

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

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REPORT.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,

December 6, 1897.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my report as Librarian of Congress.

On the 30th of June, 1897, your Librarian was nominated and confirmed to be Librarian of Congress. On the 1st of July he took the oath and entered upon the duties of his office.

The following is a record of the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897:

RECEIPTS.

Amount of copyright fees reported by Mr. Spofford from July 1, 1896, to April 30, 1897, with receipts for May and June estimated, follows, no accounts therefor having been rendered:

1896:		
July.....	\$4,440.00	
August.....	4,083.50	
September.....	4,002.50	
October.....	4,549.50	
November.....	3,964.00	
December.....	5,290.50	
1897:		
January.....	6,031.50	
February.....	4,381.00	
March.....	4,907.00	
April.....	4,625.50	
Total.....	46,276.00	
May and June (estimated).....	9,100.00	
Total.....	55,376.00	

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries, Library of Congress.....	\$54,620.47
Increase of Library, purchase of books.....	5,980.02
Contingent expenses, Library of Congress.....	1,003.77
Total.....	61,604.26

The Library as transferred is estimated in volumes as follows:

On the shelves	323, 642
Reading room and alcoves	45, 603
Catalogue department	3, 135
Map department	2, 700
Art department	833
Law library	96, 813
Toner collection	23, 384
Washingtoniana	2, 000
Smithsonian collection of publications of learned societies....	46, 000
Rare books	3, 000
At the bindery	2, 500
Books loaned out....	1, 865
Uncatalogued books and duplicates.....	116, 240
✓ Copyright deposits (all duplicates)	120, 000
Total.....	<u>787, 715</u>
Pamphlets (ascertained by estimate):	
Catalogued and on shelves.....	43, 340
Uncatalogued.....	<u>175, 000</u>
Total.....	218, 340

The larger portion of the books belonging to the Smithsonian collection, consisting of the books and pamphlets not included in that of publications of learned societies, is included in the enumeration of the Library books on the shelves. At the present stage of the library classification, it has been found impossible to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the exact number of books known as the Smithsonian library.

According to this estimate, the Library is composed of 787,715 books and 218,340 pamphlets.

On the 1st of November the number of books reported loaned out "in the hands of readers" was 3,320, of which 1,446 were charged to Senators and Members no longer in Congress, and to others entitled to take out books. A few of the 1,446 may be returned, but from these figures we may estimate our loss during thirty years. The daily average of books in the hands of readers may be placed at 3,000. This, however, varies, the number taken out during the session of Congress being much larger than in the recess. The percentage of books lost in thirty years is about five in a thousand. The privileges of the Library have been mainly abused in the direction of keeping out books longer than the rules allowed rather than failing to return them. It would have been more satisfactory to have given you an exact count rather than an estimate. This was impossible, as the books were stored in the Capitol, and the work of removal and classification, so as in a measure to be ready for the opening of Congress, has made it impossible. This confusion came from the pressure for space, the long-continued congestion so oppressive that the Library collections were only saved from chaos by the energy and vigilance of those in charge. The problem was a library approaching

800,000 volumes and shelf room for 300,000. "There was no packing room," was written in the Librarian's report of 1872, "and the heavy receipt of books from all quarters, by daily mails and otherwise, the binding business, the cataloguing of the books, the correspondence of the Library, the direction of assistants, and the extensive daily labors of the copyright department are all constantly going on in those public parts of the Library which should be kept free for readers. Masses of books, pamphlets, newspapers, engravings, etc., in the course of collation, cataloguing, labeling and stamping in preparation for their proper location in the Library, are necessarily under the eye and almost under the feet of the Members of Congress and other visitors."

A strenuous effort was made during the period of removal to secure an exact enumeration of the Library, not alone the books on the shelves, but the classes of books, their part in the universal scheme of knowledge and, more especially, what were embraced in auxiliary departments, like those of music, the graphic arts, and manuscripts. It is to be hoped that this will be accomplished at an early day. Under the head of books entered for copyright are classified hotel registers, form books, circulars, syndicate articles, and so on—the law providing no other term. Thus, while the reports show an aggregate of receipts from 1870 to 1896 of 416,822 publications from the copyright of "books," the term does not express the character of the entries. And until the copyright and other material now lying in indiscriminate heaps on the Library floors are classified any estimate would be misleading. The strength of the Library, considered as a comprehensive collection in all departments of knowledge, is evidently overestimated when spoken of as 787,715 volumes. We must consider that a large percentage, say from 33 per cent to 40 per cent, are duplicates—and not alone copyright, but from other sources—as in the law department, for instance, with as many as 14 copies of the same work on the shelves.

