Special Library Room Holds Valued First, Limited Editions

(Continued from page 1, Col. 5)

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For a realistic 1810 setting in piety, one can peruse green leather-bound ‘A Manual of Prayers’ by the Ven. and Right Rev. Dr. Richard Challoner. This work also contains an explanation of the festivals and calendar. It has small engravings within and is a representation of the fore-edge painting which was popular in the early nineteenth century. This painting depicts a harbor scene which is visible when leaf edges are fanned cut. This book is another ‘first.’

Enclosed in a folder of crimson silk is a manuscript letter from John Tenniel, illustrator for ‘Alice in Wonderland,’ which was sent to Charles Agnew. It reads in part: “... give the accompanying copies of ‘Alice’ to your little girl, with my love.”

The complete poetical works of John Keats, Percy B. Shelley, and John Dryden are represented in the collection, all bound in red leather with gilt lettering and decoration.

‘The Loving Ballad of Lord Bateman’ with notes by Charles Dickens was published in London in 1839. This first edition contains bars of music of this old ballad. It is illustrated by Cruikshank, richly decorated and bound in tan leather.

There are many more valuable books in the Raymond Collection.
February 15, 1952

Mahogany Furniture Completes
College's J. L. Raymond Room

The John L. Raymond room is now complete and is open to students. All the rare, expensive books and even the furnishings were donated by Mr. Raymond.

Mahogany is the keynote in the furniture, and each piece has a history. A 62-inch Duncan Phyfe sofa in blue-striped damask occupies a central position. Bordering it, end-table style, are a pair of small fruitwood candle or lamp stands. A small mahogany coffee table with a back trough stands directly in front of the sofa. To its far left is a Sheraton mahogany side chair, a Metropolitan museum copy. At the far right of the sofa is a matching Sheraton arm chair in mahogany.

A small mahogany tilt-top table, a terrestrial globe-on-stand in a mahogany frame, and a small English style tea table inlaid with mahogany line the wall of entrance.

The sills of the two windows are graced with an ivory-white Queensware Wedgwood vase and a saltglaze flower pot with small design on a stand.

Near the window stands a mahogany Chippendale plant stand with a copper pan.

A large brass Russian ceremonial plate with a frame, with a pair of old brass American candle sticks rests atop the bookcases along one wall. The plate and candlesticks are balanced by a small bronze bust of Apollo, a copy from the Vatican museum.

Directly opposite these bookcases is another row of bookcases. A work in ceramics, the Madonna and child in blue and gold, looks down from the topmost case.

Two framed Rossini Roman engravings add dignity to the walls. A pair of small American eagle milk glass, sweetmeat jars rest upon mahogany wall brackets, in the middle of which hangs an enlarged and framed representation of Mr. Raymond's bookplate.
Raymond Room Houses Rare Book Collection

A world within a room! The John L. Raymond Room, to house the many rare, limited and first edition books donated by Mr. Raymond, will soon be ready. Mr. Raymond is also supplying some furnishings for this special room. Although the collection covers many fields, literature, art, and music predominate.

Outstanding in this unusual collection is the 'Engravings of Eric Gill,' a rare book and a work of art. It is a selection of Gill's engravings on wood and metal. copy number 6 of only 80 copies, done on Bachelor hand-made paper. The book is autographed and bound in black with gilt lettering and parchment spine.

Another unique item is Daniel's 'Merrie England.' This is a three-volume set of fact and fiction interspersed, with numerous illustrations by the famous nineteenth century pioneer illustrators, Leech and Cruikshank. Many are in color and framed right into the sheets. Bound in red morocco leather with decorated spine and gilt edges, it is a rare item of great historic value, unusual interest and a first edition.

Then there is 'The Highway of Letters,' a tan leather-bound work on English letters by Thomas Archer, and the 'Splendid Shilling,' another rare item which is an imitation of Milton by John Phillips, dated 1765.

'Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern' by William Sandys includes the most popular carols in the West of England, and the airs (Continued on page 4, col. 4 and 5)
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(Continued from page 1, Col. 5)

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There are many more valuable books in the Raymond Collection.
January 22, 1952

Mr. John L. Raymond
60 E. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Your note of January 17 with interesting clipping on Van Wyck Brooks' new book was waiting for me when I returned to Joliet after a brief stay in Chicago.

