

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,
EXHIBITING
THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY
DURING
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1, 1873.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1873.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, December 9, 1873.

The customary annual enumeration of books in the Library on the 1st of December, 1873, exhibits an aggregate of 258,752 volumes, and about 48,000 pamphlets. Of this aggregate, the law department of the Library contains 31,190 volumes. At the corresponding date of the last year (1872) the Library contained 246,345 volumes, thus showing an increase during the year of twelve thousand four hundred and seven volumes.

The accessions of the year were derived from the various sources named below :

	Books.	Pamphlets.
By purchase.....	6,249	450
By copyright, (excluding duplicates).....	3,147	2,543
By deposit of the Smithsonian Institution.....	1,512	1,593
By presentation.....	514	550
By exchange.....	965	300
Total	12,407	5,436

The number and designation of articles received at the Library under the laws which make it the depository of all copyright matter will be found below :

Books.....	6,294
Periodicals.....	5,086
Musical compositions.....	5,007
Dramatic compositions.....	89
Photographs.....	991
Engravings and chromos.....	954
Maps and charts.....	468
Prints.....	5,041
Drawings and designs.....	16
Total number of articles	23,946

As the law requires the deposit of two copies of each publication protected by copyright, the actual number of separate articles received, excluding duplicates, was 11,973, of which there were 3,147 volumes of books, and 2,543 periodicals.

The whole number of copyrights entered during the year ended De-

ember 1, 1873, was 15,352, and the amount paid into the Treasury by the undersigned during the same time, on account of copyright fees, was \$13,404.30.

The entries exceed those of the preceding year by 1,188, and the receipts from copyright fees are increased to the amount of \$1,120.59 over those of last year.

The unexpended balances of funds under charge of the Joint Committee on the Library were as follows December 1, 1873 :

Fund for increase of Library.....	\$10,228 15
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	1,853 90
Fund for expenses of exchanging public documents.....	1,250 00
Fund for a plan for Library building.....	4,897 30
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical documents relating to the early French discoveries in the Northwest and on the Mississippi.....	10,000 00
Fund for ornamenting the Capitol with works of art.....	15,441 21
Fund for portraits of Presidents of the United States.....	1,850 00
Fund for completion of three volumes of Wilkes's United States Exploring Expedition.....	6,858 96
Fund for salaries in Botanic Garden and greenhouses.....	7,374 41
Fund for improving buildings, &c., in Botanic Garden.....	6,699 35
Fund for improving Botanic Garden and greenhouses.....	9,863 62

I respectfully renew the recommendation, made in my last report, that the copyright law be so amended as more clearly to define the articles which shall be lawful subjects of copyright. Under the present statute, the vague designation of "prints" has always been made to cover printed labels for use on articles of manufacture. An amendment of the law, excluding these things from the protection of copyright, (to which they clearly have no proper relation,) and providing for their registry in future at the Patent-Office, was approved by the Joint Committee on the Library, and reported favorably to the House of Representatives by the Committee on Patents at the last session of Congress. In the pressure of public business, however, it failed to become a law.

The collection of the English county histories, for which a special appropriation was made in the last Congress, has been successfully proceeded with, and all but seven, out of the forty counties of England, are now represented in the Library, besides many of the town histories, and the local histories and genealogies of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The great interest of these works, and their value as elucidating the history and genealogy of that country from which most American families derive their origin, together with the fact that the most extensive county histories were printed in small numbers and are constantly rising in price, render this a wise and timely purchase. It is satisfactory to add that the cost of the collection (including what were already in the Library) will come within the limits of the appropriation of five thousand dollars.

The large copyright business, placed in exclusive charge of this office

since 1870, continues to be transacted with promptitude, within the very limited quarters at my disposal. Additional space, however, for these numerous and valuable records, and for the clerical business involved, has become an absolute necessity. Already the larger portion of the original records of copyright have to be kept in a dark store room, removed by two flights of stairs from the Library, involving great loss of time in the constant referreuces that must be made. ,

The urgent necessity for more room for the protection and arrangement of the great and overflowing Library under my charge is again brought to the attention of the committee. The large additions of the past year are not exceptional, but are likely to be repeated, if not exceeded, in the annual growth of this Library, which is the only one national in its character, and enjoying the benefit of steadily increasing accessions through the law of copyright, as well as the deposits of the library of the Smithsonian Institution. The undersigned will not repeat the statements so fully made in his last report, setting forth the impossibility of any permanent provision for the Library and copyright department within the Capitol, even with any enlargement of that building which could be agreed upon. The accommodation of a collection of books now numbering over a quarter of a million, and which in less than twenty years will outnumber half a million, while at no remote period it will very largely exceed one million volumes, together with the annually increasing importance of the copyright department as an office of public record, plainly demands the erection of a separate building specially designed for a great public library, and adequate to the requirements of its manifold departments. This will not supersede the necessity of retaining in the Capitol a sufficiently extensive selected library for legislative and judicial use. By the act of March 3, 1873, Congress authorized a commission, consisting of the chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, the chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds on the part of the Senate, and the Librarian of Congress, to select a plan for a new building for the Library of Congress, with an appropriation of five thousand dollars to procure architectural designs, and with further power to select a plan, and to supervise the location and erection of a building. The latter portion of the trust reposed in the commission will of course be inoperative without further legislation by Congress.

The commission advertised in leading newspapers in the large cities of the country for designs for a Library building, and at the same time furnished to architects a series of outline specifications to guide them in submitting plans for such an edifice. A premium of fifteen hundred dollars was offered for such design as should be adjudged the best by the members of the commission; one thousand dollars for the next best, and five hundred dollars for the third best. Up to November 15, 1873, when the competition was closed, twenty-eight designs had been re-

ceived, and the award, which is payable on or before December 31, will shortly be made by the commission.

The importance of a prompt provision for the commencement of a new Library building will be apparent when it is considered that the increasing accumulation of books is such that the alcoves in all departments of the Library are already overflowed; that the one hundred supplementary cases of shelving introduced two years ago to accommodate the surplus are nearly all filled; that the grievous necessity of piling up books on the floors in many quarters has already been reached; and that it will not be possible much longer to provide any space for the thousands of volumes of new accessions constantly wanted for the use and reference of Congress, in any quarter where they can be systematically arranged, and produced with the necessary promptitude. The whole subject is again earnestly commended to the early attention of the committee.

A. R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian.

Hon. TIMOTHY O. HOWE,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.