THE REMOVAL OF THE BOOKS.

The act providing for the removal of the Library from the Capitol was passed under the impression that Congress, according to custom, would adjourn March 4. As the new building was completed in February, it was believed that the transfer of the books would be over by July 1, and the law as affecting the new Library could go into operation. The extra session, however, made this impossible, except as to the removal of a large amount of miscellaneous matter in the way of duplicates. The main Library was kept intact in the Capitol until Congress adjourned. In the meantime, the plans for transferring and housing the books on the new shelves were under consideration by the Library authorities. This required study, involving, as it did, problems of delicacy. It was necessary that each volume should be carried from its place in the Capitol to a corresponding place in the new building, and so carefully done as to be

at once accessible to the readers. The question of transfer, the care of valuable properties, the chances of weather, the renovation of the books, pamphlets, and manuscripts, from the consequences of dust and other accretions of time, were parts of the problem.

On July 31, 1897, the old Library was closed to all except those having business with the copyright department. Then came the preparation of the books for the transit, which began August 2. All Library work was suspended in every department except what was necessary for the transfer of the books. Every assistant was assigned to this duty. Few leaves of absence were granted, and those for emergency. We were fortunate so far as the weather was concerned; and, as a result of the care, foresight, and industry of the staff, the whole Library, with its manifold and various treasures, was removed in ten weeks. As an engineering feat this would merit high praise; but apart from that, we should realize the skill and tact which transferred this vast mass without the loss or apparent misplacement of a volume.

The books were arranged in the new Library with regard to convenience of access and speedy service. Books which experience had shown to be most sought for were placed on shelves near the reading room. Other subjects, such as geology and chemistry, were grouped together, and, to allow for a growth in each section, only one-half of each shelf was occupied.

The arrangement of the various sections is as follows:

NORTH BOOK STACK.

First story from top.—Publications of foreign governments; pamphlet collections (bound and unbound); United States Patent Office Gazette; commercial directories.

Second story.—Document publications of the States of the Union; space for the arrangement of duplicates.

Third story.—Mathematics, astronomy, geology, chemistry, physics, botany, medicine, natural history, and zoology.

Fourth story.—Agriculture, technology, ecclesiastical history, and theology.

Fifth story.—Architecture, fine arts, music, poetry, drama, correspondence, rhetoric, essays, ana, and humor.

Sixth story.—General history, ancient and modern; history, biography, and description of all countries except the United States and Great Britain; Great Britain (history, biography).

Seventh story.—Americana (in part) polygraphy, literature, bibliography, and language.

Eighth story.—International law, statistics, politics, philosophy, education, sociology, mythology, geography.

Ninth story.—Uncatalogued books; duplicates.

SOUTH BOOK STACK.

- First to fifth story from top.*—Bound newspapers and works on art.
Sixth story.—Bound periodicals.
Seventh story.—Directories, fiction (in part), orientalia; Shakespeare, Homer, Dante, Virgil, Goethe.
Eighth story.—Bound periodicals.
Ninth story.—Copyright duplicates.

EAST BOOK STACK.

Library (in part) of the Smithsonian Institution.
Reading room.—Gallery: United States documents. Alcoves on floor: Americana (in part); genealogy, biography, local history, reference books, fiction (in part).

The Library closed on July 31; was opened to the public on November 1. This meant the adjustment of over 400,000 books so that they might be available. Since then the reading room has been in use daily except on Sunday. While the public has therefore the advantages of a splendid reading library the work of classification still goes forward, and in a short time we hope to have every volume and pamphlet even of the miscellaneous matter in its appropriate place.

