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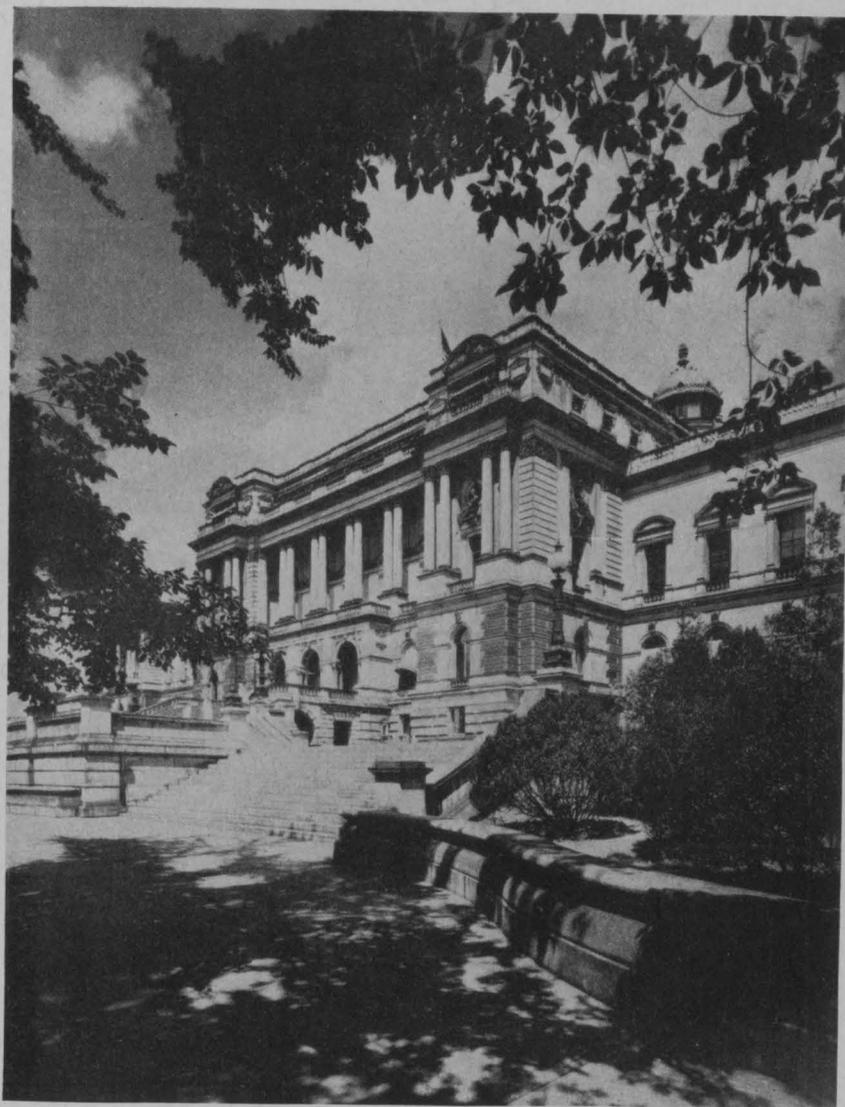
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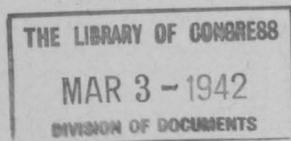
The Library of Congress

ITS COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

42-37811

1942

Issued by the Library of Congress in 1941
Second edition, 1942



The photograph on the cover, by Horydczak, is of
the main building of the Library of Congress

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The Library of Congress¹

HISTORY²

The Library of Congress was founded in the city of Washington on April 24, 1800, and from this date until 1897 it was housed in special rooms in the Capitol. The first librarian, John Beckley, of Virginia, was appointed by President Jefferson in 1802. During the War of 1812 the library was completely destroyed by fire, and in 1815 it was replaced by the private library of ex-President Jefferson. The second and third librarians were Patrick Magruder (1807-15) and George Watterston (1815-29). The latter introduced the first catalog and classification system, adopted by Jefferson in his private library.

In 1851, during the administration of the fourth librarian, John S. Meehan (1829-61) the library was again visited by a disastrous fire, which destroyed a large part of its valuable collection, including two-thirds of the Jefferson books.

A large collection of scientific and learned society publications was assembled in 1846 with the founding of the Smithsonian Institution, under the direction of the first secretary, Joseph Henry. These publications in 1866 were transferred to the Library of Congress, and in 1900 the Smithsonian Division was separately organized.

The fifth librarian, John G. Stephenson, was appointed in 1861 and served until 1864. He was followed by Ainsworth Rand Spofford (1864-97), under whom the Library of Congress terminated its occupancy of rooms in the Capitol.

The first librarian of the new period which began with the occupancy of a separate building in 1897 was John Russell Young, who served from that year until his death on January 17, 1899.

His successor, Herbert Putnam, took office on April 5, 1899. During his administration the book collections alone increased from less than one million to more than five millions, the other collections and activities of the library were similarly developed and extended, and its service became in fact that of a national library. On October 1, 1939, Archibald MacLeish succeeded Dr. Putnam as Librarian of Congress, Dr. Putnam becoming Librarian Emeritus.

The library building, since 1897, has been much enlarged. Two of the courts have been filled with additional bookstacks and part of another court with an auditorium for chamber music, the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge. An addition to the east front was completed in 1934. Private generosity enabled the completion, in 1939, of two other structures: the Hispanic Room, the gift of an anonymous donor, erected within one of the existing galleries of the main building; and the Whittall Pavilion, intended to provide suitable accommodation for the collection of Stradivari stringed instruments and, like them, the gift of Mrs. Gertrude Clarke Whittall.

