

Libraries - Los Angeles - Public Library

LITERATURE
CIRC. PANE.

California VE.

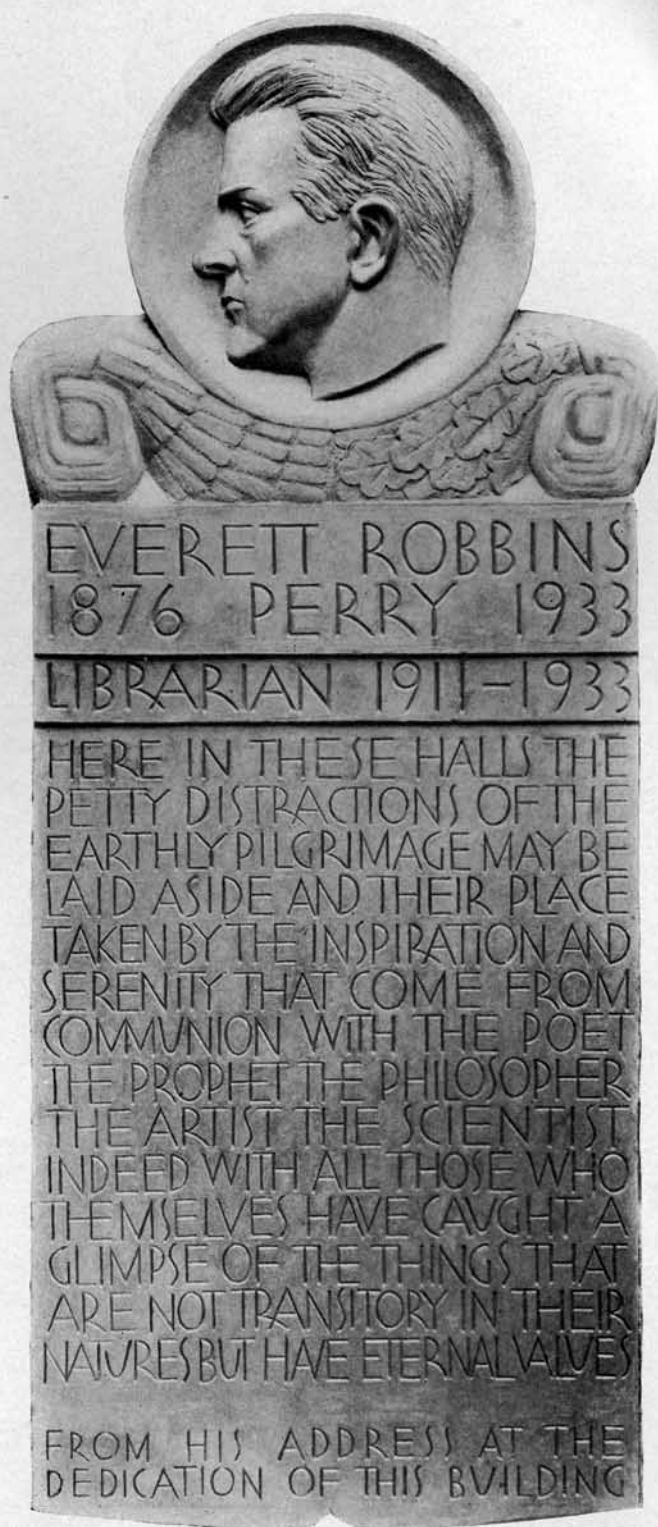


1935-36

*History of library and
departments.*

LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1936



Memorial placed by the Library Staff on the walls
of the Rotunda, December, 1936

Forty-Eighth Annual Report
of the
Board of Library Commissioners
of the
Los Angeles Public Library
For the Year Ending June 30, 1936

and

Brief History of the
Los Angeles Public Library

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Forty-Eighth Annual Report
of the
Board of Library Commissioners
of the
Los Angeles Public Library
For the Year Ending June 30, 1936

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

E. N. MARTIN
FRANCIS J. CONATY
MRS. J. WELLS SMITH
MRS. OTTO J. ZAHN
RUFUS B. VON KLEINSMID

CITY LIBRARIAN
ALTHEA WARREN

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Founded in 1872; established by Act of Legislature, 1874. Reorganized under city charter, 1889; 1925. Supported by annual city appropriation of seven cents on each hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of general city taxes.

September 2nd, 1936

To His Honor the Mayor and to
The Honorable City Council,
City of Los Angeles.

Gentlemen:

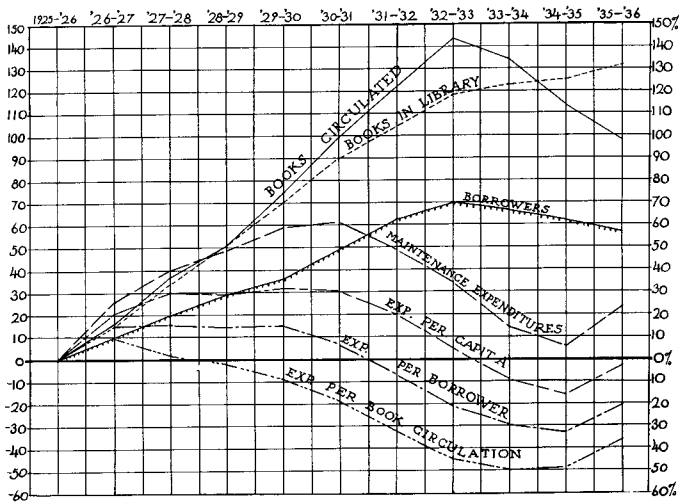
The Board of Library Commissioners has the honor to submit herewith the *Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Los Angeles Public Library* which covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936.

As July 15th marked the tenth anniversary of the dedication of our Central Building, a retrospect and appraisal of the first decade in this long-desired 'home of our own' seem appropriate. A philosopher could find significance and consolation in a study of the two charts recording our ups and downs in book use, income, number of borrowers and growth of stock during this period. In chart 'A' showing the changes year by year there is a hectic ascent for the first seven years. Enlarged and up-to-date facilities shot circulation into the air so that at the top of our records (1932-33) we were giving out almost twice as many books as in 1926-27 which was our first full year in the new building. Our increase in these six years was over five million books in annual circulation. Then the reaction of the depression showed itself in contortions, tangles and descents.

A decline in assessment valuations began to effect our income in July, 1930. The heaviest cuts came in 1932-33 (22% reduction) and in 1933-34 when our allotment from taxes was 15% less than the previous year. In 1934-35 our budget dropped to less than it had been in ten years—a half million dollars less than our maximum budget in 1929-30. To attempt to give the same service on 40% less money meant cuts in salary; reduced hours; every item of overhead lowered relentlessly and the book fund, sliced in two. While unemployment was most severe, circulation and reading room use increased despite starvation diet. For the last three years, however, our scanty supply of new books, non-resident fees for all who do not live in Los Angeles nor own City property, no printed reading lists for distribution and fewer deliveries to branches have had their inevitable results. For almost the first time in our history we have had to enter our circulation in red ink, a loss of 3% in 1933-34, of 9% in 1934-35 and of 7% in 1935-36.

There is some consolation in learning that our expenditures have always justified their purpose of increasing reading in the community. There is hope, moreover, in that as soon as our book fund was increased (\$118,997 spent in 1935-36 as compared with \$86,736 in 1934-35) our percentage of loss diminished.

