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THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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[The Executive Committee of the Friends of the Library requested the writer, as librarian of the University and editor of the *Chronicle*, to prepare this account of the Library. This is his excuse for filling an entire number with his own contribution.]

A library can never cease buying books. If it does, it soon dies. It may remain, on dusty and seldom consulted shelves, as a *collection*; but as a library—a living, active force in the increase and dissemination of knowledge, it ceases to exist.

There has never been a time when the University administration was more keenly aware than it is today, of the importance of the Library and of its need for more liberal support. Appropriations, however, cannot be increased at the present time. Furthermore, it must be recognized that no university, even in the best of times, can possibly appropriate annually, from its general funds, enough money to build up and maintain an adequate library. The great libraries of the world have not been formed in that way. The Bodleian Library at Oxford, the libraries of the University of Cambridge, of Harvard, of Yale, could never have become what they are without most liberal gifts and endowments from their alumni and other friends.

With few exceptions, the notable libraries of the world have grown slowly from small beginnings, and the Library of the University of Pennsylvania is not one of the exceptions. The need of a library was recognized by the trustees at the

outset, and was mentioned—rather casually, to be sure, and certainly with all due modesty—in the “Constitutions of the Publick Academy, in the City of Philadelphia,” drawn up and signed in November, 1749: “For the Security of the Trustees, in contracting with the Rector Masters and Ushers; to enable them to provide and fit up convenient Schools, furnish them with Books of general Use, that may be too expensive for each Scholar; Maps, Draughts, and other Things generally necessary for the Improvement of the Youth; and to bear the incumbent Charges that will unavoidably attend this Undertaking, especially in the Beginning; the Donations of all Persons inclined to encourage it, are to be cheerfully and thankfully accepted.”

Fortunately the infant Academy which was to become the University of Pennsylvania did not propose to depend entirely upon gifts for the acquisition of a library. At a meeting of the trustees March 29, 1750, it was ordered “that Messrs. Benjamin Franklin, William Allen, William Coleman, Richard Peters, Thomas Hopkinson and Tench Francis be a Committee . . . and that a Sum not exceeding one hundred pounds Sterling be paid by the Treasurer to the said Committee to be disposed of in Latin and Greek Authors, Maps, Drafts and Instruments for the Use of the Academy.”

The prominence given in these early records to maps, drafts, instruments, “and other things” is explained by the fact that in those days the functions of the library, the laboratory, and the museum had not been differentiated and separated; no “public library” was considered complete—and all libraries which were not the personal property of an individual were “public”—without a collection of “philosophical apparatus,” and usually there was a “cabinet” of natural history specimens.¹ In 1792 the University trustees submitted an Address to the Legislature, in which they expressed a desire that the library and philosophical apparatus should be enlarged. Under the Rules and Statutes of the University adopted in 1811, provision was made for a committee of two members, which should have charge of the library and

¹ Sometimes, if a library's purchases were entrusted to one who was scientifically inclined, books were likely to be slighted in favor of “philosophical apparatus.” Thus President Meigs, of the University of Georgia, empowered by the trustees in 1800 to spend \$1000 for books and scientific apparatus, “with his mathematical mind, sent to London and bought more apparatus than books, so that the library was forced in 1806 to resort to the common device of a lottery to raise \$3000 for books.” (E. M. Coulter, *College life in the old South*, p. 52.)

philosophical apparatus, and the library committee continued to bear this designation at least as late as 1855.

We may assume, however, that the larger part of the hundred pounds sterling appropriated by the Academy trustees in 1750 was spent, not for apparatus, but for "Latin and Greek authors," for "on the day the Academy was opened in 1751 it was stated that 'the Grammar Schools are also provided with a collection of the best classics, for the use of the Masters.'"² Thus, at the very beginning, was laid the foundation for the excellent collections in the classics which are available on our shelves today. The earliest inventory—it cannot be called a catalog—of the Library's books is dated February 23, 1751. It consists of itemized receipts for "Books delivered to the Rector of the Academy," signed by the first rector and professor of the Greek and Latin languages, David Martin; for "Books delivered to the English Master," David James Dove, the schoolmaster immortalized by Alexander Graydon in his *Memoirs* and by Weir Mitchell in *Hugh Wynne*; and for "Instruments &c. delivered to the Mathematical Master," Theophilus Grew. The classical list is by far the longest part of the inventory. It contains 46 titles, comprising 77 volumes, "bought of Whiston"³ at a total cost of £30.11.0, exclusive of two volumes given by Mr. Lewis Evans and one presented by "B. Franklin." All of the volumes are Greek or Latin texts or commentaries except a copy of "Ainsworth's Dictionary."⁴

It is perhaps ungracious to publish the fact that four volumes which had been presented in December, 1750, by "Mr. Jackson of the Middle Temple," were not listed in this inventory, but the librarian today takes great interest in this early precedent for occasional slight delay in "getting books into the catalog."

