

zation, he had previously served as an advisor to the United States delegation at the conference that founded it (1945), had chaired the American delegation to the UNESCO Inter-Governmental Copyright Conference in Geneva (1952), and had been a member of its executive board (1949-53). He left UNESCO in 1958 and until 1962 held a variety of consulting positions or project directorships at the University of Texas, the Brookings Institution, and the National Education Association. He then joined the staff of Columbia University as director of its library's international and legal collections. He retired from Columbia in 1971, but remained active in the work of the United Nations Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Association for the World University, and other internationally minded organizations.

Election to membership in the American Antiquarian Society, in October 1945, followed Evans's appointment as librarian of Congress. Although he held AAS in high regard, his association with the Society was not an active one.

Luther Evans died on December 23, 1981, in San Antonio, Texas, where he had lived since 1977. His wife, Helen (Murphy) Evans, whom he married on September 12, 1925, survives him as do his son, Gill C. Evans, three sisters, and two brothers.

John B. Hench

FREDERICK RICHMOND GOFF

Frederick R. Goff died in London, September 26, 1982, of complications following a heart attack he had suffered a few days earlier. Only sixty-six at the time of his death (he was born April 23, 1916, in Newport, Rhode Island), he had a rare book career that spanned almost fifty years. In 1935, while an undergraduate at Brown University, he began to work with Margaret Bingham Stillwell on her Second Census

of *Incunabula in American Libraries*, continuing this association full-time after he received his bachelor's degree in 1937. In her autobiography, *Librarians Are Human*, Miss Stillwell tells of meeting nineteen-year-old Fred—'he was the youngest-looking junior I had ever seen'—and how in the course of time she arranged for him to major in incunabula and to receive credit towards his master's degree (awarded from Brown in 1939) for his work on the Census. For his thesis he wrote a monograph on 'The Dates in Certain German Incunabula,' which was published by the Bibliographical Society of America in 1940 both in its *Papers* and separately.

In 1940 he left Brown University to become an assistant to Arthur Houghton, the recently appointed curator of the rare book collection at the Library of Congress. Busy with other interests, Houghton had arranged to work only two days a week and by 1941 had left the library. Fred was promoted to assistant chief, then to acting chief, and in 1945 to chief. Twenty-nine at the time he became the division's chief, he remarked later that he was called the 'boy chief' by some of his much older colleagues. A 1945 letter from librarian of Congress Luther Evans, congratulating him on his 'wonderful job' on the Rosenwald exhibit and catalogue, is addressed 'Dear Freddie.' He remained Freddie to many of the people who had known him in the 1930s and 1940s.

At the Library of Congress he continued to develop a specialization in fifteenth-century books, basing many of his publications on the library's substantial holdings. During his tenure the collection of incunabula grew to more than 5,600, the largest holding in the Western hemisphere. He identified the library's incunabula in *Fifteenth Century Books in the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1950) and in 1957 was asked by the Bibliographical Society of America to undertake the preparation of a Third Census of *Incunabula in American Libraries*. Miss Stillwell, who in turning down the editorship of the Third Census four years earlier had suggested that Fred be

asked to take on the responsibility, made available to him the annotated records she had accumulated since 1940. The Third Census was published in 1964. The extent of coverage, the accuracy, the tremendous amount of information packed into the brief entries, and the invaluable indexes and concordance made the Third Census one of the references most frequently used by incunabulists, scholars, collectors, and bookdealers. Although the Census was published by the Bibliographical Society of America, the work in preparing it was carried out at the Library of Congress. The 1968 *Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress* noted that the Rare Book Division 'serves in effect as the National Union Catalog for 15th-century books in American collections.'

The citation 'Goff' came to mean the Census, despite the tremendously long list of articles and books Fred produced over the years, leading off with his master's thesis and continuing to his death. An article from his pen appeared in every volume of the *Gutenberg Jabrbuch* from 1955 through 1978. After he had suffered one of his more severe heart attacks, in his typically thorough way, Fred asked me to keep on file a curriculum vitae in which he had listed his honors, affiliations, major publications, and articles. In looking at the four and a half page, single-spaced listing of his publications one is struck by the range of subjects he treated. The list, long as it is, does not include fifty contributions to the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal*. Seemingly without effort, Fred would speak to groups on any subject that brought them to the division—economics, mathematics, Africana, music, children's books, American bindings, and women's rights, to name but a few. He conducted interviews on the intermission programs during the broadcasts of early Library of Congress concerts. In 1954 he appeared on 'This Is Your Life' when actor Jean Hersholt, donor of Hans Christian Andersen, Sinclair Lewis, and Hugh Walpole collections, was the guest on this popular program.

