

# REPORT

OF THE

# LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1898.

---

DECEMBER 12, 1898.—Referred to the Committee on the Library and  
ordered to be printed.

---

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1898.

# REPORT.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,  
*Washington, December 12, 1898.*

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

The following is a record of the receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898:

## RECEIPTS FROM COPYRIGHT.

*Amount of fees earned.*

|           |       |             |
|-----------|-------|-------------|
| 1897:     |       |             |
| July      | ..... | \$3,769. 00 |
| August    | ..... | 4,296. 00   |
| September | ..... | 4,559. 50   |
| October   | ..... | 4,899. 00   |
| November  | ..... | 4,062. 00   |
| December  | ..... | 5,262. 00   |
| 1898:     |       |             |
| January   | ..... | 6,224. 50   |
| February  | ..... | 4,204. 00   |
| March     | ..... | 4,865. 00   |
| April     | ..... | 4,835. 50   |
| May       | ..... | 4,610. 50   |
| June      | ..... | 4,339. 50   |
| Total     | ..... | 55,926. 50  |

## EXPENDITURES.

|  |       |               |
|--|-------|---------------|
| Salaries, Library of Congress                | ..... | \$114,744. 38 |
| Increase of Library, purchase of books, etc. | ..... | 9,498. 63     |
| Contingent expenses, Library of Congress     | ..... | 2,000. 00     |
| Total  | ..... | 126,243. 01   |

## LIBRARY ACCESSIONS.

The additions to the Library during the fiscal year have been made upon systematic lines. The first consideration was "the filling of the gaps," and especially in the way of periodicals and newspapers. The Library, for instance, proposes to obtain complete sets of every periodical included in Poole's Index; and while a large proportion of the Poole

references is on our shelves, the additions, when completed, will bring the student within the widest range of periodical literature. And when we recall the importance now attached to the periodical, to the growth of serial works on special themes, and the tendency of the masters of modern thought to find thus the most convenient form of expression, the value of this will be appreciated. We do not overlook the importance of having, as far as possible, an author's completed works. If, for instance, we have one of the books of Mr. Bancroft or Mr. Prescott, we should have all of them. This is somewhat difficult, as useful books become rare, and are costly because of their rarity. The catalogues are, however, carefully studied, opportunity accepted when found, and eventually we hope to possess the complete works of every writer worthy of a place in the Library, and more especially a complete collection of American authors.

The Library as a school of research is kept in mind. Thus, when feasible, the Library buys whatever illustrates Shakespeare, Dante, Goethe, and other classics, or certain branches of science. Our collections in these and other departments are comprehensive and valuable.

Special attention has been given to the political, social, and religious movements attendant upon the development of the Republic. In religion, for instance, we have the Church of the Disciples of Christ; in politics, in addition to other phenomena, we have anti-Masonry and Know-Nothingism. In a social as well as a political way we have whatever illustrates antislavery, prohibition, and woman's rights. Attention is specially given to the many changes in our legislation as regards political economy and finance. The Mormon Church is an emphatic condition, and we have sought whatever pertains to its progress. There are likewise many less important, but no less interesting phases of faith, ambition, hallucination, and romance which blend into our history. They illustrate the rapid, perhaps inexplicable, changes of national thought—what to-day is and what to-morrow is not—and it is our effort that the Library should possess whatever illustrates their inception and growth.

Take, as an example, the Southern Confederacy—the most pronounced political movement since the French Revolution. Any publication illustrating the civil war or its causes is welcomed to the end that in a century or so, when the mind of the historian can impartially view the stupendous evolution, the Library will be the one assured field of research. We have already a very large assortment of Confederate publications in the way of documents and literature, but not so complete as could be desired. Whatever pertains to the Confederacy—its polemics, music, war songs, and domestic songs; its newspaper writings as well as broadsides; its manuscripts, official publications, and war narratives—will be preserved.

Whatever throws light upon the early history of the several States, their foundation and growth, is sought. We are rich in the history of New England and the Colonies, although it is to be regretted that gaps

were not filled when it could have been done with convenience and without large expense. Taking a lesson from experience, the Library is endeavoring to complete the early chronicles of the more recent Commonwealths, those especially which came with the Mexican war and the annexation of Texas and Alaska. Already a large amount of material pertaining to the Klondike and surrounding regions has been arranged and made ready for the shelves. Much of this came to us in the form of newspaper clippings, letters, telegrams, commercial posters, and advertisements—trivial now, but sure to be invaluable in the next generation as showing the incipient stages of a new and growing Commonwealth.

