

THE MEDALLIONS

The most interesting feature of the Reading Room is the mural decorations, consisting of fourteen medallions, representing the greatest writers in the history of world literature. The medallions were designed by Bennidetto Chipolini, of Somerville, Massachusetts. Beginning at the right of the fireplace they are arranged in the following order:

1. David, the poet of Hebrew Literature.
2. Homer, the father of epic poetry.
3. Euripides, the master of tragic poetry.
4. Cicero, the Roman orator.
5. St. Augustine, the great religious teacher, whose vision of the "City of God" shaped the course of an empire.
6. Chaucer, the father of English poetry.
7. Dante, whose "Divine Comedy" made the Italian language a classic.
8. Desiderius Erasmus, the classical scholar and theologian of the Middle Ages.

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9. Shakespeare, the greatest of English poets and dramatists.
10. Moliere, the writer of French comedy.
11. Goethe, the greatest German poet.
12. Ralph Waldo Emerson, America's seer and poet.
13. Robert Browning, English poet, master of narrative, lyric, and dramatic verse of the nineteenth century.
14. Ibsen, the great Scandanavian playwright, who laid the foundation for modern English and American drama.