

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING THE

CALENDAR YEAR 1890.

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WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1891.

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,  
Washington, February 28, 1891.

The undersigned presents herewith the annual statement of the condition and progress of the Library and the statistics of the copyright business in his charge for the calendar year 1890, closing December 31, 1890.

The enumeration of the books has become more difficult with each year's growth of the collections. The great portion of the Library now unprovided with shelf room renders the embarrassment of producing books with promptitude extreme, and the counting of piles collected on the floors of the Library and outlying rooms must of necessity yield an approximate rather than an accurate result. The aggregate reported by the enumerators is 648,928 volumes of books, bound and unbound, besides about 207,000 pamphlets. The last enumeration (on January 1, 1890) footed up 633,717 volumes and 206,000 pamphlets. The accessions of the year have been 15,211 volumes, which came from the various sources named below:

From purchase .....	3,721
From copyright .....	9,465
From deposit by the Smithsonian Institution .....	1,223
From additions to the Toner collection .....	155
From donations .....	380
From exchanges .....	267
Total .....	15,211

In the department of copyrights there has been an increase of 1,809 entries in the office of the Librarian over the preceding year 1889. The aggregate number of copyrights entered from January 1 to December 31, 1890, inclusive, was 42,794, of all classes of publications. The aggregate fees received and paid into the Treasury during the year was \$33,721.25, being \$635.87 more than in the year preceding.

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.**

The various designations under which the entries of copyright have been made are enumerated as follows:

*Number of articles entered in 1890.*

Books .....	16,456
Periodicals.....	8,164
Musical compositions.....	9,132
Dramatic compositions.....	715
Photographs.....	2,387
Engravings and chromos.....	1,940
Prints and cuts.....	821
Designs.....	715
Drawings.....	70
Paintings.....	2-1
Maps and charts.....	2,113
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>42,794</b>

The deposits of copies of publications in the Library, under each head, exhibits the following aggregate:

*Number of copyright articles received in 1890.*

Books (including all printed matter so designated).....	22,346
Periodicals.....	12,490
Musical compositions.....	16,201
Dramatic compositions.....	283
Photographs.....	5,340
Engravings and chromos.....	4,649
Prints and cuts.....	632
Designs and drawings.....	269
Paintings.....	85
Maps and charts.....	2,533
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>64,868</b>

Inasmuch as the copyright law requires two copies to be deposited in this office of each publication secured by entry of title, the net additions to the Library collections for the year from this source were, approximately, 32,434 different articles. In the class of entries designated as "books," however, were many form books, pamphlets, circulars, etc., not properly reckoned as additions to Library books, reducing the net accessions to the latter from copyright deposits to 9,465 volumes.

The balances to the credit of various Library funds were as follows January 1, 1891:

Fund for increase of the Library.....	\$8,293.60
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	826.60
Fund for printing and binding.....	11,341.60
Fund for printing unpublished historical documents relating to early French discoveries in America.....	1,953.44

## THE TONER LIBRARY.

The collection of books presented to the Government by Dr. J. M. Toner has been increased by the addition of 155 volumes of books and 315 pamphlets during the year. Very extensive additions have also been made by the donor to his already large collection of biographical material, excerpted from newspaper and other printed sources, and arranged in the Library in alphabetical order for ready reference.

The undersigned again solicits the attention of the committee to the need of additional clerical help in the copyright office. The work of the Library proper in the catalogue department has from necessity been sacrificed to the pressing demands of the copyright business upon the time of the Librarian and his assistants, to avoid any accumulation of arrears. Several more competent assistants are required in the interest of a proper public service in the administration of the Library in its diversified work.

The progress made during the year in the new Library Building has been gratifying, and is fully set forth in the annual report of the Chief of Engineers, charged with the prosecution of the work. Substantial prospect of relief from the ever-growing difficulties which beset the administration of an overcrowded Library is now not remote.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,  
*Librarian of Congress.*

Hon. WM. M. EVARTS,  
*Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.*