On April 5, 1939, the Annex of the Library of Congress was completed and occupied for use. This building cost in excess of \$8,000,000; it more than doubles the floor space available to the library, and more than triples the storage capacity for books, having by itself accommodations for some 12,000,000 volumes. It consists of a central core of bookstacks, with four stories of exterior office space. This space provides quarters for the Copyright Office, the Printing Office and Bindery, Photoduplication Service, and the Processing Department (Accessions, Card, Catalog Preparation and Maintenance, Descriptive Cataloging, Subject Cataloging divisions, etc.). On the fifth floor are 2 large reading rooms, a catalog room, and 172 individual study rooms for the use of investigators. The Annex has communication with the Main Building

¹ This statement is based upon a chapter in the 3d edition, 1940, *American Universities and Colleges*, published by the American Council on Education.

² W. D. Johnston, *History of the Library of Congress*, vol. I (1800-64), 1904.

by means of an underground tunnel, and by means of pneumatic tubes which enable books to be used in either of the 2 buildings.

SERVICE

Most research or reference libraries differ from the Library of Congress not only in the people they serve but in their methods of service. That is to say that most research or reference libraries maintain collections of materials for the use of such readers as may care to consult them, the library's function being exclusively to secure the material, keep it up-to-date, and make it available to readers who may come to the library, the labor of research and the responsibility for the organization of the material and its preparation for use being the reader's. This is not true of the Library of Congress in its relation to its principal obligations. The Library of Congress exists primarily to serve the needs of Members of the Congress and thereafter the needs of officers of Government generally. Not all Members of the Congress and officers of Government have time to engage in their own search of the collections. Reference work essential to the performance of their duties must often be done for them and at their direction.

The reference services of the Library of Congress are, therefore, not only more extensive but different in kind from the reference services of other libraries. They are, and must be, manned by trained research and reference workers able to consult the Library's collections on behalf of Members of the Congress and officers of Government whose duties require recourse to those collections. It is for this reason that the Library of Congress maintains in its Reference Department, its Division of Documents, its Legislative Reference Service, its Law Library, and its special reference units, such as the Social Sciences Reference Room, the Division of Aeronautics, the Division of Orientalia, the Hispanic Foundation, the Division of Maps, of Manuscripts, of Fine Arts, etc., a large staff of persons trained in scholarly work. And it is this reason which determines the Library's reference and research objectives. These are:

1. *The Library of Congress undertakes for Members of the Congress any and all research and reference projects bearing upon the Library's collections and required by Members in connection with the performance of their legislative duties*

There are no exceptions to this rule so far as the Library's conception of its obligations is concerned. Only a lack of means to provide the necessary, and necessarily skilled, staff will justify a failure on the Library's part to meet all such demands.

2. *The Library of Congress undertakes for officers and departments of Government research projects, appropriate to the Library, which can be executed by reference to its collections, and which the staffs of offices and departments are unable to execute*

These projects are deferred, except in case of emergency, to reference projects undertaken for Members of the Congress.

The rules establishing the Library's reference and research obligations to Members of the Congress and officers of Government suggest, in turn, its reference obligations to other libraries and to the public in general. As in the case of its collections, the reference facilities of the Library are facilities created for the use of Members of the Congress, etc., as representatives of the people and are therefore the facilities of the people. For this reason, but subject to the priorities established by the greater urgency of the research needs of Members of the Congress and officers of Government, the reference facilities of the Library are available, within appropriate limitations, to members of the public acting either through universities or learned societies or other libraries or directly. The "pool of scholarship" which the Library of Congress is obliged to maintain in order to perform its obligations to the Congress and to the Government is, in other words, as much the property of the people as its collections of books. These facts determine the third rule defining the reference objectives of the Library.

3. *The reference staff and facilities of the Library of Congress are available to members of the public, universities, learned societies and other libraries requiring services which*

the Library staff is equipped to give and which can be given without interference with services to the Congress and other agencies of the Federal Government

This policy is active as well as passive. Passively considered it means that reference inquiries, and requests for bibliothecal service, which cannot be satisfied by other libraries or scholarly institutions nearer the inquirer, may be submitted to the Library of Congress which will respond to them within necessary limitations of time and labor. Actively considered, the Library's policy in this regard means that the Library of Congress, as the reference library of the people, holds itself charged with a duty to provide information to the people with regard to the materials they possess in its collections, and with an obligation to make its technical and scholarly services as broadly useful to the people as it can.

To this latter end it has established its Union Catalog which, when completed, will serve as a finding catalog for books in any American library, its Photoduplication Service which will supply scholars anywhere with copies of materials in its collections, its Archive of American Folk Song which preserves, and its Recording Laboratory which provides copies of, the folk music of the country, its interlibrary loan service which provides books or photocopies from its collections to scholars unable to consult them on its shelves, its Card Division which sells copies of its catalog cards to other libraries at incalculable savings to them of time, staff, building-space and other costs, its cooperative catalog service and many other comparable aids to libraries, universities, private scholars, and the general public. The natural extension of these services as necessity arises (in such directions, for example, as an archive of photocopies and phonocopies, a center of information as to photoduplicating undertakings in progress, a bibliographic center providing information as to bibliographic undertakings in progress, an index of special collections, etc.) is a proper Library objective and one which will increase its usefulness as a clearing house for scholarly

information and a point of departure for cooperative undertakings aimed at the advancement of American culture and the enrichment of the resources of American scholarship.

The extensions of the Library's services in these directions have been made possible by gifts from Foundations and interested individuals, as well as by appropriations made available by the Congress.

COLLECTIONS

On March 1, 1941, the Library, now regarded as the largest in the world, contained 6,253,800 printed books and pamphlets, 1,441,719 maps and views, 1,339,357 volumes and pieces of music, 552,514 prints, and manuscripts too numerous to make a numerical statement feasible.

