

The Periodical Collection

by PROF. LESTER DE KOSTER, *Director of the Calvin Library*

IF YOU have been with us for two articles past, you will remember that we are now pausing for tea. That is, our roving library expert, Dr. Carnovsky, is.

Dr. Carnovsky is scanning his notes. We think he approved of our reference collection, but it is his job not only to measure but also to suggest. He has found points of improvement, of course; and in what will be our last article (and Dr. C's imaginary report) we will pay heed to his advice.

Meanwhile our attention turns to the periodical collection.

When, some many years ago, the University of Chicago took a long, many-volumed look at itself Librarian Rainey of the University's Harper Memorial Library wrote that the periodical collection was the single most valuable part of the library holdings. This may seem surprising to those who suppose that magazine articles are ephemeral and sketchy, and that real scholars carry only books under their elbows — preferably those in a foreign tongue. But this is what that scholarly librarian said — our periodical collection is most precious of all. He could have meant incidentally that a good periodical collection is precious also in terms of cost. The library whose holdings begin with volume one, in set after set, has allocated substantial funds to the purchase of magazines.

The current periodicals are the antennae which the campus community keeps attuned to vibrations from the contemporary scene. In the sciences, of course, the latest forays across the known frontiers are reported first (and often only) in the periodicals. And so Dr. Carnovsky looks first of all, perhaps, for those journals which summarize and survey the thousands of publications which arise in the fields of physical and biological sciences every year.

And to his satisfaction (as well as to ours) he finds *Chemical Abstracts*, the guide to some 4,000 periodicals in chemistry, among the library holdings. Moreover, he is no doubt surprised to note that our holdings of this oldest of scientific periodicals goes back to its beginning in 1917. *Biological Abstracts*, in all of its several divisions, is also present and also dates back to its infancy in 1927. Abstracting journals Dr. Carnovsky also discovers in Religion and Theology, from volume one in 1958, in Sociology, in Education, in English Studies. We who follow in the

examiner's footsteps can be reasonably certain that our subscription to abstracting services will register well in that final report.

So Dr. Carnovsky turns now to the general periodical holdings. Of the 25,000 more or less of separate periodicals published in the United States annually, our subscription list of 700 titles may seem but a tiny fraction of what we should receive. But Dr. Carnovsky knows that for a college and seminary library of our size, and serving the roughly 2,000 patrons on campus, a list of 700 current magazines is

College and Seminary

SYDNEY T. YOUNGSMAN, *Editor*

not only substantial, but compares very favorably with the number of titles received by first-class college and seminary libraries nation-wide. And he will find that the coverage is broad, the leading journals of the fields of study offered on the campus are here, the languages taught on the campus are represented, and the shelving is ample and attractive.

When he goes to the periodical file to consult our holdings of back issues, Dr. Carnovsky discovers some riches he did not expect. The *Nation* from its beginning in 1865; the *English Blackwood's* from its beginning in 1817; the

English Annual Register from its first issue in 1748; and the *English Gentleman's* from its first number in 1731. These, of course, are the rarest items; but he will find them rubbing shoulders with runs of the *Princeton Theological Review* from 1880 to its final issue in 1929, and some 1,000 other titles in longer or shorter runs.

To these magazine holdings there must, of course, be some key in the form of an index, lest they be locked away from student and faculty use. So Dr. Carnovsky next looks for (and finds) the *Reader's Guide* in its current and in its 19th century issues, the *International Index*, the *Essay and General Literature Index*, *Education Index*, *Index to Theological Literature*, the *British Subject Index to Periodicals*, and the *Book Review Digest*.

Knowing, of course, that although these many indexes cover hundreds of magazines, by no means all of which are among our holdings (a fact Dr. Carnovsky will point out as a goal still to be attained), they also fail to cover many of the magazines we do hold, Dr. Carnovsky looks next for some key to the magazines which we stack but which the professional indexes which we purchase do not cover. And adjacent to the index table he finds, indeed, a card file, holding some 50,000 or more index entries to articles in magazines which the professional indexes do not analyze. Cards are added every week to bring out the riches hidden in old runs of periodicals, and to keep abreast of the current magazines not now represented in the printed indexes. Here again Dr. Carnovsky pauses for a notation: good start, but there are

(Continued on page 27)



Main Reference Room, Calvin Library

Teachers Wanted

School is in need of a teacher for approximately 30 pupils. Please contact Fennema, principal, Box F, 22

School has an opening for a qualified teacher for grades 1-4; very good salary. You may write D. Veurink, West Main 23