Aside from a few books of a practical nature which supplemented the "instruments" entrusted to the Mathematical Master, the non-classical portion of the Library apparently consisted, in 1751, only of the following books, reported by David Dove: a Bible; Bailey's Dictionary, 2

² Cheyney, *History of the University of Pennsylvania*, 1:214.

³ John Whiston, London bookseller, whose shop "was known as a meeting-place and house of call for men of letters." He was "one of the earliest issuers of regular priced catalogues." (*Dictionary of national biography*.)

⁴ Robert Ainsworth, *Thesaurus linguae Latinae compendarius; or, a compendious dictionary of the Latin tongue*, 1736, 2nd edition 1746.

vols;⁵ Dyche's Dictionary;⁶ Cowley's Works and "Milton's Paradise lost and regained," given by Lewis Evans; Milton's Prose Works, given by "Dr. Milne;" and Rollin's "Belles Lettres,"⁷ a gift from Benjamin Franklin.

The scanty records of the succeeding years give evidence that other purchases were made from time to time. In 1752 the President (Benjamin Franklin) and Mr. Peters were requested "to make out a Catalogue of such Books as are most necessary for the English School, and send it to Mr. Peter Collinson, with a Letter requesting him to purchase the said Books and ship them by the first Opportunity." Six years later, "it being represented to the Trustees that many of the students in the Philosophy School had been very deficient in their Exercises and otherways much retarded in their Studies for Want of a Library furnished with suitable Books on the different Branches of Science, the Clerk was therefore directed to acquaint the Trustees by the next written notices that a Proposal was under Consideration for granting a Sum of Money to be laid out in purchasing an Assortment of approved Authors for the Use of the College, a List of which was laid before the Trustees at this Meeting." This was an unusually early recognition of the importance of a library for the students. The college libraries in that period, and for nearly a century later, were designed for the faculty; of the students it might be said "they have a book." No later action on this proposal is recorded, but in 1764 Provost Smith presented an account: "To cash paid out in purchasing Books for the College as per List, with packing, cording, &c. £79.18.0.

Practically nothing further is known concerning book purchases for the Library earlier than the nineteenth century, apart from the information contained in a letter from Franklin to his friend Peter Collinson, philosopher, scientist, and bookseller of London, dated June 26, 1755. In this letter Franklin ordered for the Academy a copy of Johnson's

⁵ Nathan Bailey, *An universal etymological English dictionary, comprehending the derivations of the generality of words in the English tongue*, which in 1751 was in its 14th edition; first published in 1721.

⁶ Thomas Dyche, *A new general English dictionary, to which is prefixed, a compendious English grammar*; in 1751 in its 6th edition. He was also the author of a *Spelling dictionary*, 3rd edition 1731.

⁷ Charles Rollin, *The method of teaching and studying the belles lettres*, 4 vols., translated from a French work first published in 1726. In 1749 it was in its 4th English edition.

Dictionary, the first edition of which had recently been published, to supplement the Bailey and the Dyche which had previously been placed in David Dove's gentle care. To another book, published a year earlier, Franklin referred in these words: "I have before me your Account dated May 2, 1754; in it I am charged with Dr. Blair's Chronology and Binding £2.9.0. As that Book was for the Academy, please to charge the Trustees of the Academy with it, and take it out of my Account, if there is, as I suppose there is, a Ballance of theirs in your Hands; if not, let it stand in my Acct. and I will charge them."⁸

Happily, both of these books are still in the possession of the Library, carefully guarded among our most precious relics of the University's infancy. The binding of the two volumes of "The Great Lexicographer's" dictionary was skilfully repaired several years ago through the generosity of Dr. Charles W. Burr, preserving so far as possible the original covers. Blair's book was one of the best sellers of its day. It was re-issued several times during the author's life, and was available in revised and enlarged editions more than a century later. The full title of the original edition is "The chronology and history of the world, from the creation to the year of Christ, 1753. Illustrated in LVI tables, of which IV are introductory & include the centurys prior to the 1st Olympiad, and each of the remaining LII contain in one expanded view, 50 years or half a century. By the Revd. John Blair, L.L.D." (London, 1754.)