The book collections, encyclopedic in content, are strongest in history, public law and legislation, public documents of the United States and foreign governments, the political and social sciences, literature and language, science and technology, bibliography and library science, and also in the special fields indicated in the paragraphs below. Through the Smithsonian Institution extensive files of foreign learned societies are received. Through the international exchange service about 40,000 volumes officially published by foreign governments are now received annually. Under the operation of the copyright law (chiefly since 1870) the most comprehensive collection in existence of products of the American press has been brought together through the transfer to the library proper, not of all articles deposited by copyright, but of a carefully selected portion of those deemed worthy of preservation.

The special book collections include the library of Thomas Jefferson; the Peter Force collection of Americana, 60,000 books and pamphlets; the Toner collection of medicine and American local history, presented by Joseph M. Toner in 1882, consisting of over 27,000 books and 12,000 pamphlets and periodicals; the Yudin collection, acquired in 1907, 80,000 volumes chiefly in the Russian language, particularly valuable for the history of Russia, Siberia, and

Alaska; the Japanese collection, 45,000 volumes; the Huitfeldt-Kaas collection of Scandinavian literature, 5,000 volumes; the Weber collection of Sanskrit literature, 4,000 volumes; the Hoes pamphlets relating to the Spanish-American War; the collections of Whistleriana and Pennelliana and in other branches of the fine arts established by Joseph and Elizabeth Robins Pennell; the collection (13,000 items) of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes; the Chinese collection of 225,000 volumes (fascicules), acquired for the most part since 1906.

The collections³ of John Boyd Thacher, bequeathed to the Library by Mrs. Thacher in 1927, is especially noteworthy; European incunabula, 840 titles (929 volumes) printed before the year 1501; the French Revolution, 2,400 printed volumes; "Outlines of the French Revolution told in autographs (a collection of letters and other manuscripts), 1,460 pieces; and autographs and other documents of crowned heads and other European personages, 1,365 pieces.

The Vollbehr collection of 3,000 incunabula, including 1 of 3 extant perfect vellum copies of the Gutenberg 42-line Bible, acquired by purchase under the act of July 3, 1930, at a cost of \$1,500,000 brought the total collection of incunabula up to 4,545 pieces (since increased to 4,653 pieces), placing the Library of Congress among the first dozen of the world's principal owners of fifteenth-century books.

For descriptions of the yearly accessions the annual reports of the librarian should be consulted.

ORGANIZATION

The operations, activities, and personnel of the Library of Congress are divided into three broad departments: the Administrative Department, the Processing Department, and the Reference Department. The Administrative Department, under the direction of the Administrative Assistant to the Librarian, consists of the following offices: the Accounts Office, the Disbursing Office, the Publications Office, the Office of Buildings and Grounds, the

³ *Catalogue of the Collection of John Boyd Thacher in the Library of Congress.* 3 vols. 1915-31.

Mail and Delivery Service, the Personnel Office, the Secretary's Office, the Supply Office, the Stationery Section, and the Binding Section. The Processing Department, administered by a Director, is concerned, primarily, with the preparation of materials for use. Its constituent units have been mentioned previously. The Reference Department, directed by the Chief Assistant Librarian, is responsible for the reference functions of the Library, the acquisitions policy, and the services, care and custody of the collections. With the exception of the Law Library and the Card Division, the divisions described in the following paragraphs are part of the Reference Department.

Division of Aeronautics

This Division has a twofold function: first, to collect and serve to readers all available aeronautic literature; second, to assist in its interpretation. Organized in 1930, the division now has some 25,000 volumes—the world's largest collection on aeronautics, and regarded as comprising most of the extant literature. Most of the current periodicals on this subject are available, and most of the latest books. In addition to the purchases made from the Daniel Guggenheim fund, much valuable and unique material is acquired by gift. The collection is especially rich in original source material, and in confidential documents eventually to be released. The staff answers manifold technical questions, sometimes by personal conference or by written report, sometimes by furnishing ample bibliographies or reference material, sometimes by making-researches with the reader. Special investigators are given such aid as is commonly rendered to advanced students in graduate universities.

Division of Bibliography

This Division deals with inquiries involving bibliographical research and compiles lists of references on topics of current interest,⁴ particularly those pending in the Congress.

⁴ *Library of Congress. Bibliographies. See Publications Issued by the Library Since 1897.* Edition of May 1935.

A list of the mimeographed lists compiled by the division can be supplied on request.

During 1940-41 over 80 mimeographed and typed lists were issued and are furnished on request to libraries and other institutions. The division also prepares bibliographic reports in response to inquiries from official and private sources received in person, by telephone, and by mail. These amounted to 4,030 in the fiscal year 1940-41 and were prepared in response to inquiries from every State in the Union and from 22 foreign countries.

Books for the Adult Blind

This project administers in the Library of Congress the act of Congress approved March 3, 1931, as amended, authorizing an annual appropriation to provide books for the adult blind residents of the United States. This appropriation now consists of \$100,000 for books in raised types (braille, moon, etc.), and \$250,000 for phonographically recorded books (talking book records). When purchased by the project, such books are placed in 27 distributing libraries serving as regional centers throughout the United States, whence the volumes may be borrowed by the individual blind readers. In addition to these activities, the project administers emergency relief funds (aggregating since 1935 over \$1,000,000) for the manufacture of talking book machines (to enable the blind to use the talking book records), which are similarly lent to individual blind readers through the various State commissions for the blind or similar agencies. (More than 22,000 talking book machines have now been made available for loan.)

