

**What  
Is  
Written  
Remains**

**Historical Essays on the  
Libraries of Notre Dame**

Edited by

**Maureen Gleason and Katharina J. Blackstead**

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# The Medieval Institute Library: A Brief History

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MARINA SMYTH

The holdings of the Medieval Institute reflect its role as a center for research and instruction in the Christian civilization of the Middle Ages. Some 70,000 volumes, 16,000 microforms and numerous other materials devoted to the study of the intellectual life of the Middle Ages are now housed on the seventh floor of the Hesburgh Library. This is a far cry from the original situation in 1946, when the first director of the Institute, the Reverend Gerald B. Phelan, had to share his office on the top floor of what was then the University Library (now the Architecture Building), with a minimal core of books, while the bulk of the necessary research materials was scattered throughout the library's collection of almost 250,000 volumes.

## The Beginnings of Medieval Studies at Notre Dame

Already in the early 1930s, when Philip Moore, C.S.C., was studying at the École des Chartes in Paris, the University administration made the conscious decision to emphasize medieval studies at Notre Dame. As one might expect of a Catholic institution of higher learning, basic resources such as the *Patrologia Latina* were acquired early in the history of the University. But library records from the early 1930s onward show that a marked bent toward the study of the Middle Ages was already influencing the choice of research materials in a University that was slowly developing graduate courses. Even before Father

Moore returned from Paris, he was selecting materials for the Notre Dame Library, as recorded in the *Notre Dame Alumnus*:<sup>1</sup>

William J. Corbett, Chicago, Ill., by the gift of one thousand dollars, has created a foundation at Notre Dame to be known as the William J. Corbett Research Library of Philosophy. The work of collecting material for the Library has already begun by Reverend Philip Moore, C.S.C., '24, now taking advanced studies in Paris. Mr. Corbett is the father of William J. Corbett, Jr., '27.<sup>2</sup>

*The Scholastic* of December 9, 1932, explained further (on p. 11):

The majority of the works will pertain to Medieval Scholastic Philosophy. They are intended for use in graduate work. At present, Notre Dame offers no doctorate in the field of Philosophy proper, although work is offered leading to the master's degree. According to plans already maturing, the Department of Philosophy will offer doctoral work within the next few years. Father Philip Moore, C.S.C., who is an Enfield Scholar to Paris from the Catholic University in Washington, is now purchasing the books. He has already presented lists of the foremost works of the ages and from these lists several titles have been selected.

The General Accounting Office at Notre Dame reports that a Corbett fund was set up in 1933, for the library "to purchase books and manuscripts." On June 15, 1934, financial reports of the University enter under the heading of *Fellowships and Foundations* a "James Corbett Foundation"[sic] for a "Medieval-Philosophy Library." Since it was not mentioned in the previous cumulative quarterly report of March 15, we might assume that the fund was officially reported to the administration in the intervening period.<sup>3</sup> Within a year, this same fund had been renamed "Medieval Studies Foundation," and was still designated for a "Medieval-Philosophy Library." It eventually was ascribed to "miscellaneous donors" in the financial reports, a phrase which might simply mean that the donor(s) wished to remain anonymous. William J. Corbett, a Chicago businessman with an interest in the Middle Ages, was a trustee of the University from 1941 until his death in May 1948; he and his wife Laura continued their generous benefactions to the University and in particular to the program of medieval studies, as acknowledged by the Reverend Philip Moore,

C.S.C., in the Memorial Booklet printed at Notre Dame at the time of Mrs. Corbett's death in 1961.<sup>4</sup>

In 1933, a program of research, publication and instruction in medieval studies was initiated by Father Moore, just recently graduated from the *École des Chartes*, and "in the fall of 1933, the University of Notre Dame offered for the first time graduate courses in medieval studies. This new academic venture was undertaken with the assistance of M. Étienne Gilson, professor at the *Collège de France* and member of the faculty of philosophy of the Sorbonne, who was an annual visitor at Notre Dame since 1931."<sup>5</sup> A total of eight such graduate courses were offered in 1934-35, including two courses in English by James H. McDonald, C.S.C., who had just finished his Oxford dissertation.

The library's 1933-34 Annual Report mentions that since three courses in medieval English were planned for the fall, "it will be necessary to make some rather extensive purchases in this field as the library is not well equipped" (p.12). Indeed the list of full sets of basic reference materials—or at least as much as was published at the time—that were acquired that year is quite remarkable and included: *Patrologia Latina* (now complete), *Recueil des Historiens des Gaules et de la France*, *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, *Gallia Christiana*, *Gallia Christiana Novissima*, *Études de Philosophie médiévale*, *Archives d'Histoire doctrinale et littéraire du Moyen Age*, *Bibliothèque Thomiste*, and Manitius' *Geschichte der lateinischen Literatur*.

