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## A Book Lover's Boon

The Iowa Homemaker

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# A Book-Lover's Boon

*Tips from a coed on starting your own personal library*

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 *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. 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 Brontee 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.

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