

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING THE

CALENDAR YEAR 1886.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1887.

ANNUAL REPORT
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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, February 22, 1887.

The Librarian presents herewith his annual report, covering the growth of the Library and the business of the copyright office for the entire calendar year ending December 31, 1886.

Again it becomes necessary to refer to the difficulty and embarrassment of prosecuting the annual enumeration of the books and pamphlets recently completed. Each year and each month adds to the painfully overcrowded condition of the collections, and although many rooms have been filled with the overflow from the main Library, the difficulty of handling so large an accumulation of unshelved books is constantly growing. The result of the count of the Library exhibits its contents in January, 1887, as aggregating—

Volumes of books.....	581,678
Pamphlets.....	193,000

Out of the above aggregate the law department of the Library embraces 69,615 volumes, of which 3,331 volumes were added during 1886.

The whole of the accessions to the Library during the last year have been 16,544 volumes, which have come from the following-named sources:

From copyright deposits.....	8,935
From purchase.....	2,349
From deposits by the Smithsonian Institution.....	2,168
From exchanges.....	2,641
From donations.....	345
From increase of the Toner collection (presented).....	106
Total.....	16,544

STATISTICS OF COPYRIGHT FOR 1886.

The business of the copyright office again exhibits a gratifying increase, both in the number of entries and in the deposits of publications under the law. The aggregate entries for the calendar year 1886

foot up 31,241, being an increase of 2,830 over the entries of 1885, and making much the largest total in the annals of the copyright office since the transfer of these records to Washington in 1870. The fees received for copyright amounted to \$25,421.88, being an increase of \$2,128.28 over the year preceding.

The summary statement appended shows the various classes of copyright publications entered in 1886, with the aggregate number of each:

Number and designation of articles entered in 1886.

Books	11,136
Periodicals	6,089
Dramatic compositions.....	672
Musical compositions	7,514
Photographs.....	1,389
Engravings and chromos.....	1,947
Maps and charts.....	1,702
Prints	320
Designs.....	315
Paintings.....	143
Drawings.....	14
Total	31,241

The next statement exhibits the aggregate number of each of the above classes of publications deposited in the Library, and the additions thus accruing to the collections by the law of copyright.

Number of copyright publications received in 1886.

Books.....	17,870
Periodicals.....	11,121
Dramatic compositions	305
Musical compositions.....	12,114
Photographs	2,642
Engravings and chromos	3,118
Maps and charts	2,404
Prints	435
Designs and drawings	23
Paintings	2
Total	50,034

As the law requires a deposit of two copies of each publication which is entered for copyright, the net additions to the collections for the year 1886, were 25,017 different publications, of which 8,935 were books, and 5,560 were periodicals.

The aggregate receipts of copyright publications deposited, as will be observed, fall considerably short of the total copyright entries for the year, although they exceed by 1,174 the total of publications deposited in the preceding year, 1885. This deficiency of deposits compared with entries has always existed in a greater or less degree, and it is owing to several causes. First, there has been considerable laxity in complying with the law on the part of authors and publishers, chiefly among

those outside of the great publishing centres. This neglect to deposit the required copies, although it is distinctly made a condition of a valid copyright, requires the issue from my office of several thousand formal notices annually, calling for the delivery of copies of publications withheld. These notices, where the parties are actually accessible, are generally complied with. But there still remain very many deficiencies to be accounted for, between the actual copyright entries and the actual deposits of copyright publications for any one year. A very considerable share of these deficiencies is due to there being no publications to deposit. An entry of copyright is evidence of an intention to publish, merely, and these intentions remain in multitudes of cases wholly unfulfilled, or publication is deferred for months or years. In other cases, several entries of a projected work are made, and the title changed with each new entry, in which case only the final entry is perfected by the deposit of copies. There are also many renewals of copyright, after expiration of the first term of twenty-eight years, where no immediate republication of the work takes place, and no copies, therefore, are received. The entries of dramatic compositions are always largely in excess of the deposits of copies of the plays, since most dramatic writers do not print their productions at all. After all these allowances are made, however, there still remains a reprehensible degree of carelessness, rather than of willful non-compliance with the law, on the part of many who claim the privileges of copyright.