In the same line of research the Library at the time of the death of Prince Bismarck and of Mr. Gladstone purchased whatever appeared in contemporary literature pertaining to their careers. In this was embodied two generations of German and English history. By taking advantage of the opportunity, the Library obtains at a moderate expense unique and priceless collections which can never be replaced. We can understand the importance of this, remembering what would be the value of similar collections had they been made at the time when Washington, Napoleon, and Lincoln passed away.

While thus considering research in American lines of work, and filling up gaps, attention has been given to the current literature of Great Britain, and, in a lesser degree, of Germany and France. We have added to the Library nearly every useful book that has come in the current year from the English press, as well as new and annotated editions of famous works.

The Library, for obvious reasons, arising out of recent events, has given attention to Spanish publications in history, jurisprudence, and geography, and especially what concerns the Antilles and the Philippines. A bulletin containing what we have gathered upon these themes will be sent to Congress. In addition, some purchases, mainly historical and bibliographical, have been made in Germany and France. The Library would be justified in spending as much money on continental literature as upon that of Great Britain. This is the home of many races coming and still to come, who are welcomed with undiminished hospitality to our ultimate citizenship. A national library can have for them no feature of more enduring interest than that which tells them of their history, literature, and ancestry. The large immigration of Germans, their widening influence in the formation of American character, their interest in German history, literature, and genealogy—an interest sure to remain with their descendants—would be the highest reason for a very full German collection in our National Library. France, in whose language will be found the literature of all times, should have a commanding place.

The same might be said of Italy, the literature of Russia with its recent strenuous advance, that of Scandinavia as well as of the vanished and vanishing tongues which remain as fragments of dissolving civili-

zations. There are the realms of research in Arabia, India, China, and Japan, whose frontiers we are but approaching.

It was with this view that the Librarian, after consultation with Mr. Day, the late Secretary of State, addressed a circular letter commending the work of the Library extension to our diplomatic and consular representatives. As will be seen by the terms of the circular, which appears in the appendix, the Library asked the advice and assistance of our foreign representatives with the view of obtaining additions by purchase or exchange. Aiming at the literature of the world, it was believed that those who served the Government in every part of the world would rejoice in the strengthening of what in its highest sense is a great national institution. An American official on the spot could see the opportunity for timely purchases, and note the chance of exchange with foreign governments. Under a reciprocal and considerate policy, the Library by the mere processes of administration could be largely increased in value. The response to the circular which Mr. Secretary Day transmitted to our foreign representatives was gratifying and resulted in many valuable additions. A summary of what was thus received is embodied in the appendix.

While the Librarian is grateful for the recent increased appropriation of \$15,000, it would be wise to increase this so as to broaden the Library in every phase of progress. The department of manuscripts should be prepared to purchase some of the rare possessions always coming within reach. We should give the department of music the scores of the masters, so that with small expense and in a short time our already noble musical collection would be the largest in the world and a national center of musical study. But while these departments, not to speak of others whose wants are dwelt on elsewhere, are earnestly commended to Congress, the paramount duty is the strengthening of the Library as a collection of books.

For while the Library enjoys an advantage as the recipient of the copyright publications, a good portion of what is thus acquired must, for the present generation at least, be of temporary value. While these copyright additions will in their day be sought by the student of manners and morals, attaining an importance impossible to anticipate, they are but a limited contribution to the immediate vital force of the Library. While given due place, the Library should be strengthened by that wise munificence of Congress to which we alone can appeal for its growth. As a national institution it is as yet in its earliest stages. The country scarcely knows of its existence nor of the treasures already in its keeping. While other national libraries, notably those of England and France, are enriched by gifts from private sources, the tendency of the American is to send his gifts, where they take the form of books, to the library of his college, State, or town. If the American felt the same interest in his national library as the Englishman in the British Museum,

in a few years we should have one of the three great libraries of the world. The fact that we depend almost alone upon the accretions of the Copyright Department and the modest appropriations of Congress narrows our scope and limits our usefulness.

Moreover, in thus commending the Library to the special grace of Congress, it should be kept in mind that money thus set aside in the endowment of an institution worthy of the Republic—looking toward its place with the national libraries of England and France—is an asset, not an expense. Every dollar given toward its development, in whatever form—of law, music, manuscripts, the graphic arts, as well as general literature—adds to its mere money value. The British Museum—representing as it does the investment of large sums—is to-day as a mere asset of national property worth to the treasury far more than it cost. The same may be said of the Library of Congress.