On October 4, 1934, when the Reverend John O'Hara, C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame, composed a list of "Certain Needs of the University of Notre Dame" for "the consideration of the officers and trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York," the Great Depression had been devastating the country for some years. Yet he affirmed that "in these times of distress, the University of Notre Dame has not curtailed its budget in any important particular." Indeed, it appears that the University had stood by its commitment to medieval studies, since he reported (speaking somewhat loosely) that the University had just "inaugurated the first Institute of Medieval Studies in the United States." After listing the qualifications of the five scholars associated with this program, three of whom were members of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C.) who had recently been granted the doctorate, he went on: "At its own cost, the University is preparing six priests for professorships in this Institute: one at St.

Michael's College [in Toronto], one at Oxford and Louvain, and four at Notre Dame."<sup>6</sup> It is fully consistent with this goal that the director of the Notre Dame Library reported that despite the shortage of funds during 1934–35, "we have been able to add some really valuable research materials during the year," namely, the following full sets: *Mansi*, *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, Alexander of Hales' *Summa*, and St. Bonaventure's *Opera*. The trend continued in 1936–37, with some very substantial additions (including all back-issues, as usual): the complete *Rolls Series*, *Bibliothèque de l'École des Chartes*, sets of catalogs of the British Museum and the Bibliothèque Nationale. The following year the library budget mentions for the first time a specific—and substantial—fund for the acquisition of reference materials, a number of them of immediate relevance to medieval studies. These new acquisitions included: *Dictionnaire de Théologie Catholique*, *Dictionnaire d'Histoire et de Géographie Ecclésiastiques*, *Dictionnaire de Droit Canonique*, *Publications of the Early English Text Society* and of the Société de l'Histoire de France, *Fontes rerum austriacarum*, and an outstanding list of new journal subscriptions (often with back-issues). In addition to the growing number of regular paid subscriptions, the annual report of the Periodicals Department for 1938–39 records that the Department of Medieval Studies held four periodical subscriptions received in exchange for Notre Dame publications sent to other institutions. During the following few years these exchanges dwindled at times to one title only, due no doubt to difficulties in obtaining materials from Europe, the home of most medieval scholarship. Wartime conditions also affected other types of acquisitions, and in fact, no substantial additions are recorded for the Institute during World War II.

The Corbett endowment extended the financial resources available for collection building. Most materials obtained through this fund were intended for the use of the Department of Medieval Studies and were shelved with the general collection. Some, however, were kept in the Treasure Room, a rare book collection which contained a total of 990 volumes in 1938.<sup>7</sup> Use of the fund appears to have been somewhat erratic, with nothing spent some years, and overspending in others.<sup>8</sup> Byrne commented in his annual report for 1943–44, that "important graduate material" was obtained through the generosity of the Reverend Moore, who "allowed a number of French works dealing with medieval

drama and poetry to be charged against the Corbett Fund," so we can assume that Moore, who became dean of the Graduate School in 1944, controlled that fund. To this day, the Corbett Fund remains a very important book-buying endowment for the Medieval Institute, supplemented in recent years by the generous Margaret Conway Fund.

In 1944–45, the following major acquisitions are recorded for the Medieval Department: a complete set of the publications of the Camden Society (which was seen to be useful also to the history and classics departments), a complete set (less two volumes) of the *Publications* of the British Society of Franciscan Studies, and "a nice run" of the yearbooks of the Aristotelian Society. It is clear that the pattern of substantial buying had resumed.

### The Medieval Institute

Fall 1946 brought large numbers of students back to the campus, students who were older than usual, taking advantage of their veterans' benefits. With Father Moore as dean of the Graduate School, the Department of Medieval Studies was formally constituted as a "Medieval Institute," much to the dismay of Byrne, who had for several years been requesting more space in the library building: in his 1945–46 Annual Report, he wryly noted that a Medieval Institute was to be established in September 1946, and its "headquarters are announced for the library. This will probably mean that more space will be withdrawn from library use." The Reverend Gerald B. Phelan, former president of the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto, was appointed director of the Institute, a position he filled until 1952.