"Chairs" and Consultants

The elaborate establishment and organization of the Library obviously present a special opportunity (1) for the systematic development of the collections in fields which the governmental appropriations cannot reach, and (2) for service by a personnel definitely educated in the science or cultivated in the art involved, with the equipment to teach in it, or to pursue research in it, but who find a larger interest in interpreting the literature of it to the investigator, the student, and the public at large. To serve these ends, the Library

now has five "chairs" provided by endowment, each held by the chief of an existing division (Music, Fine Arts, Manuscripts, Aeronautics, Maps), and also a group of specialists (consultants) whose association with the Library is made possible by gifts from nongovernmental sources, and who, unlike the incumbents of the "chairs," are without administrative responsibility. Recently the Reference Department, with the aid of a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation, has established a group of fellowships of the Library of Congress which will enable it in time to survey the collections qualitatively, to develop a planned program of acquisitions and to place the responsibility for recommendation of purchases in the various fields upon competent shoulders. The Fellows of the Library of Congress are young scholars who have finished their graduate work and have begun the practical specialization in their various fields which will enable them to criticize the Library's holdings with judgment and perspective. Their appointments are for 1 year while they are on leave of absence from the faculties to which they belong. The function of these groups is best understood if they are regarded as constituting a sort of "faculty," assisting in furnishing expert counsel within highly specialized fields of knowledge, and in serving as a "liaison" between the resources of the Library and those pursuing intensive research.

Division of Documents

The Division attempts to make accessible copies of all official publications as issued currently by national, state, provincial and colonial jurisdictions, the more important local governments, international organizations, and quasi-public bodies. Official gazettes, parliamentary proceedings and documents, reports of committees of inquiry, statistical series, periodicals, reports, rules, regulations, and all other publications of departments and governmental agencies are all represented so far as it is possible to secure them regardless of language and form of publication. In addition, an effort is made to survey and augment the older materials so far as staff and funds permit. Government

publications are of such importance for the Library of Congress that it is not a matter of selection but of ascertaining what has been and is being issued, of taking any necessary steps to secure copies, and of assisting in making them available. This Division has charge of the exchange of publications of the Federal Government with those of other nations, under the terms of the Brussels convention of 1886, and also by the more precise terms of executive agreements concluded through the United States Department of State from time to time with other countries. Since January 1910, the Division has issued a Monthly Checklist of State Publications. To assist in the use of public documents, it has also published *An Account of Government Document Bibliography* (1930, rev. 1942), *The Memorias of the Republics of Central America and of the Antilles* (1932), *Author Entry for Government Publications* (1939, reprinted 1941), *Mexican Government Publications, a Guide* (1940) and *Colombian Government Publications* (1941). In connection with the program of cooperation with Latin America, a comprehensive guide to Latin American government publications is in preparation. A statement about the official publications of Germany (government, party, and corporate organizations) has been prepared, and work is in progress on a guide to Soviet public documents. A census library project was initiated in 1940 with the cooperation of the Bureau of the Census and with support from a Carnegie Corporation grant. A reading room is maintained particularly for the service of current documents.

Division of Fine Arts

The books, pamphlets, and periodicals devoted to the fine arts (amounting in 1940 to 76,314) are in this Division, as well as the collection of prints of all sorts, including etchings, engravings, woodcuts, photomechanical reproductions, and photographs. The most noteworthy special collections received by gift are the Gardiner Greene Hubbard collection of engravings,⁵ originally consisting of 2,707 pieces, but yearly increased by purchases from an endow-

⁵ *Catalog of the Gardiner Greene Hubbard Collection of Engravings*, 1905.

ment fund left for that purpose; the George Lothrop Bradley print collection of 1,980 pieces; the Joseph and Elizabeth Robins Pennell collection of Whistleriana and Pennelliana which includes over 100 original sketches, a like number of etchings, and nearly 1,000 lithographs by Joseph Pennell; the C. L. Freer bequest of about 1,000 prints; the Crosby S. Noyes⁶ collection of Japanese prints and illustrated books; the Mrs. E. Crane Chadbourne collection of Japanese prints depicting Europeans shortly after the opening of Japan to the outside world; the Vollbehr gift of 20,398 wood engravings from books of the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries throughout Europe and 11,005 printers' and publishers' marks from the former collection of Dr. Schreiber of Potsdam; and the Alexander Wilson Drake collection of 498 American wood engravings of the late nineteenth century. There is also a large general collection acquired by purchase and copyright deposit which brings the total number of prints of all classes in the division to 552,514 (June 30, 1940). The Cabinet of American Illustration, started in 1932, now contains 4,177 original drawings for illustration by 200 artists, working for the most part, at the turn of the century, when illustration was one of the greatest and most distinctive American arts.

The Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture form a branch of this Division of the Library. Here photographic negatives of early buildings are being assembled for purposes of historical and architectural study and for supplying prints where desired. There are now about 37,220 negatives in the collection including those of the Historic American Buildings Survey, a project initiated by the National Park Service. In the latter project there are also 23,845 sheets of measured drawings, which with the negatives, record over 7,000 structures.

The Hispanic Foundation

This center for the pursuit of studies in Spanish, Portuguese, Brazilian, and Spanish-American culture was estab-

⁶ *The Noyes Collection of Japanese Prints, Drawings, etc.*, 1906.

lished with the generous cooperation of the Hispanic Society of America. A special Hispanic Room was opened to the public on July 1, 1939, and was formally dedicated by the Librarian on October 12, 1939.⁷ Adjacent to this room are some 100,000 volumes and there is being arranged in the alcoves a catalog and reference collection where general works of reference, dictionaries, and current periodicals will be kept, as well as a large catalog of all Hispanic items in the Library.

The foundation already possesses a good collection of Hispanic material, to which additions are being made constantly by copyright, gift, and purchase. A special fund was presented in 1927 by Archer M. Huntington for the purchase of books published during the last 10 years relating to Hispanic arts, crafts, literature, and history. Other divisions of the Library contain important groups of pertinent material, especially the Law Library, the Rare Book Room, and the Division of Manuscripts, which houses the valuable collection of Peruvian and Mexican manuscripts which were presented in 1929 by the late Edward S. Harkness.⁸ The foundation is also making a particular effort to secure the works of living authors in Hispanic countries and has already received many important items of this kind as gifts from the authors.

Legislative Reference Service

This Division furnishes information to the Congress, its committees and members, on subjects likely to come up for legislative action in either House. It collects, classifies, and indexes material bearing on public affairs and on occasion prepares extensive digests and special studies and reports on public questions. Though, under the law, the reference service can carry on its activities only for the use of the Congress,

⁷ The remarks of the Librarian on this occasion were printed as "The American Experience," in the *Bulletin of the Pan American Union* (November 1939), pp. 621-24.

