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## Lux et Lex: Volume 2, Number 2

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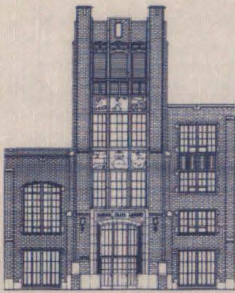


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# Lux et Lex

"By the light of knowledge we read the laws of life"

Volume 2 Number 2

Chester Fritz Library University of North Dakota

April 1992

## Vivat Vivat Rex

In 1870, by order of Queen Victoria, a royal commission was organized, "to examine extant manuscript collections of civil, religious, literary or historical significance that were being held in libraries, abbeys, manors, castles and private collections in Great Britain." This became a monumental task, requiring 43 years to complete. What the Commission found was a veritable treasure trove of English history, from the Norman Conquest to the nineteenth century. Detailed documents, private correspondence, state papers, and even personal expense records give a glimpse of England and Europe rarely found in text books or monographs. Many of the documents had never been open to public view before the Commission's work began.

The Chester Fritz Library houses the collection, *Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts* which contains 162 original sets, bound into 72 hardcover volumes. It would be impossible to accurately and briefly detail the entire collection. A representative sample has been selected to highlight the social, political, and religious life of Great Britain and Europe during the Medieval and Early Modern periods. The selected material demonstrates the wide variety of information available within these reports. The title, *Report*, is quiet misleading because these documents are not just simple reports of available materials, but excerpts and in most cases, entire transcripts of original documents.

The political life of Great Britain is interwoven throughout the entire collection, but one particular set exemplifies England's political life during one of its most turbulent periods. "The Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Marquis of Salisbury," a part of the Ninth Report of the Commission, is a twelve volume set chronicling the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The papers of William Cecil, Lord Burghley and his son, Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, detail the lives of two of the most powerful political figures of the Elizabethan era. The period covered by this collection was pre-eminently one of conspiracy, intrigue, and general unrest throughout Europe; not the least of all England, Scotland, and Ireland. Personal correspondence between Elizabeth, her advisors, and many powerful European figures give an intimate glimpse into the life of one of history's most influential monarchs. The attention to detail in the transcription of documents is magnificent. A short letter from Henry IV of France to Elizabeth is a classic example: "1591, June 13 - Thinking that in the account of his affairs by De Reau there are particulars which she would rather hear form one of her own servants, he has instructed Grimston to accompany him, and begs the Queen to excuse the lib-

erty." The inclusion of such a minor piece of correspondence shows the depth of detail involved in the compilation of the reports.

The social life of England is detailed in the Fifteenth Report, number 55, an eight volume set covering thirty-three private collections portraying English life over an extended period. Charter rolls, council books, guild registers, and letter books recreate for us the daily lives of the common people. An example of the entries included is: "Records of Quarter Sessions in the County of Wilts" - 1612, "The

constable of Calne made a strong representation in favour of reducing the number of ale-houses, and diminishing the strength of the ale, so that it may be sold for a penny a quart, otherwise the sinne of drunkenness will never be avoyed, men are so bewitched with the sweetness of strong lycoure."

In the 13th century artisans and craftsmen organized into guilds to set standards of quality and price for their work. The Berwick-Upon-Tweed records contain the complete guild registers for the town and detail all actions, including the levying of fines and imprisonment of citizens who, "myseuse on behaff them selff, tres-

sesepes or brekyng of the ordenaunces, stattuets of the mene of the gilde."

A number of the Reports transcribe cathedral and parish registers, the majority of which are birth and death records, clergy appointments, land grants, and penance fines upon reprobates. The "Records of the Bishop of London," (no 55, Vol 7), depicts a powerful and sometimes corrupt institution, giving new meaning to the term "churchwardens." Parishioners were "enjoined to be sorry for their offenses", and pay a fine or were given worse punishment. John Kepas, for example, was committed to the stocks for refusing, "to convey Agnes Smythe, great with child, out of his house." In another section of the church records some depositions of witchcraft are found against a Mr. Bruarne, "who hath a famylar, which often in company would stryke on the shyntnes or elleswhere."

