

# alumni funds start M.U. Press

The University of Missouri Press, for years regarded as a vital need, comes into being July 1.

The Press will provide for the publication of worthy books that are of special interest to the State of Missouri or to the University.

President Ellis, in announcing formation of the new service, said that Dr. William H. Peden, professor of English at the University, will be Director of the University Press, with a committee of six members to advise with him on policies and operations.

"Our University Press is made possible by financial help from the University Alumni Achievement Fund," President Ellis said. He praised the University Alumni Association for making funds available to give the University Press a start. He added that an established Press can sometimes get financial assistance from private and public foundations and agencies to make important publications possible.

"There is at present no good general source of book production of materials relating to Missouri outside of strictly commercial channels," President Ellis said. "Our purpose is not to compete with commercial publication, but to provide a means of publishing books that are useful to the State and to publish valuable materials that grow naturally out of the University's program of research and teaching, and materials from other colleges and universities and research agencies." The University Press will also provide a better organization of some of the present publishing functions, such as the University of Missouri Studies and Missouri Handbook Series.

The primary purpose in establishing a University Press is to encourage work in the research and creative field among the faculty and staff of the University itself, and to publish important works in any field by anyone who submits a manuscript which the director and committee believe worthy of publication.

It is the present intention of all concerned to stress publication of works in the professional and academic fields, President Ellis said, although there is nothing in the provision for the Press which precludes publication of creative writings at some time in the future if the committee sees fit.

He said it has often been regrettable the University had no means of publishing exceptional works in book form. From time to time the University has published a book, such as "Missouri, Its Resources, People, and Institutions," which was published in 1950, but it has never done so as a regular part of its program.

President Ellis said, "We hope to encourage publication of scholarly works, and of any really good work in any field, by putting such publication within the reach of authors who have spent time, money, and effort in the research necessary to produce a good manuscript."

Contrary to general belief, an author frequently has to dig down into his own pocket for amounts up

to several thousand dollars to get publication of scholarly work.

"Many of us believe," President Ellis said, "That an author should not be required to subsidize his own book, particularly if that book holds promise of contributing to the advancement of knowledge and to a better future for our children."

Through operation of such a Press, it is possible to encourage a great deal of specialized work in various academic fields where hope is held out for public recognition, if not for modest royalties, he said.

President Ellis said it is not the intention of the University to set up or to operate a mechanical plant for the printing of books, as he emphasized that the Press will confine its efforts to the editorial and distribution side of the work. The actual printing and binding of all books will be done by regular commercial printing plants on a contract basis, he said.

Dr. Peden said it is the hope of the Press Committee that several books might be published in the first year of its operation. He emphasized that quantity will never be a goal of the Press, and said that a maximum of about five or six books a year would be considered sufficient at least for a beginning.

The University Press will not attempt any of the production of regular University of Missouri bulletins, catalogs, and other official publications prepared and published by the Director of University and Student Publications.

The University Press Committee appointed by President Ellis includes: Dr. Frank Luther Mott, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and dean emeritus of the School of Journalism, chairman; Dr. Paul L. Fisher, associate professor of journalism; Dr. Ralph Parker, University librarian; Dr. Walter V. Scholes, professor of history; Fred C. Robins, director of University and student publications; and Roger W. Straus, Jr., of New York as alumni member. Mr. Straus, a graduate of the School of Journalism here, is president of Farrar, Straus & Cudahy Publishing Co., of New York. Mr. Robins will serve as secretary of the Committee.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* said editorially: "The opportunity which is opening up at Columbia is evident to all who have followed the rise of the university presses on campuses across the country. Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Chicago, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Southern Methodist, New Mexico, Stanford, California—all these and many more have notable university presses. The books which they issue are an important segment of those published every year. The establishment of the new press (its operations will be primarily editorial as the printing and binding will be done by commercial printers) is made possible by a most commendable grant by the University Alumni Association from its Achievement fund."