A memorandum outlining plans for the Medieval Institute mentions "that a fitting locale is to be provided, for the present, on the second floor of the University Library Building"<sup>9</sup> and indeed Room 202 was originally assigned for this purpose. However, the peculiar layout of the building (now the Architecture Building), which involved at that time five different levels, meant that Room 202 was generally viewed as being on the fifth floor! As Professor Astrik L. Gabriel, director of the Institute from 1952 until 1975, put it in a recent conversation: "Never mind the room numbers, it was all on the fifth floor!" However one counts, the Medieval Institute was on the top floor, in the southwest corner of the building, and terribly hot in summer. Professor Gabriel

mentions a particularly scorching evening when he and Leslie S. Domonkos (then his student assistant) were so hot working in the Medieval Institute that they stripped to their underwear, and he recalls with glee the consternation of the nun who had to seek their help after being locked in the building at closing time.

From the library's point of view, the simultaneous creation of the Institute and the renewed access to European materials meant a great deal of additional work. During the year 1945-46, the four periodical exchanges mentioned earlier seem to have been reactivated and while "efforts to secure complete files of German magazines for the use of the Medieval Institute have not been too successful yet,"<sup>10</sup> "the periodical files are bulging because of the many new subscriptions which have been placed for the Medieval Institute."<sup>11</sup> Medievalists were also active in the library-at-large: Father Beichner, C.S.C., a specialist in medieval English literature, was the arts and letters representative on the Library Committee which was reactivated in 1946-47. Moreover, faculty members associated with medieval studies were regularly recorded as donors to the library, and for some of them at least this remained a pattern, publicly acknowledged in the case of Gabriel by conferral upon him in 1984 of the University Libraries' first Honored Life Patron Award.

When the Medieval Institute was created in 1946, an annual allocation was specifically set up for building its research collection. Funding for acquisitions was deemed to be fully satisfactory throughout the 1950s. Financial difficulties in purchasing desired materials began to be noted in the 1960s, leading eventually to gradual modest increases in funding, followed by substantial increases in the late 1980s.

The University Library's annual report for 1948-49 recorded as follows the arrival of the first librarian for the Medieval Institute collection:

In February, Miss Eva Jung arrived from Rome, Italy. She was assigned to the Medieval Institute Library. She checks and collates bibliographies and prepares the purchase orders for books for the Institute. This has lessened considerably the research carried on heretofore by the Acquisitions Department. Because of the growth of the collection, Room 202 has been completely reorganized and part of the books have been moved into Room 203.

In fact, 383 new monograph volumes were added to the collection that year, representing 198 new titles. There was also an increase of at least 71 bound volumes of periodicals. Another 200 volumes of periodicals were added the following year, as well as 953 monograph volumes. The collection was growing rapidly, creating backlogs in the processing section of the University Library. In July 1950, Miss Helen Cheadle, a cataloger, was transferred to the Medieval Institute to take the place of Miss Jung. The following May, she began cataloging all books received for that collection, which improved the cataloging situation considerably (over 1,000 volumes were added that year).

In 1950, the University administration requested the American Library Association to make a survey of the University Library to determine its effectiveness and to make recommendations for change. The survey was conducted by Louis Wilson, dean emeritus of the Library School at the University of Chicago, and Frank Lundy, director of libraries at the University of Nebraska. Wilson and Lundy's recommendation pertaining to the Medieval Institute Library led to a temporary reversal of the policy of special treatment which had benefitted both the library and the Medieval Institute collection:

The Medieval Institute Library is located on an upper floor corner of the central library building. It is supervised by a full-time professionally trained librarian. In effect this library is a separate branch library, housed in the central library building. The librarian in charge gives reference assistance to [patrons] and devotes a substantial amount of time to cataloging and indexing the collection. It is the opinion of the surveyors that the limited size of the Institute Library and the relatively small number of individuals served do not justify the assignment of a full-time librarian whose services could be used to much greater advantage in the general reading rooms in the humanities and social sciences downstairs. The Medieval Institute Library could be adequately supervised by suitable student or clerical assistants. The surveyors recommend that the Medieval Institute Library be managed as an enlarged seminar library (which functionally speaking, it really is) and that its Librarian be reassigned to services in the central Library.<sup>12</sup>

Victor A. Schaefer, who became director of the Notre Dame Library in 1953, followed this recommendation and assigned a non-professional to the Medieval Institute Library.<sup>13</sup> However, the previous practice was

restored on September 1, 1955, when Dr. Francis D. Lazenby, also of the Classics Department, was appointed as "Graduate-Research Librarian, Medieval Institute Librarian and Curator of the Treasure Room." According to Gabriel this was the first time the Medieval Institute had a librarian with the specialized scholarly qualifications necessary to the job.

