

Collections Committee and Library Report for October 6th 2012

Last month Emily Fuchs brought into the library a rolled set of landscape plans from the former Dunham estate in Seal Harbor. The plans include an 1898 plan by Beatrix Jones, three subsequent plans for the Dunham garden by the Olmsted Brothers (with Jones' notes written on them), one Olmsted blueprint for a gate, and one tracing plan that is unidentified. The donors were Edith Dunham Crowley and her two sisters. I have unrolled the plans and placed acid-free tissue paper between them, and placed them in a very large folder. The plans are too large for our flat file, so I have cleared off a shelf in the library office. The Deed of Gift has not been signed, so we do not yet own the plans.

Recently I had an opportunity to buy a collection of books with both Beatrix Farrand's and Mary Cadwalader Jones' bookplates and/or signatures in them. The titles were mostly by Henry James, with several Edith Wharton volumes and four others. The books were priced from \$125 to \$1000 – almost \$5000 for the complete group. After informal discussion with several BFS board members we reached the conclusion that while BFS does collect books owned by Beatrix Farrand and her family, we are not in a position to purchase whole collections unless individual "friends of Farrand" buy and donate the books to us. Here are some books at Lippincott that would add value and depth to our library:

From the Morning Room List:

Royal Palaces and Gardens. By Mina Nixon, London: A & C Black, 1916. VG+ \$125

Beatrix Farrand bookplates in Henry James:

The American Scene. London: Chapman and Hall, 1909. First edition. With Beatrix Farrand bookplate. \$125

The Middle Years. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917. First American edition. With B. F. bookplate. \$125

Partial Portraits. London: Macmillan. 1888. First Edition. With "M. C. J. May, 1888" initialed on the front free endpaper and Beatrix Farrand's bookplate on the front pastedown. Portraits of literary figures of the day, including a chapter on Constance Woolson, one of James' closest female friends. \$150.00

The Private Life: The Wheel of Time. Lord Beaupre. The Visits. Collaboration. Owen Wingrave. London: James R. Osgood. 1893. First Edition. Initialed by Jones on front free endpaper: "M. C. J. Paris, 1895." In addition, Beatrix Farrand's bookplate is affixed to the front pastedown. \$175

The "Heroes, Friends, Family and Clients" display is now up in the Reception Room. Judith Tankard provided many of the images. We have a separate image of Agnes Milliken which will be hung near the landscape plan of her garden.

Many visitors express an interest in the landscape plans for the Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor. We have two large, framed photographs of the garden which we could hang in the long hallway along with all fourteen of the landscape plans. We would need better lighting in the hallway. (Comments on this plan would be appreciated.)

During the off-season I hope to finish doing a shelf inventory, as well as completing the bookplate project. Val Libby has agreed to help me.

Marti Harmon