As a part of the present system, there is a pneumatic tube, a tunnel, and electric machinery for the transmission of books from the Library to the Capitol. It would be impossible to overestimate the importance of this ingenious work in the practical efficiency of Library administration. A test was made of its operations on October 27 by the Library officials. The telephone was not yet in operation, and therefore the experiment was under imperfect conditions. Without any prearrangement or forewarning a request for books was conveyed through the pneumatic tube from the Capitol to the reading desk in the new Library. In ten minutes and five seconds the volume asked for reached the Capitol. The second request was for four books—one in English, the other three in Italian, German, and French, respectively. Three of them, the Italian, German, and English, came within eight minutes and eleven seconds. The French volume, *Les Châtiments*, arrived two minutes later. The third was a request for *The London Times* containing an account of the battle of Waterloo. *The Times*, the volume of 1815, was promptly found on its appropriate shelf in the upper part of the Library Building, but owing to a little delay at the reading desk was twelve minutes in reaching the Capitol.

The test was notable as demonstrating the practical convenience of the Library in the service of Congress and the Supreme Court. Under the old system the Library was so congested, books were heaped up in so many crevices and out-of-the-way corners, down in the crypt, hidden in darkness from access of observation, that obtaining a volume, and especially, one out of the range of general reading, was a question of time and

patience. Frequently, it depended upon the phenomenal memory of the distinguished Librarian.

The present arrangement may be described as almost automatic in its character, and there is no reason why a Senator at his desk, or a Justice of the Supreme Court in the conference room may not summon the page and have whatever he requires within twelve or fifteen minutes. This is not a theory or an anticipation, but a practical demonstration. The new Library brings its treasures within an easier reach of those who need them than ever before.

THE LIBRARY AS ARRANGED.

The question of arrangement of the new Library building has been under careful consideration. Assignments have been made, but they are still subject to such changes as experience may justify.

This is the present arrangement of the building in detail:

THE BASEMENT.

The copyright department has been assigned to the southwest pavilion and the north and south curtains. In the south curtain and pavilion are the offices of the register and clerks. In the north curtain are the archives—that is to say, where an original copy of every copyright article is preserved. The offices of the superintendent of the building are in the west south curtain. The west north curtain remains unassigned, but is filled with books and pamphlets. The west north pavilion has been set apart for the blind. The eastern pavilion and curtains have been given over to the bindery, the packing and mail rooms, and for purposes of general utility.

THE FIRST STORY (LIBRARY FLOOR).

The central feature of the first story is the reading room, with its surrounding alcoves. The newspapers and periodicals will be given as much of the south and east south curtains as may be requisite. The Smithsonian Institution, the manuscript, the Toner and Washington collections will have special places in the eastern curtains. The catalogue department will occupy as much of the north curtain as is requisite. The southwest pavilion is devoted to the reading room of the Senate; the west south curtain to that of the House. The executive offices of the Library are in the west north curtain. Here will be found the Library records, and the books of rare value and interest, which are specially safeguarded. The manuscript department has been assigned to the northeast pavilion for reasons of security.

THE SECOND STORY (GALLERIES).

This is the finest in the way of decoration of the Library floors. Keeping this in view, the four pavilions and the western curtains will be devoted to exhibition purposes, rare books, works of art, and notable collections. The southern gallery will be given to graphic art, selections

from which will be on exhibition from time to time. The maps and charts are assigned to the northern gallery for the present, or until experience shows how much room is needed for the catalogue and other departments. The east south curtain has been assigned to the music department, while the east north curtain will be arranged as a hall for such learned societies as may be authorized to hold their meetings in the Library. The room adjoining will be devoted to special research.

THE ATTIC.

The upper or attic stories are reserved for restaurant and smoking rooms. There are small rooms reserved for study.

THE BOOK STACKS.

The three book stacks, containing a majority of the books in the Library, each consisting of nine stories, adjoin the reading room on the north, south, and east. The main access to each is from the reading room alcoves. The north and south stacks are connected with the central desk of the reading room by pneumatic tubes, through which readers' ticket orders are sent to any one of the nine stories of either stack. The returned books, collected by an attendant in each story, are received at the reading room through book carriers operated by electric power on the endless chain system. The time required for this service varies from three to five minutes.