The unexpended balances to the credit of the various funds appropriated for the Library were as follows on January 1, 1887:

Fund for increase of the Library	\$6,687 60
Fund for purchase of works of art	5,111 72
Fund for contingent expenses of Library	1,321 83
Fund for printing and binding	2,407 33
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in America	1,953 54
Fund for preparing for publication the continuation of the American Archives	4,000 00

The accessions to the Library of valuable periodicals, in series, have been continued during the year by courtesy of the Bureau of Statistics and the Department of State. The accumulated files of newspapers under charge of the Secretary of the Senate, comprising a great number and variety of bound American journals, have been turned over to the Congressional Library, in pursuance of a resolution of the Senate. These are all now rendered available for use and reference, and no department of the Library is more extensively resorted to for stores of information than the department of daily newspapers. Many Government reports, which would otherwise have been very incomplete, have been prepared or perfected through the aid of the extensive files of local journals, covering all sections of the country, which are preserved in this national Library.

THE TONER LIBRARY.

This valuable collection, which represents the first donation to the Government of a large library by a private citizen, has been further increased by the donor during the last year by 106 volumes of books, 867 pamphlets, and many maps and engravings, some of which represent the early topography of Washington City. In fact, it has been one of the aims of the donor to collect everything relating to the seat of government, even newspaper scraps and hand-bills, for careful preservation. But the most important contribution to the Toner collection during the year has been the transfer of his "Alphabet of American Biography," which comprises excerpts from a most extensive series of books and periodicals, illustrative of the lives of Americans, all brought together in a systematic and immediately accessible alphabet, arranged in a large case of thirty-six drawers.

NEEDS OF THE LIBRARY.

Additional help is needed in the Library service, both in the catalogue department and in the rapidly-growing business of the copyright office. It is with difficulty that the card catalogue of all accessions to the Library is kept up to date with the small force employed, while the printing of catalogues (as explained in former reports) has been brought to a stand-still by the constantly encroaching demands of the manuscript catalogue and of the copyright business, which must be always promptly attended to, requiring more and more of the time of my few assistants. The demands of Congress, of the Departments and Bureaus, and of the public for books and information are increasing in the direct ratio of the growth and consequent usefulness of the collections gathered at the Capitol. A large correspondence at home and abroad, with the heavy clerical labor demanded by the copyright entry of over 30,000 publications and the deposit of 50,000 copyright articles per annum, require an increase of force, nor can the printing of catalogues be resumed until this want is supplied.

THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

The most gratifying event of the year in connection with the Library has been the passage by both houses of Congress of the act to provide additional accommodations for the Library of Congress, which became a law on the 15th of April, 1886. By the terms of this act a site immediately opposite the Capitol and adjoining the eastern park has been purchased, of ample dimensions to accommodate a building to contain over 3,000,000 volumes, with space in the rear adequate for the ultimate erection of an annex to hold 2,000,000 volumes additional. The various steps taken by the Library Building Commission in the condemnation of the site and in acquiring possession have been communicated to Congress at its present session in a special report by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, chairman of the Library Building Commission. After a delay

of several months in perfecting the Government's title to the site, the necessary excavations for the foundation are now in progress, and the architect, Mr. J. L. Smithmeyer, has an efficient force of draughtsmen busily employed upon the working drawings and specifications for the building. The appropriation of \$500,000 for commencing the edifice should be supplemented for the next fiscal year by the appropriation of a sufficient sum to secure the active prosecution of the work, as asked for in the estimate submitted to Congress, through the Treasury Department, by the chairman of the Library Building Commission. This is required alike by a wise economy in construction, and by the pressing necessities of the Library for the earliest possible completion of the building.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,

• *Librarian of Congress.*

Hon. WILLIAM J. SEWELL,

Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.

