Ed. note. The Courier did not get off last week, because the Underworld has been, for all the world, like a girls' school before exams. Heads were not wrapped in wet towels, but members of the library staff passed each other with vacant stares, or at most, with a worried: "Have you finished yours yet? ... How long it is?" Typists were at a premium, and at the last moment, our old-time emergency rescuer, Miss Good, had to be called in. All this, because we had been asked to prepare individual reports of our separate activities and of our suggestions for the future furtherance of such activities. These reports to be sent to Mr. Sachs before May 15th, so that he might have ample time in which to consider them before he, in turn, prepared his composite picture to lay before the Dumbarton Oaks Committee when they meet here on May 30th.

Index

As the Draft touches Dumbarton Oaks, p. 1
Finished and unfinished business, dating back, in inception, to pre-Harvard days. p. 2
Colloquia, p. 1 - 2
Personal notes, pp. 2 - 3
A clipping which has points of interest, in regard to the former uses of a present library, p. 3
Further notes on West, p. 4

As the Draft touches D.O. Zahn, of course, was rated A.1. He reports for duty on Thursday, May 22, at 7.15 in the morning. The word reached him yesterday, and he has already established priorities in books to be finished before leaving, and is getting others ready in neat piles for Mrs. Cabell to take apart, clean, guard and sew after he is gone. He has sold his car and bought a packing trunk for his belongings and is calmly prepared to enter the ranks. (Doubtless, he will be corporal, at least, before many days!) He will be missed here as one of the Books' most helpful friends and we all wish him well.

Dr. Hauck who has led a student's sedentary life and is, moreover, 6ft, 6in tall, was rated F 4. He tells us — though it must be confessed that we have embellished the story — that he called up the draft board with the following result:
Dr. H.: "What grade is F 4?" Female operator at the other end of the wire: "The lowest." Dr. H. still slightly debonair: "Just what does it mean?" Female operator, tartly: "Physically, mentally and morally disqualified for service."
Dr. H., crushed but persistent: "Don't you mean 'OR'?" Operator, hanging up the receiver: "Oh, and/or".

Colloquia. As to the second of the Colloquium meetings organized by Prof. Morey for the discussions, among a small group of scholars, of problems taken from their work, or from that of the D.O. junior fellows, Miss Florence Day spoke about the glazed pottery of Mesopotamia in the Parthian Period. Her talk was illustrated by photographs and drawings from her own notes, thrown on the screen by means of our new lantern which can project opaque objects as well as normal slides. Miss Day speaks clearly and with assurance, and made her points well. A lively discussion developed afterward, in which Myron Smith, Dr. Holland and Professor Morey took part. Miss Day answered their questions ably and made an excellent showing
Colloquia, continued. Throughout. One of the main points in her description of Roman-Syrian wares related to the so-called Parthian pottery was illustrated by the lamp from the attendant's desk at the main entrance to the new wing. We removed shade and globe and had it in a place of honor as Exhibit A. There is a resulting uneasiness in the thought of so really good an object being subject to the hazards of its exposed position. Even Stubbings begins to show signs of nervousness.

Finished and Unfinished business dating back, in inception, to pre-Harvard days.

The rope on both sides of the stairs leading to the lower exhibition room is now covered, knobs and all, with a lovely brown oasis leather. Zahn did a very clever job of it and very quickly. He - and everyone else - hopes that you will be pleased with it.

A copy of the new bookplate is attached herewith. This brings to mind our new method of bookplating. Lens (one of the "messengers", whom you will remember) now puts them on by application of heat and a special mounting tissue. So far as we know - without, however, exhaustive investigation - this method is unique with us. It has many advantages: time-saving; prevention of moisture or paste discoloration (since neither water nor paste is used), and a welding of the plate to the cover with complete flatness and surety.

Your suggestion of various colors for the proposed special D. O. book-paper aroused much enthusiasm, and we have written V. Buzicka asking her for color samples and for information as to the time required for making the roller and the necessary number of sheets for an edition of 350 copies. We hope that all will be settled in time, so that our first Paper may appear in this "custom" made dress.

Personal Notes.

M. Focillon sits out of doors, whenever he can be persuaded upon to leave his study. His appetite for work is unapproachable. To the delight of everyone, he quite often joins the fellows and members of the staff at tea in the Orangery. This, by the way, is now a daily institution and one that gives great pleasure, apparently.

Our map painter, Boyhan, is having an exhibition of paintings in Boston this month. He has sent us a notice and we all regret that no one of us is there to see it.