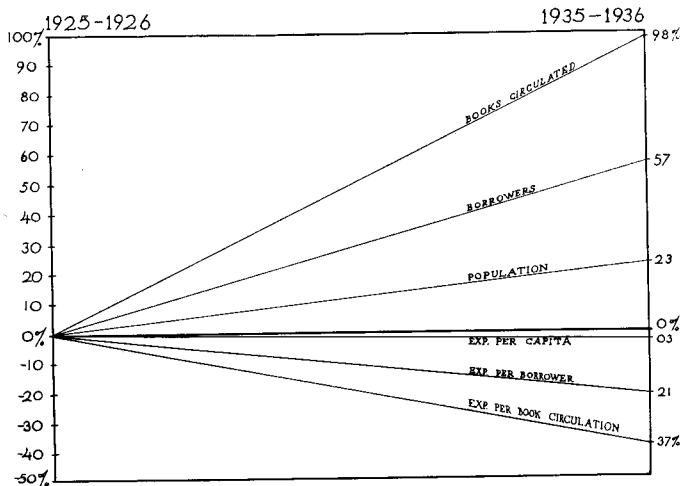
CHART A



Annual Rise and Fall in Book Use
Reduction in Expenditures
1926 - 1936

In chart 'B' (a summary of our history from 1926 to 1936, which disregards the peaks and valleys of year by year) our growth in use, users, and material to be used appears a well-inclined ascent. It shows that in our first decade in the new building our circulation has increased 98%, our registration 57%, and the population 23%! This is quite encouraging if no one points out that, had the rates of gain for our first seven years continued, we should be circulating in 1935-36 a total of 19,500,000 books; our borrowers would be half a million and our collection would number nearly two million volumes.

CHART B



Ten Year Gain in Book Use
Ten Year Drop in Expenditures

Annual Record	Book Circulation	Book Borrowers	Books Owned
1926-27	16% gain	10% gain	15% gain
1927-28	18 "	9 "	16 "
1928-29	10 "	7 "	13 "
1929-30	15 "	6 "	12 "
1930-31	14 "	8 "	11 "
1931-32	11 "	9 "	7 "
1932-33 Peak	9 "	3 "	7 "
1933-34	3 loss	1 loss	2 "
1934-35	9 "	2 "	1 "
1935-36	7 "	3 "	2 "

10 Year Average Gain

Circulation	7.4%
Borrowers	4.6%
Books	8.6%

In working and planning for the next decade all our powers must concentrate on turning upward again the two essentials of books and borrowers, and the combination of both which results in circulation. In view of what the last ten years have taught, it is wise to hope for twice as much as you expect to attain. 'Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood.' In 1945-46, therefore, let us expect to own three million books to be used by half a million readers 25,000,000 times in the year!

To keep us capable of dreaming splendidly the bulk of this year's report has been made a chronicle of our institution's past achievements from the day of its beginning on December 7, 1872, at a mass meeting in the Merced Theatre. It was started as a subscription library by generous donations from about three hundred citizens. That its growth has been continuous ever since should augur health and expansion for the future.

To summarize the past year's changes on the Board of Library Commissioners: Mayor Frank L. Shaw reappointed Mr. E. N. Martin for his third successive term on July 1st, 1935. Our President, Mr. Orra Eugene Monnette, returned in October from an invigorating two months in Europe only to be overwhelmed by an illness which ended in his death on February 23rd, 1936.

Mr. Monnette had served the Public Library with all the energy of his ebullient being for twenty-two years, the longest service of any board member in its history. For twenty years he had been its President, more than twice as long as any other citizen has ever acted in that capacity. Under his direction bond issues of \$3,500,000 made possible building programs resulting in thirty-four branches and the Central Library. His personal pride in the Library, his specialized knowledge in history and genealogy and his warm human interest in all members of the staff have left a void felt throughout the entire system.

Mayor Shaw gave the wisest solace within his power when he chose Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid, President of the University of Southern California, and an ardent believer in books, to fill the vacancy on the Board. On March 11th, 1936, Mr. E. N. Martin was unanimously chosen President.

A policy of militant protection of the book fund is now being followed. Standing committees of the Board were abolished by an amendment to the by-laws on June 10th, 1936. Restoration of longer hours of service when a slight addition in taxes was assured occurred on January 1st, 1936. The five regional Branches (Hollywood, Vermont Square, Benjamin Franklin, San Pedro, Arroyo Seco) returned to twelve hour schedules on Saturdays. The

seven next largest branches (Cahuenga, University, Felipe de Neve, Mark Twain, Angeles Mesa, La Cienega and John Muir) opened in the mornings at 9 a. m. Because of local needs Vernon and Van Nuys restored Saturday afternoon and evening service, their hours now being Monday through Saturday 1 to 9 p. m. In all, the increase totals 188 hours a week affecting fourteen neighborhoods.

Professional participation has been upheld by Mrs. Otto J. Zahn's appointment as a member of the Trustees' Section of the California Library Association and her attendance at their annual convention at Coronado in April; and by Mrs. J. Wells Smith's election to membership on the Executive Committee of the American Library Association's Trustees' Section, the publication of her article 'The Trustee's Point of View' in the September Bulletin of that organization and her talk at the conference in Richmond, Virginia. in May, when she acted as our Library's official representative.

With the end of the fiscal year the Board of Library Commissioners was constituted as follows: Mr. E. N. Martin, President (term expires June 30, 1940); Monsignor Francis J. Conaty, Vice-President (term expires June 30, 1937); Mrs. Otto J. Zahn* (term expires June 30, 1936); Mrs. J. Wells Smith (term expires June 30, 1938); and Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid (term expires June 30, 1939).

With complete reliance on their sympathy this report is presented to the Mayor and Council in our belief that only by augmenting the resources of reading can the City of today keep even with its educational inheritance from our pioneers of the past.

Respectfully submitted,

E. N. MARTIN, PRESIDENT

FRANCIS J. CONATY, VICE-PRESIDENT

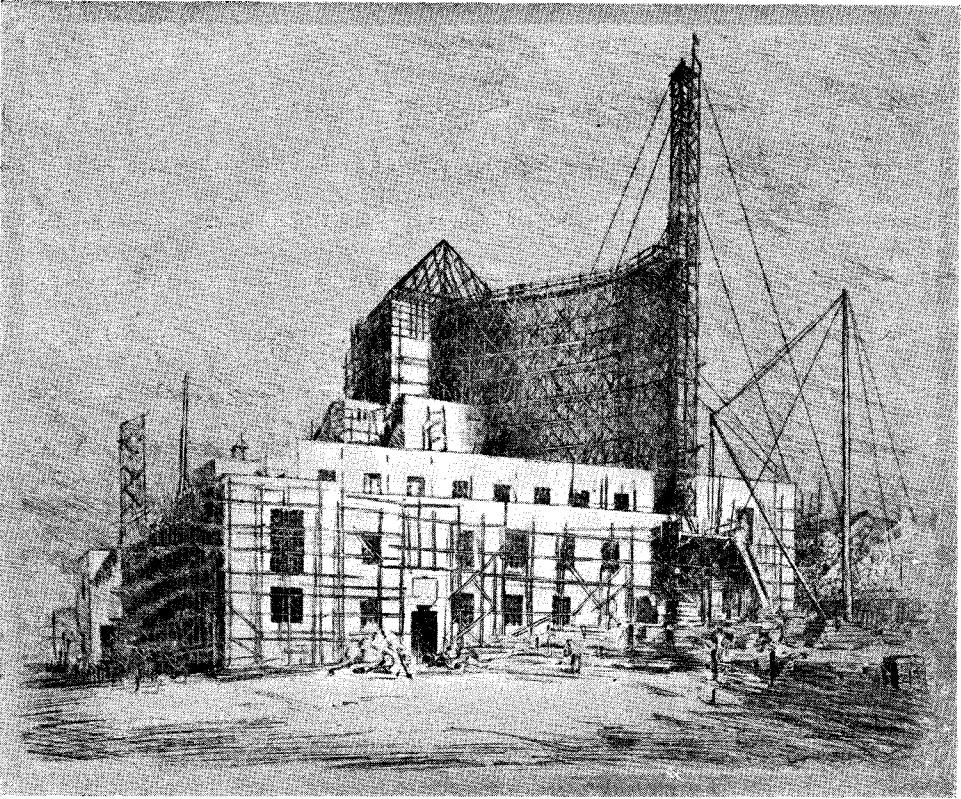
(Mrs. J. Wells) KATHERINE G. SMITH

(Mrs. Otto J.) FRANCES M. HARMON-ZAHN

RUFUS B. VON KLEINSMID

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

*Mrs. Zahn was reappointed by Mayor Shaw in July and was elected President on July, 29, 1936.