With several notable exceptions, the Library seems to have received few gifts in its early years. In 1772 "our good Friend Mr. [John] Ellis, and some Medical Gentlemen after his Example," in Jamaica, made a subscription of 70 pounds "for the Use of a Medical Library." "The most capital Addition to the Funds, Library and Apparatus," a committee's report stated in 1779, "was made by the Collection in England in the years 1762 and 1763; and by the Collections in South Carolina and Jamaica about ten years afterwards." Several of the books collected by Provost William Smith in England are still in the University Library, and were included in the exhibit displayed at the recent meeting of the

⁸ Franklin's Writings, ed. by A. H. Smyth, 3:262-268, In the *General Magazine*, July, 1932 (34:533-534) Mr. Asa Don Dickinson, formerly librarian of the University, published an account of his identification of Blair's book with the Franklin letter.

Friends of the Library. Among them are *A critical dissertation upon I Tim. iii, 16*, London, 1741, by John Berriman, and two works by Dr. William Berriman, the former's brother: *The gradual revelation of the Gospel, from the time of man's apostacy, set forth and explained in twenty-four sermons*, 2 vols. London, 1733, and *Christian doctrines and duties explained and recommended in forty sermons*, 2 vols., London, 1751.

In 1784 a notable gift of books, comprising thirty-five titles in 101 volumes, was received from "His Most Christian Majesty," Louis XVI. Several interesting documents pertaining to this gift have recently been discovered, and will be printed in the next number of the *Chronicle*. Of this generous donation most of the volumes are still in the Library.

Various devices were adopted as means of supplementing the too infrequent gifts of books and of money. In 1757 it was decreed that students receiving the bachelor's degree should pay to the College Library fifteen shillings, and that those receiving the master's degree should pay one pound. In 1780 this fee was made fifteen shillings, both for bachelors and for masters of arts, the money to be applied "to increase the Stock of Books in the said Library." In 1768 the Medical Committee provided that each medical student who paid one dollar for the use of the Library, exclusive of the fees paid on receiving his diploma, should "have his Name entered and have the free Use of any Books belonging to the Medical Library of the College during his continuance at the same, and attendance of Lectures under the Medical Professors." At a meeting on April 21, 1752, it was "Agreed by the Trustees present to pay a Fine of One Shilling, if absent at any Meeting, unless such Excuse be given as the Majority shall judge reasonable. The Money to be applied towards buying Books Paper &c. for the Scholars in the Charity School." This was in accord with a time-honored custom which prevailed among library boards and among the trustees or directors of institutions of all kinds, but the following provision, so far as the writer knows, is unique. At the same meeting it was "Agreed unanimously that no Holliday be granted to the Scholars at the Request of any Person, unless at the same Time he make a present to the Academy of a Book of Ten Shillings value: the Masters to be made acquainted with this Rule."

As early as 1764 problems of administration, or rather, of custodianship, began to require some attention. In that year Mr. Peters and Mr. Duché were appointed a committee "to inspect the College Library, taking professor Ewing to their Assistance, and to compare it with the Catalogue which after their Examination is to be inserted in the Minutes." The minutes of June 21, 1774, record that: "The Request of the Faculty concerning the appointment of a Librarian is referred to further Consideration; and in the mean Time, Dr. Smith, Dr. Alison and Dr. Shippen junr. are appointed a Committee to prepare a Catalogue of the Books in the College Library, and a List of the Apparatus, and to lay the same before the next Board." One hundred years later, in January, 1875, a Library Committee again recommended that the appointment of a librarian would be desirable as soon as the funds would warrant it, but not until 1884 was a librarian appointed, to give his full time to the office. Until then, the librarians had been professors or provosts who were commissioned to take charge of the library in such time as they could give to it.

