

GILLHAM Hall

Have you noticed the carvings at the entrance to the library?

These carvings are not conventionalized designs but are of special significance to a building whose purpose is to house books.

Using an architect's terms, the carvings are located on the "projecting corbels that terminate the arches at the entrance piers". Each of the carvings has been inspired by a printer's device of an early printer. Soon after the invention of printing, it became the custom of printers to identify the work of their presses by reproducing a specially designed cut, of wood or metal, under the printed statement of their part in the making of the book. The first printer's mark was used by the firm of Fust and Schoeffer of Mainz in their famous Psalter of 1457.

The carving on the left facing the building (north) is based on the device of Aldus Manutius, an early Venetian printer. His mark is an anchor with a dolphin entwined around its shaft. Pictorially the mark expresses the idea "make haste slowly", for the dolphin is the symbol of speed and activity and the anchor that of stability and firmness. The first work of the Aldine press was issued in 1494, but the printer's device was not used until 1502. Aldus was famous for many things: for reprinting the Greek and Roman classics, some for the first time from the manuscript copies; for introducing italic type in the printing of books; and for reducing the size and cost of books so that they could be purchased by the average reader.

The central carving is based on the printer's device of Simon Vostre, a Parisian publisher who was noted for the many beautiful editions of the Book of Hours which were issued from his press. Vostre's design is made up of a pomegranate tree, signifying the "richness of divine grace", flanked on each side by a spotted animal holding a shield with the initials "V. S." Vostre's working period was from 1489 to 1520; his printer's device was used for the first time in 1502.

The third printer's mark is that of Geoffroy Tory, also of Paris, who was perhaps the most versatile man associated with the craft of printing. He is sometimes known as the "Da Vinci of printing". Tory combined the learning of the scholar with the genius of the true artist. He produced type faces and type ornaments which for beauty of design have never been surpassed. He is also known as a reformer of spelling and for introducing accent marks into the printing of the French language.

The main feature of the printer's device of Geoffroy Tory is a broken vase pierced by a drill and resting on a book which is closed and clasped. The broken vase is believed to commemorate the death of Tory's ten year old daughter. During Tory's lifetime he used several versions of the pot cassé, or broken vase. The earliest of these was used in 1524.

Marshall M. Fredericks of Birmingham, Michigan, was the artist who made the designs for the carvings on the Library Building. He also designed the stone carvings at the Student Union of the Ohio State University. Mr. Fredericks modelled the designs in clay, which were later cast in plaster. The plaster casts were sent to the G. Ittenbach Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, where the stone cutting was accomplished. The stone is Indiana limestone from quarries near New Bedford, Indiana.

The carving of the corbels was commissioned by the firm of Ballman, Gillett and Richards, architects of the Library Building.

Copies of the original printer's devices of Aldus, Vostre, and Tory are on display in the Library.

Law Library History

Specific Facts Concerning the History of the Present Law Collection

1. The Law Library has been in existence as a division of the University Library from the beginning.
2. The Law Librarian is a member of the University of Toledo Library Staff and has been since the first Law Librarian was appointed in February 1940.

Prior to that date, all cataloguing, processing and servicing was done by the regular Library Staff in addition to their other work.

Also, prior to 1940 four full-time members of the Library Staff of their own volition took the course in legal Bibliography offered in the Law School so that they would be able to give better service to Law Students. Two of these members are still members of the general Library Staff, Miss Eush and Mrs. Walter. (Dean Fornoff objects to the present Law Librarian taking the time to learn to use general reference books.)

3. The statistical accomplishments on the following page are given chronologically in five year periods (as nearly as possible) from 1934-35 through 1950-51.

Number of books
by title to
collection
checked at
date of
transfer

2,334

2,575

From: Mary Gillman Papers

Average number of vols. cat. & added to regular collection (exclusive of Law Periodicals & Gov't. Documents)

Years

Average number of Law Vols. added each year (Books & Bound Periodicals)

Work done by:

2,352 vols.

1931-35 thru 1938-39 (5 years)

890 vols.

2,975 1/6 vols.

1939-40 thru 1944-45 (6 years)

521 1/6 vols.

3,630 vols.

1945-46 (1 year)

564 vols.

3,873 vols.

1947 thru 1950-51 (5 years)

1,028 1/5 vols.

General University Library Staff (In 1936 - 3,293 vols. recatalogued and new classification system installed - separating the law books from other library books - a tremendous task!)

First Law Librarian, Mrs. Frances Brigham, served from Feb. 1910 thru Aug. 1945, a very inefficient regime, about which the University Librarian protested frequently, but to no avail.

Part-time law students employed. General Library did all cataloging.

Doris R. Remberg assumed the duties of the Law Librarian Sept. 3, 1946. There was a backlog of some 7,112 vols. of gifts & exchanges when Miss Remberg began her duties. This has been reduced to approximately 1,000 as of July 1, 1951 (according to Miss Remberg).