In 1954-55, in the wake of the Wilson-Lundy study, there came an evaluation of the quality of the collections in the Notre Dame Library. In particular the adequacy of the medieval holdings had been checked against the bibliography in Bulletin no. 16 of *Progress of Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the U.S. and Canada* as part of the Wilson-Lundy study and were re-checked in 1954-55 by the Reference Department: "Of 45 sets of major publications in the field of Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the U.S. and Canada held by 61 American libraries, the Notre Dame library held 23 and one half. It was outranked by 22 other institutions. The results of re-checking: we now have 27 out of the 45, or 60 percent."<sup>14</sup> Clearly, while the medieval collection had come a long way and was fairly well provided with standard basic source materials, the director and the librarian of the Institute had their work cut out to build it into a top-rate collection.

From the mid-1950s on, the yearly lists of important acquisitions for the library included an impressive array of early printed books and substantial source materials for medieval research. The Medieval Institute was extremely well-financed at that time, with a regular purchasing budget that was larger than those of physics, biology and mathematics combined. It was the third largest acquisitions budget, reflecting the importance attached to this new endeavor by the University administration: the general fund was only about five times larger, and the law budget not quite three times larger. Toward the end of the 1950s, it is clear that the sciences were catching up and even overtaking the Medieval Institute budget, but with the strong U.S. currency, acquisitions in medieval studies remained generally satisfactory; rare printed books and even an occasional manuscript were regularly bought for the collection and for the Treasure Room.

The first annual report from the Medieval Institute Library was written in 1956. It is clear from perusal of Lazenby's annual reports that thanks to his understanding of the needs of students and scholars alike, he set the pattern for the activities which were to become expected

as a matter of course from all librarians associated with the Medieval Institute. He studied new and antiquarian catalogs with a view to making recommendations for purchase (in consultation with the Medieval Institute director), typing the order requests and, if necessary, checking that they were correctly processed and cataloged before displaying the new acquisitions for browsing. Not only books, but numerous photographic reproductions and microfilms were regularly acquired for the Institute. Journals and monographic series were checked for lacunae, and items were sent to be bound as necessary.<sup>15</sup>

Lazenby believed strongly in instructing students on effective use of the library, and provided specialized reference services involving numerous languages:

I have given much time and service to users of the Medieval Institute Library with research problems, bibliographies, and above all, translation of Greek, Latin, French, German, and Italian texts and reference materials... One of my major services to undergraduate users has been assistance in selection of pertinent source and ancillary material for use in writing term papers and theses.<sup>16</sup>

He also dealt extensively with requests for information or materials from scholars at other institutions.

In addition to his own scholarly research, lectures and publications, he developed the public relations component of the job: tours to visitors of all types, exhibits throughout the library of materials dealing with aspects of the Middle Ages, seizing the occasional opportunity for visibility through various news media.

During the summer of 1956, Lazenby supervised a major reorganization of the medieval collection. While the original plan to create a "Medieval Library" on the fifth floor by pulling together all the books in the general library stacks dealing with the Middle Ages had to be abandoned for lack of space,<sup>17</sup> a workable alternative was devised which is remarkably similar in concept to the present organization of the collection. Three rooms and a stack area were devoted to the Institute and its collection. The main reading room housed approximately 2,110 volumes, chiefly of a non-circulating reference nature. Another room contained 1,141 volumes of catalogs, early French texts, miniatures, and paleography, and was also used as a classroom. The third room, with 953 volumes, mainly constituting the History of the

Universities collection but soon to include the Stokes Collection,<sup>18</sup> also housed the microfilms, photostats and the new Kodagraph,<sup>19</sup> and was the office of the director of the Medieval Institute. Finally, 5,293 volumes were shelved in the stack area.<sup>20</sup> Thus, in the mid-1950s the Medieval Institute collection contained some 9,500 volumes. Since then some 60,000 volumes have been added. These figures give some sense of the phenomenal expansion in the last 40 years of the "Jewel of the Notre Dame Library system."<sup>21</sup> Another measure of this growth is the increase in the number of yearly acquisitions from 345 volumes a year<sup>22</sup> to well over 2,000 volumes at the time of this writing.