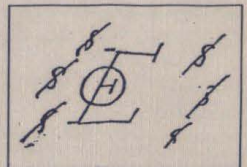
In conclusion, the research value of such a collection is incalculable and the subject indexing of the bound volumes meticulously details the contents of the manuscripts. This collection is a wellspring of primary source documentation for English and European history and has significant research potential for the serious scholar.

Thomas M. Mulhern, Special Collections

Delores Clark, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Control



Royal Seal of England.



Elizabeth I Signature.



## The Chester Fritz Legacy

March 25, 1992, commemorates the centennial of the birth of Chester Fritz, generous benefactor of the University of North Dakota. Fritz initiated his philanthropy in 1950 with a donation of \$10,000 to the University Development Fund. This was followed by gifts for scholarships, professorships, a library and graduate study area, and an auditorium, gifts which totaled nearly three million dollars by the time of his death in 1983. Fritz remarked at the dedication of the Chester Fritz Library, October 13, 1961, that, "I have preferred to give my contributions while I am still living; it means more to me to give 'with a warm hand'."

Fritz's "warm hand" contributed one million dollars for the construction of a new library building. In 1957, Fritz sent his proposal to UND President, George Starcher, in which he outlined his gift and acknowledged a profound indebtedness. He wrote, "In appreciation of what my native State of North Dakota did in furnishing the foundations of my academic education, and in appreciation of the important and ever-widening service of the University to the entire state, I am herewith submitting a proposal which I hope will enlarge the educational and cultural opportunities for subsequent students coming to my alma mater."

Fritz believed that "an adequate library adds immeasurably to the greatness of a university; it raises the level of scholarship in all phases of university work." He was adamant that his gift was for a library building only. It was Fritz's hope that the state legislature and other funding sources, such as interested alumni, would provide "sufficient funding" for the acquisition of new library materials.

The idea of approaching Fritz to finance a library building came from two people, Katherine Macdonald Tiffany, Fritz's aunt and retired English professor, and President Starcher. In 1954, Tiffany met with Starcher after listening to his impressive speech addressed to a Chicago alumni group in which he stressed the University's need for a new library building. That meeting launched a lengthy and detailed correspondence between the two in which they formulated their concept of an academic library to present to Fritz, and later planned the library building itself.

Tiffany wrote to Starcher in September 1957 that Fritz's mind was "fertile soil for the library idea," for he had developed a deep appreciation and respect for books. "When only three or four, he would sit on the davenport beside an aunt and apparently listen intently for an hour or two to the reading of such stories as Longfellow's *Evangeline* and even Milton's *Comus*." During his high school years, his library books were "always kept on a little shelf below Webster's *Unabridged Dictionary* but the luxury of reading them was never indulged in until after he had completed preparations for the next



Fritz as a young boy.

day's lessons." Fritz obeyed his aunt's watchful discipline over his studies. Fritz lived with his aunt, and his uncle Neil Macdonald, in Lidgerwood, ND, after the disappearance of his mother in 1905 and until he graduated from high school in 1908.

Fritz delivered but a brief address at the Library dedication in 1961, the second and last occasion he was to visit the campus after his student days. In 1951, he had accepted an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The dedication was an emotional moment in his life, so much so that he stated, "my cup is full, yes, running over." Fritz expressed his "hope that this will become a library of distinction, a library that will be a working center for ideas — not a place where immature boys and girls may play at studying, or where they may idly sit and 'observe the passing scene.' But I hope it will be a center where purposeful men and women do serious work, in preparing themselves for the larger serious work of the future... This library represents a long reach into the future; and it is my fervent hope that it will bring appreciable benefits to many students, and faculty, and other people throughout my native state."

Chester Fritz continues to provide for the future of the Chester Fritz Library. In his last will and testament of December 1982, Fritz bequeathed one half of his residuary estate to the University of North Dakota for the two-fold "purpose of constructing an addition to the present Chester Fritz Library building, and for otherwise enhancing the value and increasing the usefulness of that library."