⁸ *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress. Calendar of Spanish Manuscripts Concerning Peru, 953?-1651* (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1932). *The Harkness Collection in the Library of Congress. Documents from early Peru, the Pizarros and the Almagros, 1531-1578* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936).

the studies having once been made are then accessible to other investigators if such use does not interfere with the service to the Congress.

The organization of this Division reflects quite accurately, in a broad way, the character of the inquiries submitted and of the material handled. The various sections include:

1. The American law section, subdivided into the Federal law section, the State law section, and the bill digest section, indexes currently the Federal and the State laws and prepares studies and digests in these fields.

2. The economic section, including statistics, collects material, prepares studies, and answers inquiries in fiscal, industrial, and commercial fields.

3. The general inquiry section, which handles miscellaneous questions of an historical, governmental, sociological, or literary nature.

4. The defense service section, which publishes bibliographies and digests, and answers inquiries related to the present national emergency.

5. The reference files section which collects, classifies, and indexes current material from many governmental and private sources. This file of clippings and other material serves as an excellent reflector of public opinion on topics of the day.

Division of Manuscripts

Most of the manuscript materials not classified as maps, music, or prints are in this Division. There is a special reading room for the consultation of manuscripts, in which are placed the card indexes to the collections. The collections, by far the largest body of such material in America and embracing some millions of pieces, include: (1) Papers of many American public men, including those of a majority of the presidents; (2) the papers of the Continental Congress and many papers of Colonies and States; (3) about 3,000,000 pages of reproductions of documents in foreign archives and libraries relating to American history, obtained through the munificence of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and of the late James B. Wilbur; and (4) a small number of ancient, medieval, and oriental manuscripts;

also (5) the Modern Language Association reproductions (rotographs and microfilms) of selected manuscripts and rare books not hitherto available in this country. A descriptive handbook of the collections was published in 1918, which is supplemented by 2 subsequent printed lists⁹; calendars have been published of several of the groups of papers; also, the texts of the records of the Virginia Company¹⁰ and of the Journals of the Continental Congress.¹¹

Manuscripts are fully open to inspection, copying, or photographing, except in cases where restrictions have been imposed by donors or depositors or, in the case of collections of recent date, by the Library. They are consulted by readers only under the supervision of attendants.

Division of Maps

Maps, atlases, and parts of the Library's geographical collections are in the custody of this Division. A special reading room is maintained where these materials may be consulted. The collection of 1,441,719 maps and views (as of June 30, 1940), is richest in cartographic representations of the United States and other portions of the American continents, and includes 2,000 manuscript maps. The atlases comprise 9,910 titles. In the globe collection are such items as Vöpel's manuscript 4-inch armillary sphere made in 1543, a set of printed gores of Coronelli's 43-inch globe published in 1688, and a terrestrial and a celestial globe made by James Wilson, the first American globe maker. Among the map treasures are the Rochambeau, Faden, and Howe collections (238 maps); the HARRISSE collec-

tion (about 600 maps); the Lowery collection (306 maps); the Kohl collection (474 maps); the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese maps and atlases (115 items); 92 copies representing all but a few of the editions of Ptolemy's geography; the atlases of Ortelius (70 editions); Blaeu (27 editions in 82 volumes); Mercator (38 editions); 11 portolan charts; 2 portolan atlases; 19 copies of the Atlantic Neptune, 1774-81 (1,369 charts and views); an original manuscript of L'Enfant's plan of the city of Washington, 1791; L'Enfant's "map of dotted lines," August 19, 1791; Champlain's manuscript map of parts of New England and Canada, 1608; 7 of Vingboons' manuscript maps showing New Netherlands, Florida, and California, 1639; 13 manuscript maps attributed to Lewis and Clark; the original manuscript logbook of the sloop "Hero" describing the discovery of the continent of Antarctica in 1820 by N. B. Palmer; a manuscript map of Charlottesville and Monticello by Thomas Jefferson; a score of original editions of Mitchell's "Map of the British and French Dominions in North America," 1755-92; 9 manuscript maps made or annotated by George Washington; and a number that belonged to other presidents of the United States.

Division of Music

The Division of Music has the custody of the collection of music (both music and books on music), numbering 1,399,357 volumes and pieces on June 30, 1940; the yearly accessions now average 25,000 items exclusive of the transfer of noncurrent copyright deposits. These comprise copyright deposits, purchases, gifts, transfers, and exchanges. Until 1902 this material consisted mainly of copyright deposits, which continue to form the bulk of the collection. There are many thousand orchestral scores of operas, choral and symphonic works, and chamber music. There is also an excellent collection of first editions of the classics from Bach through Beethoven, Schubert, and Brahms down to Debussy. Quantitatively, the collection ranks with the great national collections of Europe. For musical publications of the last 50 years, it is without a rival anywhere.

⁹ *Handbook of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress*, 1918, 750 pages. *List of Manuscript Collections in the Library of Congress to July 1931*, by Curtis Wiswell Garrison, 1932. *List of Manuscript Collections received in the Library of Congress, July 1931 to July 1938*, compiled by C. Percy Powell, 1939.

¹⁰ *The Records of the Virginia Company of London*, edited with an introduction and bibliography by Susan Myra Kingsbury; preface by Herbert Levi Osgood, 1906-1935. 4 vols.

¹¹ *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-89*, edited by W. C. Ford, Gaillard Hunt, J. C. Fitzpatrick, and R. R. Hill, vols. 1-34 (1774-89), 1904-37.

The collection now comprises a representative lot of original manuscripts of the master composers such as Bach, Händel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Weber, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Wagner, Brahms, Bruckner, Tchaikovsky, Moussorgsky, Franck, Reger, Debussy, and many others.

