

Library News

The collection of Roxburghe Club Publications at the Ohio State University Libraries has recently been substantially completed by the purchase of approximately 80 volumes in two recent sales. This collection is now believed to be one of the finest in the world, lacking only six of the publications. The Roxburghe Club was founded in 1812, through the interest of Thomas Dibdin, on the occasion of the auction of the library of John, 3rd Duke of Roxburghe. It is the oldest society of bibliophiles still in existence. The publications of this society have usually been reprints of early works of literature, history, and antiquity of Great Britain, and many of them have great value in historical and literary research. Because they were issued for members most of the publications have been printed in editions of fifty or fewer copies. Among the group recently acquired for this collection were: J. Reynolds, *Dolarny's Primerose* (reprint of 1606 ed.); *News from Scotland, declaring the damnable Life of Doctor Fian, a notable Sorcerer who was burned at Edinburgh in January last, 1591*; Thomas Bancroft, *The Glutton's Feaver* (reprint of 1633 ed.); *The Chester Mysteries*; *The Chevelere Assigne*; and *The New Notborune Mayd* (reprint of undated 1525 ed.).

The Folger Library acquired more than eleven hundred rare manuscripts and nearly fourteen thousand books and pamphlets in 1955, including a collection of manuscripts known as the Bagot Papers, dealing with local events in Staffordshire and the county's relationship with the central government in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. A microfilm copy of the borough records of Stratford-upon-Avon for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was also acquired.

In addition, two conferences on library problems were held at the Folger Library. The conferences, financially underwritten by the Ford Foundation, proposed that a national council on library resources be established, to eliminate overlapping activities, wasteful procurement methods, and unnecessary duplication of effort. In addition, better methods of adapting scientific aids were discussed, and the conference envisaged a time, not far distant, when any scholar may

procure research materials in microcopies, and with a simple device, read them at home, if he wishes.

The Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University received 2,439 rolls of microfilm during 1955, bringing its total to 6,640 rolls. This represents, to the end of 1955, a total of about 8,632,000 manuscript pages filmed under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus.

The Vatican Library collections from which materials were added during 1955 are the Barberini, Borghese, Borgia, Chigi, Palatine, Regina and Urbino collections; and the Archivio di San Pietro. Noteworthy in the Barberini collection are the three thousand or more bulky volumes of ecclesiastical and political documents pertaining to Western Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Borghese collection, a remnant of the library of the Avignon popes, is a small but rich gathering of canon law, philosophy and theology texts. The Borgia collection contains many missionary and liturgical documents. The Palatine collection, until the early seventeenth century located in Heidelberg, is an example of the complete medieval and Renaissance library, abounding in important copies of works in all branches of learning. The Chigi collection, acquired by the Vatican Library in 1923, contains much early modern archival material, in addition to its precious medieval and Renaissance texts.

Petrarch is represented in this film library not only by fine early copies of his works, but also by several priceless autographs. The entire galaxy of Italian humanists, from Coluccio Salutati and Leonardo Bruni to Lorenzo Valla, fill volume after volume of manuscript pages. There are countless minor figures, as yet little studied, but rewarding to the diligent scholar. The Vatican manuscripts also illustrate the advances in architecture and engineering, and the development of military science during the Renaissance period. There are many architectural drawings, including those of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci; diagrams and maps of city plans; huge volumes of illustrations of war machines, such as catapults, siege engines, mechanized battering rams, tank-like vehicles for the protection of troops; diagrams of hoists, pulleys, scaffoldings; descriptions of flood damage, and plans to prevent such damage by drainage, channeling, etc. There are collections of ancient inscriptions on buildings and monuments which no longer exist, so that these are the only remain-

ing records of archeological treasures. There are hundreds of musical manuscripts of the Renaissance period scattered through the various collections.

The conflicts of the Reformation era are represented in collections of documents written by all parties to the conflicts. Diaries, personal letters, formal political dispatches and state papers, books and treatises richly document the seventeenth century also.

Some 75 scholars and students—representing the fields of Latin and Greek classics, medieval canon law, scholastic philosophy and theology, humanism, European and American history, French and English literature—worked with the microfilms during 1955. Several theses were begun using these resources. In addition to the scholars who actually used the microfilms, there was a large number of visitors, not only from the United States, but also from Europe and Asia (particularly Japan).

Conferences

THE SECOND CONGRESSO DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE PER GLI STUDI DI LINGUA E LETTERATURA ITALIANA will be held at Venice, in the Fondazione Cini, Isola San Giorgio Maggiore, and at the University of Padua, September 26 through September 30, 1956. The subject will be 'Problemi e prospettive della critica stilistica con particolare riguardo al Secentismo', and the following scholars are scheduled to speak: Giacomo Devoto (Firenze), Teodoro Elwert (Magonza), Mario Fubini (Milano), Paul Henri Michel (Bibliothèque Mazarine of Paris). For further information, write to the Secretary of the Congress, Padua.

THE NORTHWEST RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE met at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, May 3-5, 1956. In the English Renaissance group, papers were presented by Rev. William T. Costello, S.J. (Gonzaga), Arnold Stein, and Oliver Willard (Oregon). A discussion panel on Neo-Latin Lexicography was led by Paul W. Blackford (Western Illinois State College). Papers on Renaissance Latin Literature were read by W. Leonard Grant (British Columbia), James R. Naiden, and Paul Pascal (University of Washington). Ar-