Last year it was impossible to give anything but an estimate of the contents of the Library. A careful count has been made up to September 30, 1898, with the following result :

#### ENUMERATION OF THE LIBRARY.

|  | Vols.   |
|--|---------|
| General history .....  | 2,477   |
| History, biography, and description of all countries except America and Great Britain..... | 15,406  |
| General foreign biography.....   | 2,046   |
| Individual foreign biography .....   | 4,665   |
| Genealogy, heraldry, costume, etc.....   | 898     |
| Great Britain.....   | 5,190   |
| General British biography .....  | 832     |
| Individual British biography.....  | 4,502   |
| British genealogy .....  | 364     |
| America .....  | 20,058  |
| General American biography .....   | 899     |
| Individual American biography.....   | 3,639   |
| American genealogy.....  | 1,348   |
| Mathematics.....   | 4,710   |
| Geology .....  | 2,712   |
| Physics.....   | 2,267   |
| Astronomy .....  | 3,071   |
| Chemistry .....  | 1,361   |
| Medicine .....   | 10,025  |
| General natural history.....   | 1,877   |
| Zoology .....  | 4,688   |
| Botany .....   | 2,413   |
| Agriculture .....  | 3,417   |
| Useful arts.....   | 12,491  |
| Church history.....  | 5,690   |
| Theology .....   | 24,258  |
| Law library.....   | 101,868 |
| Law books in general library.....  | 1,156   |
| International law .....  | 2,737   |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| State Papers .....  | 374      |
| Colonies .....  | 767      |
| Statistics .....  | 4, 990   |
| Economics .....   | 967      |
| Elections .....   | 404      |
| Finance .....   | 2, 697   |
| Science of government .....                                       | 2, 063   |
| Legislative proceedings, public documents, etc .....              | 53, 475  |
| Directories, yearbooks, and almanacs .....                        | 13, 729  |
| Political science .....   | 3, 170   |
| Philosophy and education .....                                    | 7, 260   |
| Sociology .....   | 6, 213   |
| Mythology and superstitions .....                                 | 1, 604   |
| Geography .....   | 5, 331   |
| Architecture .....  | 1, 537   |
| Fine arts .....   | 4, 391   |
| Music .....   | 11, 192  |
| Poetry .....  | 18, 230  |
| Drama .....   | 3, 469   |
| Fiction .....   | 34, 102  |
| Letters and conversations .....                                   | 1, 445   |
| Rhetoric .....  | 3, 823   |
| Literature .....  | 8, 036   |
| Language .....  | 5, 980   |
| Collected works .....   | 14, 103  |
| Essays .....  | 4, 478   |
| Ana, wit and humor and quotations .....                           | 1, 849   |
| Smithsonian collection of publications of learned societies ..... | 47, 573  |
| Periodicals .....   | 30, 862  |
| Newspapers .....  | 17, 649  |
| Miscellaneous collections :                                       |          |
| Reference books in the reading room and departments .....         | 7, 439   |
| Thomas Jefferson's library (estimated) .....                      | 2, 000   |
| Rare books in office and on exhibition .....                      | 3, 725   |
| Toner collection .....  | 21, 662  |
| Washington collection .....                                       | 836      |
| Shakespeare collection .....                                      | 1, 297   |
| Homer collection .....  | 284      |
| Virgil collection .....   | 223      |
| Dante collection .....  | 137      |
| Goethe collection .....   | 174      |
| Burns collection .....  | 186      |
| Chinese books .....   | 2, 882   |
| Turkish books .....   | 437      |
| Books in raised print for the blind .....                         | 219      |
| Books at the bindery and in mail room .....                       | 10, 690  |
| Books loaned out .....  | 1, 664   |
| Duplicates taken from the shelves .....                           | 9, 999   |
| Uncatalogued books in catalogue department .....                  | 17, 793  |
| Duplicate and uncatalogued books .....                            | 64, 647  |
| Total .....   | 705, 122 |
| Copyright deposits (duplicates) .....                             | 126, 985 |
| Grand total .....   | 832, 107 |

PAMPHLETS.