Etching by Loren Barton
The Library Under Construction

II. The First Decade in the Central Library 1926-1936

THE BUILDING: ART FEATURES

The long awaited Central Library was dedicated with impressive ceremonies on July 15, 1926. The dedicatory address was made by Orra E. Monnette, President of the Library Board and acceptance of the administration of the building was made by Everett R. Perry, City Librarian, who had labored so many years toward this achievement.*

Architect and Sculptor

The Central Library was the final design of America's great architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue. It was carried to completion after his death by his New York associates and his Los Angeles associate, Carleton Monroe Winslow. The building is described in detail in the booklet *Los Angeles Public Library: Central Building*.

The Library is a stately, severely plain concrete 'monolith' in a style which has been called 'truly American in spirit,' evolved by the genius of

*Complete copy in *Dedicatory Exercises of the Central Library Building, Los Angeles*, printed in 1926.

Bertram Goodhue to express the beauty of geometrical lines found in modern concrete construction. Complete unity of design and decoration has been achieved by architect and sculptor, Bertram Goodhue and Lee Lawrie, who had arrived at a new kind of architectural sculpture which is essentially a part of the building, rather than something ornate or applied. Mr. Goodhue had said:

I should like to be one of three people to produce a building, i. e., architect, painter, sculptor—I should like to do the plan and the massing of the building; then I should like to turn the ornament to a perfectly qualified sculptor, and the color and surface direction (mural pictures or not as the case may be) to an equally qualified painter—the designing 'triumvirate'.

Apparently in Dr. Alexander (who compiled the inscriptions for the Nebraska Capitol and the Los Angeles Library) I have got one more of the 'quadrivirate' needed to make a good building.

The Symbolism of the Carvings

A beautiful and eloquent symbolism was planned by Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander and executed by Lee Lawrie in carved inscriptions and figures at the six entrances, the tower and the cornices of the building. The open book, the torch of knowledge, the winged Pegasus, the human hand, the serpent and the owl, are repeatedly used in designs that signify the carrying forward of inspiration, wisdom and knowledge through books and human agency. The great figures in thought and achievement from Plato and Shakespeare to Copernicus and Leonardo da Vinci are carved at doorways and tower. As Lee Lawrie said:

Forms that portray animate life emerge from blocks of stone and terminate in historic expression.

The final triumph in sculptural decoration consists of three marble pieces set in the north foyer of the second floor—the stately figure of 'Civilization,' symbol of man's progressive conquering of knowledge, guarded by two black sphinxes symbolizing the mysteries of knowledge not yet attained.

Color Decoration

The color decoration of the building was carried out by five artists, and the great mural paintings in the Rotunda were not completed until five years after the opening of the building.

Albert Herter, an artist of international reputation, painted the canvases depicting epic events in the history of California, which give life and color to the walls of the History Room. Mr. Herter also designed the decoration of the first floor lobby.

Julian Garnsey who has decorated many public buildings of America, carried out the effective ornamental scheme of the dome of the Rotunda and the ceilings of the second floor reading rooms, which are painted directly on the concrete surface, and Mr. Garnsey collaborated with A. W. Parsons, a Los Angeles artist, in the mural paintings for the Children's Room illustrating the story of Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*.

Dean Cornwell, famed for his illustrative work, was chosen in open competition to decorate the great wall spaces of the Rotunda. These mural paintings include four large panels 40 feet square with vignettes extending to the top of the windows, each telling the story of an era in California history in the manner of a 15th century tapestry. These are flanked by eight smaller panels on the four double-faced piers, carrying out two sets of allegories, the conquering of the elements, and the arts of civilization.*

*See booklet, *Mural Paintings by Dean Cornwell*.

The last of the artists in color decoration is Charles Kassler, who under a Public Works of Art Project in 1933, executed a fresco in the Children's Court—a daring design of a buffalo hunt.

Floor Plans

The plan of the building had to be adapted to the requirements of a highly 'departmentalized' library system which must provide each of ten specialized departments with reading rooms, stack space, staff work room and office. The floor plan is rectangular with center opening and access to all rooms from the central lobby on the first floor, and Rotunda on the second floor, and book stack space, divided in four sections, surrounding this center. The third floor contains two circles of rooms around the tower space, and provides for the Library Board Room, the City Librarian's office and Secretary's office, the Branch Headquarters suite, Catalog and Book Order Departments, the business offices, publicity office and photographer's laboratory, staff recreation, roof garden and lunch room.

THE INTERIOR PLAN FOSTERS NEW SERVICES

Complete Departmentalization

When the new building was opened there still existed a General Reference Room and a circulating department of General Literature. A year later these two departments were dissolved and collections were divided to form departments of: History, Travel and Biography; Literature and Philology; Philosophy and Religion. This completed the departmentalization of the Central Library.

Adult Education Department

Established at the opening of the Central Building to correlate and interpret the work of the separate departments, the Adult Education Department serves two functions: to offer general direction to the public about the Library, current information and books, and to act as Readers' Adviser for adults and young people. Direction in reading and in purchase of libraries for group leaders is given as well as assistance to individuals in book selection. The Reading with a Purpose courses, published by the American Library Association are displayed and the books listed in these courses are circulated from this desk at the rate of 10,000 a year. These courses are supplemented by typed and printed lists in great variety. Young people's reading is directed throughout all branches and departments by one member of the staff. The Department also acts as a center of information on adult courses in the day and evening classes of the schools.

Municipal Reference Department

Specialized service to City officials and City employees for which the Municipal Reference Library was established in the new City Hall in 1928, was not entirely a new function of the Los Angeles Library. The needs of those engaged in City government had been considered in collections and services, but when the new City Hall was completed, Los Angeles followed the custom of other large cities in supplying prompt and specialized service, centralizing collections and files most needed in an accessible location and establishing a permanent staff whose business it was to study the needs of those engaged in City administration.

A specialized collection of 37,000 books and pamphlets and 4,000 periodical and serial titles covers the fields related to all phases of public engineering, fire and police protection, public finance, recreation, planning and housing, public personnel administration and allied social and economic problems. Special messenger service and the liberal lending policy of the Central Library enable the Municipal Reference Library to give its patrons prompt and efficient book service in fields not covered by its own collection.

As the Municipal Reference Library became better known to City Hall employees, gradually the separate collections of City departments were transferred and consolidated with the Library collection, the last of these being the collection of the Playground and Recreation Department.

Two branches are now supervised, outside of the City Hall, the Power and Light Division Library of the Water and Power Department and the Public Health Library, both of which are conducted under agreement of cooperative maintenance with the Municipal Reference Library.

A collection of material on public administrative policies is maintained in the office of the Mayor, consisting of about 200 texts relating to municipal government, local history and biography, statistical annuals and a limited number of periodicals.

New Adult Education Opportunities

Provision of a combined Exhibit and Lecture Room in the Central Library made possible a new cultural service. Art exhibits planned by a Committee gave opportunity of display to local art groups and attracted many visitors to the Library Gallery. When the depression budget made it necessary to close the room except for evening lectures an offer was accepted from the Los Angeles Art Association to care for art exhibits and to provide an attendant in the afternoons. Many visitors have become acquainted with the Art Room of the Library through these displays.