School needs 2 teachers for K., 1st, 3rd and 4th grades. Contact Mrs. New Era, Mich., by letter or telephone

Teachers for grades 7 and 8 needed for the school year. We also need a teacher for grades 1-4. Contact the Education Committee, School, 11948 Flint Ave. Han-21

School is in need of a teacher for the '59-'60 term. Please contact Mrs. Cambria, Wis. 21

School needs one teacher for grades 1-4. Contact Dick Hoffmann, Sanborn, Iowa. 21

At least two teachers needed, one for grades 1-2, and for grades 3 & 4. Contact Mrs. Groen Christian School, 2400 Le 55, Wash. 26

School needs a teacher for grade 2. Must be able to obtain Iowa teaching license. Call Mr. Gary at 425 E. 9th St., Sheldon, Iowa. 21

School needs one teacher for grades 5 & 6 combined. Please correspond with the Education Committee, 811 North Wash. 21

CALIFORNIA. Burbank Chr. School needs a teacher for grades 1-3 (17 pupils) on excellent grounds; 4 miles from new church, Sun Valley. Apply Robert N. Meyers, Burbank, Calif. 21

Are you interested in a position which offers a good salary? Applications welcome for most positions of major and minor combinations; excellent conditions also needed. Beautiful location, equate salary and pleasant living conditions. Write to E. W. Blanke, Prin., Man-21

School needs teachers for grades 1 to 4; nice community, excellent grounds. Applications and letters of interest to Gerrit Van-21

Chr. School Asso. (2 schools), is in need of teachers for primary and intermediate grades. Contact Mr. Th. C. Baarsma, 7255 Bouver, B.C., Canada. 21

Chr. High School is in need of a teacher. If interested please contact Mrs. Prin., 1212 Kingsley, Mus-21

Chr. School needs 5 teachers as follows: (20 pupils) grade 4 (19 pupils), grade 5 (23 pupils), grade 6 (23 pupils); also need 1 teacher with language major and teach in Historic New England. Contact H. Wassenar, Sylvan Rd., Whitins-21

School needs a principal for the school year commencing Sept., '59. Please send resume to Mrs. O. Deelstra, RR 1, Canada. 21

School needs one teacher for grade 1-4. Contact Prin. J. E. Mulder, Zeeland, Mich. 21

PULPIT SUPPLIES

Pulpit supplies for Aug. 16, 23, 30 and Sept. 6. If you or student of our church in our area is asked to write the First Chr. Church, 5 East Ely St., Ontario, Calif. 21

Ref. churches, July, first Sundays and/or Dutch. Rev. J. H. Piersma, Edmonton, Alta., Canada. 21

Ref. Church would appreciate pulpit supplies for June 14, 21. Contact Jacob Corsica, S. Dak. 20

Pulpit supplies for Aug. 2, 9, 16, and 23. Bilingual. Contact Mrs. 2710 Conn St., Ottawa. Tel. 20

Vancouver, B.C., needs pulpit supplies for Aug. 21 and also for Aug. 9, 16, and 23. Contact M. Piersma, clerk 701 Steveston Road, B.C., Canada. 21

THE PERIODICAL COLLECTION

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still runs of magazines which must be indexed. We agree.

One more matter on the subject of periodicals. How many are bound? We go down the stacks. Professionally are bound all those journals which get heavy use or are intrinsically of considerable value. Bound here in the building by a cheaper and less durable process are those which are less used or of less worth. The goal: binding of all magazines retained at all. Dr. Carnovsky notes that we have some way to go. We explain that every day more titles are bound, and every second week the professional binder returns with another neat load. Taking care of the periodicals, we remind him, takes now the full-time efforts of one staff member. Good, he replies; you do remember that your magazines are, probably, as valuable a single part of the collection as any other.

But let's turn to the others. Or is it time, again, for ... tea?

DULLES AND HERTER

(Continued from page 10)

of the free world, and that also in countries where he was most severely criticized. Even his enemies admit that the former Secretary of State was one of the world's leading fighters against Communism, and that he left his mark on the world in his unrelenting effort for freedom and peace. That he made enemies in the ranks of those who were his allies is in a sense natural, for Dulles had his weaknesses and made mistakes. His mistakes prove, on the other hand, that he did something. Only those who do nothing make no mistakes. We salute John Foster Dulles.

The new Secretary, Christian Herter, is also being well received personally. He is well qualified in the administrative aspects of government, and his long standing struggle against isolationism has given him stature abroad and established him as a man of vision at home. May he be endowed with wisdom and strength!

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