

**INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING
ERECTING OF A LIBRARY:
PRESENTED TO MY LORD THE
PRESIDENT DE MESME**

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Instructions Concerning Erecting of a Library: Presented to My Lord the President De Mesme
by Gabriel Naudé

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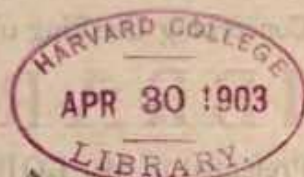
GABRIEL NAUDÉ

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INTRODUCTION

GABRIEL NAUDÉ, *the author of "Advis pour Dresser une Bibliothèque,"* was a medical student of twenty-two, in Paris, when President Henri de Mesmes made him his librarian in 1622. He had already gained repute as scholar and bibliophile. He soon returned to his medical studies; but his librarianship under de Mesmes had shown him where his tastes and talents lay, and determined his career. The "Advis" was written and printed in 1627 to save the labour of writing out the many copies asked for by his friends, of his opinions and advice on books and libraries. It is an indispensable document in the history of the Maza-

rin library, for, as Sainte-Beuve says, that library has "the seal of Naudé over it all." It embodies, in fact, the very spirit of Naudé; it forecasts his career; it suggests by its many allusions the young man's learning; and above all, it sets forth the principles its brilliant author was to follow twenty years later, first in building, next in making "open to all the world, without excluding a living soul," the great library of Cardinal Mazarin.

¶ Naudé completed his medical studies with honour, was librarian successively to Cardinals Bagni & Barberini in Italy, was recalled to Paris by Richelieu just before the latter's death, and at forty-two was engaged by Mazarin to form his library. For five years he visited the book markets of Europe and gathered treasures,

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Introduction

v

and, as Sainte Beuve says, "attained the accomplishment of the dream and the labour of his whole life." Naudé died on his way home from a short stay in Stockholm, where he was librarian to Queen Christina, at Abbeville, July 29, 1653. Gui Patin, his most intimate friend, describes him as tall and spare, and lithe in his movements. Patin, with others, testifies that he was wise, far-seeing, and of well-balanced mind; and that he led a chaste and sober life. He wrote much in both French and Latin. Of himself he said, in his "Refined Politics," "I have address'd my self to the Muses, without being too much enamour'd of them; I was pleas'd with my Studies, but not too much addicted to them; I pass'd through a Course of Scholastick Philosophy, without med-

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dling with the contentious part of it, and through that of the Ancient and Moderns, without being partial to any Sect. . . . Pedantry might have gained something upon my Behaviour and Carriage, during seven or eight Years that I staid in the Colleges, but I can assure myself that it obtained no Advantage over my spirit."

¶ *The "Advis" appeared in an edition revised by the author in 1644. It has been several times reprinted in French, and once in Latin. The translation here given is that of John Evelyn, and is referred to more than once in the better known "Diary." Under the date, November 16, 1661, occurs the entry: "I presented my translation of 'Naudæus concerning Libraries' to my Lord Chancellour, but it was miserably false printed;" and another en-*

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Introduction

vii

try a few days later describes the vote of thanks from "our philosophic assembly," in recognition of "the honourable mention I made of them by the name of Royal Society" in the dedication to "my Traduction of Naudeus" as "too great an honour for a trifle." This "Traduction," to use Evelyn's quaint word, has been here followed exactly, with the exception of a few obvious typographical errors.

JOHN COTTON DANA.

