

## Library News

### FOLGER LIBRARY

Vol. II, no. 1 of the library's newsletter, dated November 5, 1949, and containing 6 pages, has been received. Of especial interest are the reports on scholars who have been fellows or visitors at the library and on their research projects. The work of Virgil Heltzel and Harold Davis has been reported by Mr. Wright, director of the Folger, elsewhere in this issue (p. 78). C. L. Barber (Amherst) is preparing a study of the background of Shakespeare's comedies. The newsletter also reports that the editors of the reorganized *Shakespeare Quarterly* met at the library on October 28, 1949, to discuss means by which the quarterly may become a more significant journal of scholarship and interpretation. Present were R. M. Smith (Lehigh), chairman of the editorial board; J. P. McManaway and G. E. Dawson (Folger), Mary Hyde (Somerville, N. J.), Virgil Heltzel (Northwestern). Sidney Thomas (Queens), editor of the annual Shakespeare bibliography, also met with the editorial board.

### HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

The title page of Guevara's *Libro Aureo*, with a note by W. A. Jackson, is reproduced on page 80 of this issue.

### NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Distinguished examples of Italian illustrated books from the Spencer Collection will be on exhibit until January 29, 1950. 'The most outstanding item will be a priceless illuminated ms version of St. Augustine's *De Civitate Dei*, copied and illustrated in Florence around 1450 . . . Two editions of Dante's *Divina Commedia*, one with woodcuts taken from pen and ink drawings by Botticelli, the other with Florentine copperplate illustrations from the 15th century. Other books to be shown will touch on Renaissance architecture, 16th century Italian fashions in clothing, the activities of the Medici family and the regattas and masquerades of Venice around 1610.'

### FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

Among recent acquisitions of the William M. Elkins Collection is: Sir Humphrey Gilbert's original ms map of North America and the Arctic Regions, made for him by Dr. John Dee, c. 1582. Drawn on paper in water colors, and designed to prove the existence of a North-West Passage. The autograph signature of Sir Humphrey Gilbert appears on this map. The curious cabalistic sign that appears three times on the map is undoubtedly the personal symbol adopted by the famous Dr. John Dee. From the Library of Lord Leconfield.



A copy of an unrecorded pirated edition of Antonio Guevara's *Libro Aureo* printed in Valencia, 15 December 1528, has recently been given to the Harvard Library by Imrie de Vegh. A pirated edition printed in Seville, 27 February 1528, is said to be in the National Library at Madrid and a third pirated edition printed in Portugal was mentioned by Guevara in the first authorized edition, Valladolid, 1529, but no copy is known. These pirated editions are of great textual interest and have not been studied. The Valencia edition is from the library of Prince Galitzin, the Russian ambassador to Madrid in the early nineteenth century. (Contributed by W. A. Jackson, Harvard University.)