Instances of generous contributions to the music collection are not lacking. Organizations as well as individuals have shown that the public interest in the growth of the collection and the realization of its importance to the Nation are widespread. These gifts range in size from a single sheet of music to The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation, The Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundation, and the Dayton C. Miller flute collection. The Coolidge Foundation is concerned with certain activities in the production and performance of chamber music, the Whittall Foundation with concerts in which the Library's Stradivari instruments are played. Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge provide the Library with the Coolidge Auditorium, in which the public hears frequent concerts, and enriched the Music Division by presenting her collection of holograph music and her extensive correspondence with many prominent musicians of the day. Among the holographs are compositions in the handwriting of Loeffler, Pierné, Schoenberg, Ravel, Alfano, Bridge, Respighi, Bloch, Pizzetti, Malipiero, Casella, Bartók, Bliss, Milhaud, Gooessens, and Hindemith. Mrs. Whittall gave to the Library her collection of five magnificent Stradivari instruments (three violins, a viola, and a violoncello) each of which was accompanied by a Tourte bow. She subsequently presented the Whittall Pavilion, a beautiful room in which the instruments are permanently and properly housed where visitors to the Library can find Stradivari's masterpieces on exhibit. The Dayton C. Miller flute collection was assembled over a long period of years by the late Professor Miller of the Case School of Applied Science in Cleveland. Not only is it preeminent by the quantity and quality of its instruments, but its comprehensiveness is enhanced by an accompanying collection of flute music, pertinent

books, articles, clippings, etc. The whole forms a peculiarly complete musicological unit from which scholars and historians will derive benefits.

Music publishers throughout the country have been very generous in turning over the composers' holograph scores of many interesting and important works issued by them. In the archives of the Music Division repose as gifts the original manuscripts of such works as MacDowell's "Indian Suite," Chadwick's "Symphonic Sketches," Converse's "Mystic Trumpeter," Loeffler's "Pagan Poem," Horatio Parker's "Hora Novissima," Arthur Foote's "Omar Khayyam Suite," Nevin's "The Rosary," Henry F. Gilbert's "Comedy Overtures," Charles T. Griffes's "Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan," landmarks along the progress of music in America; and recently the library has become the custodian of more than two-thirds, including the most important, of the manuscript scores of Victor Herbert. Through the bequest of Mrs. Elise Fay Loeffler, the Music Division acquired all of the manuscripts of Charles Martin Loeffler and a large quantity of his correspondence with contemporary musicians.

The Albert Schatz collection of opera librettos comprises about 12,000 items; this purchase, aided by several smaller ones, has made the libretto collection the largest in the world. The extensive collection of opera scores has been repeatedly increased by en bloc purchases, such as that of the Martorell collection (1910), containing over 1,300 items. It is now probably the most representative one in existence.

The Archive of American Folk Song is now an important part of the Music Division. At the present time its most important function resides in the collection and preservation of all types of American folk music. Phonograph recordings (now totaling nearly 5,000 disks) have been made in many different localities and with gratifying results.

The most recent active expansion of the Music Division is to be found in the newly established Recording Laboratory, made possible by a grant of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The installation of the finest, most modern recording equipment and a broadcasting studio provide new outlets for the Library's cultural resources. Duplication of folk songs for wide distribution, preservation of important musical events, dissemination of various musical and literary manifestations can be effected through the Laboratory.

The music collection as it stands is singularly well equipped to serve the student or investigator. The equipment is not restricted to the published records of music as a science and an art; it offers abundant source material and unique facilities for original research.

Division of Orientalia

Since 1928 the Chinese and Japanese sections have been administered as a distinct division with a permanent staff of Western and Oriental assistants. The Chinese collection began in 1869 with a gift of classics from the Emperor of China, and was augmented a year later by some 2,500 volumes from the Library of Caleb Cushing, the first American Minister to China. W. W. Rockhill presented more than 6,000 volumes, and the Chinese Government presented 7,000. The preeminence of the collection is due, however, to additions in excess of 175,000 volumes selected for the library since 1914 by Walter T. Swingle of the Department of Agriculture, and since 1928 by the present chief of the Division, A. W. Hummel. It now includes upwards of 225,000 volumes.

Japanese books numbering 45,000 volumes, selected in the beginning by Dr. Asakawa of Yale University with the assistance of other Japanese and Western authorities, make a good working collection for students of Japanese history, literature, and institutions. The Division of Orientalia also administers smaller collections, in Korean, Tibetan, Manchu, Mongolian, and other Far Eastern languages.

Periodical Division

This Division handles periodicals as received, except those in certain fields for which the Library has special divisions, and prepares the completed volumes for binding. The total number of periodical files received is in excess of

10,400. Over 990 newspapers are currently received, including 130 foreign newspapers; 933 are bound and shelved. The files of American newspapers of the eighteenth century are perhaps the largest in America. The bound newspaper collection numbers over 103,000 volumes. The Division has 2 reading rooms: The Periodical Reading Room for current periodicals and newspapers, and the Newspaper Reference Room for bound newspapers. The former has accommodation for 181 readers, who have direct access to the current issues of 296 newspapers and to more than 950 magazines which are shelved in the room; and the latter has special accommodation for students and research workers.

Photoduplication Service

This service, established with the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, enables the Library to supply research workers throughout the country with microfilm and photostat copies of its available materials at a nominal charge, subject to the usual copyright limitations.