An addition to the Library had already been completed in 1982 with funding from the state legislature. Enhancement of the value of the Library and an increase to its usefulness waited until 1988. It was then that President Thomas Clifford designated \$600,000 from the Fritz endowment to initiate what was to become ODIN (Online Dakota Information Network), the library automation system of the North Dakota Higher Education Computer Network. In retrospect, President Clifford provided both the genesis for ODIN in 1983 when he included library automation in UND's Academic Computing Plan, and the foresight to recognize the benefits which would accrue to the entire state from an automated library system.

In 1992, ODIN is a resource sharing network consisting of twenty libraries in North Dakota and is linked with similar state-wide library networks in South Dakota and Minnesota, for access to a combined total of more than seven million titles. Thus, the benefits of Chester Fritz's endowment have spread beyond the campus walls, as he had hoped. Through ODIN, Fritz's legacy touches not only the people of his native state, but the people of the Northern Plains region as well.

Sandy Beldler

Special Collections



Chester Fritz at the Library dedication October 13, 1961.

## Distinguishing marks

In keeping with Chester Fritz's appreciation of the book, six carved limestone panels grace the tower of the Chester Fritz Library. Each panel is a rendering of five distinguishing printers' marks used by early printers who significantly contributed to the development of book design. The sixth lower left panel, with its quill pen, ink well, scroll, and most commonly illuminated letter, "B," represents early forms of the book, the scroll and manuscript.

The renderings were designed in 1960 by Professor Robert A. Nelson, chairman of the UND Art Department, from suggestions by Donald Pearce, Head Librarian. Pearce wrote to Katherine Tiffany in June 1960 that he believed the panels "will be very effective as decorative motifs for the building, and will stand as a fitting tribute to several of the early workers whom we now must thank for the multitude of books at our disposal." Nelson also created the large oil mural in the main reading room which depicts the history of North Dakota.

The upper left panel represents the printer's mark of William Caxton who established the first printing press in England in 1476. More importantly, he printed the first book in the vernacular, which stemmed from his long-held enjoyment of translating texts. His mark



Printers' marks, tower of the Chester Fritz Library.

consists of a central symbol flanked by a "W" which is preceded by an "S" and a "C" followed by another "C." The focus of scholarly debate, researchers suggest that the "W" and "C" stand for Caxton's initials, the center symbol for his mercer's mark from his years as a woolen merchant, and the "S" and "C" for Sancta Coloniae, or Cologne, Italy where he learned the printing trade.

The upper center panel of a compass on a book depicts the mark of Christopher Plantin, a Dutch printer from the middle 16th century.

*Tribute must be paid to early printers  
for the multitude of books at our disposal.*

Plantin advanced the idea of book-illustration and the large volume richly illustrated with copper-plate engravings instead of wood-cut block prints. He also commercialized the art of printing, taking it from a hand-craft of two or three presses to an industry of twenty-two presses, at the peak of his business. In addition, Plantin was printing's first merchandiser and his books, "The Golden Compasses," were distributed to all of Europe.

The upper right panel of two shields hanging from a tree bough represents the partnership mark of Johann Fust and his son-in-law, Peter Schöffer. Fust financed Gutenberg's printing venture (Gutenberg never used a printer's mark) and eventually foreclosed on it in 1455. Fust, along with Schöffer, carried on Gutenberg's legacy, the invention of the printing press and movable type and the ability to produce identical copies of texts at any one time.

The lower center panel depicts the printer's mark of Nicholas Jensen, a skilled French engraver. It consists of an orb and the cross of Lorraine, representing French sovereignty. Jensen, at one time Master of the Royal Mint at Tours, had approval by the royal family to use the mark. Jensen abandoned typefaces cut in manuscript style and pioneered and designed the legible typeface called Roman type which he printed for the first time in 1470.

The sixth and lower right panel symbolizes the printer's mark of Aldus Manutius. It consists of the anchor and dolphin, at the time, one of several symbols used for the Renaissance motto, "Make haste slowly." He utilized his mark for the first time when he established Aldine Press in 1502. Manutius recognized the need by university students for small portable volumes of classic works. His press published these in small octavo volumes instead of large folios, and at a reasonable price.

