



C. Howard Hill, who collects rare books as a hobby, displays two of his latest finds, which he has presented to the University.

## He buys rare books, then gives them away

C. Howard Hill of Jacksonville, Fla. is the kind of a friend the "Friends of the University of Missouri Library" is looking for. His hobby is finding and purchasing rare old books at ridiculously low prices. Then, if they're really valuable, he gives them away.

He has sent rare books to his alma mater for the University, Journalism, and Law libraries. His latest contribution, as an initial token of encouragement for the Friends of the Library organization, is a rare two-volume historical work. Published in London in 1752, it is the English translation of *The History of the Portuguese Under the Reign of Emmanuel*. It was written originally in Latin by Jerome Osorio, Bishop of Sylves, Portugal. What makes it so rare is the fact that there are only three copies in existence—the others are in the British Museum and the Library of Congress. Hill found the history in a second hand store in Jacksonville. He hunts for books in shops along the East Coast, and has bought some for as little as 49 cents.

Hill, manager of the civic affairs department of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce, is a 1932 graduate, receiving the A.B. with distinction. He was instrumental in organizing a Jacksonville alumni club last fall.

"I've always liked books," he says. "It's just in the last seven years I've been able to acquire books of relative rarity. A rare book has to be significant instead of just old, and in good condition. There has to be some demand for it."

His earlier contributions included two rare volumes of Cicero sent to President Ellis and placed in the University Library. The books, published in London in 1681, are *M. T. Ciceronis, Operum*, one volume

containing Cicero's orations and the other his letters.

Such industry and generosity easily qualify Mr. Hill for membership in the Friends of the Library organization. Joining this group becomes a simple process for any interested person. Annual memberships are available through the gift of at least one meritorious book per year, assistance in locating and obtaining manuscript items and books, a gift of five dollars or more to the Alumni Achievement Fund earmarked for advancement of the Library, or a collector's membership involving reports on collector's specializations. Honorary life members may be elected by the executive committee for assistance in locating and acquiring outstanding collections, or for other outstanding collections; and life memberships are based on the gift of \$100 or more to the Achievement Fund to aid in promoting the welfare of the Library.

"We are not primarily a fund-raising organization," says Prof. Lewis Atherton, secretary. "Our emphasis is on building a group of active friends who will help us locate and acquire libraries and manuscripts which owners may be willing to leave to the University. We hope also to build pride in the University by acquainting its friends with its achievements as well as with its needs."

The University has the largest library collection of any member of the Big Eight Conference and ranks 16th or 17th among all university and college libraries in number of volumes. "In all this we can take pride," Prof. Atherton says, "but an active Friends of the University Library can be of service in our continued growth, just as such organizations have greatly helped other university libraries."