In 1958-59, there was an unexplained cut of about a fifth of the Medieval Institute acquisitions budget, and a distinction was made between the book fund and the periodical fund. The moneys were apparently restored to the Medieval Institute's "earmarked fund" in 1959-60, although in his annual report for that year, John J. Philippsen, head of the Acquisitions Department, complained of the library's general financial struggle to fulfill its role. The following year saw not only a modest increase in the Medieval Institute's acquisitions funding, but a marked increase in expenditure in all the branches of the sciences, whose funds would soon outstrip the Medieval Institute and leave it trailing far behind. By the mid-1960s, the Medieval Institute was overspending its allocated funds and Bogdan Deresiewicz—the Medieval Institute librarian after Lazenby became assistant director for the Humanities Department—mentioned several times that the Corbett Fund had fortunately come to the rescue in making important orders possible. It is noteworthy that even through this difficult period there was a steady increase in subscriptions to periodicals for the Medieval Institute, which was consciously building up its strength.

In particular, an outstanding collection on the history of universities in the Middle Ages was developed at Notre Dame. In this connection, Gabriel still speaks with admiration of Lazenby's monumental achievement in securing every single item listed in the bibliography of the survey article by Sven Stelling-Michaud, "L'histoire des universités au moyen âge et à la renaissance au cours des vingt-cinq dernières années."<sup>23</sup> Over the years, more than 2,000 microfilms of original documents and out-of-print books, as well as files of photographs and other related materials were added to this important specialized collec-

tion which, in 1983, was aptly named the Astrik L. Gabriel Universities Collection.

The other outstanding addition to the Medieval Institute Library during Gabriel's directorship was what is commonly known as the Ambrosiana Collection—more correctly, the Frank M. Folsom Microfilm and Photographic Collection. This is the extensive collection of microfilms of the medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan and in the Monza Archives. The project of microfilming this collection was conceived in 1960, when Giovanni Battista Cardinal Montini (later Pope Paul VI) came to the University to receive an honorary doctorate. Microfilming began in 1962 with support from the National Science Foundation, and under the direction of Gabriel and Monsignor Angelo Paredi, Prefect of the Ambrosiana. Over the next decade, "the Institute acquired both negative and positive 35mm microfilms of over 10,000 manuscripts."<sup>24</sup> When, in August 1963, the Medieval Institute moved into its "not only adequate but luxurious"<sup>25</sup> quarters on the seventh floor of the new Memorial Library, a special room adjacent to the Reading Room was provided for housing this precious collection of microfilms as well as the books and equipment which would facilitate research in that collection. In the early part of 1966, these quarters were extended to the east in order to accommodate the "slides and photographs of the most valuable paintings, drawings and miniatures from the collection of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana" obtained thanks to a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.<sup>26</sup>

In June 1967, the Reverend James W. Simonson, C.S.C., was director of libraries and Gail Marti was acting librarian of the Medieval Institute. Her successor after February 1, 1968 (whose name I could not determine) reports on a healthy flow of acquisitions of books (800) and microfilms associated with the history of universities (400), as well as the new red carpet in the reading room. By June 1969, there were over 20,000 volumes in the collection. In May 1973, the Medieval Institute Library assistant, Linda L. Genda, submitted a very detailed account of her duties to Dr. George Sereiko, assistant director for public services. It is clear that she was involved in the processing of the photographs and slides from the Ambrosiana Project as they reached the Institute, that the available book shelves were no longer sufficient, and also that she was kept very busy and felt cut off from the rest of the library.<sup>27</sup>



In his annual report for 1971-72 (pp. 15-16), David Sparks, the director of libraries, mentioned:

...the purchase of the private library of Canon Eugene Jarry, Professor of Medieval Studies at the Institut Catholique in Paris. Through the good offices of Professor Pierre [sic] Laporte and the energetic efforts of Dr. Astrik Gabriel, the Director of the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame, this collection of more than 13,000 volumes of French monographs, journals and pamphlets was acquired at the modest price of \$10,500.00 exclusive of shipping and insurance charges. The work of unpacking and processing this collection is now proceeding and will continue for another twelve months or more.

This was felt to be a particularly good buy in view of rising book prices and the low value of the dollar. Of course there were duplicates, which were eventually sold, but the Medieval Institute benefitted greatly from this purchase.