If incunabula was Fred's first specialization, Americana was

surely the second. While at Brown University he met with Lawrence Wroth, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, one afternoon a week to talk about rare books in the great collection. In 'The Author As Octogenarian' (*Brown Alumni Monthly*, December 1970) Fred said of Wroth that he 'served as my mentor for nearly 30 years' and 'indoctrinated me in the disciplines and pleasures of bibliography as applied to Americana just as Miss Stillwell had introduced me to the reference sources for the study of incunabula.' Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish appointed Wroth to the position of consultant in the acquisition of rare books in 1943. During a ten-year association (1943-53) Fred and Wroth exchanged correspondence on an almost weekly basis, discussing recommendations that had been submitted for review. In a tribute to Wroth written at the time of his retirement from the John Carter Brown Library in 1957, Fred 'acknowledge[d] publicly the great obligation to Mr. Wroth that I shall always sense.' He edited a Festschrift, *Essays Honoring Lawrence C. Wroth* (Portland, Maine, 1951), that is considered one of the best of its genre. One of the last of Fred's major publications was *The John Dunlap Broadside; the First Printing of the Declaration of Independence* (1976), produced as part of the Library of Congress program honoring the bicentennial of the American Revolution. For this study seventeen copies of the Dunlap printing were brought together in Washington for direct comparison. Fred became familiar with the early printings of the Declaration during the years he and Wroth sought copies for the library's collections and in his later years became the expert who authenticated the newly discovered copies of the Dunlap printing.

Of all the accomplishments of his thirty-two year career at the Library of Congress, Fred took perhaps the most pleasure from his association with the library's greatest rare book donor, Lessing J. Rosenwald, whose magnificent collection of illustrated books came to the library in a series of gifts, com-

mencing in 1943, not long after Fred came to the Rare Book Division, and ending only with the donor's death in 1979. In a letter to Rosenwald announcing his plans to retire, Fred quoted Yale Librarian Jim (James T.) Babb, who had once said to him, 'After all Lessing Rosenwald made your job.' Certainly in terms of additions to the collections during Fred's tenure Rosenwald 'made' his job, leaving aside the warm personal relationship that developed between the two men. At the time Fred announced his retirement in 1972 Rosenwald organized a dinner in his honor at the Grolier Club for eighty friends. In his remarks on that occasion Rosenwald said of Fred, 'I can almost say that he has become a son of mine; but the usual Father-Son relationship has in this case been reversed. . . . I owe him a debt of gratitude for his splendid advice, wise counsel, and close friendship.'

As Fred frequently lamented, his acquisitions budget rarely exceeded \$2,000 a year, though things were somewhat better during Lawrence Wroth's association with the library. With the \$2,000 and gifts—most notably the Rosenwald Collection—he was able to write a lively annual acquisitions report in the *Quarterly Journal* in a virtually unbroken run from 1943 to 1971. Many of the great acquisitions of those years are described in a catalogue the library published in 1978, in the compilation of which Fred played a major role: *The Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection: A Catalog of the Gifts of Lessing J. Rosenwald to the Library of Congress, 1943 to 1975*.

When he retired in 1972 Fred accepted an appointment as honorary consultant for early printed books, serving in that capacity until his death. He said then and many times afterwards that he didn't want to get in his successor's way. In *The Delights of a Rare Book Librarian* (Boston, 1975) he expressed this concern again: 'Since my retirement I return to the Library of Congress from time to time, but I hope not too often to become a nuisance to my successor.' Of course, rather than being a nuisance, he was a key to the division's collections and had

such a superb memory that he was called on regularly for information about specific books, collectors, divisional history, and countless other areas that intersected with his wide-ranging interests. As honorary consultant he continued his close relationship with Lessing Rosenwald and served as liaison between the library and H. P. Kraus on the arrangements for the presentation of another great rare book gift in 1980, the Sir Francis Drake collection of Hans P. and Hanni Kraus.