Such, in brief outline, are the most important events in the Library's early history, so far as the facts are available in existing records. During the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century its growth was slow, and its very existence precarious. The probable extent of its usefulness to the students in 1813 may be deduced from a resolution of the Trustees, "that the N.E. room in the building be fitted up for the accommodation of the Trustees, and that the Library be moved into that room." In January, 1822, the need of expansion received more formal recognition than it had ever before been given. "The Committee on the Library made report of a plan for enlarging the Library together with a Catalogue of Books bequeathed to the University by the late Doctor McDowell, formerly Provost of the Institution: and the said report being considered, Resolved that for the present year the sum of two hundred and fifty Dollars be appropriated for the purpose of enlarging the Library, and be held subject to the order of the Library Committee. That the said Committee be allowed to purchase as occasion may offer, Books for the Library, preferring Greek and Latin authors of established reputation (!) and in good condition; Books having relation to Natural and Moral Philosophy in their vari-

ous Departments—and History—and particularly all publications connected with the past and present condition of the United States. That the said Committee shall cause the Books purchased by them to be properly labelled and placed in the Library and entered in the Catalogue and shall report at each meeting of the Trustees the Books purchased and their prices since the meeting immediately preceding. That the Committee adopt such measures as they may think expedient to invite and encourage donations of Books to the Library. That the Library be continued in the room where it is now placed until it shall require larger accommodation, and that the Committee before mentioned make arrangements for its security, and prepare and report regulations for the loan of the Books. That hereafter such annual appropriation be made for increasing the Library as the actual state of the Funds of the University may be found to warrant.”

Unfortunately, not every worthy expansion program reaches fruition. In 1832, ten years after the attempted inauguration of a new era, the Library Committee reported to the Trustees: “The Library is arranged on shelves in one of the upper story rooms of the building. It contains 1451 volumes, besides 19 volumes which have been added within the past year, some of them rare and valuable, many curious, and all worthy of being carefully preserved, being a good foundation for such a collection of Books as suits the Character of a University. Considering the extraordinary expenses incurred in the outfit of the Institution for its new career, the Committee have refrained from new purchases of Books hoping that the time will come when prudence will permit a liberal expenditure, and give to the library by its excellence and magnitude, as well greater usefulness as a more powerful attraction to the liberality of individuals. In reference to this subject the Committee ventures to state the opinion that the Library is now placed in a situation not the most suitable or convenient. It is a large northern room, in which fire is never kindled, where it is exposed to injury from dampness and dust, and to destruction from conflagration of the building. To its out of the way location is to be attributed perhaps in part its little usefulness, being as it is understood resorted to only by one or two of the Professors. The Committee recommend that the Books shall be brought down stairs, and placed as formerly in the room occupied by the Trustees

where there is ample space for them. Here they would be constantly under the inspection of the members of the Board and within their reach—more accessible to all—and far less exposed to loss or injury from the causes before mentioned. If however the Board shall determine against the recommended removal an appropriation will be necessary to furnish the room now occupied with Tables, Chairs, &c., of which it is entirely destitute.”

The recommendations of this committee were adopted, and its members were requested to “consider further of the expediency and practicability of a gradual augmentation of the Library, and to report a plan for carrying the same into effect.” For nearly half a century longer, however, the growth of the Library proceeded very slowly. Its modern history may be said to have begun when Provost William Pepper called attention to its needs in his annual report in 1887. Since the removal of the University to West Philadelphia the Library had received many important gifts of books, and several endowments, among which were the Tobias Wagner fund and the J. B. Lippincott fund, each of which provided an endowment of \$10,000.

The situation which existed in 1887 is best described in Dr. Cheyney’s words: “In these various ways the number of books in the possession of the University Library and the additions that were being made to them so rapidly, came to be entirely impossible of accommodation in the room set apart for Library purposes in the College Hall. Moreover the number of students was increasing and the methods of teaching were changing so as to require a much more extensive use of books by the students than had been customary before. The absolute necessity for a special building for the Library was quite apparent. The acquisition of books, their use, the improved teaching that would be made possible by their possession and convenient accommodation were all being held back by the lack of room for Library use and growth.”⁹

This need and, of still greater importance, the rapidly broadening conception of the functions of a university library, were thus expressed by Dr. Pepper: “Unquestionably the most urgent need at present is that of a Library building. The space available for library purposes in the College build-

⁹ *History of the University of Pennsylvania*, 1:148.

ing is far outgrown. The accumulation of valuable books, pamphlets, and journals progresses rapidly, but it has long been impossible to provide shelf room so that they might be accessible to students. A rich and well-arranged library is as necessary to the growth and activity of a university as is an active circulation to the health of the body. The university life centres in it; every teacher and every student draw from it facts, knowledge, and inspiration. The use made of a library is a good index of the condition of a university, and of the extent to which it is discharging its duty of stimulating thought, inquiry, and research as well as that of merely affording instruction."