This will explain the plan of the Library as now arranged. But some time must elapse—one or two years, at least—before the natural wants of the Library are well enough known to allow a useful, permanent arrangement. A room for the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress may be desired. The Librarian, while reserving certain rooms which might serve that purpose, has designated no special room, awaiting, as he does, the pleasure of the committee.

This arrangement contemplates the removal from the reading-room floor of whatever does not serve the immediate purpose of the Library. The catalogue department, as will be seen, is in immediate contact with the reading room, and therefore in easy answer to the constant calls. In the various alcoves around the reading room are 45,603 volumes. It is in contemplation, but not yet determined, to throw these alcoves open to the public. Shelves, however, have been arranged around the reading desk for works of reference, to which the reader has access. The reading room is closed, except to those who come for study. Those who wish to view the building have constant admission to the halls and corridors. The Library has telephone connection with the city and the Capitol.

THE APPOINTMENTS.

The one main duty of the Librarian during the recess of Congress has been the removal and arrangement of the books. To this duty all else has been subordinate. As a consequence, the other departments, with

the exception of the copyright and reading room, are, as yet, not quite ready, but in various processes of organization. The matter of appointments has likewise been governed by the exigencies of the service. Under the law, nominations could have been made on the 1st of July. To have done this would have created sinecures. Many of the officials provided for in the act of February, 1897, could not have been assigned to duty pending the transfer of the books; and while appointments would have accorded with the letter of the law, the spirit of the law would have been violated. As has been shown, the law of February was based upon the assumption that the removal of the Library would begin March 5, 1897, and be over by July 1. Had the removal been consummated by July 1, then, as the appropriations were available, nominations could have been usefully made. The necessity which made this inadvisable was, as will be seen, not of the Librarian's creation. Appointments were therefore made as soon as there was work to be done.

As a result of this withholding of appointments until the state of the work permitted the service contemplated by law, there remains in the Treasury, as an unexpended part of the appropriation of February 19, 1897, the sum of \$12,737.84.

The following will show these disbursements in detail:

Month.	Expended.	Appropriated.	Unexpended.
July	\$5,687.03	\$10,705.00	\$5,017.97
August	6,600.47	10,705.00	4,104.53
September	8,056.47	10,705.00	2,648.53
October	10,319.99	10,705.00	385.01
November	10,123.20	10,705.00	581.80
Total	30,787.16	53,525.00	12,737.84

In order that the Library might in its reorganization have efficient service, all appointments were probationary, subject either to the tests of experience or examination. To aid in this the Librarian appointed a board composed of Mr. Spofford, Mr. Hutcheson, the superintendent of the reading room, and Mr. Solberg, the head of the copyright department, as the gentlemen who represented the best available experience for determining aptitude for the various forms of library work. The board, on account of the exigency of removal and the special and exacting duties thereby imposed upon each of its members, has thus far been unable to act. It is believed that the examinations will be concluded in December. This delay has been in no respect a hardship to the applicants, as the probationary appointments were virtually under tuition, nor has it been found an injury to the service.

The duty of selecting well qualified appointees possessing special aptitude for library work has been attended with many embarrassments. Portions of the library service require technical knowledge, as much so as the duties of the Medical or Engineer Corps. Each of the divisions

of the Library—music, the graphic arts, the reading room, the catalogue bureau, the hall of maps and charts, the manuscript, the law department of the Library, the periodicals and newspapers—necessitated, apart from a general knowledge of library work, a special knowledge of the department to which the candidate was assigned. What increased the embarrassment was that, as a rule, the thousands of applications represented meritorious and accomplished people, with the highest recommendations, from all classes, and capable of good service in many stations of public duty, but lacking in requisite library experience.

It was because of the desire to maintain the traditions and the integrity of the Library that few changes were made in the old staff. Of the forty in service upon taking office, but five have thus far been changed—three because of superannuation, and this with regret, because the gentlemen in question had in their day done good service, and should have retired upon a pension, such as superannuation and faithful work receive in other national libraries, and two in the interest of the Library.

