1939

A Book Lover's Boon

The Iowa Homemaker

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation

The Iowa Homemaker (1939) "A Book Lover's Boon," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 19 : No. 2 , Article 9.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol19/iss2/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
A Cozy chair, a bowl of apples, and a good book have long been symbols of indoor contentment. In the day-to-day existence on the campus, accessories to reading enjoyment must be dispensed with, and the book itself becomes the thing.

Thomas Carlyle's wise remark about a true university's consisting of books reminds even those of us who haven't the time nor inclination to read his works further that there is a lot in what he says, and that we are never too young to start a library of our own. A college woman shouldn't have to wait until she has a home of her own to surround herself with a few well-chosen and interesting books. Thanks to book clubs and cooperative pay-by-the-week plans, it is possible to begin a collection on a small budget. A group of young business women in Boston are now profiting by this novel plan:

Each week one of them buys a good book, either a best seller or one which has a long-standing reputation behind it, and one by one, each takes a week to read it. The book eventually gets back to the original buyer, who has then a new volume in her library as well as having read, meanwhile, several of her friends' books.

In selecting one's library, it is a good idea to include a few classics such as Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Louisa M. Alcott's *Little Women*, Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, and John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. There are also on the market several well-written and beautifully printed volumes which describe the Bible as living literature, books which will make Bibles more than dust-collectors on the shelf.

Miss Esther Cooper of the Iowa State College English Department, recommends the following for a college woman's library in the line of novels: *Kristen Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset, *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, and John Galsworthy's *Forsyte Saga*. Round out your fiction collection with Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*.

Some important late biographies which have unusual feminine appeal are *Madame Curie*, by her daughter Eve, *Fanny Kemble* by Margaret Armstrong, and *The Bronte Sisters* by Abbe Ernest Dimnet. One of the most poignant works of the decade, autobiographical in nature, is Vera Britton's *Testament of Youth*, which should tell a real story to young people caught in a world fraught with war rumor.

To top off and coordinate a good library, a few—and only a few—anthologies should be purchased. Avoid cheap 5-foot bookshelf editions, and get instead the comprehensive *Anthology of World Poetry* by Mark Van Doren and the *Anthology of World Prose* by Mark's brother Carl.

Many fastidious book collectors pay attention to fine binding and printing, but a majority of book-lovers put the most emphasis on content. However, if your temperament and vocation demand artistic bookshelves, attractive covers can be purchased or made.