Fred's long list of honors included a doctor of letters degree from Brown University in 1965. He was made an honorary member of the Grolier Club in 1979, having been elected to membership in 1941, and an honorary fellow of the Pierpont Morgan Library in 1978. He gave the 1968 Lew D. Feldman Lecture at the University of Texas and the 1974 Bromsen Lecture at the Boston Public Library, and received the Sir Thomas More Medal for Book Collecting from the Gleeson Library Associates, San Francisco University, in 1974. His long list of bibliographical, scholarly, and bibliophilic affiliations leads off alphabetically with the American Antiquarian Society, to which he was elected in 1949. He served on the Committee of Management, Brown University, as chair of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries in 1961, as president of the Bibliographical Society of America in 1968-70, and as a member of the Visiting Committee of Carnegie-Mellon University.

The Fred Goff I knew was the elder statesman, not the chief so young that he addressed Lessing Rosenwald as 'Mr. Rosenwald' for eighteen years after he took the job. Though I kept in close touch with Fred during the almost ten years he served as honorary consultant for early printed books, I worked with him in an official capacity for only six months, from June through December 1971. When I joined the Library of Congress's rare book staff as assistant to the chief, I had been the head of my own, smaller operation at Washington University in Saint Louis for ten years. It took adjusting to be someone

else's assistant and as I think back on the period I realize it must have been trying for Fred to have someone on his staff with all kinds of ideas for 'improving' things. He was used to running his own show and liked things the way they were. As it worked out, we didn't have an occasion to follow up on my suggestions. The principal acquisitions officer in the department office took a year's leave of absence and I stepped into that job on a temporary basis, thinking that a knowledge of the library's acquisitions program was sure to be useful in the Rare Book Division. Halfway through my one-year stint Fred retired, having had the first warning of the heart problem that was to complicate the last years of his life.

When I try to recall our brief, formal association I remember before anything else Fred's phone conversations. He had no office in a conventional sense, but instead sat behind a low glass partition in an area that led into the rare book stacks. I learned on the first day that anything he said was heard by everyone in the Reading Room. Fred had a big voice and wasn't going to be found whispering in his own division. His phone conversations revealed a social side to our 'boss' that most of us on the staff never got to know outside the division. Fred's social calendar was active beyond anything I had encountered in my life in libraries. The phone exchanges not infrequently ended with his asking whether the event to which he had been invited was black tie. At times there was talk of dancing, which he clearly was very good at, and in accepting invitations to other, presumably less strenuous evenings, he would ask about the composition of the bridge table. Though at first I found it hard to reconcile the two Freds—the scholar and the social being—I came to see that Fred was such good company that any occasion could become a social one. In Miss Stillwell's account of her work with Fred and another young assistant on the Second Census she says that 'on occasion we would take time out for a brief ice cream party and the room would ring with merry laughter.' Fred's laugh was one of the things his

friends will remember best about him. He always seemed to be having a good time. It's hard to recall a time during the eleven years I knew him when he wasn't laughing and in good humor, even when his health had slowed him down.

When he left for London on September 15, 1982, Fred intended to meet with incunabula specialists at the British Library to talk about the 'British Goff,' an automated file of incunabula holdings based on his Census. In the *Library*, September 1982, Lotte Hellinga explains that the revised edition (1973) of the Census was chosen as the base for the file, 'since it had proved itself as an excellent and very popular bibliographical tool.' In this machine-readable form the Goff Census is being enriched with records of books not found in the United States. Fred left no instructions for the disposition of the information he had gathered for the second supplement to his Census. His brother, Francis S. Goff, Jr., his only close surviving relative, is making every effort to ensure that the file is turned over to a person who will continue to gather holding reports on North American incunabula.

Fred lived in Washington, D.C., from 1940 until his death. He was buried in the family cemetery in Rhode Island. The Library of Congress plans to have a Frederick R. Goff Memorial Collection in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division to house books donated in his memory or purchased with contributions from his friends and colleagues. As requested by Fred, the library is arranging to have Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet played in his memory at one of the Coolidge Auditorium concerts.

Fred was a unique figure in the world of rare books, whose memory will live on, as have the books that were his first and lasting love.

William Matheson

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.