No, we do not have The Confident Years, but I had made a note of it and planned to get it to complete the preceding volumes included in your donations. Sister Miriam Clare who teaches American literature likes the Brooks series very much.

The Raymond Room is making progress. The books that were cataloged have been moved in. The piece of blackboard that showed has been camouflaged by a piece of pressboard painted green to match the walls. A bit of "greens" has found its way into the Chippendale plant stand. However, the room has not yet been opened to the girls because Mr. Roder has so far not been able to get around to hang the Rossini engravings, etc. But will soon. This has not kept the Sisters out though. They have been viewing, admiring, and browsing.

We appreciate very much the many fine pieces of furniture, pictures and other unique articles--all in such good taste--that enhance the room through your generosity. Thank you very much for all, and for the Stevenson set also.

Every good wish from the Book Hookers' Club.

Yours gratefully,

Sister Mary Etia, O. F. S.
Monday

Dear Mr. Raymond,

Sister Elvira will be in Chicago for the next three days or so. She can be reached at 3043 N. Francisco Avenue, Chicago 18, Illinois.

I was over to the library this morning, and had the pleasure of handling your very precious books once more. The more one sees and handles them, the more one longs for time to sit down and browse awhile. Maybe, some day we shall have time. Who knows?

Thank you again and God bless you for your generosity.

Sister M. Aniceta, O. S. F.

[Signature]

Park lodge, No. 813, A. F. & A. M., and
Carson Pirie Scott post, No. 214, A. L.

Feb. 21, 1952

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Just a note to say that I and the other members of the family are grateful to you for your kind words and the three Masses offered for the repose of the soul of our sister, the loss of life near and dear is always hard, but how consoling at such a time is
the doctrine of the Mystical Body and the belief in a life eternal—that we shall all one day meet again in heaven. The dear ones who precede us into the celestial realm remain our invisible, but ever-present companions.

Gratefully yours,

Sister Mary Elvira, O.S.F.
Mr. John L. Raymond
60 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Raymond:

It's a gradual process, this catching up on backwork. I have just examined the welcome collection of books you delivered here on your recent visit.

The four-volume set of the "Works of Oliver Goldsmith," edited by Pepter Cunningham makes a wonderful addition to the JLR room. Its full tan leather binding, done by the "Binder of the King" with steel engraving frontispieces are in keeping with some of the other beautiful books we have received from you.

"The Common Carol Book" of St. Dominic's Press with its little wood cuts and unique binding is a charming book.

We were glad to get the play "Porgy", first edition, by Dorothy and Dubose Heyward, with its attractive 3/4 brown leather binding and marbelized cover papers; also glad to get Agnes Repplier's "To Think of Tea." We did not have either of these books.

The four song books by Hendrick William Van Lion and Grace Castagnette are attractive in makeup and illustrations. "American Songs," "Christmas Carols," and "Folk Songs of Other Lands," are the type of books that are often in demand here for extra-curricular activities. And the "Last of the Troubadours," on a little-known Swedish composer presents the type of information not always easy to find.

The collection of angels (ranging from warriors to cherubim), by Regamey, C.P., entitled "Anges," is unusual and very interesting.

Many thanks for these and other volumes I failed to mention here.

Every good wish from the Book Hookers Club.

Yours sincerely,

Sister Mary Elmer, O.S.F.
Mr. John L. Raymond
60 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Raymond:

A box of books with the familiar "John Raymond" label arrived the other day. Sister Laetare and I opened and unpacked it together. It was as exciting as a "grab bag." We wondered what the next title would be, and what the special wrappings would disclose.

There were again some pleasant surprises. The autographed copy of John Drinkwater's American Vignettes, put out by the Riverside press, is a beautiful edition in its special paper and ruled border. We were glad to get John Tenniel's illustrations. It was wonderful to get all the books the box contained. Thank you and God bless you!

Regarding your recent post card, we have Walter de la Mare's Peacock Pie, but we do not have Van Wyck Brooks' A Chilmark Miscellany.

Every good wish from the Book Bockers' Society.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Sister Mary Emma, O.S.F.
Dear Mr. Raymond:

Joyous Easter Greetings!

