The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Endowment for Medieval and Renaissance Italian Studies

Arthur Vining Davis was prominent in the industrial and business history of the United States and, through these foundations, the philanthropic world as well. His giving was broad in outlook but pragmatic in its goals. The original Arthur Vining Davis Foundation was organized in 1952 under a living trust established by the donor. Additional assets were dedicated to philanthropy in Davis’s will. The trustees were instructed to use the foundations’ earnings for programs that would strengthen the nation’s future. The foundations remain firmly committed to honorable service to society in memory of Davis, a man of vision, courage, and generosity.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Endowment for Medieval and Renaissance Italian Studies is enabling the Hesburgh Libraries to transform its already exceptionally strong Dante collection into an international resource for Italian Renaissance literature. The endowment adds several new dimensions to the libraries’ existing Dante program, facilitating the enhancement of the medieval authors database and significantly affecting the University’s programs in medieval studies, theology, and Italian literature. Finally, this important endowment enables the libraries to continue to add significant new enhancements to the international Internet resource, ItalNet.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations also support an endowment for humanities at the Named level.