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Catalogued and on shelves.....   | 50,360  |
| Uncatalogued and duplicates..... | 176,612 |
| Total.....                       | 226,972 |

*Growth of Library and deposits, fiscal year 1898.*

|                                  | Copy-right. | Pur-chase. | Ex-change. | Gift. | Total. | Depart-ment total. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------|--------|--------------------|
| Library:                         |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| Volumes.....                     | 12,324      | 7,064      | 1,048      | 5,136 | 25,472 | 25,472             |
| Periodical department:           |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| New journals.....                | 12          | 105        |            | 403   | 520    |                    |
| New periodicals.....             | 764         | 148        | 26         | 656   | 1,594  |                    |
| Old periodicals.....             |             | 532        |            |       | 532    | 2,646              |
| Hall of maps and charts:         |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| Maps, etc.....                   | 1,388       |            |            |       | 1,388  | 1,388              |
| Art department:                  |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| Prints.....                      | 4,965       | 1          |            | 23    | 4,989  |                    |
| Books.....                       | 35          |            |            |       | 35     | 5,024              |
| Manuscript department:           |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| Volumes.....                     |             | 5          |            |       | 5      |                    |
| Manuscripts.....                 |             | 39         |            | 3     | 42     | 47                 |
| Law library:                     |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| Volumes.....                     | 310         | 246        |            |       | 556    | 556                |
| Music department:                |             |            |            |       |        |                    |
| Volumes and pieces of music..... | 10,767      | 59         |            | 22    | 10,848 | 10,848             |
| Totals.....                      | 30,465      | 8,199      | 1,074      | 6,243 | 45,981 | 45,981             |

To the increase of the number of books in the Library proper (25,472) should be added 5,832 volumes deposited in the Library by the Smithsonian Institution and placed with the Smithsonian deposit. This makes the actual growth of the Library in books for the fiscal year, from all sources, 31,304 volumes.

In the report for the year ending November 30, 1897, the Library was estimated at 787,715 volumes and 218,340 pamphlets. The duplicates were estimated at from 30 to 40 per cent, a proportion still maintained. What was known as an estimate last year may be accepted now as the result of a careful count.

We have been unable to give an exact statement of what is known as the Smithsonian collection. This can only be done when the uncatalogued books are classified. The following table gives the number of books and pamphlets supposed to embrace the Smithsonian deposits:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Publications of learned societies and duplicates in east stack and |        |
| at the National Museum.....  | 47,573 |
| In the chapters of the Library.....                                | 23,528 |
| In law library in the Capitol.....                                 | 1,884  |
| In catalogue room.....   | 218    |
| Uncatalogued books in catalogue department.....                    | 2,655  |
| At bindery and in mail room.....                                   | 1,985  |
| Total.....   | 77,843 |
| Pieces of music in music department.....                           | 2,730  |
| Inaugural dissertations and pamphlets.....                         | 18,599 |
| Grand total.....   | 99,172 |

From the beginning of October, 1897, when the removal of the books from the Capitol was completed, till November 1, the assistants were engaged in placing the books in order on the shelves. During this period, while the reading room was not open to the public, books were freely supplied to such students as came, and all requests from Senators and others entitled to the use of the Library were granted.

The new Library building was opened to the public November 1, 1897, and has remained so every day with the exception of Sundays and legal holidays. The reading hours have been from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m., except on a few Saturdays in July and August, when the Library was closed at noon. Since October 1 the hours have been extended to 10 in the evening. While Congress was in session the Library was kept open for its use until adjournment.

During these months many improvements have been made having in view the efficiency of the service. Carpets have been laid, telephone communications opened with the other departments of the Library, the Capitol, and the city, and by long-distance wires with other cities. With the exception of a slight noise from the book-carriers, experiments for the reduction of which are in progress, silence has been maintained. The numbering of the desks and the rule of delivering books to readers at their desks conduce to order.

A daily record has been kept of the readers, as well as the number of books and magazines supplied. It will be interesting to note from the following table how Library attendance varies with the seasons. In January, February, March, and April the readers were the most numerous, the highest number one day (April 6) being 432; the smallest (on September 9, a half holiday), 41. The daily average was 155.

*Number of readers.*

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 1897:          |         |
| November ..... | 5, 866  |
| December.....  | 6, 513  |
| 1898:          |         |
| January.....   | 7, 427  |
| February ..... | 6, 217  |
| March.....     | 7, 097  |
| April.....     | 6, 186  |
| May.....       | 6, 014  |
| June.....      | 5, 904  |
| July.....      | 4, 367  |
| August.....    | 3, 771  |
| September..... | 4, 131  |
| Total.....     | 63, 493 |

*Number of books supplied in reading room, 1898.*

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 1898:          |         |
| January.....   | 11, 644 |
| February ..... | 11, 620 |
| March.....     | 15, 270 |
| April.....     | 15, 768 |

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

II

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| May.....       | 10, 738  |
| June.....      | 10, 057  |
| July.....      | 7, 681   |
| August.....    | 10, 517  |
| September..... | 10, 416  |
| Total.....     | 103, 711 |

A daily record has also been kept of the number of books loaned out. A careful system of double entry is maintained, so that it is possible to tell what books are charged to any person, and also to whom a given book is charged.