The lecture programs, now in the eleventh year, have drawn nearly a half million attendance. The subjects of lectures range from courses in philosophy and political science and foreign literature given by distinguished professors of local universities, to informal gatherings for child-study, talks on eugenics and mental hygiene. A series on the evolution of the dance, and one on handicraft with demonstrations by skilled craftsmen drew capacity audiences, and illustrated lectures on astronomy, travel, zoology, birds and geology are always popular. These programs are made possible through the generosity of educators, writers and leaders in the various fields of civic and cultural interests, all of whom contribute their time to this free adult education opportunity.

Direction of Ten Years' Development

The rapid gain in use of Central Library reference facilities and specialized collections is proof of the wisdom of departmentalized organization.

Circulation gains over the ten-year period range from a 22% rise in the Fiction and Foreign Departments where the budget suffered most severely from 1933 to 1936, up to 167% increase in Art and Music circulation. Measurement of the gain in reference service has not been possible but increased dependence on the Library by the specialized interests of members of the professions, and industries, the newspapers, motion picture producers and the general public is daily in evidence.

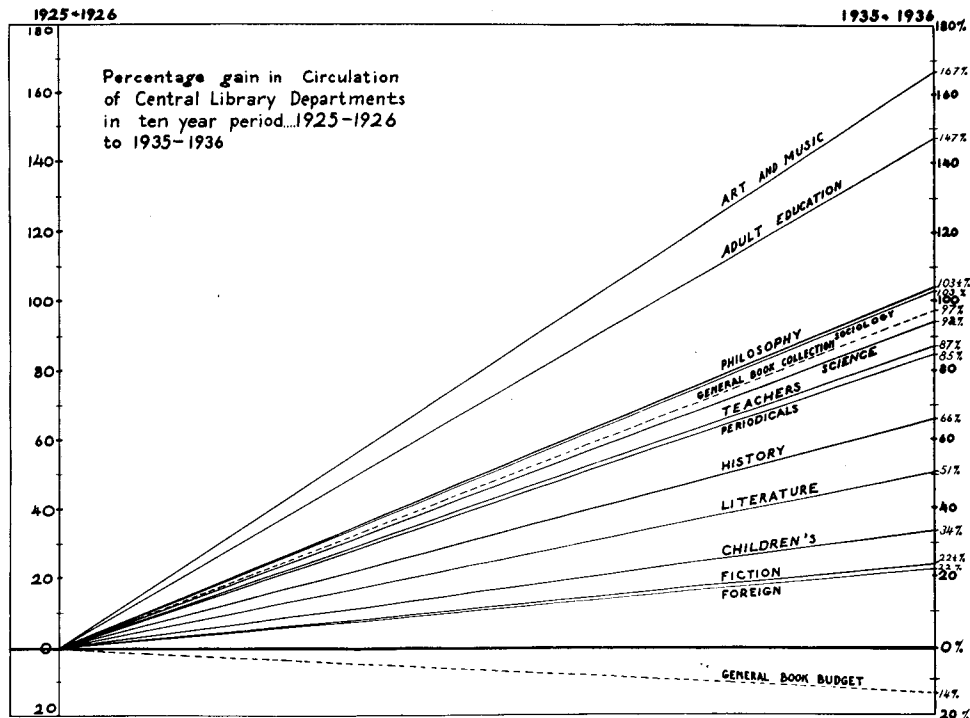
So generally accepted is the information service of the Library that a record of questions asked in a single week at the forty-eight branches and the Central Library totaled nearly 50,000, covering a wide range of interests from the general to the technical, the tragic to the comic, the naive to the scholarly.

POPULARITY OF SPECIALIZED DEPARTMENTS

Artists, Musicians, Craftsmen and Amateurs Discover the Resources of the Art and Music Room

The phenomenal increase of 167% in ten years in the circulation of the collections in the Art and Music Rooms may be attributed to a number of causes. Southern California is becoming a center of activity for art groups and musical organizations. The Philharmonic Orchestra, as long ago as 1922 gave a benefit concert for the music collection of the Library and the most valuable gift the Library has ever received is orchestral scores bequeathed by the late William A. Clark, Jr. supporter of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra for many years. These scores will be made available to the public when safeguarded by a deposit, and, by special arrangement, may be borrowed by the Philharmonic Orchestra until their new orchestral library is built up. The Library through its Music Department attracted the attention of Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, who presented eighteen chamber music programs given by world famous groups during the spring months of five seasons, 1927-1932. The year-round orchestral programs made possible by the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hollywood Bowl season, keep interest in music, musical history and criticism constantly alive.

Los Angeles has been a home-building City maintaining a lively interest in architecture, house decoration and period furniture until the depression, when this interest waned and was supplanted by a zest for the crafts and amateur arts. This was followed by the stimulation of the arts afforded by the Federal Arts Project, particularly in Southern California, with an eager study of mural paintings, decoration of buildings and historic art. The continual use of the art



reference collections on costume and period furniture by the motion picture studios is another reason for popularity of this Department.

The Art Room takes pride in its print collection, comprising etchings, wood-cuts, lithographs and drawings and including some collector's items; and several hundred original Japanese prints, forming a fairly representative survey of the art.

The Fine Arts of Philosophy and Social Study Are Re-Discovered in the Depression and Recovery Years

It is not surprising to find a sharp increase in the demand for books on the social scene—government, politics, employment and social security on the one hand, and books on the psychology of success, the philosophy of inner peace and the comfort of religious faith, on the other. Writers and publishers were well aware of these interests and best sellers were frequent in the classes grouped under Sociology and those of Philosophy, Psychology and Religion.

Social Study

Statisticians are always busy in depression periods and the many hand-books, financial and investment services, municipal reports, yearbooks and government publications on file in the Sociology Room were in constant use.

The Presidential election of 1932, the biennial meeting of the California State Legislature, municipal, county and state elections, and the rapid passage of bills through national and state legislative bodies brought brisk use of the informational material. The creation of the many new Federal Commissions aroused the interest of every type of reader from the high school student to the financier. The much discussed Upton Sinclair and Dr. Townsend plans brought many readers to the Sociology Room. Promotion of pamphlet material, in which the latest interest is published, following closely on the heels of the news story, has aided a much depressed book budget.

The Sociology Department has been honored by a Memorial Fund established to commemorate the work of Oak Amidon, principal of the Department 1929-1932. This fund which is contributed to yearly, by members of Mr. Amidon's family has provided for a number of valuable sources such as *Mind and Society* by Vilfredo Pareto, the *Dictionnaire Diplomatique*, Holdsworth's *History of English Law*, Culver's *Bibliography of Crime and Criminal Justice* and the *United States Supreme Court Reports, Index and Digest*.

Philosophy to Live By

From world troubles and adjustments, to study of personal philosophy and success-psychology is but a step. Every kind of idealistic theory, every 'ism' and 'ology' has its representatives in Los Angeles, according to the requests that are brought to the Department of Philosophy and Religion. An impetus was given to the classes of '100's' and '200's' when they were separated from the General Reference and General Literature collections, in 1927, and a gain in circulation of 103% is recorded since that time. Church workers and lecturers and ministers, have been grateful for the segregation in one room of the religious encyclopedias, dictionaries, Bible commentaries and histories of religion and other reference tools; and many additional aids such as a sermon index, a hymn index, an 'ethics' list of references, and directories of churches and pastors in Los Angeles have been compiled by librarians. The philosophy

lecture series, now in its eleventh year under the direction of Dr. John Elof Boodin has attracted capacity audiences and has drawn many readers and students to the Department.

Business Men, Technical Men and Scientists Seek Information on the Practical Arts and the Advance in Science

The rise in demand for books on all phases of business, technology, geology, aviation and the trades was marked from 1926 to 1932 and a 'full house' was a daily occurrence in the Science and Industry Department. The depression years brought less demand for the science of business but more for the practice of smaller trades and for practical aid in home crafts, home repairing and auto care, as well as all sorts of occupations requiring little capital. The eager search for oil and gold was evident in use of the collections on petroleum and mining; and the Index to California Mines, compiled in the Department and now ready for publication has proven a welcome, much used tool.