The juvenile book, recently received, Song of Saint Francis, is just charming. I read it last evening—it's fascinating and will make delightful reading for children. The Valenti Angelo illustrations are lovely. We appreciate your sending it and also the book Narrative of Fray Marcus—an interesting narrative. I had never heard of him before. The red initial letters with miniature illustrations give the book a medieval effect.

In reply to the questions in your letter of April 5, no, we do not have a copy of Scully's Blessed Mother Goose. Judging from the brochure and reviews I have read of it, it must be a novel and worth-while collection of nursery rhymes, the type we have needed long ago. Scully himself must be an interesting character.

We have a copy of the "Booklovers Edition" of Shakespeare, but many of the volumes are just about worn out, and need replacing. So, if you plan to dispose of your set anyway, we shall be most grateful for it. Sister Beatrice will be delighted with it. She may write you.

The CSF Summer School Bulletin is on the way.

Although school closed here Friday, and the girls' retreat began on Sunday and ended Tuesday, these days have been full ones. One always looks forward to such a time to do the things one cannot get in during the regular school year. I just finished a 9-page bibliography for one of the Franciscan Fathers on "Criminology." There are test papers to correct, and term projects to look at, the regular Easter cleaning, and then extra time must be given over to prayer and the beautiful services of our Holy Mother Church during the Holy Week.

The blessing of this joyous season be yours is the wish and prayer of all the Booker Society.

Yours sincerely in the Risen Savior,

Sister Mary Elena, O.S.F.
Dear Mr. Raymond:

Pardon my delay in answering your question, regarding the Van Wyck Brooks books, but at this time of the year, the days have wings, and each day brings new activities and things to be done.

We have the following books by Van Wyck Brooks, most of which are your donations:

The Flowering of New England
New England, Indian Summer
Opinions of Oliver Allston
On Literature Today
The Chilmark Miscellany

The box of books you mention in your recent letter arrived in good condition, containing the set of Poe's Works in its sturdy blue binding, the "Modern Library" editions of The Amenities of Book Collecting by Newton, Maria Chapdelaine by Nemor, Wilderness by Rockwell Kent, and The Anthology of American Negro Literature edited by Calverton; Tolstoy's War and Peace, Louis Nemor's Journal, pertaining to his visit to Quebec, at the time of the writing of Maria Chapdelaine, and the precious "cook books" in nice red binding, that were your mother's. Are you sure you want to part with them?

Many thanks for the above and again a sincere thank you for all the treasures you brought out at the time of your recent visit, and also those received shortly before or after.

The Walt Whitman Leaves of Grass with wood-engravings by Boyd Hanna published by the Peter Pauper Press is a lovely book, and another Crosby Gaige in Robert Burns by Drinkwater! I like the three volumes of biography in the "English Masters


Many thanks and a God bless you for your generosity to C.S.F.

Yours sincerely in Our Lady,

Sister Mary Elvira, O.S.F.

P. S. Friends of yours visited here recently. A week ago Saturday the Music Department here sponsored auditions for the eighth graders. Mrs. Ergot (I believe that is the way the name is spelled) brought her daughter Lynn. She played the piano. They asked to see the Raymond room, which I was very happy to show them.
About it and I would willingly let you or at least one of those truly handsome etchings.
This is to let you know we saw all and missed nothing. Really it was a delightful treat after a hard morning's work in the recital hall and you should know how deeply its appreciated — which you probably do.

More about all this when we are "in the hollows", some day soon. Sorry to miss our bud we'll make a return visit — our combined best to you — Maryland God bless you.

May 12 52

Dear Mr. Raymond:

This note has been in the making for a good while now, but momentous things are happening in our house— recitals, graduation etc. etc. — and somehow my good intentions were consistently side-tracked.
My reason for contacting you is that both Lynn and I had the privilege of a private visit to the quiet of the John Raymond reading room at St. Francis College one week ago last Saturday. We asked especially to see it—we knocked and it was 'opened unto us'!—Really it is charming and what is more important cozy. I have a flirtatious weakness for madonnas and when I saw your Italian lovely painted atop the book case one could detect a slight shade of green in those Irish eyes hither-to determined by my good husband as 'battle ship gray'!—

Sister Alvina was a most satisfactory and delightful guide and you could see that she was rightfully proud of your so special nook. To hear us talk—not even a blood transfusion could make us more kin-relatives.

We liked the soter—The tiny otman plaque and this in fact everything.