Twenty-five per cent of the appointments consisted of women. With few exceptions, women have not had service in the Library, and therefore the nominations were an experiment. It was believed that as there were various features of the Library work apparently suitable for women, they were entitled to recognition. In the administration of other libraries the experiment has been successful, but so far as our Library is concerned, the appointment of women is still open to debate. This may result from the present exceptional conditions. The Library is in a state of change—its new departments created by the new law, involving the handling and organization of the vast material, outside of books, now first brought to view. The classification and removal of this material is manual labor, with little opportunity for rest—as a rule, hard and exacting. In a year or two, when these new departments are arranged and in good working order, there may be gentle and useful offices suitable for women. With the problem to be gone over again, however, there would be more reserve in these appointments. While those in the service do their duty with fidelity and patience, it does not diminish the regret that it is necessarily so severe.

THE COPYRIGHT DEPARTMENT.

As a national institution, the copyright system goes back to 1790. Before that twelve of the original thirteen States had passed copyright laws. These State laws protected for various terms. By the act of 1790 the right to print was guaranteed for fourteen years, with a renewal for another fourteen, in all, twenty-eight years. The penalty for infraction was severe, but complications arose as to the enforcement of the law and it was never satisfactory. The act of April 29, 1802, is interesting as extending the copyright law of protection to the arts of designing, engravings, and etchings, historical or other prints. By the act of 1831 copyright

was extended to twenty-eight years, with the right of renewal for fourteen more, thus giving protection in literary property for forty-two years. Music was brought within the copyright provision. In 1856 copyright was granted to dramatic compositions, and in 1865 to photographs and negatives. In 1870 the committee appointed to revise the Statutes submitted a revised and consolidated law of copyright, which is the law in force to-day. This statute, however, has been amended by several legislative enactments since, the most important being the act of March 3, 1891, by which copyright was extended to the natives of such foreign nations as accorded to our own people copyright privileges equal to those enjoyed by their own. The act relating to the public performance or representation of any dramatic or musical composition, with intention to give better protection to playwright, was approved January 6, 1897.

The copyright department was transferred in 1870 to the Librarian of Congress, who thus became register. There was a convenience in this. Delays were prevented and a uniform system established, which saved trouble to authors and publishers. It also assured the Library a complete collection of American publications, and as my predecessor remarked, "If such a law had been enforced since the beginning of the Government, we should now have in the Library of Congress a complete representation of the American mind in every department of science and literature."

Under the old law the copyright was an annoyance at times, and not an advantage—incomplete in its provisions and awkward in administration. It was difficult for the owner of a title to protect his rights. The transmission of a second copy to the Library was frequently overlooked. It is of record that in a single year there were more than 1,000 requisitions for publications where owners had accepted copyrighted protection without complying with the law.

There was likewise no central office of record, and copyright property was intangible. And yet the right of the owner to his literary property, whether a history, an epic, a novel, or a street ballad, was as sacred to him as a right to a patent or a land warrant. It was his covenant with the Government under which the profits of his genius and industry were assured.

The copyright department is therefore a most important office. Its growth may be estimated when it is noted that while in six months of 1870 the copyrights were 5,600, in 1896 74,470 were entered. This means a steady rather than a spasmodic growth. Thus in 1870 there were, as we have seen, 5,600 entries; in 1875, 14,364; in 1880, 20,686; in 1885, 28,410; in 1890, 42,758, and in 1896, 72,470. With the exception of the years of business depression this increase has been sure, and never at a greater ratio than at present. These figures are instructive, not alone as showing the importance of the copyright department, but as indicative of the immense growth of music, literature, and the arts. A few months since the average daily receipt of letters was 170. The

letters received daily from October 21 to December 3, for an example, average 179, with an increase from week to week. And already there are well-founded complaints from the head of the copyright bureau as to an insufficient staff and the necessity of extra hours of labor to keep the work in hand. The relative numerical importance of the copyright toward the other departments of the Government may be understood when it is noted that while the Patent Office has 24,000 entries annually there were in 1896 72,470 in the copyright office.

The published reports of the Librarian from 1870 to 1896 classify the copyright entries as follows:

Books	371, 636
Periodicals	257, 153
Music	289, 617
The drama	6, 026
Photographs	73, 817
Engravings, lithographs, etc	74, 670
Prints	20, 579
Maps and charts	48, 048
Designs, models, and drawings	6, 294

1,147

The bulk of the copyright material was removed from the Capitol in the early part of 1897 and deposited in the new Library building. It came in such disorder that some time must elapse before it can be arranged. The crediting and indexing were behindhand. With the pressure of current business and its growth now straining to the utmost our clerical facilities the perfecting of the copyright records must be left to a more convenient season.

