

MERTEN J. MANDEVILLE COLLECTION IN OCCULT SCIENCES
James Williams; September 1985
Revised: March 1987

I. DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose: To support study and research in the occult sciences. The collection is supported by an endowment from Merten J. Mandeville, a University of Illinois Professor Emeritus of Management. The endowment criteria include provisions concerning the materials that should be purchased and the physical treatment of those materials. Works of a serious nature are to be acquired and the material itself should be given visibility within the University Library. A broad range of materials are to be available for browsing, and undergraduate students should be among those to whom browsing access is allowed. Other provisions of the endowment are described in Section II below. The subjects specified by Mr. Mandeville as appropriate for the collection are detailed in Section III below.

B. History of Collection: The collection was begun in 1966 when Mr. Mandeville donated 400 volumes from his personal library and established an endowment for the collection's continued development. The Library had traditionally collected major works in the occult sciences, so the foundation for a substantial collection existed.

C. Estimate of Holdings: 6,000 volumes.

D. State, Regional, and National Importance: Lee Ash's Subject Collections (5th ed., 1978) lists just fifteen occult science collections in the United States. The Mandeville Collection is the fourth largest among those for which Ash provides a volume count. An evaluation of the Mandeville Collection (from which astrology was excluded) found the collection had the capacity to support graduate level teaching and research. The evaluation was done in 1984 by a graduate assistant as a term project in a library science course. Using the citation method pioneered by Robert P. Coale at Newberry, 990 book and 213 journal citations were drawn from five seminal works and checked for holdings in the Mandeville Collection. The overall hit rate of 75.02 per cent falls within the range that Coale deemed acceptable for research collections. The hit rate for journal citations alone was 95 per cent, suggesting a particular strength in the journal collection.

E. Unit Responsible for Collecting: Education and Social Science Library.

F. Location of Materials: Selected new acquisitions are prominently displayed on a labeled shelf in the Education and Social Science Library where the more frequently circulated English language monographs and current issues of most serial titles are located. Less often demanded English language monographs, foreign language monographs, and bound volumes of serial runs are generally located in the Bookstacks. Rare materials (See II.F) are housed in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

G. Citations of Works Describing the Collection:

Major, 33.

Ash, Lee. Subject Collections. 5th ed. New York: Bowker, 1978, p. 774.

Winter, Arn Ellsworth. "An Evaluation of the Mandeville Collection." 1984. (Unpub.)

II. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Languages: Standard statement.B. Chronological Guidelines: No restrictions.C. Geographical Guidelines: No restrictions

D. Treatment of Subject: Popular works from reputable publishers, scholarly, and historical studies are acquired. Mr. Mandeville specified that the positive aspects of occultism should be emphasized while the sensational and negative aspects were to be avoided. Excluded by the endowment criteria are satanism, voodoo, shamanism, and black magic in general.

E. Types of Material: Standard statement.

F. Date of Publication: Standard statement. In addition, special efforts are made to acquire early imprints in astrology.

G. Place of Publication: No restrictions.

III. COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY BY SUBJECT SUBDIVISIONS WITH QUALIFICATIONS, LEVELS OF COLLECTING INTENSITY, AND ASSIGNMENTS

| <u>SUBJECTS</u> | <u>ES</u> | <u>CL</u> | <u>DL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENTS</u> |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Astrology | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Divinatory arts and palmistry | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Dreams, sleep, and hypnotism studied from the physical aspect | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Esoteric religion and mysticism | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Occult techniques for health, happiness and success, including yoga, diet, and faith healing | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Psychical phenomena and research, including clairvoyance, ESP, out- of-body experiences and travel, psychic forces of energy, comprehensive works on the investi- gation of unexplained mental or physical phenomena, and frauds in occultism | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |

| <u>SUBJECTS</u> | <u>ES</u> | <u>CL</u> | <u>DL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENTS</u> |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Spiritualism, including apparitions, mediumship, reincarnation | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Unidentified flying objects | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |
| Witchcraft and magic | 4 | 4 | 4 | MANDEVILLE |