When the new building for which Dr. Pepper appealed so convincingly was dedicated, in 1891, it was proclaimed "the best appointed library building in this Western World." "*Si bibliothecam utillissimam venustissimamque requiris, circumspice!*" Later judgment has not always been in strict accord with this, but the little effusion of pride seems quite justifiable when we remember the contrast between the home then provided for the Library and its former inadequate, ill-suited quarters in College Hall; when we remember, too, the library buildings which other universities and other cities were erecting in that period. In the *Proceedings* of the dedication ceremonies are many other statements which were accepted without question by those who heard them, but can no longer escape challenge. Though now effectively disguised, enough still remains of the original grandeur of the "spacious, lofty Reading Room" with its "generous, hospitable fire-place," to make a sympathetic reading of the description not altogether impossible for one of an imaginative nature; but for most people the sense of spaciousness and hospitality is now lost in so definite a sense of crowding and confusion that good-nature here is indeed a virtue. Occasionally, even now, if it be vacation time, and a day when all the world wants to be outdoors, one may still glimpse "the solitary student" in one of the six alcoves of the Reference Room, "as secluded as though he were in a rock-hewn cell of the Valley of Engedi," and probably more uncomfortable, if the day be sultry; but at any other time the seeker for solitude had best look elsewhere. What does today's student think of the old stack? Give credence unto the statement or not, in its prime it was a stack of unrivalled beauty, of mar-

velous utility, of perennial comfort; warm as the greenhouse it so closely resembles, in winter; cool as the ocean breezes in summer. The building was thought to be one which would supply all needs of the Library for a century to come. The four decades which have already passed have seen the erection of the Duhring Stack, more than doubling the capacity of the old; the Henry C. Lea Library and Reading Room; the Furness Memorial Library; the erection of a new floor above the once lofty Reading Room; and the utilization of every square foot of space in the original structure. Yet there are often times when every seat in the reading rooms is occupied, and as every new book enters through the door of the stack there is danger that another will be crowded out through the window.

A blessing on the old building! One cannot live in it many years without growing to love its individuality, even the features which a changed architectural taste terms eccentricities; but it has enjoyed its day of splendor, and can no longer respond to the larger needs of a changed university world. It is inadequate in space, obsolete in arrangement, and inexpressibly unsuited to the requirements of a modern university.

This condition has arisen, not only from the unforeseen increase in the number of students and instructors, but, even more, from the changed methods of instruction. More than thirty years ago the ideals of a university and the methods of teaching had begun to change, in a manner which was so graphically described at that time by Dr. Cheyney that his words may well be quoted here. "Students had their text books," in the older days, "and they had notebooks into which they were to copy what the teachers dictated, but they had comparatively little occasion to use the College Library. This remained moreover for generation after generation measurably the same. It is only within the last few decades that the students have used the Library to any great extent. Within this period however the Library has come to be used by the students of one department after another, not only as providing material for their general reading, but practically as a Laboratory. Subjects within the general lines of the courses they may be pursuing are assigned for special investigation, which can of course only be done in the Library. Some courses are entirely made up of reports made by students of

the results of their research, with criticism and comment by the teacher. In other courses illustrative material is needed beyond what can be furnished or used in the classroom, and this again can only be obtained by the use of books, often several copies of the same book, specially reserved in the Library. Still other courses exist which are purely bibliographical, intended to give students guidance in access to sources of information in certain fields. Students are constantly sent to the periodical literature on the various subjects of their courses; and they are taught to find out what has already been written on any subject in the investigation of which they are engaged, which again is a question of books in the Library."¹⁰

This was thirty years ago. How much further we have gone in the same direction can scarcely be comprehended by anyone who has not been in close touch with university life and work. The Library has become the laboratory, not only of the faculty and the graduate students but of the entire undergraduate body, to an extent which no dream, thirty years since, could have envisioned.

