

University is enriched by Dean Mott collections

Mrs. Mildred Mott Wedel, Washington, D. C., has recently made additions to her original gift to the University Library and the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection of the library and papers of her father, the late Dean Frank Luther Mott.

This additional gift is a special collection of autographs of famous American newspaper men such as Frank Leslie, Horace Greeley, Whitelaw Reid and others. Many of the letters in this collection are handwritten, predating the general use of typewriters in office work, and they seem somehow more immediate than today's typed business communications. This interesting and historic collection has been placed with Mr. Mott's manuscripts and papers in the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection.

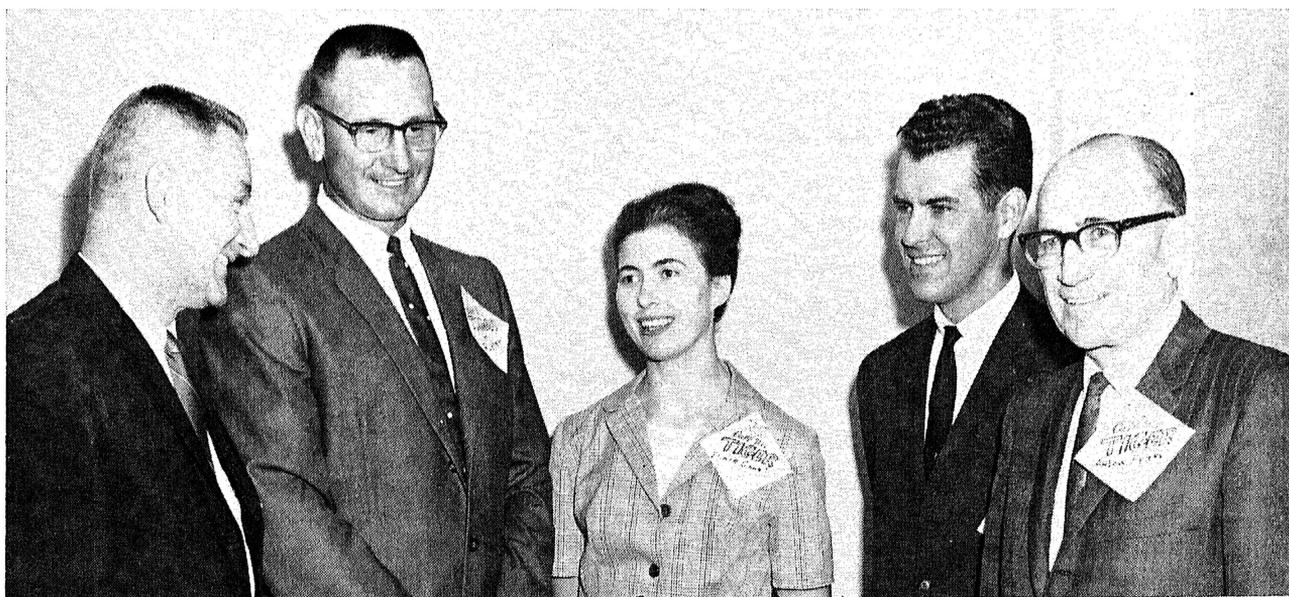
The library collections of Dean Mott display his interests in fields other than journalism and teaching. Dean Mott enjoyed books and was a knowledgeable collector. He helped organize the Friends of the University of Missouri Library early in 1960. His address, "Confessions of an Amateur Reader," given at the Friends' first annual meeting served as a keynote to the fledgling organization. Before the formal organization of the Friends group Dean Mott, always a friend to the library, had presented many special items to the library including collections of army publications and his "I Was There" collection, a selection of first-hand accounts of significant incidents and biographical works. In recognition of his service to the University and the Library, the Friends group awarded Dean Mott honorary life membership. His personal library numbered more than 2,000 volumes, and listing of the books has not yet been completed.

The Mott "Best Seller" collection numbers some 300 books and will be kept as a unit in the Special Materials section of the University Library. This book collection is the selection of books discussed in Dean Mott's widely known work, *The Golden Multitudes: The Story of the Best Sellers in the United States*. Since its publication *The Golden Multitudes* has become a standard reference book for book collectors and was also selected for inclusion in the White House Library.

The "Best Seller" selection omits such books as bibles, hymnals, text books, almanacs, doctor-books and such reference works which were household necessities of yesteryear. Each title, included in the selection, had a total sale equal to one percent of the population of the Continental United States (or the English Colonies before the Revolution) for the decade in which it was published and represents the popular reading taste of the period.

According to Mrs. Raymond A. Young, president of the Friends of the University of Missouri Library, the organization will undertake to complete the collection, following the criteria Dean Mott had used.

Also included in the Mott library are numerous private press publications, limited editions and book rarities representing historic and contemporary press works. The library, of course, contains many works on all facets of journalism and its related communications media. However, the great number of autographed first editions attests the admiration and affection of writers and publishers in many fields, as well as students, for Dean Frank Luther Mott—their confere and mentor.



Some of the divisional directors who attended the University Alumni Association's fall board meeting last month. From left they are, Ralph Duggins of Jefferson City, representing the School of Law; James Rutter of Shelbina, Agriculture; Mrs. Elinor Van

Dyke Gaunt of Columbia, Nursing; Ramon Gass of Jefferson City, Forestry; and Arlow Ferry of Kansas City, Engineering. They also attended the Alumni Leaders Conference which attracted many Association officials from several states.