fact, he was a member of an archaeological expedition to Syria led by Professor Howard Crosby Butler in 1899-1900. Over the next four decades, Garrett acquired the finest collections of Islamic (chiefly Arabic, also Persian and Turkish) and Ethiopic manuscripts in the Western hemisphere as well as very significant collections of medieval codices, Egyptian papyri, and even a collection of Indic and Asian manuscripts.



DAVID AIKEN REED  
(1880-1953)

*Class of 1900*

One of several Princeton alumni who combined law careers with book collecting, David Aiken Reed formed a distinguished collection of early illuminated manuscripts, first editions, and modern fine printing. The Princeton University Library now holds some 350 examples of the most important manuscripts and private press books from the Reed library, given by Mrs. Reed in 1972 in memory of her husband along with a generous endowment for the purchase of rare books.

David Aiken Reed served as United States Senator from Pennsylvania from 1922 to 1935. He was also a charter trustee of the University and had a particular interest in the Library in his later life.



SINCLAIR HAMILTON  
(1884-1978)

*Class of 1906*

The Hamilton Collection of Early American Illustrated Books is one of the most extensive collections of its kind, spanning the years from 1670 to 1870. Since 1945 it has been a part of the Princeton University Library's Graphic Arts Collection, testimony to the generosity of Princeton graduate Sinclair Hamilton. The collection now numbers more than 3,000 volumes and contains invaluable pictorial documentation of two centuries of American social and cultural history.

Sinclair Hamilton's achievements, alongside his professional career as a corporate lawyer, include the completion of a monumental two-volume printed catalogue of his great collection, several scholarly publications, and many awards. In 1972 Princeton University presented him with the Hyde Award, one of the most prestigious of its kind, in recognition of his collecting and scholarly achievement, and the University also gave him an honorary doctorate in 1975, citing him as a "connoisseur of the art of engraving."



CARL O. VON KIENBUSCH  
(1884-1976)

*Class of 1906*

Carl Otto von Kienbusch worked with the family's leaf tobacco business in his native New York City, but he spent his leisure time catching trout in the Catskills and on Long Island, not to mention his annual salmon-fishing trips to eastern Canada.

Mr. Kienbusch's main benefaction to the Library was his endowed bequest of his collection of angling books. His other contributions include papers of prominent Princetonians, notably John Witherspoon, Elias Boudinot, and Woodrow Wilson. The portrait of Jonathan Belcher, governor of New Jersey from 1746 to 1757, now hanging in the Faculty Room of Nassau Hall, was his gift as were a number of donations to the University's Art Museum and women's athletic programs.



LAURENCE R. CARTON  
(1885-1952)

*Class of 1907*

After attending the Lawrenceville School and Princeton University, Laurence Roberts Carton joined the Chicago firm of Swift & Co., rising through the executive ranks to become Eastern Division Manager.



His hunting library of 875 volumes, presented to the Library by Mrs. Carton in 1953, shows the bibliophile side of the sportsman. Laurence began hunting in the 1920s. He hunted regularly with the Elkridge Hounds of Maryland and occasionally with other packs. The library is a representative collection of the literature of fox hunting and related subjects, particularly in England and America, suitable both to scholarly study and to casual reading.

GRACE L. LAMBERT  
(1899-1993)

*Wife of Gerard B. Lambert, Class of 1908*

Grace Lansing Lambert brought extraordinary intelligence and an instinct for collecting to her responsibilities as the wife of an important figure of American commerce and society in the first half of the twentieth century. Among collecting of many kinds, she often stated that her book pursuits brought her the most satisfaction, a feeling shared by other family members: Her cousin Beverly Chew set an early and challenging standard, and her stepdaughters, Mrs. Paul Mellon and Mrs. John McCarthy, both created legendary book collections.



Among extensive accumulations of books in the many Lambert residences were a number on specifically focused subjects, among them William Blake. The Blake collection of illuminated books, separate plates and manuscripts, all of extraordinary rarity, was given to Princeton in 1960. Mrs. Lambert also served on the Council of the Friends of the Princeton University Library for almost four decades.

CHARLES SCRIBNER  
(1890-1952)

*Class of 1913*

Two generations of Scribner men preceded him to Princeton, and two generations followed him as well. Charles '13 continued what had become a family tradition: secondary education at St. Paul's School, undergraduate education at Princeton, a career with the family publishing business, Charles Scribner's Sons, and lifelong service to the University.

Entering the business directly from Princeton, Charles became company secretary, vice-president, and president. He also served as president of Princeton University Press, which his father had founded. Firestone Library's Scribner Room, the Charles and Mary Lamb Collection, and *The Tatler* were gifts of great literary significance, as befitting the president of the publisher of Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward, Angel*, Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and the scholarly reference work *The Dictionary of American Biography*.



ANDRÉ DE COPPET  
(1891-1953)

*Class of 1915*

André de Coppet served in the U.S. Army's 78th Division in World War I. A New York stockbroker and prominent collector, he headed the Wall Street brokerage firm of de Coppet and Doremus, which had been founded by his father Edward J. de Coppet. He later operated a plantation in Haiti. Born into a Swiss-American family, de Coppet vacationed annually in Switzerland, where he died in 1953.

The de Coppet Collection contains Princeton's finest array of American historical autographs, with special strengths for the Revolutionary War, Federal Period, and Civil War. De Coppet also donated the papers of Napoleon's stepson Eugène de Beauharnais and 407 volumes from the Château de Malmaison (near Paris), once the residence of Napoleon and Marie-Louise of Austria.



