

## Yale University News Bureau

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Steve Kezerian, Director

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New Haven, Conn., Sept. 2: -- A new \$50,000 scholarship fund has been established at Yale University in honor of one of Idaho's native sons and for the benefit of students from that state.

The new fund has been named in honor of James T. Babb, Yale University Librarian and a native of Lewiston, Idaho. It resulted from a grant by the Steele-Reese Foundation, of New York City, which was established by Eleanor Steele Reese, of Salmon, Idaho. Mrs. Reese and her husband, Emmet P. Reese, have long shown an effective interest in the education of the youth of Idaho.

Selected as the first two recipients of the James T. Babb Scholarship Fund grants are J. Meredith Neil, of 3003 Woody Drive, Boise, Idaho, who will enter his Junior Year at Yale next month, and Virden R. Seybold, of 818 East Logan St., Caldwell, Idaho, who will enroll as a first-year student in the Yale Divinity School at the start of the coming academic year.

Idaho students who apply for or who are enrolled in any school or department at Yale will have first preference for scholarships or fellowships to be awarded under terms of the new fund. In the event that no Idaho student qualifies for such an award during a three-year period, residents of Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming may become eligible for James T. Babb Scholarship Fund aid.

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Mr. Babb, for whom the new scholarship fund was named, has been Yale University's Librarian since 1945. The decision to name the fund in his honor is in recognition of his "devoted and fruitful labors as the head of Yale's great Library and the luster he has shed upon himself and his native State of Idaho through his work."

Mr. Babb was born in 1899, the only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James E. Babb. His father, a graduate of Illinois College in Jacksonville, Ill., and Union College of Law, which subsequently became Northwestern Law School, had been sent to Lewiston in 1889 by the Chicago law firm in which he was a partner to settle a suit. He was so impressed by the country and what he considered its potential that the following year he and his young wife moved there permanently. The elder Mr. Babb, who died in 1934, subsequently became one of Idaho's foremost corporation lawyers, representing various mining, railroad and lumbering interests. Lawyer Babb, noted for his knowledge of constitutional law, helped draft much of Idaho's fundamental law, and was the owner of one of the finest law libraries in the Pacific Northwest. His son donated a large portion of this personal law library to the University of Idaho after his father's death.

Mr. Babb's mother, Daisy Tinkham Babb, was State Historian of the Daughters of the American Revolution for many years. She was instrumental in securing the preservation of many of Idaho's historical sites and papers.

Yale's Librarian grew up in Lewiston. After attending Phillips Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, he entered Yale with the Class of 1924. Subsequently he attended the Yale Law School. He then became affiliated with a New Haven investment banking firm.

While an undergraduate at Yale, Mr. Babb began collecting books, notably the works of Joseph Conrad and of early American fiction writers. In subsequent years, his interest in books deepened. Finally, in 1938, he gave up his career in investment banking to accept a position as Assistant Yale Librarian. He served as Acting University Librarian from 1943 until 1945, when he was appointed to his present position.

The library which Mr. Babb heads is one of the greatest and most extensive in the world. He is in charge of a collection containing over 4,000,000 volumes, and supervises the work of some 225 librarians and other full-time personnel. Yale's Sterling Memorial Library is noted for its collections of English and American history and literature, and for its extensive files of scientific, medical and law journals.

During Mr. Babb's administration, and largely because of his deep personal interest in the Pacific Northwest, the Yale Library acquired the famous William Robertson Coe Collection of Western Americana. This collection, augmented by the Winlock W. Miller Collection, of Seattle, and the Thomas W. Streeter Texas Collection, contains thousands of manuscripts, letters, early newspapers, books, maps and broadsides originating in and dealing with the West.

During his career Mr. Babb has headed and served on numerous library groups. He was President of the Bibliographical Society of America and of the Connecticut Library Association. Married and the father of two children, he is the author of "A Bibliography of the Writings of William McFee."

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The two recipients of the James T. Babb Scholarship Fund grants are both honor students. Neil, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Neil, of 3003 Woody Drive, Boise, Idaho, prepared for Yale at Boise High School. He is a resident of Silliman College, one of the 10 undergraduate residential colleges at Yale, and has participated in intercollegiate athletics. In addition, he works as an Aide to the Master of Silliman College.

Seybold, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Seybold, of Route 1, Parma, Idaho, received his B.A. from the College of Idaho, where he was active in intercollegiate debating. While a student there he was elected to membership in the intercollegiate Knights, an honorary service organization. Seybold is married.

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