Depression budgets made it necessary to buy sparingly for circulation but effort was consistently made to secure every important title as a reference copy, and to keep the files of useful business and scientific periodicals intact for future reference value. Of these periodicals there are more than six hundred titles received by the Science Department, listed by subject, arranged by title and searched for important current material.

As aids to business men the collection of city and telephone directories has been placed adjacent to the collection of Patents Specifications (the only complete collection of United States Patents west of Chicago) and the collection of accountancy and the Prentice-Hall Income Tax Service are administered through this department. A recent illustration of cooperation with a group of business men is the merging of the collection on accountancy belonging to the California Association of Certified Public Accountants, with that of the Library, creating an unusually complete basic collection on accountancy. These books are available for use by the public with special borrowing privileges by the Certified Public Accountants.

A gift of value received in 1935 by the Science Department is that of the library on rubber, belonging to the late Henry C. Pearson, former editor and founder of the *India Rubber World* and gathered over a period of forty years spent in development of the rubber industry.

Today the swing toward revival of interest in business administration, the trades, the manufacturing industries, advertising and salesmanship is evident.

Teachers, Parents, and Children use the Teachers' and Children's Department

The Central Library was planned with the Teachers' Room and the Children's Room adjoining, administered by one Department Librarian: the collection of children's books to serve both as a laboratory for teachers and parents, and as the representative collection for use of boys and girls.

In the demands made upon the Teachers' Room during the entire school year and the summer sessions of the university classes, is reflected the activity of the teaching profession and teacher-training in Southern California. The closest cooperation exists between the Department Librarian and representatives of the Board of Education, and the professors of education in the colleges. The Library collection follows the progressive interests and trends in school procedure. The book list, 'Sixty Best Educational Books of the Year' is dis-

tributed each year with an invitation sent to faculties of schools and colleges to view the sixty books on exhibit.

Each year a list, 'Skillful Parents' has been jointly compiled with other librarians, aided by leaders in child-psychology. Series of informal morning programs for parents have been sponsored by the Department, conducted by the Director of Parent Education in the State Department of Education.

An information service on current motion pictures, giving theme, rating and suitability for children, was installed in the Teachers' Room in 1934 at the suggestion of the Research Committee of the Los Angeles County Coordinating Councils. Reviews are clipped from publications which give joint estimates by club representatives who preview pictures at the invitation of the Association for Motion Picture Producers. Current periodicals which review motion pictures are also made available. Parents or children may telephone the Library for information on any current production. The service has been so popular that many other libraries have adopted the plan.

The Model Library, adjoining the Children's Room, proudly established in 1926 to afford a reference collection of the finest children's books, represented in various editions, as suggestions to parents or teachers in the purchase of children's books, languished for funds during the low budget years, but is now beginning to be freshened and increased. This collection is greatly used by adults working with children. Contact with parents, teachers, radio and studio workers, artists and authors, allows many opportunities for developing reading plans and recommending books to be used with individual children. The children themselves are reached through school visits made by the children's librarians, by group visits to the Library from the schools with a teacher, and after school when the children come to find books for pleasure reading as well as material for school work. There are still many boys and girls living in the neighborhood of the Central Library who have a fine and friendly feeling that the Ivanhoe Room is theirs to enjoy and be proud of.

Daily Visitors Use the Periodical and Newspaper Rooms

The Periodical Department has given valiant service during both boom and depression periods. Open Sunday afternoons, and twelve hours on week days, it offers a hospitable reading room for transients and regular visitors. It has endeavored to supply want ad columns to the jobless, home town papers to the homesick, bound newspaper files to the writer or research worker, current reviews and digests, inspiration and entertainment to readers of the circulating or reading-room magazines. This Department carries on its share of informational work also, with Ayer's and other newspaper guides, with a list of births and deaths of publications, with subject lists of leading articles, with complete serial numbers of stories and with assistance in tracing news items in the bound newspapers.

As bound files in local newspaper offices are not open to the general public, the Library collection is the only available resource in newspaper research. Volumes are frequently subpoenaed for court use and orders are left for photostat copies of material needed for various purposes. Mutilation of newspapers in the bound files became so serious after the opening of the Santa Anita race track, that restrictions had to be placed on use of bound newspapers. Deteriora-

tion of paper in files of the 1880's and 1890's has made it necessary to reinforce pages with Japanese tissue, a special bindery project for the current year.

Professors, Students and Writers use all Departments, Centering Their Work in History and Literature

The Departments of History, Travel and Biography, and of Literature and Philology, always the back-bone of the general reference and non-fiction circulating classes, have shown less spectacular rise in circulation over the nine year period than some departments more directly affected by the depression, as they maintain a steady reflection of the general public and student demands. Reference use, however, has consistently increased, keeping pace with larger collections and new reference tools. For Los Angeles is a City of many secondary schools, two large universities, and a number of smaller colleges, two great museums, and libraries of every type. It is also a City of writers, professional and amateur—and it is the reference center for the motion picture research workers.

It is not surprising then, that a record of questions asked at the Literature Desk showed 15,000 in a month; nor that a press representative who for years had secured photographic material, current data, historical allusions and skilled service should have written a glowing tribute to the efficiency and patience of the reference librarians in the History Room.

Every possible short-cut to quick service has been devised in the History Room where the present jostles the past in every country in the world, where lives of the great and near great stand side by side if their surnames are alphabet neighbors, where every country in the world must be available to the traveler, in maps, guide-books, descriptive and historical material. Special indexes, subject lists, analysis of collective biographies and arrangement by order of popular demand have been devised.

The California Room is a specialized division serving the many students, speakers, historians and writers on the history of the Southwest and the Golden State with photographic collection, manuscript facsimiles and a well-rounded collection of Californiana.

The Map Room, adjoining the History Room has been steadily popularized since it was given space in the new building, with equipment for flat folded maps, winged display racks and a large globe. In addition to many historical atlases and maps the collection includes more than 7,000 items, including topographic, coast and geodetic, mining, geologic, hydrographic, air, military, historic, economic, forest, city and assembly district maps. It is used for a variety of purposes, from locating homesteads, mines or oil fields, to study of climatic and soil conditions, as well as providing data for statisticians and geologists.

Californians have both time and inclination to study family history, and it seemed desirable to place the growing collection on Genealogy in a separate, more accessible room in 1928. The collections of state, county and family histories, vital records, war records and books on heraldry have been assembled in the Genealogy Room. An index of separate family histories to be traced through county or state histories or other volumes is being compiled.

The Literature and Philology Department is the haven for writers of short stories, for writers of script for screen and radio, and for the student of composition, writing-technique or public speaking. It is first aid to the motion picture studios searching for printed plays, new or old. It acts as secretary via

the telephone to business offices desiring light on letter writing, grammatical usage, punctuation, pronunciation and definition.

Play-writing and verse-writing have not thriven with the depression, and best sellers in the Literature Department have been chiefly in literary biography or the light essay.

Among the fine reference tools purchased at the cost of relinquishing duplicates of popular circulating titles are the final volumes and supplements of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, the *Oxford Companion to English Literature*, new editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Americana*, additional volumes of the great Italian and German encyclopedias, the *Columbia Encyclopedia* in one volume and various shorter aids and indexes to literary material.

For Recreation, for Study of Other Lands and Other Times, for Dialect, Plot, Background and Local Color—Fiction is Used

Expansion of the collections and services of the Fiction Department after removal to the new building was rapid, and popularity of the Fiction Room threatened to overbalance the use of the non-fiction collections. In six years the number of books had grown from 42,000 to 71,000 and the circulation had increased 60%—from 685,432 to 1,097,306. At the request of the City Librarian, in 1932, the fiction budget was reduced, no publicity was given to fiction and the number of titles purchased dropped from 1,000 to 576.