ALBERT MATHIAS FRIEND  
(1894-1956)

*Class of 1915*

A native of Pennsylvania, Albert Friend earned his Master of Arts degree from Princeton two years after receiving his baccalaureate. He joined the faculty of the Department of Art and Archaeology in 1921. Although a world-renowned medievalist, with particular interest in Byzantine art and theology, he explored the eighteenth century for relaxation. He especially enjoyed Mozart operas, so there is little wonder that his sizable collection of eighteenth-century theater drawings would contain renderings by the Bohemian designer Joseph Platzer, several of which were believed to be set designs for *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Magic Flute*. The drawings were exhibited in the Library in 1953. Friend died three years later, bequeathing them to the Library.

Friend was also recognized as Princeton's authority on its Chapel windows, having directed the design and execution of the stained glass.



JAMES M. THORINGTON  
(1894-1989)

*Class of 1915*

James Monroe Thorington, a deeply rooted Philadelphian, descended from a family persistently involved in the American West. But before his collecting interests would turn to this area, Thorington was to steadily enrich the Princeton University Library with gifts reflecting his activities as Alpinist and Alpine historian. The most knowledgeable American scholar of mountaineering of his time, his collecting originally focused on the history of climbing in the Alps. After World War I, his attention shifted to the Canadian Rockies and then to the Rocky Mountain states and the American Indian, where the final decades of his collecting were concentrated. His collection at Princeton continues to grow as a result of one of the most generous endowment bequests the library has ever received.



KENNETH H. ROCKEY  
(1894-1984)

*Class of 1916*

New Yorker Kenneth H. Rockey studied both honors chemistry and honors economics while at Princeton; then after graduation he went on to enjoy a long and successful career, first in banking and then in corporate leadership. He worked for many years in Europe and in Latin America.

During World War II Rockey served as Navy Price Adjustment Board Chairman. For this service he was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal and the Certificate of Merit from President Harry S. Truman.

He was a member of the Council of Friends of the Library from 1947 until his death in 1984. The Rockey Angling Collection, donated to the Library in 1950 in honor of his wife Isabelle, represents the fruits of his firsthand knowledge of fishing as a sport together with a true bibliophile's zeal.



DAVID HUNTER MCALPIN  
(1897-1989)

*Class of 1920*

Philanthropist and investment banker David Hunter McAlpin was described by his classmates as "a human dynamo." This alumnus, whose passion was photography, endowed Princeton's Stieglitz lectures in 1969 as well as the first academic chair for the history of photography in the country in 1972 at Princeton.

To the Library, especially its Graphic Arts Collection, he was also very generous with such gifts as the rare early periodicals *Camera Notes* and *Camera Work* (the great Stieglitz series from New York) and the 26 exquisite etchings of Venice made by James McNeill Whistler in 1886.

McAlpin served in various capacities as a long-time member of the Friends of the Princeton University Library, including Chairman of its Council.





HAMILTON COTTIER  
(1900-1979)

Class of 1922

Already a budding Renaissance scholar as a Princeton undergraduate, Hamilton Cottier enjoyed a long career as a professor of English literature. Except for the years he studied at Oxford and taught at Northwestern, Cottier spent most of his career teaching in the Princeton University English Department. He also served as Assistant Dean of the College from 1952 until 1962.

As an eight-year-old living with his family in New York City hotels, Cottier experienced his first collecting passion for cigarette cards, begging them from doormen, bellhops, and anyone who smoked. The Library was given Cottier's working library of English and American literature after his death. The most notable collections in that library are books by and about Sir Walter Raleigh, illustrated children's books, and Cottier's childhood cache of cigarette cards.



ROBERT H. TAYLOR  
(1908-1985)

Class of 1930

Born at his parents' summer house in Gloucester, Massachusetts, Robert H. Taylor attended the Riverdale Country School from 1919 to 1926. While at Princeton he majored in architecture. He spent the rest of his life collecting books and manuscripts.

The collection that he formed was described by the *Times* of London as "the most distinguished collection of books and manuscripts of English literature made in this century." It is this collection that was bequeathed to the Princeton University Library in 1985, where it had already been on deposit since 1971.

During his 26 years as chairman of the Council of the Friends of the Princeton University Library, Taylor made many other valuable donations, including a fifteenth-century manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.



WILLIAM HURD SCHEIDE  
(B. 1914)

Class of 1936

William Hurd Scheide was graduated from Princeton University in the Class of 1936. In 1940 he was awarded an M.A. in musicology from Columbia University. In 1946 he founded the Bach Aria Group, which he directed until 1980. It performed vocal music otherwise rarely heard. A distinguished Bach scholar, Scheide is an Honorary Member of *Die Neue Bachgesellschaft*.

An Honorary Member of the Grolier Club as well, Scheide inherited a love of books from his father, John Hinsdale Scheide, Class of 1896 and a dedicated book collector. Because of his love of music, he added highly valued autographs by classical composers to his father's collections as well as many early printed books and other rare manuscript material.

Three purchases will indicate how Scheide has continued his family's collecting traditions. In 1971 he acquired Psalters printed in Mainz in 1457 and 1459, duplicates from the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. In 1973 he acquired one of the earliest known manuscript texts of the Gospel of Matthew, probably written in Egypt in the fifth century. Most recently, in 1991, he also acquired a copy of the exceedingly rare 36-line Bible printed in Bamberg in 1460-1461.

In 1959 he moved the Library inherited from his father from Titusville, Pennsylvania, to Princeton and then in 1964 to its present location adjacent to the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in Firestone Library.

Scheide is an emeritus trustee of Princeton Theological Seminary and of Westminster Choir College. In 1992 he was honored by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for over 30 years of service to that organization.



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