

Heartbroken and anxious to leave a fitting memorial to her son, Mrs Widener remembered that Harry had planned to bequest his entire collection to his alma matter. She gave \$ 3.5 million to Harvard University for the construction of a research center that would bear his name. She chose the architect herself and oversaw the designs. The library opened in 1914. It is an elegant three story building, and one of the outstanding research libraries in the world, with 3.2 million volumes. Harry Widener's own collection of 3,500 rare books are kept on the mezzanine. A place nearby memorializes his room as he left it.

Mrs Widener added two provisos to her donation. First, she stipulated that the Widener building should never be altered or remodelled. Since 60,000 items are added each year to the general collection, and Harry's collection itself receives numerous new acquisitions from the Widener family, the library custodians have been confronted several times with the problem of space. They solved it by adding annexes to the original building.

Mrs Widener's second stipulation was that no Harvard student would be allowed to graduate without passing a swimming test.



### Literary Television

Saturdays and Sundays are Booknotes day on Channel 21 (CSPN2). Both days are entirely filled with reviews of books, interviews of authors and other programs of literary interest.



You may occasionally watch special events such as the auction at Christie's of a famed private library that included a medieval copy of the Magna Carta on velum and a William Blake book illustrated by the author that sold for \$850,000. The highlight of the sale was the auctioning of a Shakespeare first folio (the most accurate version of all, put together after his death by actors who compared and matched their scripts), for a mere \$5.6 million.

The whole auction brought \$11 million. Christie's representative declared himself pleased.

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