Carl Berkhout, a young medievalist working on his doctoral dissertation (which he completed in the English Department in 1975), was put in charge of the Medieval Institute Library in the Fall of 1973, and immediately responded to the obvious need for specialized reference service.<sup>28</sup> He also perceived the urgent need for an inventory of the collection, which he carried out with the help of student assistants and the Cataloging Department, tidying up many problems along the way<sup>29</sup> and revamping the circulation system which was inadequate to handle the increasing use of the collection. Medieval Institute books would now be charged out at the libraries' main circulation desk. In 1974, Berkhout recorded "116 regularly received non-monographic serial titles";<sup>30</sup> there are now over 300 such titles, reflecting the explosion in serial publications in recent years. He also advocated rationalization both within the existing library collections (mostly by transferring to the Institute materials in the general collection which he felt were logically related to the current holdings) and by coordinating acquisitions with other departments—a need all the more imperative since "it has become painfully clear that we cannot possibly keep up with even half of what is being published each year in medieval studies."<sup>31</sup>

Early in 1975, the year in which Gabriel retired as director and the Ambrosiana Collection was formally separated from the Institute, an interesting new group of microfilms began to arrive in the Institute

Library, the product of earlier arrangements by Gabriel to reproduce medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in several Yugoslavian libraries.<sup>32</sup> The current civil war in that area, and the ensuing destruction, may well make these microfilms a particularly valuable asset of the Notre Dame Libraries.

### New Directions

Only two of the Medieval Institute's three graduate students were in residence during 1974-75,<sup>33</sup> but activity increased substantially when Jeffrey Russell became director of the Institute. Open carrels were installed at the south end of the reading room, where students now tended to stay and study. A statue of Dante (with a broken shoe, unfortunately) was "rescued from his wretchedness on the fourth floor and provided a happier home in the reading room,"<sup>34</sup> where it has remained ever since. The collection was estimated at 40,000 volumes in 1976, and for a while, despite the shortage of funds, it benefitted from the excellent collaboration between the new director and the librarian in planning acquisitions for the Institute. An undergraduate sequence of courses in medieval studies was inaugurated in fall 1976, and while it did not really take off for about ten years, this addition to the Institute programs eventually affected the Medieval Institute Library. As predicted,<sup>35</sup> it produced a sharp increase in the reference service required, although it was not yet realized at the early stages that it would also impact upon the selection of materials for the Institute; for example, large numbers of translations of primary sources were first acquired in the 1980s. The brief period of expansion came to an end with Russell's departure in August 1977, and for a whole year, Berkhout (who had recently acquired faculty status within the library structure) found his duties expanded in matters related to the operation of the Medieval Institute when he became deputy to Acting Director Robert Burns, associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

That year also saw the beginning of two major changes affecting the collection:

The year's most notable development was the purchase of the Milton V. Anastos Library in Los Angeles. Apart from the Harvard/Dumbarton Oaks Collection, the Anastos Library is unquestionably the richest Byzantine collection in the United States, currently

amounting to over 30,000 volumes...Its accession during the next decade or so will add a wholly new dimension to our medieval strengths at Notre Dame.<sup>36</sup>

This collection has not yet come to Notre Dame, although there is close cooperation with Mr. Anastos who is still enriching it, and the records of newly acquired materials are entered into Notre Dame's online public catalog.

The other major achievement was the successful application for a large grant from the Mellon Foundation to begin cataloging the western manuscripts in the Ambrosiana Collection. There were additional funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and in the 1980s, the Samuel S. Kress Foundation was supporting the cataloging of the Renaissance drawings in the Ambrosiana Collection. These projects brought new staff to the Medieval Institute, with new demands on the collection and the physical layout of the Institute. There were already many resource materials associated with the Ambrosiana, but such acquisitions were drastically boosted to support both cataloging projects. Thus the collection has become very strong in materials dealing with developments in northern Italy in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and with Renaissance drawings in general. In 1982-83, Louis Jordan was coordinating both projects for the Ambrosiana materials and together with Robert Coleman, now a member of the Art Department, he organized a travelling exhibit of master drawings from the Ambrosiana in Milan.<sup>37</sup> Three volumes of the catalog of western manuscripts have appeared to date, and there is a substantial computerized database of information available for the Renaissance drawings.

The year 1978-79 saw many changes for the Medieval Institute. Robert C. Miller was the new director of libraries, Ralph M. McNerny the new director of the Institute and George Sereiko, assistant director for public services, became acting librarian for the Institute in March 1979. The position of professional librarian within the Institute was put on hold until its new organization could be clarified, although David Sparks, the former director of libraries, did serve as librarian for a brief period.

The report of the director for public services for 1979-80 records the following structural changes:

The Library Administration entered into a new relationship with the Medieval Institute with regard to providing for its needs for library services and materials. During the past year, the Library gradually turned over to a member of the Institute's staff [Dr. Christine Eder] the primary responsibility for collection building and the provision of information to its unique clientele. The Library retained for itself the responsibility to acquire and to process library materials for the use of the Institute and the ownership of all materials purchased with funds assigned to the Library.

