

Librarian Boasts of College's Rare Collection of Old Books

In the 1880's, the Alumni of the Normal College contributed \$10,000 towards the establishment of the present library of Hunter College.

Edith Rice, also an alumni, was the first to head the library which consisted of only 3,000 volumes. The libraries gradually developed until during Pres. George Shuster's term in office 100,000 books was donated to the Hunter library.

Miss Margaret Plumb, presently Associate Librarian at Park Avenue, has been with the College library since 1916, when she graduated from Hunter. Miss Plumb is in charge

of preserving old books that were part of the first collection of the library.

Among the collection of rare books are those written by past presidents, Thomas Hunter and Joseph Gillet. One book by Dr. Hunter, *Home Culture*, published in 1884, was a way of providing "self instruction" during the social hours of the English Department contributed one of the libraries most valuable collection. Included in this are volumes of the earliest editions of Chaucer, which according to Miss Plumb "put us on the map."

As part of the libraries old collection, there is a shelf-list file case made by Remington Rand, which is believed to be one of the very few of the older models that has survived the years. Miss Plumb proudly noted that Remington Rand would like Hunter's file case but that the college had no intention of donating it to them.

With the acquisition of the new Bronx library, it will mean "the greatest increase we've ever had," noted Miss Plumb. Mr. Frederic W. Stewart, the present librarian, is the fourth in Hunter's history. Miss De Montrevelle is associate librarian in the Bronx.

Note: On retiring, Miss Plumb shelved these books on separate shelves from the Rare Books which were in the glassed in room in Room 1007.

After her retirement at some time, some one or more new staff members who had no knowledge or interest in the history of the Library or the College discarded them, ignorant of their association value & doubtless simply considering them out of date & useless.