

**THE DEDICATION OF
THE LIBRARY OF
FRENCH THOUGHT**

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The Dedication of the Library of French Thought by Various

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VARIOUS

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OF THE
LIBRARY *of* FRENCH THOUGHT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 6, 1917

THE DEDICATION
OF THE
LIBRARY *of* FRENCH THOUGHT

EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY THE FRIENDS OF
FRANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ON SEPTEMBER 6 (LAFAYETTE DAY), 1917

TO WHICH IS ADDED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION
OF THE COLLECTION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY
1918

Now that the Library of French Thought is fittingly housed in its own quarters within the University Library, and its long career among the generations of men is thus hopefully begun, I wish to express to those who have made its existence possible one final word of appreciation and friendly understanding.

To the French Republic and to the Friends of France, the University of California, opening its heart, pours out its thanks.

(Signed) BENJ. IDE WHEELER

*Berkeley, California,
January 21, 1918.*

The trustees of the Library of French Thought wish, as the representatives of the Friends of France, gratefully to acknowledge the indebtedness of the Society to the University of California for the issuance of the present publication commemorating the generosity of France and recording the expression of our gratitude.

(Signed) C. M. GAYLEY
H. MORSE STEPHENS
GILBERT CHINARD
PORTER GARNETT

*Berkeley, California,
January 21, 1918.*

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THE DEDICATION OF THE LIBRARY OF FRENCH THOUGHT

On Thursday, September 6 (Lafayette's birthday), 1917, at a quarter before four o'clock in the afternoon, the ceremonies of dedication of the Library of French Thought were held, under the auspices of the Friends of France, in the French Room of the University Library.

In response to an invitation, addressed by the Friends of France to Monsieur André Tardieu, High Commissioner of the French Republic to the United States, a special emissary, in the person of Monsieur Edouard de Billy,¹ was sent from Washington to represent the French government at the dedication. M. de Billy was accompanied by three officers of the French army, members of the Military Commission of France to the United States, Colonel James Martin,² Captain E. J. P. Rouvier,³ and Lieutenant Henri le Compasseur Créquy Montfort de Courtivron.⁴

¹ Graduate of the *École Polytechnique* and of the *École des Mines*; formerly vice-president of the Paris Underground Railroad; assigned at the outbreak of the war, with the rank of captain, to the English army in Belgium, and subsequently nominated major and lieutenant colonel; Director of Public Works in Morocco; charged by the French government with a special mission to London where he organized the Inter-Allied Bureau of Munitions; since May 25, 1917, Deputy High Commissioner of the French Republic to the United States, having in conjunction with Monsieur André Tardieu, the High Commissioner, the direction of the French missions to the United States, military, naval, and financial, and those charged with the purchase of munitions and food supplies.

² Graduate of St. Cyr; chief of Infantry Battalion 137, the flag of which was decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor, August 27, 1914, for having captured a German flag with the colonel

The Library of French Thought consists of some 2,500 volumes, covering all fields of French literature, philosophy, and science, originally assembled for exhibition in the French Pavilion at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and presented by the French government, at the close of the exposition, to the University of California, under the patronage of the Friends of France.

In his preface to *La Science Française* (a work in two volumes containing monographs and bibliographies, dealing with every department of learning, by the most eminent French authorities, and published as an accompaniment to the collection) Monsieur Lucien Poincaré, the Minister of Public Instruction of France in 1915, says of the Library of French Thought:

Elle consiste, cette sérieuse exposition, en une bibliothèque assez abondante où se trouvent réunis des livres jaunis par le temps et des publications où l'encre est encore fraîche, de gros volumes et de petits opuscules. Dans ces ouvrages de dates si variées, d'aspects si divers, se trouve, pour ainsi dire, concentrée la pensée de tout un peuple; voici la part essentielle que la France a apportée au progrès scientifique; voici l'exposé, par les auteurs eux-mêmes, des grandes découvertes dues à son génie créateur.

Pour chaque science, on a essayé de remonter au moment où, en France, un ordre d'études, importantes par le profit intellectuel ou moral qu'elles procurèrent aux hommes, fut abordé pour la première fois et devint l'objet de recherches systématiquement conduites. On a voulu marquer l'origine, le point d'où sont partis tant de hardis explorateurs pour l'éternel voyage à la recherche de la vérité; on a indiqué, sur les chemins tracé par leurs glorieux efforts, les sommets d'où ont été aperçus de nouveaux horizons; on a signalé enfin, avec quelque insistance, l'étape actuellement atteinte qui sera

of the German regiment; took part in the battles of Messines, Bouillon, Chaumont, Attigny, Moronvilliers, and the Somme; seriously wounded, January 15, 1915, while leading his battalion in attack; returned to front, April, 1915, at head of 412th Regiment, and took part in battles of Champagne, Hill 304, Mort Homme, Côte de Poivre, and Courrières; decorated with Legion of Honor and English order of St. Michael and St. George.

³ Graduated as sub-lieutenant from St. Cyr; promoted for bravery to rank of captain; mentioned five times in official reports.

⁴ Noted as an explorer in South America; knight of the Legion of Honor; mentioned three times in official despatches.

dépassée par le travail de demain poursuivi dans des directions que l'on a cherché à préciser.

On verra donc dans la bibliothèque les livres vénérables et illustres par où une grande idée fut semée dans le monde; puis les publications principales, grâce auxquelles les rameaux puissants d'une doctrine se développèrent; enfin, pour l'heure présente, un choix assez large d'ouvrages individuels ou de recueils collectifs où l'on trouvera la preuve tangible de l'activité scientifique de la France, et où l'on pourra apprécier la luxuriante floraison produite par une habile culture.

For the assembling of the collection M. Poincaré gives special credit to "[ces] précieux collaborateurs, M. Coulet, directeur de l'Office national des Universités, M. Gastinel, inspecteur de l'Académie de Paris, sans le zèle et l'érudition desquels l'œuvre n'aurait pu être menée à bonne fin ni même sans doute entreprise."

In his address of presentation at the Exposition, on the Day of France, November 27, 1915, Monsieur Albert Tirman, Commissioner-General of France, said:

Plus spécialement le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique a tenu à vous envoyer une expression de la pensée française cristallisée dans les œuvres capitales de nos savants de nos philosophes et de nos littérateurs. . . . Nous voudrions que cette pensée restât vivante en milieu de vous.

Où trouverait-elle un meilleur foyer que dans l'Université de Californie, ce grande centre intellectuel de l'Ouest américain. Telle a été la conception du gouvernement français et en son nom, Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur de faire remise à l'Université de Californie de la bibliothèque que sera placée tout spécialement sous le patronage des Amis de la France.

The gift was formally accepted by Mr. W. H. Crocker, regent of the University of California, who announced that the collection would be placed in a room in the University Library, to be especially prepared for its reception. In pursuance of this pledge, Professor John Galen Howard, of the Department of Architecture, was directed to make the necessary plans for the fitting and decoration of a room set aside for the gift of the French government in the recently