*Books taken from the Library, 1898.*

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| January.....   | 2, 426  |
| February.....  | 2, 372  |
| March.....     | 2, 492  |
| April.....     | 2, 276  |
| May.....       | 1, 946  |
| June.....      | 1, 966  |
| July.....      | 639     |
| August.....    | 662     |
| September..... | 730     |
| Total.....     | 15, 509 |

Since the opening of the branch office in the Capitol and the use of the railway and tunnel, the demand for books has daily increased. During the whole of the eight months in which this transit system has been in use, there has been no delay in the service and no damage to the books.

The Librarian is glad to note that the Library is becoming, as it were, a bureau of information, consulted by people from all sections. Twenty years ago, and as a rule, the Library was sought for a specific book; to-day applicants ask advice as to reading, or request special information. It is the policy of the Library to encourage this spirit of inquiry. This often requires time and pains, but experience shows that answers can readily be found. No question is put aside until every channel of information is exhausted. Visitors to the Library in search of some one work on a special theme of interest are encouraged to consult others of the same character, and of which they, perhaps, had no knowledge. Inquiries by mail are mainly requests for extracts from rare books or old newspapers, the history of cases before foreign tribunals, suggestions as to reading, help in research, and about genealogy and family history.

When it is found that a book called for by a reader is not in the Library, the title is taken at the desk and the volume ordered if deemed desirable. Cards requesting readers to furnish the Librarian with the names of books desired are distributed from the desk.

Our books in the Chinese language, mainly derived by purchase from the library of the late Caleb Cushing, the first American envoy to China,

have, through the courtesy of His Excellency Wu Ting-fang, the present Chinese ambassador to Washington, been catalogued by some of the learned gentlemen connected with the embassy. For the kindness of His Excellency, the Librarian makes public and grateful acknowledgment. A catalogue of this unique collection appears in the appendix.

While the daily service of the Library is continued, the work of classification and arrangement goes on. The larger part of the Library has so far advanced that no further arrangement will be needed until the consummation of the reclassification. Duplicates are eliminated for the purpose of exchange. Uncatalogued books, law books, periodicals, maps, and music, which came in chaos from the Capitol, have been assorted, and thousands of volumes thus received given place on the shelves.

#### LIBRARY BULLETINS.

The following bulletins have been issued by the Library during the year:

Griffin, A. P. C., and Phillips, P. Lee: List of books relating to Cuba (including references to collected works and periodicals), with bibliography of maps. February 25, 1898. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1898.

Griffin, A. P. C.: List of books relating to Hawaii (including references to collected works and periodicals). Washington, 1898.

Phillips, P. Lee: Alaska and the northwest part of North America, 1588-1898. Maps in the Library of Congress, Washington, 1898.

Solberg, Thorvald: The copyright law of the United States of America in force January, 1898. Washington, 1898 (office of the register of copyrights, Bulletin No. 1).

Catalogue of title entries of books and other articles wherein the copyright has been completed by the deposit of two copies. v. 13. July to December, 1897. 4to. Washington, 1897. Same, v. 14. January-March, 1898. Washington, 1898. 963 pp. 8vo. Same, v. 15. April-June, 1898. Washington, 1898. 1,075 pp. 8vo. Same, v. 16. July-September, 1898. Washington, 1898. 1,001 pp. 8vo.

Griffin, A. P. C.: List of books relating to the Philippines. Washington, 1898.

Morrison, Hugh A., jr.: List of books and articles in periodicals regarding the Nicaragua and other interoceanic canal and railway routes. Washington, 1898.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

It has been hoped that the reorganization of the Library and its classification would be so far advanced as to justify the issue of monthly bulletins. This hope, it is trusted, will soon be realized. In anticipation of this several bulletins have already been printed. As will be seen, their publication was governed by the condition of public opinion and in the belief that Congress might value the information thus presented. The debates on Cuba, the overture to the recent war, justified the bulletin on Cuba. The Hawaiian annexation required our bibliography of Hawaiian history and literature. The commercial and mining interests in the Northwest invited our bulletin of maps appertaining to that region from

1588 to 1898. The Philippines question was met with a bulletin on the Philippines. This was prepared for the use of the State Department and our Peace Commissioners at Paris. The condensation of the laws on copyright and copyright law was compiled in obedience to a general demand and transmitted in the form of a bulletin. The same may be said of the literature on the interoceanic canal question. The widespread interest in these publications is shown in the daily requests for copies from our own as well as foreign countries. While looking forward to the periodical issue of bulletins embodying the bibliographical features of the Library, it has been our aim to anticipate the wants of Congress upon subjects of legislation and to hold the resources of the Library ever at the command of those for whom it was founded.

