

The Glazier Collection

Manuscripts from the William S. Glazier Collection. Compiled by John Plummer. New York: Pierpont Morgan Library, 1959. 34p., 37 plates, 6 in color. Cloth-bound, \$5.00; paperbound, \$3.00.

This catalog, compiled by the Curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the Morgan Library, and with a foreword by the director, Frederick B. Adams, Jr., has been issued on the occasion of a loan exhibition of the Glazier manuscripts held at the Morgan Library. It is a large and important collection; the exhibition includes fifty-one hand-written books, arranged chronologically, dating from the eighth to the early sixteenth century, most of them with illuminations. The first was purchased by Mr. Glazier in 1931; the latest was added to the collection—and to the catalog—in January 1959. Among the manuscripts are several really outstanding examples whose illustrations constitute significant contributions to the art of illumination, among them the Hachette Psalter (no. 17), a thirteenth-century English exemplar containing six magnificent full-page miniatures, and the Salzburg Lectionary (no. 7), an Austrian manuscript with illuminations of top quality executed in mid-eleventh century. The tiny picture of God and Adam in Paradise painted within an initial *A*, exhibited (but not illustrated in the catalog) in MS no. 18, a thirteenth-century English Bible, is a superb example of the style of this period, and obviously shows the hand of a master artist. Two important fourteenth-century books are included—the English *De Lisle Hours* (no. 27) and the French *Voeux du Paon* (no. 28), the latter significant for its text as well as for its artistic content.

Mr. Glazier, writing about his collection in *The Book Collector* (vol. 6, 1957), has said that he is "seeking coverage of Western Europe, both geographically and chronologically, with the hope that eventually my collection may be representative of the history of manuscript books. I have deliberately avoided the . . . opportunity to concentrate on one country or one epoch." Nevertheless, it seems that the various

French schools are best represented, from a collected volume of tracts and other documents primarily on the doctrine of the Trinity made in northern France in the early ninth century to a late fifteenth-century Book of Hours, possibly from Rouen; all told, there are nineteen French manuscripts in the collection. England comes second with twelve examples, and ten items originate from some part of what is now Italy. Although the early centuries of the Middle Ages are represented by several examples, all the manuscripts dating from the tenth century or earlier are, with one ninth-century exception, fragmentary leaves. Beginning with the eleventh century, however, coverage is broad and most of the books are of high quality.

The descriptive commentary, which does far more than simply "summarize the present knowledge and opinion of these manuscripts," attempts to place each manuscript in its proper historical and artistic context, and shows considerable study of the collection. Since many of these volumes have never before been exhibited or published and are therefore relatively unknown (even so extraordinary a book as the Hachette Psalter was more or less "discovered" at the time it was purchased by Mr. Glazier in 1953), Dr. Plummer's work is a real contribution of our knowledge of these manuscripts—and of manuscript history in general. One regrets the absence of any bibliographical references in these notes, for at least some of the manuscripts have been described previously as parts of earlier collections, or have appeared in various sales catalogs.

The excellent reproductions are a notable feature of the catalog. The photographs for the six color plates and the thirty-one black-and-white plates (the latter illustrating forty-five pages or fragments) were made by Mark D. Brewer of the Morgan Library staff. One might wish, especially after seeing the brilliant colors and vivid hues of the originals, that a larger number of the plates could have been in color, but in fact the black-and-white collotypes are remarkably well done; many are full-page in size, and all the illustrations are large enough to be clearly seen. Although of course meant to

be used in conjunction with the exhibition, this catalog stands by itself as a fine description, in word and picture, of what is surely one of the best privately-owned collections of manuscripts, and as such, it will retain its meaningfulness and usefulness long after the manuscripts have been removed from the exhibition cases.—*Joan H. Baum, Department of Special Collections, Columbia University Libraries.*

Library Resources

Studies in Library Resources. By William Vernon Jackson. Distributed by The Illini Union Bookstore, Champaign, Illinois, 1958. 62p. (Photolithoprinted). \$1.75.

Six papers are published in this booklet, four of them for the first time. They present the results of research in a variety of techniques, applied to individual institutions, and then to a specific subject area. The author is assistant professor of library science at the University of Illinois Library School.

A review article, "Four Aspects of Library Cooperation," is a summary of available studies on interlibrary services. It discusses in turn union lists, union catalogs, guides to collections, and interlibrary loans; and concludes with a statement of the principles which have made for success in recent cooperative ventures.

Two papers report on an examination of library resources at Northwestern University. The first, "The Development of Library Resources at Northwestern University," is reprinted from University of Illinois Library School *Occasional Papers*, No. 26 (February 1952). It surveys the historical development of the collections, emphasizing their rapid growth since 1920 and describing briefly certain outstanding collections.

A statistical analysis of the collections of the University Library at Northwestern University is summarized in "A Case Study of Growth in Library Resources by Subject." The Library has maintained since 1918-19 statistics showing the number of cataloged volumes by classes. Using these and other

data, mainly unpublished, Dr. Jackson has examined all subject classes to determine patterns of growth. He finds that most subjects did appear to follow definite patterns, that certain subjects have regularly shown growth superior to the general rate of increment, and that others have regularly lagged behind. The factors which have influenced this growth are reviewed in concluding paragraphs.

An experiment using the shelf list of the library is described in the paper, "Subject Distribution of the University of Illinois Library." The result of this investigation is a tabular presentation for twenty-nine subjects, showing the number of volumes and the percentages of the total. Comparison of this table with tables for the Harvard University Library and the libraries of Northwestern University, reproduced here, show certain "striking similarities." However, "the small sample makes further investigation necessary to determine whether they represent a pattern characteristic of university libraries."

"Resources of Midwestern Research Libraries in the Hispanic Literatures" is reprinted from *Hispania*, XXXVIII (1955), 476-80. Data furnished by nine university libraries and the Newberry Library, and by the appropriate faculty members, were used for a statement of specific strengths and weaknesses in peninsular Spanish literature and in Spanish-American literature. For the latter subject, a test was also made of the extent to which acquisitions programs were bringing current books to the area. Titles of 169 monographic items from the 1949 *Handbook of Latin American Studies* were checked against holdings. This check showed that the libraries as a group held ninety-five titles.

The same list of current books was also the basis of an experiment reported in "Spanish American Literature in Five European National Libraries." A check of the catalogs of Libraries in Madrid, Paris, Brussels, London, and The Hague showed that these libraries as a group held only a third of the titles, fewer than the research libraries of the Midwest.

The *Studies* make several contributions to the understanding of library resources. They are informative in new ways about the col-