14 Moon - Room of Many Wonders

Tucked away in a corner of Moon Library's basement is a room where you can lose track of time. It is a clean, uncluttered room, yet its books give it an air of the past. Its temperature is controlled, so it always feels the same. And its chairs are comfortable, alluring you to relax and read for hours and forget time is passing. You need a key to get in, but once you've asked for it and entered, you're glad you decided to come.

This is the College's Rare Book Room. Officially, it is the Special Collections Room, which is actually the more descriptive name. Shelved there are not only books of historical worth relating to forestry, but books valuable dollarwise to the College, along with certain folios and original manuscripts.

The rare, historically important works provide the room with its unique atmosphere. On the shelves is H. R. Schoolcraft's famous multi-volume documentary, History, Conditions and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States, an 1853 edition. Frank Forester's Sporting Scenes and Characters dates from 1850. A two-volume set by Kirby and Spence entitled Introduction to Entomology is a now-delicate clothbound survivor of the year 1818. Two later volumes of this set came out in more durable leatherbound covers in 1826, having been delayed eight years by the continued ill health of one of the authors, which has devolved upon the other a considerable increase of labor.

Locked in a special case are the most important of Moon Library's historical pieces. Inside can be found letters and diaries of Robert Marshall, son of Louis Marshall, a former trustee of the College, whom Marshall Hall and Marshall Street were named, as well as the 1776 copy of Silva by Evelyn, a work now considered nearly priceless.

Most fascinating to a patron of Adirondackiana like myself will no doubt be a little guidebook printed in 1893, entitled simply The Adirondacks, by S. R. Stoddard. Within its covers is a vacationer's appraisal of the whole spectrum of late 19th century resort places in the region. Included are compact word pictures of nearly every town then in existence inside the boundaries of today's Adirondack Park. The back-of-the-book advertisements list hotel accommodations and rail rates. Names like Old Forge House, Arrowhead Inn, and Hotel Champlain still are pretty common in the North Country, but they aren't renting rooms for $14 per week any longer. Nor do they advertise "golf links," "good table," or "extra-broad piazzas." Being an ardent lover of railroads, I marvelled at the ads of the Chateaugay Railroad and the New York Central. The Chateaugay boasted trains with Wagner palace cars and Wagner drawing room

(continued on next page)
cars. The Central, then the nation's most powerful conglomerate transportation corporation, stated directly, on an otherwise blank page, "You can reach practically all the great resorts of America by the car lines of 'America's Greatest Railroad'." Their rates, one way from New York to Old Forge - $6.70. Round trip - $12.15. Little did Mr. Stoddard know that now, 88 years later, his book would still be as absorbing as it was to eager tourists around the turn of the century.

The first State study of the Adirondack region is also a fine historical piece. Verplanck Colvin's N. Y. State Adirondack Surveys, published in the 1870's is a diary-like account of the exploits of the party which made the first accurate map of the region. The books are also recognized as being the initiating factor in the drive to keep the Adirondacks "forever wild."

The room contains books of interest to non-historians, also. F. Hough's American Woods is a unique 13 volume set which contains, for each volume of wood descriptions, a corresponding volume containing actual wood samples of every tree discussed. Ridgway's Color Standards and Nomenclature, a book containing page after page of color samples, is extremely valuable to the botanist. By comparing plant samples to the color blocks therein, he is able to accurately record the true color of his specimen.

Oversize books with costly photographs which might be vandalized if left in the upstairs stacks, are stored safely in the Rare Book Room. Several Sierra Club nature books, along with pictorial indexes to flower and animal species, most with color pictures, may be found there.

The Kinsey sex survey, though not a picture book, can only be obtained from this room.

(continued on next page)
Materials in the room are listed in the card catalog, but are available only on a limited basis. Those which are circulating may be borrowed for one week. Other more valuable or sensitive materials are for use in the library only.