#### TITLE ENTRIES OF WORKS COPYRIGHTED.

By the amendment of the copyright law of 1891 Congress made it the duty of the Librarian of Congress to prepare a weekly catalogue of all books and other articles for which copyright had been granted. This publication was designed, primarily, to serve the collectors of customs in the prevention of the illegal importation of copyright works. To render it more useful for this purpose and give it special bibliographical value the articles catalogued have been classified, and each issue provided with a complete index of copyright proprietors. The work is edited and arranged so as to comply strictly with the law, which requires that it should contain a complete transcript of the title entry, and that each title should state the name of the copyright proprietor, the date and number of the copyright entry, and the date of the receipt of the copies deposited to complete the copyright.

This publication is of special importance as the official, contemporaneous record of the growth of American literature and American art. Its value in this particular is not only current, but permanent; as a historical record of the first production of the books and other articles recorded, its usefulness to the student will increase with time. Every effort has been made to improve it as a chronicle of current literature. The titles are prepared with completeness and arranged for ready reference. Care is taken also to number each title so that statistics can be obtained of the annual intellectual and artistic progress of the nation. Some idea of the volume of this productiveness is conveyed by the mere statement that this Catalogue of Title Entries for a single year requires four octavo volumes of 1,000 pages each.

#### FOREIGN COPYRIGHT ENTRIES.

By the act of March 3, 1891, amending the copyright law, the privilege of copyright protection in the United States was extended to the citizens of such foreign countries as granted copyright to Americans upon equal terms with their own citizens.

This enactment, which was the result of an awakened sense of the justice due to foreign authors and artists, has not only secured commendation from right-minded people the world over, but it has proved a source of revenue to the Government, as well as advantage to the Library. During the last fiscal year the entries of titles of works by foreign authors amounted to something over one-tenth of the total number of entries for the year, there being 7,731 foreign entries to 67,874 by citizens of the United States, out of a total of 75,545. A comparison of fees received during the same period, makes an even more favorable showing for the foreign entries, owing to the fact that a double fee is charged. The total amount of copyright fees earned and paid into the Treasury for the fiscal year 1897-98 reached \$55,926.50, of which amount \$45,711 were fees for American books and other articles, while \$8,842 were earned by recording the titles of foreign products. This sum represents more than one-fifth of the entire amount of the annual cost of running the copyright office.

The operation of the act of March 3, 1891, not only results in thus adding to the Treasury reserve, but it is also a source of distinct gain to the Library, owing to the statutory requirement that two copies of each book, or other article, copyrighted shall be deposited in the Library in order to complete the copyright. Thus the 7,731 foreign entries made in the copyright office during the last fiscal year have resulted in a large and valuable accession to the Library of books and engravings, as well as maps, music, and other articles. As the law requires the American manufacture of all books copyrighted, only such foreign works as are of sufficient importance, or popularity, to justify the expense of the double production thus rendered obligatory are reproduced and copyrighted, the result being that these foreign books form an exceptional body of literature. Thus the Library has obtained, gratis, handsome editions of the works of Kipling, Stevenson, George Meredith, Balzac, Bulwer-Lytton, etc.; éditions de luxe of Tennyson and Voltaire; the important biographical edition of Thackeray's complete works; books by Carlyle and Morley; editions of the classics, and valuable works in the domains of science, medicine, and the law.

The Library has striven likewise to answer the quickening sense of interest in the literature of American history and genealogy. We have been gratified with the widespread desire to assist the Library. It would be a transgression of the reasonable bounds of this report to enumerate the offices of kindness and courtesy extended to the Library. In addition to the many acquisitions through our correspondence with historical societies, special mention is due to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, the New-England Historic Genealogical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Pennsylvania-German Society, the Virginia Historical Society, the publishers of the William and Mary College Quarterly, the Washington and Lee University papers, the Columbia College studies in literature, and works of the same character.

There has been opened during the year an exhibit of rare and early-printed books, filling an entire gallery, and showing in glass cases early and curious Americana and examples of incunabula, representing every year from A. D. 1467 to 1501.