Thus, from the creative talents of these five printers, and others, the printing world had acquired the facilities to mass-produce and distribute reasonably priced, small, legible, illustrated volumes by the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Sandy Beldler

Special Collections



# Linkage between CFL and SBDC

Since 1985, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has offered free professional counseling services to existing and potential business owners throughout the state of North Dakota. Small Business Development Centers, created by an Act of Congress in 1980, are designed to provide management and technical assistance to potential and existing small business owners, thereby stabilizing the economy, developing jobs in the private sector and fostering the survival and growth of the free enterprise system. The North Dakota SBDC is the unique result of a partnership which includes the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the State of North Dakota, the University of North Dakota and the private sector. It consists of an administrative lead center at UND and five regional centers.

One facet of the mission of the Small Business Development Center is the integration of University system entities with the SBDC network. The Chester Fritz Library (CFL) offers a variety of valuable services which small business owners may access through contact with the SBDC regional directors. The SBDC's professional counselors, who have prior experience as small business owners/managers, are familiar with the services available through CFL. Their assistance, together with the services of SBDC student interns and research assistants, provide a link between the University system public sector and the statewide private sector.

Technology transfer is a term currently used to describe the exchange of information and ideas. The Chester Fritz Library, with its vast stores of information, also possesses the staff to facilitate effective technology transfer. CFL staff, together with SBDC research assistants and interns, assist SBDC clients in database searches for business information and market data, patent and trademark searches, and general research and information retrieval.

CFL staff assist SBDC clients with information searches of four free databases. The Business and Company ProFile is a database which provides comprehensive information pertaining to companies in all areas of the business world. The Magazine Index Plus furnishes text from over 430 periodicals. The Academic Index supplies information on the social sciences and humanities. The National Newspaper Index is a database which covers five major papers over the past four years. Searches of these various databases allows business owners to access timely information pertinent to individual business concerns.

The National Trade Databank (NTDB) is comprised of more than 100,000 documents, tables, and time series from 15 federal agencies. This extensive compilation allows the user to access information pertinent to export trade. The Foreign Traders Index (FTI) is included in the NTDB. The FTI explains how to search for foreign trade contracts through the Department of Commerce and the US & Foreign Commercial Service Foreign Traders Index Program.

Cooperation between CFL and the SBDC allows distribution of material to meet the information needs of a business. In today's business arena, information is a valuable resource. Accessing current information regarding competition, industry trends, and potential markets is crucial to effective management. SBDC counselors are a cross between a consultant and an educator who help clients understand business and assist clients to find their own solutions to business problems.

For those business owners who have developed products and are interested in protecting the product or process with a patent or copyright, the SBDC offers the service of patent and trademark searches. A knowledgeable research assistant will do a preliminary patent or trademark search based on information supplied by the developer or inventor. One 45-minute consultation confirmed that a North Dakota product was a candidate for a patent. As in every aspect of SBDC assistance, confidentiality is paramount.

The Chester Fritz Library offers a variety of general information services that are available at the business site through on-line search capabilities. SBDC regional directors are able to access the



NORTH DAKOTA  
SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

University system libraries, including the specialty libraries of law, engineering, and others by means of modem-equipped computers. A business owner is able to enter the University system libraries without leaving the business. Access to all libraries throughout the state is available through interlibrary loan services. Research librarians are willing to answer questions or assist in finding materials. Public sector entities, like CFL, are available to assist the private sector as well as the academic sector.

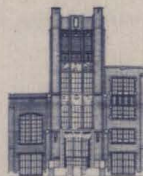
The Small Business Development Center program is designed to provide quality business and economic development assistance for small businesses to promote growth, expansion, innovation, increased productivity and management improvement. To accomplish these objectives, the SBDCs link resources of the University system and the private sector. The combination of these resources strives to meet the specialized and complex needs of the small business community.

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## *Lux et Lex*

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