The Reading Rooms

The Main Reading Room is in the center of the main building, with accommodations for 300 readers. The North Reading Room and also the Science and Technology Reading Room are on the fifth floor of the Annex with accommodations for 500 additional readers. Adjoining the North Reading Room space is provided for the Local History and Genealogy Section and for investigators specializing in these fields. In the main building the Social Sciences Reference Room provides facilities for the use of the collections in the social and political sciences. There are 226 study rooms, of which 54 are on the topmost decks of the northeast and southeast bookstacks of the main building and 172 are in 2 tiers around the periphery of the fifth floor of the Annex. These rooms are used for group research and for conference, and provide accommodations for investigators doing advanced work requiring exceptional apparatus and the opportunity for dictation. On certain of the upper decks of the bookstacks just men-

tioned and in the gallery of the Main Reading Room are over 200 study tables where students to whom they are assigned have the privilege of reserving books and where they may carry on their work with freedom from interruption. In the Social Sciences Reference Room 29 study tables are reserved for investigators in the collections administered by the special staff of the room. For other workers whose needs do not require the use of a study table, shelves are provided in spaces adjacent to the North Reading Room in the Annex where books may be reserved.

Certain of the special collections described in the preceding paragraphs are administered by the reading rooms which, with the exception of the books dealing with music and the fine arts (classes M and N) administer also the books in the general collections of the library, numbering in volumes approximately as follows: Class A (polygraphy), 161,000; B-BJ (philosophy), 48,800; BL-BX (religion), 181,900; C-D (genealogy and history, except American history), 302,500; E-F (American history), 249,100; G (geography and anthropology), 63,300; H-J (social, economic, and political sciences), 950,500; L (education), 158,600; P (language and literature), 361,800; PZ (fiction in English, the juvenile literature), 150,900; Q (science), 278,200; R (medicine), 118,900; S (agriculture), 130,800; T (technology), 260,200; U (military science), 50,700; V (naval science), 35,900; Z (bibliography and library science), 168,500.

The alcoves and balconies of the Main Reading Room contain reference collections of over 30,000 volumes, to which there is immediate access. In the auxiliary reading rooms are maintained reference collections numbering 6,000 volumes in the Social Sciences Reference Room, 9,000 volumes in the North (Annex) Reading Room, 3,500 volumes in the Science and Technology Reading Room. For the convenience of investigators holding assignments to study rooms and study tables the study room reference collection of some 5,000 volumes is shelved in the main building. Small reference collections are maintained in the Library Station in the

Capitol and in the Library's book rooms in the Congressional office buildings.

This Division also administers the interlibrary loan service of the library, whereby books may be lent to other libraries to further serious investigations requiring the use of unusual books not available locally, and the governmental loan service to Federal agencies in Washington and its immediate vicinity.

Other reading rooms provide particular services in connection with certain of the collections. The Rare Book Room, with a collection of some 125,000 volumes, administers the collections of incunabula and broadsides, the collections of John Boyd Thacher, the Houdini collection, and the general rare book collections of the Library. The Service for the Blind maintains a reading room for the blind and a lending service of books to blind readers; it is, in addition, the headquarters for the American Red Cross volunteer Braille transcribing service for the blind, and it maintains an informational service with regard to activities for the blind. Its collections number 45,000 volumes of Braille and Moon transcriptions and talking books.

Division of Semitic Literature

The Semitic Division contains over 40,000 books in Hebrew, Yiddish, and cognate languages, the greater part of which were collected by the late Ephraim Deinard. Two collections totaling about 15,000 volumes were presented to the Library in 1912 and 1914 by the late Jacob H. Schiff, and another two amounting to about 6,000 were purchased by the Library from the same collector in 1917 and 1921. Yearly accessions by purchase, gift, exchange, and copyright have increased the number to the present total. The collection of Hebraica covering ancient and modern Hebrew literature ranks favorably with that of any of the great national libraries, both in quantity and quality. It includes a considerable number of incunabula, early prints, and rarities.

An integral part of the Semitic Division is the Judaica, i. e., books written on Jewish subjects in other languages than Hebrew or Yiddish. The Judaica number an indeterminate total of thousands of volumes.

Division of Slavic Literature

This Division contains about 130,000 pieces of printed Slavic material, including books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other serials, but excluding several thousand Slavic publications, as well as Slavica in non-Slavic languages, which are held in other divisions of the Library and in its general classification. The private Russian collection of Genadii Vasil'evich Yudin, of Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, acquired in 1907, is the foundation of the Division of Slavic literature, which now constitutes probably the largest collection of Russian books outside of Russia.

Smithsonian Division

In 1866, by an act of Congress, passed at the request of Secretary Joseph Henry and the Board of Regents, the Smithsonian Institution transferred its library of 40,000 volumes to the custody of the Library of Congress. This was the beginning of the Smithsonian deposit. In 1900 the Smithsonian Division was organized as the scientific unit of the Library of Congress.

The number of volumes in the deposit is approximately 566,554, of which about 142,900 are shelved in this Division; the others are distributed by subject throughout the classification. This collection is increased each year by publications from most of the learned societies and institutions of the world, sent in exchange for those of the Smithsonian Institution. This supplements the regular scientific collection of the Library of Congress which is increased annually by purchase, gift, and copyright. Both groups together constitute one of the largest and most important collections of source material of this character in existence, and number among their sets of memoirs and transactions those of many of the oldest scientific academies and societies. The Division also contains a rich collection of material concerning scientific expeditions, as well as the proceedings of international scientific congresses.

Because of the size of its collection and its bibliographical apparatus, the Division offers rich opportunity for research.

The Division is now located in the Annex where readers are served in the Science and Technology Reading Room. Here are kept all of the principal reference books and complete sets of abstracts in the various sciences.

The Smithsonian Division in its activities cooperates with all of the United States Government scientific bureaus, the National Research Council, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and all of the larger university and public libraries.

The Union Catalog

Greatly expanded under a grant made by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., during the period 1927-32, and since then maintained through annual Congressional appropriation, the Union Catalog now contains approximately 11,000,000 entries, representing about 7,000,000 books significant for purposes of scholarship, and indicates the libraries in which they are to be found. Auxiliary to the Union Catalog are supplementary catalogs containing entries in specialized fields as well as cards representing the accessions of several foreign institutions such as the Vatican Library and the Deichmanske Bibliothek. A notable auxiliary is the catalog of about 7,000 special collections contained in North American libraries. Although the Union Catalog is used principally for the location of books, it is also used extensively as a clearinghouse for interlibrary loans and as an aid in bibliographical and cooperative cataloging activities. With the rapidly expanding use of photographic methods for the reproduction of library materials, the Union Catalog becomes increasingly important to scholarship. The Catalog is kept up to date through cooperative arrangements with a large number of other American libraries, who contribute information as to their accessions of unusual materials.