While the Library, during its business of classification, is constantly uncovering treasures whose very existence was unknown or vaguely remembered, we have had to realize that in many respects the Library was an aggregation of "imperfect sets." Our bound collection of Parliamentary Sessional papers stops with 1888. After painstaking effort we are still unable to complete the publications of our own Government. This statement is made not without regret, but with the belief that Congress will give us a remedy, so far as the future is concerned, by appropriate legislation. This may be illustrated by an allusion to the monographs in the naval as well as the military departments of the Government. These are not singular illustrations, but typical of the general condition of our departmental publications. We can only hope, by the aid of Congress and constant watchfulness, to make this complete in time. To give the Library its just position and enable the country to realize its full value, Congress should make it the depository of the literature—official, personal, and otherwise—of the nation; should direct that two or more copies of every work issued under Government authority should be sent to the Library; that it should contain whatever concerns the foundation and growth of the Republic.

#### THE GARDINER GREENE HUBBARD COLLECTION.

On March 21 the Library was offered by Mrs. Gertrude M. Hubbard the valuable collection of prints gathered as the result of a lifetime of scholarship and study by her late husband, Gardiner Greene Hubbard. The value and extent of the benefaction will be explained in the Appendix.

#### OTHER GIFTS.

Through the generosity of the children (Eleanora Digges Speer, Anna Morgan Mosher, Ada Morgan Hill, James Dudley Morgan, and Cecil Morgan) of the late Nora Digges Morgan, of this city, daughter of William Digges, of Maryland, a considerable number of historical manuscripts will be given to the Library of Congress. The papers thus presented concern the foundation of the seat of government at Washington, while a few illustrate the Revolutionary period.

The Librarian desires to acknowledge the receipt, from Mrs. Horatio King, widow of the distinguished gentleman who served as Postmaster-General in the Cabinet of President Buchanan, of a large and representative collection of volumes belonging to his library. These were gathered by Mr. King during his public life, and will be of special value as illustrating American political history, especially of the period immediately preceding the civil war.

The Library is indebted to Prof. Thomas Wilson, of the United States Museum, for eleven very valuable and interesting Flemish manuscripts, written on vellum and ranging from the middle of the Fourteenth to the end of the Seventeenth centuries.

#### THE LIBRARY OF JEFFERSON.

The foundation of the present Library was the purchase by Congress from Thomas Jefferson of his private library in 1815. The circumstances attending this transaction have been compiled and are printed in a condensed form in an appendix. The number of books belonging to Mr. Jefferson was 6,487, and the price paid \$23,950. At the time of the purchase it was deemed to be the largest and most important private collection in the United States.

As our Library grew the volumes which thus came with the Jefferson purchase were divided into the various chapters. With the enormous Library increase of the past generation they have, as it were, been entombed and forgotten. Remembering that this private library was the foundation of the Library of Congress, that it was directly associated with a revered patriot, the volumes composing it have been brought together and assigned to a special room, to be known as "The Jefferson Library." While this in no way removes the books of Mr. Jefferson from their library offices, they will, it is hoped, ever remain not only as an object of public interest, but as a memento of an illustrious statesman whose words and deeds have been interwoven into our history. What, in a measure, will prevent the complete realization of this purpose was a loss of part of Mr. Jefferson's collection in the fire of 1851. Enough volumes remain, however, to enable us to perfect the tribute it is proposed to pay to an immortal name.

#### THE COPYRIGHT DEPARTMENT.

The articles deposited in compliance with the copyright law are as follows—the enumeration being from July 1, 1897, to September 30, 1898.

*July, 1897, to September, 1898.*

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. Books:   |        |
| (a) Books proper (volumes) .....  | 6,986  |
| (b) Miscellaneous articles entered under the term "book,"<br>as used in the copyright law, e. g., circulars, leaf-<br>lets, etc. .... | 6,001  |
| (c) Newspapers and magazine articles .....  | 4,279  |
| 2. Dramatic compositions .....  | 464    |
| 3. Periodicals (numbers) .....  | 16,400 |
| 4. Musical compositions .....   | 20,687 |
| 5. Maps .....   | 1,640  |
| 6. Engravings, prints, etc. ....  | 4,136  |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 7. Chromos and lithographs.....               | 1,077         |
| 8. Photographs.....                           | 8,492         |
| 9. Miscellaneous (unclassified articles)..... | 376           |
| Total.....                                    | <u>70,538</u> |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Of each of the above, two copies were deposited, making a total number of articles..... | 141,076      |
| Photographs deposited with titles for works of art.....                                 | <u>1,172</u> |

Grand total to September, 1898..... 142,248 (15 months)

The business for the fifteen months from July 3, 1897, may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. There have been 98,391 entries of copyright.
2. There have been collected and paid into the Treasury \$64,455 as fees for copyright business.
3. Letters to the number of 36,376 containing remittances have been received.
4. We have received 21,528 orders for the payment of money, which was paid into the Treasury. This included 14,521 money orders, 1,352 drafts, and 938 express orders for money.

