

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE CALENDAR YEAR 1882.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1883.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, January 26, 1883.

The undersigned has the honor to submit herewith his annual report, with statements concerning the progress of the Library and the business of the copyright department during the calendar year closing December 31, 1882.

The annual enumeration has just been completed, and has been attended with greatly increased difficulties, owing to the rapidly growing embarrassment in counting books and other publications which cannot be accommodated upon shelves. Upwards of one hundred and thirty thousand volumes are now necessarily stored in heaps in various rooms connected with the Library, or are placed in double rows, so as to render their enumeration more slow and difficult than attends that process in well-arranged libraries where sufficient space is provided for the books. The count, however, presents a close approximation to exact figures, having been repeated in those sections of the Library where there was doubt as to the result.

The aggregate of the collections in the Library now numbers 480,076 volumes, besides about 160,000 pamphlets. At the date of the last enumeration, one year ago, the number of books in the Library was 420,092, besides about 145,000 pamphlets. The law department of the Library now numbers 57,233 volumes, included in the above aggregate, being an increase of 4,642 volumes in the Law Library.

The entire additions to the collections during 1882 embrace 59,984 volumes of books and 27,310 pamphlets, which were acquired from the following sources:

	Books.	Pamphlets.
From purchases	11,160	1,243
From copyright	12,297	9,845
From deposit by the Smithsonian Institution	2,310	5,352
From donations	6,712	525
From exchanges	460	343
Toner collection (presented to the government)	27,045	12,000
Total	59,984	27,310

There has been a steady increase in the business of the copyright department during the year. The whole number of copyright entries in the office of the Librarian was 22,918, being an increase of 1,343 publications entered for copyright beyond those of the preceding year. The fees paid into the Treasury on account of records of copyright amounted to the sum of \$18,554.00, being an increase of \$1,502.50 over the receipts of the year 1881.

The following is a statement of the special classes of publications, with the number of each entered for copyright in 1882 :

<i>Number of articles entered in 1882.</i>	
Books.....	7, 828
Periodicals.....	4, 612
Dramatic compositions.....	458
Musical compositions.....	6, 143
Photographs.....	684
Chromos and engravings.....	1, 760
Maps and charts.....	847
Prints.....	27
Designs.....	502
Paintings.....	50
Drawings.....	7
Total.....	22, 918

The following exhibits the number of publications of every description deposited in the Library in 1882, and the accessions to the collection under each head by the copyright law.

<i>Number of copyright articles received in 1882.</i>	
Books.....	12, 297
Periodicals.....	9, 702
Dramatic compositions.....	175
Musical compositions.....	11, 303
Photographs.....	1, 008
Chromos and engravings.....	2, 724
Maps and charts.....	1, 204
Prints.....	52
Designs.....	417
Drawings.....	8
Total.....	38, 980

As the law requires two copies of each publication protected by copyright to be deposited, the net additions to the copyright publications during the year embraced 19,490 articles, of which 6,149 were books, and 4,851 were periodicals.

The various unexpended funds of the Library of Congress exhibit the following balances on hand on the 1st of January, 1883:

Fund for increase of the Library.....	\$8, 074 41
Fund for works of art.....	12, 800 15
Fund for portraits of Presidents of the United States.....	4 50

Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	\$1,283 51
Fund for providing furniture for Library.....	774 90
Fund for providing additional accommodations for the Congressional Library.....	3,033 12
Fund for purchase and printing of unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in the Northwest, and on the Mississippi.	4,578 04

There has been completed during the year another volume (being the fifth) of the collection of original documents in French, relating to the discoveries and settlements under French auspices on the Mississippi River, and in the northwestern regions of America, published under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, under an act of Congress. The sixth and only remaining volume of the text, with an atlas of maps, will shortly be finished.

The undersigned again regrets the necessity of recording the fact that no progress has been made by legislation toward relieving the almost intolerable embarrassments of this great and overcrowded Library. The collection of these valuable stores of literature and art cannot and ought not to stand still—representing as they do the researches and product of the American mind in every field of human knowledge. The fact that the majority of the collections thus acquired come without cost to the government, adds another to the numerous cogent reasons so long and so repeatedly urged for their suitable protection and arrangement. The daily increasing obstacles to the proper administration of the Library service have now reached a point which actually obstructs the prompt supply of books and information to both houses of Congress, to the courts and departments, to the many scientific bureaus of the government, and to the public, who resort in increasing numbers to the Capitol to make use of the rich repository of authorities in the Library. To render these collections in the highest degree useful, it is absolutely necessary that adequate room should be provided in a building planned and specially constructed for the purpose. To render them measurably useless, no surer method could be devised than the attempt to crowd half a million of books into quarters plainly inadequate for the proper arrangement and classification of half that number. The time consumed in hunting for books, which it is absolutely impossible to provide with any definite place in the Library, occasions an incalculable waste of valuable time to students, and threatens more and more to obstruct Congress and its committees in the supply of information constantly wanted at a moment's notice.

THE TONER COLLECTION.

Still greater force has been added during the past year to the urgent demand for an adequate library building, by the very generous benefaction of a professional man long identified with the capital. The private library of Joseph Meredith Toner, M. D., embracing over 27,000 volumes of books, besides 12,000 pamphlets and periodicals, was presented to

the government, and accepted by special act of Congress, in the month of May, 1882. Shortly after the adjournment of Congress, this collection was removed to the Capitol, temporary quarters having been provided for it by partitioning off a portion of the crypt under the rotunda. The Toner collection is found to be, in many directions, a valuable supplement to the Library of Congress. In the local history of States, counties, and towns, in biography, in medical science, in early imprints, and in several classes of miscellaneous literature the collection embraces much valuable material, which is added to from time to time by the donor. The books have been, so far as possible, arranged, and are in process of being properly stamped, labeled, and catalogued. It is believed that this first example of the gift of a large private library to the nation will be an incentive to other similar donations or bequests, which may here, as in other countries, tend greatly to enrich the Library of the government.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.