This was an unusual set-up, presumably prompted by particular circumstances, and it ended when Dr. Louis Jordan, who had been associated closely with the Ambrosiana Collection when he was a graduate student in the Institute, assumed the duties of institute librarian in the Fall of 1980.

Jordan promptly set out to repair the damage created by several years of confusion, in particular to reinstate a number of vital journal and monograph subscriptions which had been inadvertently canceled in the early 1970s, including the Leonine edition of the works of Thomas Aquinas and the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* set.<sup>38</sup> The Institute received a major transfer of materials, from the general collection, associated with medieval philosophy and theology, involving some 4,000 volumes, a shift which was not completed until October 31, 1986.<sup>39</sup>

The preservation of Medieval Institute materials became a matter of concern. Worrisome "brown spots" on some of the negative microfilms prompted careful chemical investigation which led in turn to the meticulous cleaning of the film, which was then stored in protective, acid-free boxes. (In 1985, the negative films of the Ambrosiana Collection were finally brought down to the more stable climatic conditions of the Rare Book Room.) The Ambrosiana photographic materials were similarly provided with protective sleeves in 1981-82. There was a conscious effort to have the damaged spines and covers of books replaced or repaired, especially for important reference materials, such as the *Acta Sanctorum*. Custom-made acid-free boxes were provided for the large folders of paleography materials and other valuable damaged items which could not safely be repaired. Wider shelves were installed to better support the large quantities of oversize books in several areas of the stacks. By this date, the Medieval Institute

Library included the Maritain Center collection, and these materials also needed archival protection.<sup>40</sup> In 1991, recognizing the importance internationally of the Medieval Institute collection as a resource for research, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the University Libraries a three-year grant of more than \$629,000 to begin preserving the content of embrittled scholarly volumes in that collection by microfilming those printed before 1950.

The collections continued to expand in a variety of ways. A concerted effort was made to contact hundreds of European publishers in order to secure their relevant catalogs thus facilitating and improving book selection. In 1982, a project to trade duplicates with the library of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, was initiated by Professor Billanovich of that university. This proved to be a worthwhile enterprise, securing for the Institute several hundred out-of-print volumes by European publishers.

In the fall of 1983, "the library's collections were further enriched by the generosity of Dr. Astrik L. Gabriel who donated a collection on medieval universities which consists of microfilms of manuscripts, his notes and papers on the subject, photographs, and plaster impressions of medieval seals. The librarian compiled a 20-page bibliography which was added to the dedicatory pamphlet that marked the occasion of the receipt of this gift."<sup>41</sup> This bibliography was in fact a listing of the microfilms in the Medieval Universities collection, thus providing this useful information in readily available format.<sup>42</sup>

Approval plans set up in the 1980s by the Collection Development Division of the University Libraries, in particular the Harrasowitz Plan for books published in Germany, have regularly provided materials for the Medieval Institute collection. The collections have also benefitted from a change in the handling of income from restricted endowments instituted by Collection Development. The goal of this action was to "[utilize] these endowments to acquire retrospective and expensive materials in the subjects that are beyond the capacity of the current allocation."<sup>43</sup> Thus, Jordan, the Medieval Institute bibliographer, was made responsible for the Corbett fund, as well as the Conway endowment when it was received some years later. In recent years, the faculty of the Medieval Institute, however, has been very active in planning the use of these financial resources.

During the 1980s, several conferences and summer institutes held at Notre Dame made the Institute even better known in the wider scholarly community, so that the number of visitors increased steadily, some scholars even electing to spend extended periods here in order to avail themselves of the superior library resources.

The summer of 1985 saw a new director in the Institute, John Van Engen, of the History Department. He soon instituted a special Medieval Institute Library Committee to promote greater faculty interest in the well-being of this important research collection.

The latter part of the 1980s witnessed the wholesale introduction of technology into the Medieval Institute Library. Microfilm and microfiche readers had long been familiar equipment, and the Ambrosiana cataloging projects made effective use of personal computers at a very early stage in their development, but this was different: all patrons were affected when public access to the libraries' UNLOC system was made available on August 24, 1987. For the Medieval Institute this was soon followed by another remarkable development in technology: the capability for full-text searching on CD-ROM using the IBYCUS system, which gave ready access to the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, i.e., to the texts written by most Greek authors into the medieval period (another CD-ROM searchable by this system contains classical Latin texts and the Vulgate version of the Bible). During the winter 1992-93, this was supplemented by the installation of new equipment to allow the searching of the database of the *Cetedoc Library of Christian Latin Texts*, soon to be followed no doubt by many such specialized aids to scholarship.