There have been drawn 2,075 checks, which were mailed to persons to whom excess fees or unused fees were to be returned, and for each check thus drawn an index card has been made, giving a concise statement of the transaction requiring the refund.

Previous to October 21, 1897, no record was kept, but from that date to September 30, 1898 inclusive, 58,452 letters and postal cards have been received. Deducting the 29,931 letters containing money remittances, there remain 28,521 miscellaneous letters and postal cards, mainly letters of inquiry.

From November 5, 1897, the practice was begun of making an index card for each important letter, giving such letters a consecutive number and putting on the card the name and address of sender, date of writing and receipt, with a brief of the contents of the letter. Up to September 30, 1898, 21,526 of these invaluable index cards have been made, and a corresponding number of letters have been read, answered, and filed.

No exact record of the mail dispatched from the copyright office was kept prior to March 1, 1898; but from March 1 to September 30 of this year (seven months, only) the total number of articles, letters, certificates, postal cards, parcels, etc., sent out reaches the grand total of 56,636, or more than 8,000 per month.

From July 27, 1897, to September 30, 1898, 36,726 receipts for moneys received have been mailed.

Thirty-two thousand eight hundred and ninety copyright certificates have been mailed up to September 30, 1898.

Copyright entries to the number of 55,625 have been recorded and revised.

One thousand four hundred and twenty-seven assignments of copyright have been certified.

One hundred and forty-two thousand two hundred and forty-eight articles—books, maps, music, engravings, photographs, etc.—have been received as copyright deposits from July 1, 1897, to September 30, 1898, and were properly stamped, numbered to correspond with the number of date and entry, credited, and disposed of.

Seventy thousand six hundred and twenty-four articles, duplicate copies, have been transferred to the other departments of the Library.

In addition, 800 first copies of books have been transferred to the reading room by order of the Librarian.

The weekly catalogue of title entries provided by law has included, from July 1, 1897, to September 30, 1898, 71,710 articles—books, maps, music, engravings, etc.

One hundred and forty-three thousand four hundred and twenty cards have been made to secure the printing of this catalogue, and these cards have been added to the general index to the copyright business.

Four volumes of the catalogue, averaging a thousand pages each of closely printed octavo, have been printed, and the fifth volume is two-thirds through the press.

The applications for copyright and accompanying documents number about 80,000 yearly. These require much handling in the process of passing through the office, and we have just been supplied with suitable boxes in the way of furniture. After final recording, these documents must be filed away for future use, as they are frequently needed for reference. We are now obliged to tie them up in paper parcels, which is an unsafe as well as unsatisfactory method of disposal, and, when the loss of time is taken into account, it is not economical. A sufficient number of strong pasteboard boxes should be provided out of the furniture fund for holding the accumulation of titles.

Of the 142,000 deposits, a large proportion are of such nature as maps, engravings, photographs, and miscellaneous articles, difficult to handle and keep track of because of their size and form. Some special furniture should be devised and provided to aid us in the task of managing this material, not only with celerity and accuracy, but so that the articles shall not be injured. This last consideration is of importance, as these articles will become assets of direct value.

The publishers, as a rule, show every reasonable desire to comply exactly with the requirements of the copyright law in the matter of depositing duplicate copies. The importance of fulfilling the statutory stipulations is realized, and especially that it would be a questionable economy to risk throwing doubt upon the validity of the copyright entry for the sake of saving the cost of the two copies.

Moreover, a commendable liberality is shown in regard to the Library of Congress. When extra copies have been sent to the copyright depart-

ment through inadvertence, their return is rarely requested. In other cases, where a single volume of a set of books has been copyrighted, in which event a strict compliance with the law would only require the deposit of two copies of the exact volumes copyrighted, two complete copies have been deposited.

It should always be borne in mind, when considering the apparent discrepancy between the entries in any one year and the actual deposits, first, that a certain number of entries are accidental duplications, in which cases only one of the entries is required to be completed by the deposit of copies; second, that a great many entries are made of titles of projected works, many of which are never written, and many others only after the lapse of considerable time—months, or even years—in which cases usually new entries are made and completed by deposits, leaving the original entries apparently incomplete. It is agreeable to bear testimony to the prompt desire expressed to make the required deposits when a failure to do so has been pointed out, even in cases of entries made twenty or more years ago, and any failure to comply with the law is due to inadvertence or ignorance.