

Sooner Scene

PRIVATE GIFTS, AS WELL AS PUBLIC SUPPORT,
HAVE MADE THE O.U. LIBRARY ONE OF THE BEST

THE William Bennett Bizzell Library is in many ways the academic heart of the University of Oklahoma. The Library contains more than 826,000 volumes of books, supplemented by several million documents, maps, manuscripts and other basic papers which constitute the primary sources of history.

Since the new \$2,700,000 addition was completed the books are available to students in open stacks. Well-lighted study areas are located throughout the building on each floor. This transformation has changed the study habits of students as indicated by the fact that the first six months the new system was in effect circulation in the Library increased some 300 per cent. Under the able leadership of Dr. Arthur McAnnally the library continues to grow and improve.

In the school year 1961-62, 48,314 volumes were added to the library resources. During the year 376 alumni and friends made gifts of books or money to the library. Since only limited funds are available from the university budget, it is necessary to seek voluntary assistance.

A number of important gifts were received last year. Perhaps the most interesting came from Charles Ward Ingham, Class of 1920, who sent a copy of the second folio of Shakespeare, published in 1632. This rare and precious volume was given in memory of his father S. K. Ingham, a pioneer lumberman in Oklahoma City.

Some other examples of single rarities were John Donne's *80 sermons . . . and 50 sermons* (London, 1640), and Castiglione's *El libro del cortegiano* (Venetia, 1528).

For the visitor the most interesting areas of the library are the special collections. There are four notable collections to be seen. The Frank Phillips Collection of Southwestern and Indian History, The DeGolyer Collection in History of Science and Technology, The Bass Collection in the History of Business and Industry, and the William B. Bizzell Collection of Bibles.

The oldest of these is the Phillips Collection, established by the late Mr. Frank Phillips of Bartlesville in 1927. The Phillips Collection consists of 16,000 volumes of books and pamphlets approximately one-half of which were purchased by gifts from Mr. Phillips and the Phillips Foundation and the remainder financed by other interested friends and alumni.

Several valuable additions were made

to the collection last year. For example, a collection of 316 volumes, dealing with the History of the West, were purchased from the Stagecoach Press. Among the items included were missing volumes of Twitchell's *Leading facts of New Mexico History* (1917), which reprints many basic documents; a complete collection of the works of Edgar L. Hewitt, the anthropologist; Joseph E. Johnston's and Randolph B. Marcy's *Reports on reconnaissances to Santa Fe* (1850); Kirker's *Warring against the Apache, 1836-1847* (Santa Fe, 1947); and numerous rare pamphlets.

Last year more than 2,000 people used the resources of the collection for study and research. In addition to the regular students and faculty members of the University a number of professional writers worked in the collection during the year.

Another collection of real significance is the DeGolyer Collection in the History of Science and Technology. This collection is named for Mr. Everett Lee DeGolyer, class of 1911, who died in 1956, age 70. Mr. DeGolyer believed that in order to make any real contribution to scientific knowledge it is first necessary to have a good understanding of the foundations upon which the study of science is based. He, therefore, collected the works of such scholars as Euclid, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Boyle and the complete transactions of the Royal Society of London. By 1949 he had accumulated some 600 rare volumes.

Following a series of conversations with his good friends, G. L. Cross and Savoie Lottinville, he decided to make a gift of these volumes to the University of Oklahoma as a beginning of a library in the field of the history of science and technology. Because of the rare opportunity which this material afforded, the University began

planning a new program in the history of science. In the meantime, Mr. DeGolyer continued to add books to the collection and provided funds for the purchase of additional materials.

In 1954 O.U. acquired as curator and professor of history of science, Dr. Duane H. D. Roller. Roller doubled the size of the collection with funds received from the University budget and from gifts. He vitalized the program by developing a series of courses in the history of science. These courses have become so popular that approximately 300 students are now enrolled in them, and 13 students are studying in the collection on the graduate level.

The youngest of the special collections is the Bass Collection in the History of Business. This collection is being developed by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bass of Dallas. It contains more than 5,000 volumes and is closely related to the study of business.

The needs of the general library are great and a considerable amount of money will have to be found if it is to grow as it must to provide adequate facilities for a major university. It is reasonable to expect, based on past experience at O.U. and the experience of other state universities, that alumni will respond to this obvious need by increased giving.

This month O.U. alumni in 10 cities held meetings to see what can be done about increasing the support given by alumni to the Alumni Development Fund. Last year the O.U. development fund, an annual giving program, netted \$276,551. This was turned over to various departments on the campus to strengthen special programs, to provide assistance in general areas of faculty and student support, research, library materials, and the purchase of specialized equipment.

The goal for this year is for a 50 per cent increase to a dollar total of \$414,826. Enthusiasm in the development fund meetings have been such that the 2,000 alumni, working in the city campaigns are determined to double what has been done for the University in any previous year. —RBG

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Association Membership: Any former student who completed satisfactorily one or more semesters at the University of Oklahoma is eligible for membership. Annual membership is \$5.00. Life Membership is \$80.00, payable \$5.00 down and \$5.00 quarterly.