In the course of these years, the Library has received many gifts of great value, which have enabled it to win a high position among American university libraries. The erection of the Duhring stack, now filled to almost the last foot of shelving, was made possible in 1915 by a bequest from Dr. Louis A. Duhring, and provided an indispensable supplement to the shelving capacity of the old building. The Walter Hatfield Library of Chemistry occupies a room which was completely equipped by Mr. Henry Reed Hatfield as a memorial to his brother. Our constantly increasing work in the last ten years could not have been carried on without the space provided in an addition to the building erected in 1924 through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Lea and Miss Nina Lea. A part of this addition houses, in its original setting, the Henry Charles Lea Library of Medieval History, bequeathed to us by the eminent historian. In 1931 the Horace Howard Furness Memorial was erected, under a bequest from Horace Howard Furness, jr., and his wife, Louise Brooks Winsor Furness, as a permanent home for the collection of Shakespeareana gathered by the late Dr. Fur-

¹⁰ *History of the University of Pennsylvania*, 1:215.

ness and his father, the editors of the *New Variorum Shakespeare*.

Virtually all of our most notable acquisitions of books have come from special gifts or endowments. The Curtis Collection of Franklin Imprints, which has given the Library distinction both at home and abroad among bibliographers and students of early American printing, was a gift in 1920 from the Curtis Publishing Company. The Macauley Collection of Dante, Petrarch, and Tasso came in 1897 from Francis Campbell Macauley, who gave us his library of about 5500 volumes. In 1927 the Rennert Collection of Spanish Drama, formerly the library of Professor Hugo A. Rennert, was purchased from the income of an endowment of \$50,000 which had recently been given by Mrs. Sabin W. Colton, jr. The Clothier Collection of Early American Drama has been built up mainly with funds given by Mr. Morris L. Clothier. The Maria Hosmer Penniman Memorial Library of Education represents the long-continued interest and generosity of Dr. James Hosmer Penniman. The Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Library on the History of Chemistry was given and endowed by Dr. Smith's widow, Mrs. Margie A. Smith.

Among other benefactions of recent years which have made possible many notable additions to our collections, are the following: A bequest of more than \$21,000, received in 1928 from the late Craig D. Ritchie, together with his library of about 3,000 volumes; a "Library Benefactor's" endowment of \$10,000, presented in 1923 by the late Ellis D. Williams; a similar endowment of \$10,000, given in 1925 by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Lea and Miss Nina Lea, later augmented by a bequest of \$10,000 from Miss Nina Lea; an endowment of \$5,000 from the Misses Mary and Anne Lamberton and Mr. R. E. Lamberton, in memory of their father, Dr. W. A. Lamberton; an endowment of \$5,000 from Mrs. J. Fithian Tatem, as a memorial to her husband; an endowment of \$5,000 from Mr. Thomas Harris Powers; an endowment of \$2,000 from Mr. David Milne. In 1932 Dr. Charles W. Burr presented more than 19,000 volumes from his own library, and he has made many other liberal gifts both of books and of money.

Our gratitude to all these friends and benefactors is greater than can be expressed. They have made possible a most creditable service in the past. In number of volumes

we rank ninth among American university libraries. Our collection in most fields is excellent, and in some is almost unequalled elsewhere. But what of the future? We must have, soon, a new building. We must have more ample funds for books; both for the current publications with which every department, now, is most inadequately supplied, and for filling existing gaps in our collections of source material. Too often, throughout the Library's entire history, it has been necessary to say of a desirable purchase, "we can't afford it" or, even more inexorably, "we haven't the money." Some of our endowed funds have enabled us to fill many of these *lacunae*, but innumerable others are still a daily handicap in the research work of the University, and even in the less exacting requirements of the undergraduates. We must have a larger staff, including more people with specialized training and experience. For if a modern university library is a laboratory, the librarians are laboratory technicians, without whose aid the researches of the specialist are hampered, the experiments of the beginner are hopeless.

In a survey of "College and University Library Problems," published in 1927 under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, we read: "Since the beginning of the twentieth century American colleges and universities have undergone an essential transformation. . . . It is obvious that these changes have completely altered the position of the university or college library. Demands are now made upon it that twenty-five years ago were unknown. Has it been able to keep abreast of these? Has its support increased proportionately with its obligations? In the gradual formulation of a satisfactory technique for the administration of the great university, has the problem of the library been adequately considered? Have its needs, physical and other, been forecast, and has provision been made to meet them as they arise? Many university librarians have been convinced that all these questions should be answered in the negative."

That the University of Pennsylvania is one of the majority which must answer these questions negatively, is no cause for reproach. Appropriations have been as generous as conditions have permitted. We need not apologize for the past. We must, however, frankly face the fact that we must have better equipment and more abundant funds than we have ever had hitherto, if the Library is to fill properly its place in the University.