

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,
EXHIBITING
THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY
DURING THE
CALENDAR YEAR 1891.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1892.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, April 30, 1892.

The undersigned herewith submits his annual statement showing the condition and progress of the Library, and of the copyright business under his charge, during the calendar year ending December 31, 1891.

Owing to the greatly increased and increasing difficulties attending the want of space in all departments of the Library, and the massing of piles of volumes in the outlying rooms and wherever floor space could be found in the main Library, no complete reënumeration of the contents of the collection has been attempted. As stated in recent annual reports, the numerical result of the count heretofore submitted had to be regarded as only an approximate estimate, as no enumeration, volume by volume, has been possible for years, except as to books actually provided with shelf room. Adding the accessions of the year 1891 to the reported aggregate estimated at the close of 1890, which was 648,928 volumes, the present approximate number of books is 659,843 volumes, besides about 210,000 pamphlets.

There has been a large increase of the copyright business during the year, the aggregate number of entries made in the office footing up 48,908 copyrights, as against 42,794 entered in 1890. This shows an increase of 6,114 entries. The amount of fees received and paid into the Treasury during the calendar year was \$38,845.23, being an increase of \$5,123.98 over the year preceding.

The designation of the various subjects of copyright entered by title during the year 1891 is as follows:

Number of articles entered in 1891.

Books	17,455
Periodicals	9,477
Dramatic compositions	748
Musical compositions	11,688
Photographs	2,874

Chromos.....	2, 650
Maps.....	1, 912
Prints.....	217
Designs.....	1, 055
Paintings.....	323
Drawings.....	115
Lithographs.....	396
Total.....	48, 908

The aggregate deposits of books and other copyright publications have been as follows:

Books.....	21, 186
Periodicals.....	8, 520
Dramatic compositions.....	232
Musical compositions.....	10, 230
Photographs.....	5, 018
Chromos.....	3, 428
Maps.....	2, 246
Prints.....	328
Designs.....	1, 606
Paintings.....	10
Drawings.....	62
Lithographs.....	582
Total.....	53, 498

Of the increased entries of copyright, a considerable share is due to the enactment of the international copyright law, approved March 3, 1891, which took effect July 1, 1891. The proclamation of the President at the latter date certified that the conditions prescribed in the act in order to entitle the citizens or subjects of foreign nations to the benefit of copyright in the United States were existent so far as regarded the governments of Great Britain and her dependencies, France, Belgium, and Switzerland. Accordingly, the Librarian has proceeded to enter for copyright the claims of authors and publishers residing in the countries named, whenever assured that the terms of the law were complied with requiring manufacture within the United States in the case of books, photographs, chromos, and lithographs.

While the new act has been in operation only six months as yet, it has added very largely to the labors of the copyright office, entailing, as it does, not only foreign correspondence to a great extent, but the compilation of a weekly catalogue of all publications entered for copyright, of which copies have been deposited. For this heavily increased labor no additional clerical force has as yet been provided by Congress. The steady increase of the business of domestic copyright, in addition to the newly-imposed duties under the international copyright act, has been such as to tax the energies of the small force employed to the utmost, and it has been impossible to prevent the business of issuing certificates of copyright from falling into arrears.

Such delays are inconvenient to the public, whose applications should have the most prompt attention consistent with the correct performance of the duties of the record office. Delays, if prolonged, are also discreditable to the Government, which receives the fees for recording and certifying copyrights, and is bound to furnish clerical aid or adequate to the exacting requirements of so extensive a business. This now involves a correspondence of over 75,000 letters annually, besides recording about 50,000 copyright titles, furnishing certificates under seal of the office to the majority of applicants, crediting, stamping, numbering, and filing away some 60,000 publications deposited in evidence of copyright, furnishing receipts for such deposits, recording multitudes of transfers or assignments of copyright, supplying record evidence of entries and deposits to parties requiring them in litigation or otherwise, and producing, in thousands of cases of searches, the original copies deposited in the office during any one of the twenty-two years of its existence.

Besides this, the constant wants of Congress, of the Departments and Bureaus of the Government, and of the public resorting to the Library for books and information, require the incessant and careful attention of the Librarian and his assistants, in addition to the time and labor demanded to keep up the catalogue of the Library to date with its large annual accessions from copyright and other sources, and the steady work involved in binding and rebinding books and periodicals, for which the time of expert assistants is required in preparing, recording, and lettering the volumes.

In view of these multifarious and exacting labors, the necessity of an additional provision in aid of the Library service is respectfully brought to the attention of the Library Committee.

The balances unexpended of the various Library funds on January 1, 1892, were as follows:

Fund for increase of the Library.....	3,195.69
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	598.31
Fund for printing and binding.....	9,780
Fund for printing unpublished historical documents relating to early French discoveries in America.....	1,963.44

THE TONER LIBRARY.

This collection of books, manuscript material, and pamphlets has been still farther enlarged by Dr. J. M. Toner, the donor, by the addition of 238 volumes of books and 425 pamphlets during the year.

The large collection of Washingtoniana, or copies and excerpts representing the letters and papers, both published and unpublished, of George Washington, has been very largely increased by rich material, much of it heretofore undiscovered, by the indefatigable researches of Dr. Toner during the past year. This labor is still continued, and constant additions are also being made to the very extensive materials in

American biography assembled in the Library to enrich the Toner Collection.

The progress made during the past year in the erection of the new Library building has been most gratifying, and is fully described in the annual report of the Chief of Engineers, charged with the prosecution of the work.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

Hon. M. S. QUAY,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.

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