Although the need of recreational fiction was recognized, the paring of all budgets had to be continued and fiction suffered a 50% reduction, having a little more than \$2,000 to expend in 1933-34. It was necessary to re-inforce the collection by purchase of pay duplicate copies of fiction, the proceeds of which could be used as a revolving fund. Not only new titles were purchased as rental books but additional copies of such books of revived interest as Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage* or Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward* or books popularized by film productions.

Circulation figures have dropped steadily since 1933 and attention has been turned toward building up the subject lists of fiction (so much in demand that these now number more than 500) making analyses of collections, and arranging the open shelves for 'self-help' by readers in order to carry on the work with a reduced staff. The circulation for 1935-36 from the Fiction Room was 816,177.

The Fiction Department is a first aid to the motion picture research workers, and the short story writers for locale, dialect and historical figures. A collection of early or out-of-print American and English novels is being developed for reference use, which will increase in value as the years go by.

To introduce fiction fans to the enjoyment of non-fiction reading books, a collection of attractive non-fiction books was borrowed from other departments to display in the Fiction Room. Circulation of these books, for a limited collection, proved very successful.

Cosmopolitan Population Reads 33 Languages

That thirty-three languages are read and spoken in the City of Los Angeles seems a surprising statement. But ample proof is available in records of the sixteen years since the Foreign Department was organized. In 1920 the books in foreign languages were placed in a section of the Library under the title 'The Foreign Extension Department,' to work with and for the various local

bodies of foreign citizens as an agency of Americanization, and to reveal to native readers the rich store of foreign art, music and literature. From this modest beginning the Department has developed to include a collection of 72,-000 volumes written in 33 languages, supplying readers in all parts of the City through loans to Branches and striving to build up an informational and cultural service to patrons of the Central Library. A series of foreign language lectures has brought distinguished speakers, writers, dramatists, actors and professors of foreign languages to the Library lecture platform and has attracted many readers to the foreign book collections.

A recent survey of foreign readers at the Central Library reveals a decided trend toward the greater cultural rather than recreational use of foreign books. The predominating groups are Spanish, German, French, Russian and Italian. Occupations listed by the 1277 persons who answered the survey questionnaire show the largest group in trades, the next largest as students, followed by artists, teachers, members of the professions and office workers. Clerking and labor employed the smallest percentage. In education, 28 % had college degrees and 31 % were high school graduates. The necessity is indicated, of building up a more rounded collection in foreign reference books and specialized non-fiction.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

With the rapid development of services through the public departments a correspondingly quickened activity is noted by the four service departments, Book Order, Catalog, Binding and Registration and Receiving.

Ordering Books

In the Book Order Department, the outstanding achievements of the last ten years include building up of valuable bibliographical tools for research in purchase, an appropriation of \$30,000 for purchase of standard reference books for branch libraries, improved methods in the book order and reviewing meeting for department heads and branch librarians, a successful experiment in duplicating order cards by photostat to expedite catalog and order routine processes and the formation of the Serials Division of the Order Department. The ordering of documents as well as continuations was taken over by this division in 1926 and the ordering and checking of periodicals in 1930. This places the ordering of all material published serially in this Division. In 1932 the Serials Work Book was compiled and 200 copies were mimeographed describing methods of filing and ordering, showing forms for all processes.

Cataloging Books

Keeping abreast with current additions and withdrawals since the move into the new building has been the first task of the Catalog Department. At the time of the move, the Library owned 639,401 classed and cataloged volumes. Since then 1,275,902 volumes have been classed and cataloged for the Central Library and branches, and 448,257 volumes withdrawn, bringing the collection of books in the Library to more than one million and a half.

With the decision to make three new departments (History, Literature and Philology, and Philosophy and Religion) out of the former Reference and General Literature Departments, the Catalog Department assumed the responsibility for necessary classification and recataloging and provision of separate departmental catalogs.

One of the Department's main objectives has been to complete the general catalog by the inclusion of cards for English fiction, and cards for books in

the Foreign Department, both of which were formerly cataloged only in the departments. Today, a departmental catalog is to be found in each Department and Branch, and the General Catalog places the entire resources of the Library (with the exception of music scores) before the enquirer.

An important change in book records has been the substitution of one check-list record of titles and editions in branches in place of the two shelf-list records formerly made.

Book inventory was taken over in 1933 when the Shelf Department was dissolved, and many other additional tasks and duties have been assumed from time to time.

From a staff which increased to forty-nine during the years when book budgets reached their peak and much reclassification and recataloging were being done, the staff has now dropped to thirty-two, a commentary on the times.

Receiving Books and Registering Borrowers

With the improvements of the new specially designed Registration and Receiving desks and the facilities of the larger work rooms in the new building, organization was changed to care for the increased use of the Central Library collections and the rapid gain in card holders. The new building was designed in such a way that books had to be charged at the reading rooms, but returned at the Central Receiving Desk with the exception of those borrowed from the Teachers' and Children's Rooms. On peak days as many as 14,000 books were received, and an average of 10,000 new card holders a month were registered. Registration figures of 255,006 in 1926 rose to 394,216 in 1933 with decrease since that time, due to restrictions in service. In 1931 a modification of the Detroit Charging System was established, asking readers to write their own card numbers, and speeding up the lines of borrowers.

Tracing Delinquent Borrowers and Missing Books

Closely connected with the Registration and Receiving Department is the work of the Special Investigator, who traces lost books and delinquent borrowers. With the growth of the branch system, the increase in use of the Central Library in the new building, a Special Investigator and a full time assistant were kept busy. Since 1934, this work has been successfully carried on by one Special Investigator working for Central and Branch Libraries.

Reports of the year 1935-36 include the return of more than 3,000 books valued at \$6,889 and the collection of a sum exceeding \$1500 for lost or damaged books and fines. Several flagrant thefts were detected, and judgment was secured in some instances. Frequent change of residence by people of Los Angeles (requiring the changing of 10,000 address records each month) complicates the work of tracing delinquent borrowers.

Repairing and Binding Books

The Bindery Department faced from 1926 to 1933 an abnormal increase in the use and wearing out of books because of the rapid rise in circulation, and from 1933 to 1936 a drastic cut in bindery budgets (from a 'high' of \$83,036 to a 'low' of \$44,850). Many economies were devised including reinforcements of children's books and music, re-covering of books with 'Fabri-coid' to give freshened appearance, use of the 'Sto-away' binder for certain types of material, various short cuts in mending and repairing, and greater care in selection of books warranting re-binding. In 1934 a set of library binding

specifications worked out by the Department Librarian was accepted by the Council of the American Library Association.

Current estimates show that an average of more than 100 books a day are discarded, completely worn out, and 300 books a day are sent to the Bindery.

Changes in Administrative Departments

In the administrative divisions of the Library the decade brought a number of changes. At the time of opening the new Central Building Accountancy and Purchasing were made separate departments under the Chief Accounting Employee and the Purchasing Agent; the Department of Building Maintenance was organized to care for the upkeep of the Central Library and to superintend the building of new branches and maintenance of all branches. In 1935, under a continued economy program the position of Superintendent of Maintenance was abolished and the foremen of the carpenter shop, janitors, engineers and gardeners now report directly to the City Librarian. Work orders are handled by the Purchasing Agent.

The Shelf Department, created in 1920, to direct page work in the Central Library and to take book inventory, was discontinued in 1933 when pages reported directly to department heads, and book inventory was added once more to the duties of the Catalog Department.

Photostat equipment was installed in 1926 and the work of reproducing library material for public orders, or for the Library, was placed under a Photo-copying Machine Operator. More than 2000 orders are filled in a year and work for the Library includes copying of pages of books, photostat reproduction of order cards, and preparation of illustrative material for publicity and exhibit purposes.