Among recent visitors are: Mrs. Edward Harkness; Mr. McKay (just returned from California with immediate news of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss which was eagerly listened to and passed around); Mr. William Church Osborn, who sent many greetings; Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Clinton Poole, who lunched at Dumbarton Oaks with Mr. and Mrs. Morey. They saw everything and spoke with the greatest admiration and understanding of the gift of D. O. to Harvard.

Dr. Houck read Mrs. Bliss' letter about the inscription immediately and tucked it into his pocket. (Editor's note - I inserted the name Hendrickson - not Henderson - as the former is an important Latinist at Yale and his name was the one that came to my mind instantly when reading Mrs. Bliss' letter. It was a joy to have the circumstances leading up to the final carving of that inscription brought again to the foreground of one's mind.)

Mr. Davis, perhaps because he is now on his own in making contracts, perhaps for some other reason, takes an actual part in the building. It would do your hearts good to see him with his coat off, whistling, wielding a saw with
the rhythm of a real woodman. He has been making the doors for the little Acorn and those of us who have seen him at work have all commented upon his youthful, vigorous appearance.

Straus Library
Is Dedicated as
Children’s Own
Branch at 348 East 32d St.,
First for Youth Alone, Is
Opened at Ceremonies

The first branch of the New York
Public Library, solely for the use of
children and young persons, the
Nathan Straus Branch Library at
348 East Thirty-second Street, was
dedicated yesterday afternoon.

Children of the neighborhood, for
whom library facilities have been
difficult to obtain for some time,
gathered in front of the building
before the dedication began. Their
interest and enthusiasm was taken
by library officials and the branch’s
staff as a sign of the success of the
venture. Their shouts in the street
would be heard during the dedication
speeches.

Frank L. Polk, president of the
board of trustees of the New York
Public Library, opened. Among the
speakers were Hugh Green, Branch
Commissioner; Miss Margaret Seelig,
when the library was named, and
Mary A. McCall, Borough Presi-
dent of Manhattan.

Organized groups from schools,
boys’ clubs and social agencies will
be made members first. Registering
of the groups will take at least two
weeks, and then individual registra-
tion will take place. When details
have been cleared up it will be pos-
sible for any in the city twenty-
year-olds or younger who be-
haves to some branch library to use
the branch and borrow its books.

Library Brightly Decorated

The building is three stories high,
highly decorated and well lighted.
The ground floor is for young per-
sons from ninth-grade age to
twenty-one. The books there range
from heavy ones, of which there
are not many, to the latest novels.

The second floor is for younger
children. The furniture is smaller
and the shelves are low. There
are elaborated patterns for the
picture books of the very young and
little toy tables and chairs before
a fireplace for group reading.

Above the children’s room is a
story hour room, also furnished in
miniature, where members of the
Public Library’s work-with-children
staff will read aloud. Next to it is
a group discussion room where older
groups may meet for play reading,
discussion or other joint activity,
which the staff of six will encour-
age. There are also day quarters
for the staff.

Miss Margaret Seelig, librarian,
said yesterday that she would strive
to create a friendly atmosphere in
the branch. She said the library had
some difficulties in the regular
branches because of the de-
mands of grown-ups had come first.
Here, added, they will have a
place all their own.

Branch Has 15,500 Books

The 15,500 volumes, more than
twice the amount of material, contain
the latest material. Books for older
members have been selected for
their reading value rather than for
research and these are on all
shelves.

Miss Seelig will offer informa-
tion on reading trends in any
organization wishing it.

The building was erected in 1905
by Nathan Straus as a laboratory
for testing milk in his pioneering
drive for pasteurization to prevent
 tuberculosis. In 1925 it was pres-
sented for the same purpose to the
city which later used it as a milk-
distributing center. It has not been
used for two years.

In 1940 the Board of Health
turned it over to the library. The
funds, $30,000, spent for books and
renovation, were provided by the
Tunnel Authority in payment for
the St. Gabriel’s Park branch lib-
ary, at Thirty-sixth Street and
Second Avenue, which was torn
down to make an entrance for the
Queens Midtown Tunnel. The heirs
of Nathan Straus were consulted
in the operation. Mr. Straus died on
Jan. 11, 1931.
Mr. Macgill James called today and added some more information to the collection of facts about William West. He spoke of him as a fashionable portrait painter of his time, with portraits of Byron, Byron's mistress, Holman Hunt, perhaps Keats and others, to his credit.

There are a number of his paintings in Baltimore and a Dr. J. Hall Pleasants of Baltimore has the most information about West. He is a member of the Maryland Historical Society, and has collected about 5,000 photographs for the Frick Art Reference Library. An exhibition of West was held in Lexington, Kentucky and at that time an article about him appeared which is probably in the possession of Dr. Pleasants.

A number of his paintings have been mistaken for Sully's.