Thus, through the support of generous donors and the hard work of the staff throughout the libraries, the Medieval Institute collection continues to grow in both its traditional and new formats. Better ways to serve the faculty and students at Notre Dame and the wider community of medieval scholars are constantly being sought. The sum total of the diverse efforts of the librarians and scholars directly associated with the Institute has yielded an outstanding and well-maintained collection which is admired and envied by its many visitors.

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1. *Notre Dame Alumnus* 11 (Dec. 1932): 76.

2. And the grandfather of William J. Corbett, III, currently the University pilot at Notre Dame.
3. Notre Dame Financial, Budget, Cost & Statistical Reports, Quarterly Report of March 15, 1934 and Annual Report of June 15, 1934, URPT, UNDA. I wish to thank the staff of the Archives of the University of Notre Dame, especially Peter Lysy, for invaluable expert assistance in researching the origins of the Institute.
4. "William J. Corbett Jr.," folder, UDEV (development), UNDA.
5. "Syllabus of Graduate Courses in Medieval Studies offered by the University of Notre Dame," 1934-35, PNDP 40-ME-01, UNDA.
6. "Certain Needs of the UND...Recommended to the Carnegie Corp.," Oct. 4, 1934, UPOH, 67, UNDA.
7. AR, 1937-38, 5.
8. UPHO, 87/18, UNDA.
9. "Memorandum on a Medieval Institute," 3, UODL, 24/47, UNDA.
10. AR, 1945-46, 4.
11. Ibid., 3.
12. Wilson/Lundy, 108.
13. Brother John Federowicz, C.S.C., "Forces Affecting the Deveopment of Libraries at the University of Notre Dame, 1843-1968" (Master's thesis, Kent State University, 1968), 116.
14. AR, Reference Department, 6.
15. Lazenby also had to supervise the proper shelving of books and, when necessary, he searched high and low for apparently missing items. Such a "missing" item was even once found in the "Grill," that is, the locked cage in which books on the *Index of Forbidden Books* were safely preserved from inquiring minds (until Vatican II rendered the concept obsolete).
16. AR, Medieval Institute, 1955-56, 1-2.
17. Ibid., 7.
18. Recently acquired from Yale University.
19. A gift of the Grace Fund: AR, Medieval Institute, 1955-56, 6.
20. Ibid., 7-8.
21. As the Medieval Institute collection is called on page 4 of the pamphlet, published in 1990, describing the Medieval Institute.
22. AR, Medieval Institute, 1956-57, 9.
23. Published in *Rapports I: Méthodologie, Histoire des universités, Histoire des prix avant 1750*, XIe Congrès International des Sciences Historiques, Stockholm, 21-29 août 1960 (Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1960), 97-143; see AR, Medieval Institute, 1960-61, 1-2.
24. Louis Jordan and Susan Wool, eds., *Inventory of Western Manuscripts in the Biblioteca Ambrosiana. Part one: A-B Superior* (Notre Dame, Ind., University of Notre Dame Press, 1984), xi.

25. AR, Medieval Institute, 1963-64, 4.
26. AR, Medieval Institute, 1965-66, 3; see the floor plan of the seventh floor in the 1970 *Guide to the University of Notre Dame Libraries*, which shows also the sequence of four offices right next to the reading room, as well as what was called the Medieval Institute Annex, i.e., the open stacks where circulating books were shelved. The second office from the north, facing the main entrance to the reading room, was and still is for the librarian.
27. AR, Medieval Institute, 1972-73, 4, 9, 10.
28. AR, Medieval Institute, 1973-74, 3.
29. Ibid., 5-7.
30. AR, Medieval Institute, 1973-74, 8.
31. AR, Medieval Institute, 1974-75, 4.
32. Ibid., 5-6.
33. Ibid., 2.
34. AR, Medieval Institute, 1975-76, 2-3.
35. Ibid., 5-6.
36. AR, Medieval Institute, 1977-78, 6-7.
37. AR, Medieval Institute, 1982-83, 3.
38. AR, Medieval Institute, 1980-81, 1.
39. Ibid., 2, and the appendix on the *Medieval Institute Project Statistics*, to AR, Circulation/Stacks Services Department, 86-87.
40. AR, Medieval Institute, 1981-82, 4-5.
41. AR, Special Services and Collections Division, 1983-84, 9.
42. Astrik L. Gabriel, *History of Universities Collection* (Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame, 1983). Pamphlet.
43. AR, Collection Development Division, 1983-84, 4-5.