Card Division

This Division conducts a card distribution service whereby extra copies of the cards primarily printed for the catalogs of the Library of Congress are distributed to some 6,500 libraries, firms, and individuals who purchase them as a means of cataloging their collections or as material for bibliog-

raphies. The cards may be ordered by author and title, by number, by series, and by subject. Standing orders by subject and series are accepted so that special libraries and specialists can obtain all issued on their specialty. The stock of cards now covers about 1,675,000 titles, with a total of over 125,000,000 cards. The sales to subscribers amount to over \$300,000 annually. As a part of the system and as an aid to investigation, full sets of the cards are located in 76 large libraries, including 15 in foreign countries. To make its stock of cards more complete about 10,000 cards are printed each year for books not in the Library of Congress but in other governmental libraries of the United States and in other American libraries highly specialized in content. The work incident to the printing of these outside cards is now attended to by the Cooperative Cataloging Section of the Descriptive Cataloging Division.

Law Library

The Law Library of Congress is the only general legal research library maintained by the Federal Government. In addition to serving the Congress and the Supreme Court it is used extensively by the several executive departments, the governmental agencies, the diplomatic corps, members of the bench and bar, and by individual investigators of legal subjects.

The Law Library contains at present 463,413 volumes. These are located in the Library of Congress itself, at the Capitol, and in the new Supreme Court building. Because of the restricted accommodations, the use of the working library at the Capitol is limited to members of Congress, their secretaries, and officials of the executive departments and agencies. In the Supreme Court building there are two libraries: one for the exclusive use of the justices, the other for members of the Supreme Court bar.

A large proportion of the Law Library collections is located in the main building of the Library of Congress. Here are kept full sets of both Federal and State session laws, statutes, and re-

ports, a practically complete set of the original records and briefs of the United States Supreme Court, the collections of bar association reports, opinions of attorneys general, legal directories, treatises, reports of American and foreign trials, and legal periodicals. The collections are strong in foreign law, including foreign session laws, codes, statutes, judicial decisions, and groups of foreign legal treatises. The Law Library also contains extensive collections in constitutional law, international law, Roman law, Canon law, the history and philosophy of law and jurisprudence, and in various other recognized branches of law. The Law Library possesses an outstanding collection of yearbooks and other early English material, approximately 450 incunabula, and a noteworthy collection of trials.

Through the cooperation of lawyers and the law associations the Law Library has greatly expanded its activities and increased the number of its volumes. The American Bar Association and other national associations have standing committees which favor "the continued development of the facilities of the Law Library of Congress to the end that it may become the Nation's principal repository of legal literature and sources." Since 1933 an organization known as the Friends of the Law Library of Congress has been active in stimulating interest in the Library among American lawyers and jurists by urging the importance of its continuous development through a discriminating increase in acquisitions and appropriate additions of carefully selected experts to the staff.

Finance

The appropriations made by Congress for the construction of the present building and its successive enlargements, together with the authorizations which it has made of expenditures for the construction of the Annex, including the appropriations for the site of each, come to a total in excess of \$18,000,000. The ordinary appropriations of Congress for the maintenance of the Library and increase of the collections, including the maintenance and operations of the build-

ings, are now in excess of \$3,000,000 annually (for the fiscal year 1940-41, \$3,560,298). Over \$590,000 of this is, however, offset by receipts covered into the Treasury from copyright fees and from the sale of printed cards. The act of March 3, 1925, creating the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, which is authorized "to accept, receive, hold, and administer such gifts, bequests, or devises of property for the benefit of, or in connection with, the Library, its collections, or its service, as may be ap-

proved by the board and by the Joint Committee on the Library," has resulted in the gift of trust funds now amounting to \$1,655,501, and the gift of income from two endowments of approximately \$844,174 held elsewhere. The income of these funds is applicable for the purposes defined by the donors. In addition, the Library of Congress, from time to time, receives gifts of money for specific purposes. During the fiscal year 1939-40, gifts of this kind amounted to over \$133,000.

Table of the hours of opening of the divisions in the Reference Department

Division	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays and holidays
Aeronautics	9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.	9 a. m. to 1 p. m.	Closed.
Bibliography	do	do	do.
Documents	do	do	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Fine arts	do	do	do.
Hispanic Foundation.	do	9 a. m. to 6 p. m.*	do.
Indic Studies	do	9 a. m. to 1 p. m.	Closed.
Manuscripts	do	do	do.
Music	do	9 a. m. to 6 p. m.*	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Legislative Reference Service. §	do	9 a. m. to 1 p. m.	Closed.
Maps	do	do	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Orientalia	do	do	Closed
Periodical	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.	9 a. m. to 6 p. m.*	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Photoduplication service.	9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.	9 a. m. to 1 p. m.	Closed.
Rare Book Collection.	do	9 a. m. to 5 p. m.*	do.
Reading Rooms	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.	9 a. m. to 6 p. m.*	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Semitic	9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.	9 a. m. to 1 p. m.	Closed.
Slavic	do	9 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.*	2 p. m. to 10 p. m.
Smithsonian	9 a. m. to 10 p. m.	9 a. m. to 6 p. m.*	do.
Union Catalog †	do	do.*	do.

*Except from June through September, when they close at 1 p. m.

§The Congressional Reading Room is open on weekdays, including Saturdays, from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m., and on Sundays from 2 p. m. to 10 p. m.

†The office of the Union Catalog is closed at 1 p. m. on Saturdays and all day Sundays and holidays, but the catalog is accessible to the public.



