

## The Modern Language Association of America

100 Washington Square, East,  
New York City, January, 1933

Dear Sir:

The committee on the Reproduction of Manuscripts and Rare Printed Books, in seeking your support for the year 1933, begs leave to submit a brief summary of the general purpose and plan of this important project undertaken by the Modern Language Association of America.

By making accessible through rotograph reproductions the manuscripts and rare books stored in English and continental libraries, the Association aims, first, to promote and facilitate the researches of American scholars in the field which it cultivates. Beyond this immediate and more tangible purpose it has in view the formation of a great reference collection of these reproductions, which in future years will put American professors of Modern Languages and Literatures in a position to engage in productive scholarship upon something like an even footing with their colleagues across the seas. Each reproduction of a manuscript or of a rare printed book which is made and deposited in this collection, subject to the demand of any American scholar in the field, is an acquisition of original source material added to the library resources of us all. It brings to our doors this material hitherto inaccessible in this country; duplication and consequent waste of funds is avoided; the storing of these reproductions in the National Library furnishes an element of time-saving certainty to scholars in search of material which they need. The Committee feels justified in insisting that the subscription which it calls for must be regarded, not as a contribution, but as a very profitable investment; an investment which is administered as follows:

Colleges, Universities and Public Libraries are asked to send to the Treasurer of the Association twenty-five dollars a year for the purpose of procuring rotographic reproductions of manuscripts and rare printed books in foreign libraries. The rotographs are deposited in the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress which undertakes the entire expense of administering the plan, of binding the reproductions, and of printing library cards describing the content of the matter reproduced. Contributing institutions have first claim upon the material collected, but reproductions not being used by scholars belonging to contributing institutions are at the service of other institutions and of accredited individuals, under regulations formulated by the officials of the Library of Congress and the Committee of the Modern Language Association.

Rotographs are sent to those who desire them by mail, in accordance with the familiar system of inter-library loans. Applications should be addressed by the Librarian of the institution requesting the loan, to the Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress, and should state distinctly that the volume is desired for the use of a professor or other well known scholar whose name is given, or for a student working under the auspices of a teacher thus named.