The present head of the copyright department took office July 22. The work was then carried on in the Capitol with the aid of 24 clerks. There was no bookkeeping method, and the correspondence was largely a matter of printed forms. A fiscal system has been arranged, so that the record of the money passing through the bureau from day to day may have adequate accounting. By the courtesy of the Treasury Department in detailing expert accountants to aid in the fiscal reorganization, stringent and comprehensive methods have been devised specially intended to meet the requirements of the Treasury. Although these arrangements are tentative and open to the tests of experience, thus far they have worked admirably.

The rules laid down in the reorganization of the copyright department may thus be summarized: Every person sending a remittance receives a prompt answer. Every person sending a fee covering the cost of the certificate receives that certificate as soon as possible after the entries are made. Deposits of copies are noted. Assignments or other valuable instruments are recorded and the instruments returned by registered mail. Remittances of money are at once acknowledged, and money refunded where necessary as soon as possible, accompanied by a letter of explanation. All letters of whatsoever character are kept in copying

books. A new method of indexing has been arranged by which the index cards are made for the titles on the day of their receipt. A weekly bulletin of publications received at the library, under the provisions of the copyright law, is furnished to the Treasury by the Librarian and printed for the use of the collectors of customs at ports of entry to aid in the suppression of copyright publications printed abroad without permission of the proprietor. This bulletin has been carefully rearranged with new bibliographical features, giving it a special value as a catalogue of current American literature. Numbers of the edition are taken by subscribers at the cost of \$5 a year, payable at any United States custom-house.

The question of the enforcement of the copyright law, so far as the deposit of the two copies are concerned, should receive consideration. As a matter of administration, the law could at the caprice of a publisher become obsolete. It is provided that no person shall be entitled to a copyright unless he shall, on or before the day of publication, in this or any foreign country, deliver at the office of the Librarian of Congress, or deposit in the mail, two copies of each book or other articles seeking copyright. Failing in this, implies a fine of \$25, to be collected by the Librarian, in an action of debt, in any district court of the United States of competent jurisdiction. There is no record that the Librarian has ever availed himself of this power, for the reason that judicial expenses and the public irresponsibility of many of the delinquents would make the proceedings inadvisable.

The effect of this imperfect statute may be thus exemplified: From July 1 to October 30, inclusive, the copyright entries amounted to 23,011, while the entries completed by deposit amounted to 17,515. This left 5,496, or less than one-third, incomplete. The number of articles received under copyright amounted to 36,001; duplicates in 17,466, and but one copy in 29 entries. From the 5,496 there must be deducted those applicants who have merely copyrighted a projected work, reserving the right to complete their entry by subsequent deposits.

For the same period the entries of foreign publications of all kinds under the international copyright amounted to 2,850. The United States entries of the same character number 20,161, showing that seven-eighths of the international business is in the interest of American authors and publishers.

The privilege of copyright in the United States now extends to eleven foreign Governments, namely, Great Britain and her dependencies, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Chile, and Mexico.

If it were possible to secure a more rigid enforcement of the statute which makes two deposits of any article copyrighted essential to the validity of a copyright, it would be an advantage. Small return is asked for the benefit of a law which gives adequate protection to what in so

many cases is a valuable property. In Great Britain the law requires as a condition of copyright five copies. The neglect of that mandate was among the early troubles of the British Museum. An effort to check it was made by consulting publishers, circulars, and comparing the books announced to the trade with those deposited in the Museum. The librarian testified before a royal commission that the poems of Wordsworth were not on the Museum shelves for the reason that the publisher declined to furnish certain volumes which he claimed to be reprints, and, therefore, free from copyright. The librarian held that to acquire Wordsworth by a purchase would have been an invitation to every publisher to evade the law. The question adjusted itself in time, it being the disposition of the publishers, as a return for the advantages of a copyright, to comply with the law, and even as a matter of self-protection to unite in the strict enforcement of its provision.

