

- (27) Williamsburg's contribution to Monticello. *Ibid.*, 29, 535-42, 1944.
- (28) William Embry Wrather—an appreciation. Amer. Assn. Petrol. Geologists, *Bull.* 28, No. 3, 1944 [reprinted for circulation by the Dallas Petroleum Geologists].
- (29) The Spirit of the Wilderness Road. [A Commencement address at Emory & Henry College, printed by the University Press, Southern Methodist University.] 15 pp.
- (30) *Rocks and Rivers of America*. (Humanizing Science Series, The Ronald Press), New York. 300 pp., 1945.
- (31) The South's need for graduate schooling. *Southwest Review* 33, 119-22, 1948.
- (32) A new elasmosaur from the Eagle Ford Shale of Texas. Part II. The elasmosaur and its environment. *Fondren Science Series*, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 1-32, 1950.

## Ellis W. Shuler and the University Libraries

*Robert Maxwell Trent*<sup>1</sup>

One day, forty years ago, curious folk in Cambridge could have seen a tall, thin young man pushing a wheelbarrow load of books across the Harvard Yard. The books, about 35 volumes of the U.S. Geological Survey reports, were the beginnings of the Southern Methodist University geological collection.

While teaching at Polytechnic College at Fort Worth, Mr. Shuler enrolled for a Harvard geology field trip into Colorado, led by the eminent William Morris Davis. With his faculty for making friends, young Shuler soon endeared himself to the Harvard professor. This friendship was one of the reasons for Shuler's later going to Harvard for his doctoral degree in geology.

The wheelbarrow load of books was stored on the top shelf of a closet in their tiny Cambridge apartment, for Mrs. Shuler had learned early that there must always be space for books, no matter what else was crowded out.

During Shuler's years in Cambridge, more books were added to the top shelf—second-hand volumes bought here and there, and an occasional gift from Professor Davis. After getting his doctorate, when Shuler was planning to come to the newly-founded Southern Methodist University, his professor-friend called him into the library of the Davis home and said abruptly, "Here, Shuler, take all of these

---

<sup>1</sup>Director of Libraries, Southern Methodist University.

books! You'll need them in Texas." (Davis did, however, hold out John Playfair's *Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth*, 1802, and it was years before the University was able to acquire a copy.) The books and other teaching collections were loaded into a freight car, filling it almost to the top, and it is rumored that in those days of small resources President Hyer strenuously objected to paying the freight bill of \$134.00. Times have changed: in view of the present prices of books, that seems a fantastically small price for some 1400 bound volumes, and over 10,000 reprints.

Thus the geology collection in the university library, of which we are so proud, owes its beginning to the interest of a famous geologist in his pupil. Included in this magnificent gift, which Dr. Shuler immediately made available to his students, were many items which a struggling young university in its first year of classes could not have dreamed of owning. In addition to the complete files of the U.S. Geological Survey publications, the first 12 volumes of the *Bulletin* of the Geological Society of America, and the complete run of the *American Geologist*, there were hundreds of monographs, studies, and papers by eminent geologists such as Lapparent, LeConte, Lyell, Dana, Jukes-Brown, Agassiz, Geike, Marcou, Viollet-le-duc, and Maury.

It would be an understatement to say that in the years that followed Dr. Shuler continued his interest in the library; rather, let us say that the library was one of his all-consuming interests—one part of his determination to help build Southern Methodist into a great University. In addition to the volumes which Dr. Shuler bought while in Cambridge and incorporated into the Davis gift, he contributed more and more of his own books to the library. In 1917 Dr. Shuler was appointed to the Library Committee, and for some twenty years continued as a member. Although personally more interested in geological literature, he recognized the need for a well-rounded library, and never sought to advance geology at the expense of any other field.

The university library gained from Dr. Shuler's gift for friendship, again, as the result of a correspondence that developed between him and Gilbert Floyd, an English writer and painter. Mr. Floyd, although he had never visited

Texas, became greatly interested in Dr. Shuler, Southern Methodist University, and Texas, and prowled old bookshops in England, to pick up volumes to send his American friend. These books sometimes illustrated points in the correspondence; but more often were just volumes that Floyd thought Dr. Shuler would like to have. Although none is extremely rare or valuable, the gifts included many early editions of literary works, interesting books on local history, and on exploration and travel.

The third instance in which Dr. Shuler's ability to make friends benefitted the university library was when Robert T. Hill developed a surprising liking for Dr. Shuler; surprising, in that Dr. Hill was fairly well known for a somewhat irascible disposition and a tendency to make enemies rather than friends. In 1930 Dean Shuler received from Dr. Hill a large box of Hill's own writings—books and pamphlets, reprints and papers. The most significant item is the "Annotated Bibliography of the Writings of Robert T. Hill, 1856-1930." This manuscript bibliography is copiously annotated by Hill, and contains many acidulous comments on contemporary geologists and their work. This collection is being withheld from public use until Dr. Shuler has written a study of the Texas geologist and his work.

This brief account of Ellis W. Shuler's contribution to the university library can have no better epilogue than a quotation from the letter which Robert T. Hill wrote Dean Shuler on January 16, 1930:

I have gone to this expense and trouble, and have deposited the collection with the Southern Methodist University at Dallas, which is greatly honored by having you as its Professor of Geology, because of your great and generous appreciation of my humble efforts in exploring the Geology of Texas, and because of my personal esteem of you as a scholar, a teacher, and a true Southern Gentleman.