- Paul Hornak

**Summary of Student Council Meeting, February 24, 1971**

Victor Smith came before Council and proposed that a new group, calling themselves "Stumpies for Peace," be accepted as a member organization of the Council, with Club status. It was motioned that the new group should be recognized by the Student's Association. At this point in the meeting some discussion followed. Mr. Smith, in explaining what "Stumpies for Peace" is, said that "It is a pure Democracy; everyone in it is an officer." When asked then by a present Council member how he (Mr. Smith) would choose his Student Council Representative(s), he replied: "Anybody who shows up for a (Student Council) meeting." When discussion on the floor had been ended, Council then voted on the issue. The results were 13 for recognizing "Stumpies for Peace," 13 against, and 1 abstention. Because a three-quarters yea vote of the Council members present at a meeting is needed to accept a new group or club into the Council, the motion was defeated.

**Editor's Note:**

As a student walks between Bray Hall and Walter's Hall, he or she will often notice the massive oak tree growing in its own circular brick enclosure. In front of the tree is a plastic sign on a redwood post that is titled with the words: "Robin Hood Oak." That tree (in reality an English Oak, Quercus robur) is one of our College's landmarks, and truly has an interesting history. A year or so ago, the previous KH editors sought out the person who, without a doubt, is our College's best historian - Professor William M. Harlow - Reproduced below is his explanation:

**Our Robin Hood Oak**

**By**

Wm. M. Harlow '25

By dint of considerable persuasion Prof. Floyd E. Carlson and others of us finally prevailed upon the powers that be to save the historic English oak between Bray Hall and the Pulp and Paper Lab.

About 1930, Prof. Nelson C. Brown, one of our earliest faculty members and for many years head of (continued on next page)
the Forest Utilization Department, visited the famous "Major Oak" in Sherwood Forest. The short bole is about ten feet long, and ten feet in diameter. Several gigantic branches form the crown, the largest about four feet through. Professor Brown saw on the ground some freshly cast acorns which he picked up. One of these grew into our "Robin Hood Oak."

It is interesting to read the comments of an English author, R. Murray Gilchrist, about this tree patriarch. "Thence, by passing along the glades of Birkland and following paths faintly worn -- with a chance of straying into strange solitudes -- one comes before long to the "Major Oak" -- the most virile of all the ancient trees. In spite of its iron stays -- possibly because of them -- it is still vigorous and hearty, although its age has been estimated at about one thousand years. There is something monstrous and uncanny about this veteran; in its vicinity folk of today seem strangely out of place.

The circumference of the "Major Oak" at the height of five feet from the ground is about 32 1/2 feet and the circumference of its branches is about two hundred and seventy yards. It was formerly called the "Queen's Oak," or the "Cockpen," the latter because of a fine breed of gamecocks that roosted there in the days of a Major Rooke, to whom it owes its present name. The tree is hollow, and, entering by a narrow opening -- difficult enough for a stout person to negotiate -- seventeen or eighteen may crowd together in the interior." Since Robin Hood and his "Merry Band" roamed Sherwood Forest in the 12th Century, it is possible that he knew this tree, then a mere century or two old.

A recent letter from J. S. R. Chard, Conservator of the FORESTRY COMMISSION has some interesting comments on other ancient giants of the area. One which finally collapsed last year was called the Shambles Oak, or Robin Hood's Larder. There were iron hooks inside its hollow trunk, for hanging up deer carcasses. The most famous tree was the Parliament Oak. Edward I held parliament under it in the year 1290 when he was hunting in Sherwood Forest.

The Genetics Section of the Forestry Commission has taken scions from several of these ancient trees and grafted them on new root stocks to be put in their "tree bank." Such patriarchs display a vigor and vitality which is not just of sentimental interest, for undoubtedly they have inherent value for future programs of tree breeding.

We are indeed fortunate to have a direct descendant, here at the College, of one of these great and historic trees.
for sources of mercury which show up in our lakes and fish. The coal samples had an average of 0.153 parts per million of mercury, and the oil averaged .07 ppm.