Publicity which up to 1925 had been carried on at intervals with special campaigns for three bond issues, was established under a full time Librarian, October 1925, to care for newspaper publicity and editorial work of the Library. The grade of Library Publicist was given to this position in 1929. In addition to newswriting and editorial work, there have been assumed duties of lobby exhibits, lecture room direction, assigning or giving of club talks and radio programs, and care of general outside contacts.

TEN YEARS IN BRANCH LIBRARIES

Building Program

Ten years ago the Branch system consisted of forty-three Branches supplemented by eighty-six Deposit Stations. At this time library buildings had been provided for twenty of these Branches and the 1925 building bond fund of \$500,000 had just been made available.

The third great building program was begun in 1926 with eighteen new buildings erected 1926-1930. This included rebuilding and remodeling of some of the older branch buildings, making a total of thirty-nine branch buildings when the construction program was cut short by the depression years, leaving nine Branches still in rented quarters.

Circulation of Books from Branches

In 1926 the branch circulation amounted to 3,948,787 book borrowings or 71 % of the total library circulation. In 1936 Branches and Stations circulated more than eight million books or 78 % of the total circulation. Stations,

numbering sixty-nine at the close of the fiscal year circulated 512,000 books, a greater number than any one Branch.

Branches as Community Centers

Branch librarians lived through the hectic days of abnormal circulation increases when resources of the Libraries were strained to the utmost, and saw these followed by the comparative calm of a more normal use, when reading as a thought-killer or a job-getter or a frantic attempt to find life worth-while, gave place to more systematic purposes. Budgets could not keep pace with new book demand and replacement needs. Discarding of even much worn fiction became a luxury. The gradual re-employment of many who had turned to books, the lack of new books, the need of the Library to charge registration fees for non-residents, all these took their toll of readers and book borrowing; and losses instead of gains have been registered since 1933.

Branch librarians, drawn into the interests of the community by boom, depression and recovery periods have made their libraries true community centers, with many neighborhood gatherings held in the library club room, with book clubs, story hours and forum groups conducted or encouraged. Librarians have participated in local Co-ordinating Councils, Parent- Teachers Associations, gatherings of members of the Chambers of Commerce, and conferences on such social subjects as juvenile delinquency or family relations.

Aid Through Federal Projects

Since 1932 the number of the staff in terms of full-time equivalent has been reduced from 624 to 583. This decrease has been effected through filling places of those who resigned in busier departments or branches by transfer from another department or branch.

With this depleted staff the advent of helpers from the Works Project Administration was very welcome. In the fall of 1933 a C.W.A. Project was begun, and the number assigned to the Library was increased under the S.E.R.A. until July, 1935. In February, 1936, the largest assignment yet made was given to the Library with 120 workers under the W.P.A. for book rehabilitation, indexing and cataloging, clerical and office work and a writer's project.

In Branch Libraries assistance in watching exits, in shelving books, making lists, bringing files up to date and clerical aid was given. At the Central Library each department received one or more workers.

Among the constructive pieces of work accomplished by W.P.A. aid are the completion of a finding list of newspapers in libraries and publishers' offices of Southern California; a book cleaning and mending project with one thousand books a month given 'new life'; a 'biography project' under the Municipal Reference Library, with compilation of biographies of one thousand city officials and brief history of city departments.

III. Annual Report Statistics

1935-1936

Library Staff Administration

ALTHEA WARREN, CITY LIBRARIAN

CENTRAL LIBRARY, 530 SOUTH HOPE STREET

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. week days
Limited reading room service Sundays, 1 to 9 p.m.

Accounting Department: D. L. Gardner
Adult Education Department: Mary Alice Boyd
Art and Music Department: Gladys E. Caldwell
Book Binding Department: Neltje T. Shimer
Book Order Department: Albert C. Read
Branches Department: Betsey Foye Veazey
Branches: Stations, Annabel Learned
Branches: Work with Children, Gladys English
Catalog Department: Frances R. Foote
Fiction Department: Rhoda Williams Marshall
Foreign Department: Margaret Gabriel Hickman
History Department: Susana C. Ott
Library Publicist: Faith Holmes Hyers
Literature and Philology Department: Katharine Kendig Garbutt
Municipal Reference Department: Josephine B. Hollingsworth
Municipal Reference Library, City Hall
Power and Light Division, 207 So. Broadway
Public Health Division, 116 Temple St.
Periodical Department: Blanche E. McKown
Philosophy and Religion Department: Louise E. Jones
Purchasing Department: Bernard P. Grasshoff
Registration and Receiving Department: Blanch L. Unterkircher
Science and Industry Department: Anne F. Leidendeker
Sociology Department: Faith E. Smith
Teachers' and Children's Department: Rosemary Earnshaw Livsey

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Regional Branches open Monday to Saturday, inclusive, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

BRANCH	ADDRESS	IN CHARGE
Arroyo Seco	6145 North Figueroa St.	Dorothy A. Pinneo
Benjamin Franklin	2200 E. First St.	Laura B. Scheufler
Hollywood	6357 Hollywood Blvd.	Alice M. Scheck
San Pedro	931 S. Gaffey St.	Hortense Mitchell
Vermont Square	1201 W. Forty-Eighth St.	Helen L. Spotts

Branches open Monday to Saturday, inclusive, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

BRANCH	ADDRESS	IN CHARGE
Vernon Branch	4504 Central Ave.	Miriam Matthews
Van Nuys Branch	14555 Sylvan Way	Mary Ethel Strong

BRANCH LIBRARIES (Continued)

Branches open Monday to Friday, inclusive, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BRANCH	ADDRESS	IN CHARGE
Angeles Mesa	2700 W. 52nd St.	Elza Blanchard
Cahuenga	4591 Santa Monica Blvd.	Roberta Bowler
Felipe de Neve	2820 W. 6th St.	Jessie I. Cavanaugh
John Muir	1005 W. 64th St.	Helen Seymour
La Cienega	2619 S. La Brea Ave.	Gertrude Bergman
Mark Twain	11111 S. Main St.	Eleanora O. Crowder
University	3420 Hoover Blvd.	Mildred Sowers

Branches open Monday to Friday, inclusive, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BRANCH	ADDRESS	IN CHARGE
Ascot	6423 S. Broadway	Minnie F. Miller
Bret Harte	508 E. Twenty-third St.	Jennie Raymond
Eagle Rock	2225 Colorado Blvd.	Blanche A. Gardiner
Echo Park	520 Glendale Blvd.	Nell Steinmetz
El Sereno	5022 Huntington Drive	Eleanor E. Smart
Figueroa	501 W. Eightieth St.	Clara E. Dippel
Henry Adams	3534 Larga Ave.	Miriam Cassidy Myers
Henry David Thoreau	3976 S. Hobart Blvd.	Genevieve Cox
Hyde Park	6527 Crenshaw Blvd.	Ada N. Whiting
Jefferson	2211 W. Jefferson Blvd.	Bess Markson
John C. Fremont	6121 Melrose Ave.	Anne Lenora Work
Junipero Serra	4255 S. Olive St.	Gladys M. Crowe
Lincoln Heights	2530 N. Workman St.	Hubert B. Frazier
Los Feliz	1711 N. Vermont Ave.	Alice Jane MacDonald
Malabar	2801 Wabash Ave.	Louise Parks Banes
Memorial	4625 Olympic Blvd.	Nettie M. Guiwits
Pio Pico	1025 S. Oxford Ave.	Miriam S. Rood
Richard Henry Dana	3320 Pepper Ave.	Althea Jillson
Robert Louis Stevenson	803 Spence St.	Reba Dwight
Sidney Lanier	5211 Tujunga Ave.	Eunice Watkins
Venice	610 N. California Ave.	Marion B. McGrew
Washington Irving	1803 S. Arlington Ave.	Lois A. Johnstone
Watts	9901 Grandee Ave.	Ione M. Rider
West Hollywood	1403 Gardner St.	Lulah Lloyd
West Los Angeles	11354 Santa Monica Blvd.	Martha Wynne Abell
Wilmington	309 W. Opp St.	Ora Neely
Wilshire	149 N. St. Andrews Place	Anna-Marie Hook

Branches open Monday to Friday inclusive, 2 to 5 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7 to 9 p.m. (some exceptions).

