

The Modern Language Association of America

100 Washington Square East
NEW YORK CITY

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January, 1937

Dr. A. E. Morgan, President
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Permit us to repeat what has often been said in previous letters that the Rotograph Service of the Modern Language Association was created to meet the needs of scholars in Language and Literature. It brings from the Libraries, Museums and Monasteries over-seas, fac-simile reproductions of Manuscripts and Rare Printed Books which cannot be consulted in this country. Through the efficient and very generous co-operation of the Library of Congress the raw material for research and creative scholarship is brought to the very door of the American scholar at a minimum of cost and trouble to all concerned.

It is an enterprise which calls for a certain magnanimity on the part of those who are called upon to support it. While the first-hand, direct benefits which it offers are utilized by relatively few, it contributes largely to American creative scholarship which all educational institutions are engaged in fostering. The fac-similes, brought to this country by the Rotograph Service form the basis of from thirty to fifty philological and literary-historical studies every year.

Now conditions abroad during the past year have given to the work of the Rotograph Service an additional significance and importance out of all proportion to the resources at our disposal. The imminence of war is a constant menace of irreparable destruction to precious Manuscripts and Rare Printed Books stored in European Libraries, Museums and Monasteries. Many have been already destroyed in Spain and many more will be unless something can be done for their preservation. The Rotograph Service will draw upon its surplus and devote all that can be spared from this year's contributions in an effort to ensure the continued existence in fac-simile of as many as possible of the most valuable Manuscripts and Rare Printed Books now in such imminent danger. We plead then with special earnestness for contributions to enable us to do what we can to alleviate this tragic situation.

Very sincerely yours,

Colbert Searles,

Chairman of the Rotograph Fund Committee
of the Modern Language Association of
America.

Colbert Searles