Remarks for Library Dedication

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It is most appropriate that this library was named, many years ago, for General George A. Forsyth, for General Forsyth was the author of two books describing his long career on the Western plains. These books demonstrate General Forsyth as a humane and honorable antagonist of the Indian, whose recommendations would, if followed, have saved much bloodshed and misery. They also reveal him as a good stylist, in the somewhat florid tradition of nineteenth-century rhetoric, who had the power over words to make a scene come alive. His description of the charge of Roman Nose at the Battle of the Arrickaree, in particular, is vivid and powerful.

Although this library named for General Forsyth is located at one edge of the campus, there is no question of its central position in the intellectual affairs of the college, which are, after all, the most important affairs of the college.

For the researcher the library is central because here he finds the objects of his search—or if he does not, he finds where to find them.

For the innovator the library is central because here he finds what has been thought and done on his problem previously, so that he can tell what he is innovating from and what approaches have already been tried and failed.

For the instructor the library is central because no man can know all of his subject at first hand, and thus here he must come to discover what others have said about it.

We at Fort Hays State are most fortunate to have such a splendid new building to house our library, and our appreciation must go to President Cunningham, to the Board of Regents, and to the Legislature for making it possible. But in expressing our gratitude to these we must not overlook the fact that we are also most fortunate in having a library staff as fine as the building itself.