"We believe that when fossil fuels are burned, all the mercury is released into the atmosphere. At the indicated rate of one-tenth of a pound per million pounds of coal and oil we burn, there may be about 27 pounds of mercury emitted into the State's atmosphere each day," Commissioner Diamond said. "Although this is considerably more than the 3 pounds per day discharged into our rivers and streams," Commissioner Diamond pointed out "airborne mercury is widely dispersed while mercury discharged into lakes and streams tends to be more localized and concentrated."

"The Buffalo area has been especially concerned about mercury content of fuels burned there," Commissioner Diamond said. "Stack tests at Niagara Mohawk's Huntley Station show the discharge of mercury to the atmosphere averages 0.015 pounds per hour, or a little more than one-third of a pound per day."

 Asked if coal could be a significant source of mercury in lakes, Commissioner Diamond said the fossil fuel mercury content was too low to support that conclusion.

"We are continuing our search for sources of mercury pollution. One of our next steps is to improve our method of checking for mercury in flue gases and smokestack exhausts. We must know more precisely how significant is atmospheric mercury pollution," the Commissioner concluded.

-N.Y.S. Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Moosewood's Notebook III No. 4

by Wm. M. Harlow

"Religion and Art both fight, on different fronts, against the dull rust that habit puts on the wonder of things."

Herman Wouk in "This is my God."

Florida Miccosukee chief Buffalo-Tiger says "Man can always build an automobile or a plane, but he cannot build nature. Nature is our brother, but the white man is restless with nature. He looks at it to see how he can change it, and make money out of it."

Amer. For. Magazine, May 1970

"The dragon is shallow waters is nibbled to death by the minnows."

Ancient Chinese

Woodchips Covered Dish Supper
Thursday, March 12, Skytop Ski Lodge 6:30 P.M.
Entertainment by "Miller the Magician"
Please Make Your Reservations By March 10
For Reservations, call 472-0348, or 478-8950
Plan on bring your wife and your children!
NOTICES

To Graduate and Undergraduate Students in Biology and Chemistry

As you may know, the newly organized School of Biology Chemistry and Ecology is now seeking a new Dean. A selection committee of faculty from the four departments involved is presently involved in establishing priorities and characteristics of the new position. We would welcome all ideas and suggestions as to this selection. Please feel free to contact any of the following committee members:

Dr. M. Alexander, Dr. J. Brezner, Dr. D. Griffin, Dr. C. Schuerch, Dr. J. Simeone, Dr. E. Sondheimer, Dr. H. Tepper, Dr. W. Graves, Chairman

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found drawers in Room 107 Bray Hall are quickly being filled. Following is a list of the items there. If you recognize any of them as yours, please go to Room 107 and ask for them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweaters</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats (Caps)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mittens</td>
<td>2 pair &amp; 1 odd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>8 pair &amp; 3 odd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texts, Notebooks, etc.</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarves</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide Rules</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasses</td>
<td>2 pair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewelry</td>
<td>1 ring, 1 pin, 1 bracelet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys</td>
<td>2 singles, 1 bunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOREST BIOLOGY 497 SEMINAR ON ECOLOGICAL ACTIVISM

All seminars are open to the public. They meet in Room 5, Illick Hall, Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday - March 9
The Future Role of Professional Ecologists in Ecological Activism
Alfred W. Eipper
Professor and Leader, N. Y. Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Cornell University

Tuesday - March 16
The Future of Politicians in Ecological Activism
Richard L. Ottinger
Former Congressman from New York, Washington, D.C.

Tuesday - March 23
Ecology in Politics: A View from the Capitol
Richard Andrus
Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany

Tuesday - March 30
The Future of Mass Media in Crisis Consciousness
Catherine Covert
Professor of Journalism, Syracuse University

THE NEXT NIFKIN HOUR WILL BE ON MARCH 22 FROM 3:30 - 5:00 P.M. IN THE NIFKIN LOUNGE. DON'T MISS IT!

SORRY!! Due to last week's snow storm, plus the college closing last Friday, THE KNIGHTHOLE was not able to meet it's publication deadline. We hope you understand our tardiness. Thank