Foundation Helps Finance Woman's History of Chicago

By Harry Hansen

Dr. Bessie Louise Pierce, professor emeritus of history at the University of Chicago, will get a chance to complete her monumental history of Chicago because the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has granted her a new fellowship. In 1937 and 1940 Knopf published the first two volumes of her work, which has special value because it discusses the underlying social forces in the growth of the city. The forthcoming study will carry her book from 1893 to 1915, the period during which her university blossomed into a great seat of learning on the sand flats of the Midway.

This time the Guggenheims dispensed $1,100,000 to 275 artists and scholars, and with the golden flood coming from the Ford Foundation there is plenty of support for persons writing books.

One of those favored was Gordon N. Ray of the University of Illinois—authority on Thackeray—who will prepare a study of the life and times of H. G. Wells. Dr. Gwin J. Kolb, University of Chicago, is to study Samuel Johnson; Dr. Samuel Schoenbaum, North- western, will study the dramatist Thomas Middleton and Dr. Arthur Sherbo, University of Illinois, is going after a forgotten poet named Christopher Smart.

Well known authors who get fellowships include Lewis Mumford, Albert Guerard (studying Joseph Conrad), and Shelby Foote.

Using Old Titles

Librarians with long memories must be amused to find authors running out of titles and falling back on old ones. Every season titles are duplicated. For this spring Appleton-Century-Crofts announces "Circus! From Rome to Ringling," by Marian Murphy. In 1932 Earl Chapin May first used the title "The Circus, from Rome to Ringling." Miss Murphy must have seen Chapin's book while doing research.

"House of Women," by Edna Lee, is another variant; Louis Bromfield had a play called "The House of Women," and the title was not original with him. Houghton Mifflin will publish "The Ninth Wave," by Eugene Burdick, which reminds me of "The Ninth Wave," by Carl Van Doren.

An Editor Giggles

Believe it or not, the Pulitzer prize committee is engaged in a bit of window dressing, and Bill Cole, who engineered the National Book awards into top rating, is chuckling. Preliminary to announcing the prizes last Monday the news office of Columbia university sent out the pleased comment of winners of former years, who testified how the awards gave them new energy and inspiration, and, as in the case of Marguerite Higgins, even resulted in a raise in pay. Listen to this report on a prize winner getting the big news:

"It will be a long time before you see a better or more heart warming picture than the shot of his ecstatic face as he broke into an uncontrollable
giggle of delight and said over and over, 'O, for goodness' sake!'"

Who did? Just a hard boiled managing editor, Roland Tows- ery of the Cuero [Tex.] Record. The Bancroft awards of Co lumbia university are two annual prizes of $2,000 each given to Elizabeth Stevenson, assistant in the Carnegie li brary of Atlanta, for "Henry Adams" [Macmillan], and to Richard N. Current, of the history faculty of the University of North Carolina, for his share in writing "Last Full Measure: Lincoln the President," with the late J. G. Randall [Dodd, Mead].

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