

CVS417/3.6

WMS 5

Used

~~Nicholson~~, Bodley. (Quarterly Record)

Letter from F. Madan, Esq. to W.O.

Bodleian Library,
Oxford.

The Bodleian Record.

Dec. 4, 1913.

Used

Dear Sir William Osler,

I am very much obliged for your suggestion about a Bodleian Quarterly Record, to contain Notes and News.

Up to the present I have been working to get the chief Accessions printed, and part of that plan is, to allow us four extra quarto pages or so of Bodleian news. But I am bound to say that this plan (~~Accessions~~+Record) drags heavily, even in view of the time approaching when we shall have to settle the gigantic question of printing our Catalogue. I had hoped to work up to that through the Accessions+Record.

Now your timely suggestion may lead to a more modest but hardly ^{less} useful beginning.

It is only too patent that we are much behind the time in not printing more about ourselves. — Even the little University Library of St. Andrew's shows us the way with its Bulletin. — There is very little in evidence to show outsiders that we are alive. The Annual Report is somewhat stately, and nothing approaching to liveliness can possibly be allowed in it.

On Friday (to-morrow) I trust you will, if present, outline a modest scheme for a Quarterly Record (quarto 8 pages: or octavo 16 pages) which shall contain

1. Notes and News.
2. Some more or less solid centre piece: perhaps a list of interesting accessions or such a thing as the Report on the Chinese Collection, or the Bodley Memorial Service, or whatever may crop up: perhaps some unpublished letter: of the first of a series of Sir Thomas Bodley's letters in proper chronological order (they are all topsy turvy in the only printed edition).
3. Bodleian Records (change of personnel, Curators' prizes, promotions etc.)
4. One illustration. We can start with what we have for sale at the Arts End Window, involving hardly any expense, and go on to others as our circulation increases.

The price should be 6d. All readers would buy it, and many members of Convocation. The language, style, and contents should therefore be adapted for a wider circle than just the staff (who would receive it gratis) and the Readers. We ought to issue it in the week before each term and in July.

P.T.O. →

Continued from other side.

Can you bring this before the Standing Committee to-morrow, and make some suggestion about ways and means?

I do not forget that you first suggested the Bodley Memorial Service, the public opening of the Underground Bookstore, and the Exhibition of some of the Chinese Backhouse books (now in a case in the Picture Gallery).

I am,

Sincerely yours,

F. MADAN.