The Librarian is disposed to believe that in the United States, as in Great Britain, the failure of publishers to comply with a law arises from neglect, rather than other causes. However, the law is the law and, whether in the making of books or any other enterprise, the master of us all. The enforcement of the statute—the recognition of the principle that no copyright is valid until the law is complied with in every detail—would be an advantage and in no sense a hardship. The copyrighting of the titles; that is to say, of projected books—a promise to do something at a future day—might lead to embarrassment, the department becoming a kind of bureau of promises and good intentions. It would be well, therefore, to fix a limit of time within which, after the entry of the title, deposit could be made to complete the entry of copyright, and to provide that in case where the delay in publication exceeded this period a new entry of title should become obligatory.

An illustration of the workings of the copyright department will be found in the following table:

Copyright office receipts for fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.

1896:	
July.....	\$4, 672. 50
August.....	4, 479. 75
September.....	4, 084. 00
October.....	4, 590. 40
November.....	4, 375. 00
December.....	5, 120. 75
1897:	
January.....	5, 677. 50
February.....	4, 797. 60
March.....	5, 268. 50
April.....	4, 838. 70
May.....	4, 829. 30
June.....	4, 724. 25
Total.....	57, 458. 25

The following table for July, August, September, and October will show the business as compared with the corresponding months of 1896:

Month.	Gross cash receipts.			Business executed.		Number of entries.		
	1896.	1897.	Increase (+) or decrease (-).	1897.	Increase.	1896.	1897.	Increase (+) or decrease (-).
July	\$4,672.50	\$4,257.70	— \$414.80	\$3,769.00	.....	5,806	5,015	— 791
August	4,479.75	4,525.27	+ 45.52	4,296.00	\$527.00	5,290	5,618	+ 328
September	4,084.00	5,218.87	+1,134.87	4,559.50	263.50	5,012	6,106	+1,094
October	4,590.40	5,556.21	+ 965.81	4,899.00	339.50	5,929	6,368	+ 439

Here in detail is the business of July, August, September, and October:

Month.	Gross cash receipts.			Business in detail.			Copyright entries.				
	Monthly receipts.	Monthly increase.	Daily average.	Monthly business.	Monthly increase.	Daily average.	Foreign.	United States.	Total.	Increase.	Daily average.
July	\$4,257.70	.....	\$163.73	\$3,769.00	.....	\$144.96	507	4,508	5,015	.....	192
August	4,525.27	\$267.57	174.05	4,296.00	\$527.00	165.23	645	4,973	5,618	603	216
September	5,218.87	693.60	200.70	4,559.50	263.50	175.35	742	5,364	6,106	488	234
October	5,556.21	337.34	213.70	4,899.00	339.50	188.42	954	5,414	6,368	262	244
Total	19,558.05	.....	.....	17,523.50	.....	.....	2,848	20,259	23,107	.....	.....

Gross cash receipts:

Average monthly increase for the period	\$432.83
Daily average for the period	188.04

Business in detail:

Average monthly increase for the period	376.67
Daily average for the period	168.49

Articles were deposited in the copyright office in compliance with the law, from June 28 to October 31, inclusive, as follows:

Books	4,274
Circulars, pamphlets (broadsides, etc)	3,160
Newspaper articles	1,992
Dramatical compositions	316
Periodicals (separate numbers)	7,558
Musical compositions	10,434
Maps	836
Charts	172
Engravings	1,060
Cuts	50
Prints	556
Lithographs	592
Photographs	3,765
Designs	248
Chromos	2
Total	35,015

These figures represent the actual number of pieces, two copies being required of each article.

As an evidence of the value of copyright, the records of the office show in gross cash receipts from January 1 to June 30, \$28,804.35; from July to October, \$19,530.09. The estimate for November and December is \$10,000, but with the increase of the autumn business it will probably be larger, in all, \$58,334.44, or more than is required for the expenses of the department.

It should be kept in mind that in addition to this sum of money, paid weekly into the Treasury, we are indebted to the copyright division for the larger portion of our accessions of books.

John Russell Young,
Librarian of Congress.
Hon. Garret S. Hobart,
Vice-President.