BRANCH	ADDRESS	IN CHARGE
Alessandro	2641 Partridge Ave.	Anna E. Becker
Annandale	7121 N. Figueroa St.	Floy E. Drake
Canoga Park	7260 Owensmouth Ave.	Flora Johnston
Edendale	2030 Glendale Blvd.	Anna E. Becker
Gardena	561 W. 165th St.	Jeannie T. Shute
Helen Hunt Jackson	2330 Naomi Ave.	Carolyn S. Cruickshank
Palms	10306 Woodbine St.	Nellie Hayden Smith

Comparative Classified Statistics of Circulation

	1934-35	1935-36
General000	17,986	18,895
Philosophy100	230,203	223,704
Religion200	97,493	90,548
Social Science300	333,419	306,350
Language400	18,309	18,121
Science500	145,158	143,751
Useful Arts600	329,158	333,804
Fine Arts700	246,037	234,552
Literature800	433,041	403,660
History900	221,917	204,569
Travel910	307,767	293,051
Biography920	234,865	220,683
Juvenile Non-Fiction (Including Easy Books)	1,550,889	1,378,454
French Non-Fiction	11,550	10,719
German Non-Fiction	8,741	7,964
Italian Non-Fiction	2,589	1,994
Russian Non-Fiction	5,293	4,584
Spanish Non-Fiction	19,984	18,055
Yiddish and Hebrew Non-Fiction	3,927	3,552
Other Languages	4,570	3,621
Braille	190	151
Music	121,726	116,523
Juvenile Fiction	1,230,475	1,202,049
Adult English Fiction	5,478,602	5,017,782
Adult Foreign Fiction	151,477	128,061
Magazines Bound	6,394	6,599
Magazines Unbound	538,139	518,757
Braille Magazines	49	53
Pamphlets (Main and Branches)	48,570	49,953
TOTALS	11,798,518	10,960,541
 Pictures	 267,131	 262,154
Percentage of fiction to total Circulation	58.15 %	57.91 %
Percentage of Total Circulation Loss	9.4 %	7.1 %

Summary of Statistics

(According to recommendations of the American Library Association)

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Founded 1872 as Library Association
Established 1874 by Act of Legislature

REPORT OF YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1936

CITY LIBRARIAN, ALTHEA WARREN

Population served (city) 1,238,048: (1930 census).

Free for lending, free for reference. Open, 358 days, closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Armistice Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.

Hours (Central Library) daily 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.; Sundays, 1:00 to 9:00 P.M., reading room only. Total for week, lending, 72 hours, for reading, 80 hours.

AGENCIES

Total Number of Agencies 121

Consisting of:

Central Library	1
Branches	48
(39 in Library Buildings, 9 in rented quarters)	
Municipal Reference Department	3
Stations:	69
General Service	39
Hospitals	4
Fire Stations	19
Summer Camps	2
Institutional Homes	5

USE

	Volumes	Percent of Total Circulation
Number of volumes of adult non-fiction lent for home use	3,164,030	29
Number of volumes of adult fiction lent for home use	5,145,843	47
Number of books for children lent for home use	2,650,668	24
Total number of volumes lent for home use	10,960,541	100
Circulation per capita (1930 U. S. census figures)		8.9
Circulation per registered borrower		30.1
Circulation per library employee (in terms of full-time equivalent and omitting janitorial and building force)		20,997
Turnover of book stock (total circulation divided by total number of volumes in collection)		7.3
Period of usual loan	7 or 14 days or	1 month
Additional circulation : Pictures		262,154
Number of story hours held during year		781
Average attendance at each story hour		35

REGISTRATION:

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Number of borrowers registered during year	100,576	23,494	124,070
Total number of registered borrowers	303,381	60,624	364,005
Registration period, years			3
Percent of population registered as borrowers (using 1930 U. S. census figures)			29.4%

BOOK STOCK

Number of volumes at beginning of year	1,466,773
Number of volumes added during year	83,244
Number of volumes returned to stock	2,638
Total	1,546,505
Number of volumes lost or withdrawn	58,114
Total number of volumes classed and cataloged	1,488,391
Number of volumes in process	8,743
Total number of volumes June 30, 1936	1,497,134
Number of volumes per capita	1.2
Number of volumes per registered borrower	4.1

MISCELLANEOUS STOCK

Number of pamphlets at beginning of year	336,052
Total number at end of year	362,810
Number of photographs, pictures, beginning of year	93,098
Total number at end of year	91,381
Number of maps at beginning of year	10,150
Number at end of year	10,734
Number of newspapers, currently received (titles) 198 (copies) 59	
Number of periodicals, exclusive of newspapers, currently received (titles) 2375 (copies) 3949.	

Financial Report of the Librarian For Year Ending June 30, 1936

Rate of Tax Levy for Library—7/10 of a Mill

RECEIPTS

Local Taxation	\$ 921,197.96
Fines on overdue books and miscellaneous	96,025.38
Rental Collection	20,926.97
Total	\$1,038,150.31
Unexpended balance from previous year	70,838.64
Total	\$1,108,988.95

PAYMENTS

Salaries, Library Staff	\$ 664,704.13
Books and Periodicals	118,924.45
Binding and rebinding	48,242.05
Supplies, stationery, printing	13,929.47
Telephone, Postage, freight, express, motor vehicle operation ..	10,967.46
Salaries, janitors, engineers and building force	90,175.15
Cleaning supplies and equipment	3,400.38
Repairs, minor alterations, furniture, equipment	7,154.88
Rent	10,059.50
Heat, light, water	29,913.44
Insurance	2,266.85
Other Items	6,406.30
Total operating expenses	\$1,006,144.06
Transferred to Insurance Reserve Fund	7,000.00
Grand Total	\$1,013,144.06
Unexpended Balance	95,844.89
Total	\$1,108,988.95

BOOKS IN LIBRARY, JUNE 30, 1936

[illegible]

PART TWO

Brief History of the Los Angeles Public Library

Compiled by
FAITH HOLMES HYERS
Library Editor

*'Time was' unlocks
the riddle of 'Time is'.*

Introduction

A period of more than ninety years has elapsed since the day when the first spark of interest in public reading collections was kindled in Los Angeles, until today when the Torch held high in a realistically human hand crowns the Los Angeles Public Library, symbol of a steadily burning interest in books. The spark was feeble, however, before the days of California's statehood, and it flickered out again in Civil War times. The Torch which remained alight and grew spasmodically brighter until it burned with a steady flame, was first held aloft in 1872, just sixty-four years ago, with the founding of the Los Angeles Library Association, the beginning of the present library system.

To the men and women who have kept this light burning, because of their belief in a civilization and a citizenship built on assimilation of ideas, a record of their struggles and triumphs is only just. If it were possible, a complete history should be set down of the thought, time, skill and inspiration given by every Trustee, every Librarian, every staff member and every citizen or city official who has aided in the preservation and development of the library idea; for in its finality, the Public Library represents the work and purpose of no one man or woman, no one group of people, but is rather a great flexible system of thought, composed of demand and supply, sensitive to the pulse of the times.

As it would be impossible even to name the several thousand who have contributed skilled personal service toward this Library, in its sixty-four years of existence, it will be necessary to confine our *Brief History of the Library* to the leaders in its directorship and administration, leaving to the pages of the Annual Reports of the various Boards of Library Commissioners and Librarians, the fuller tribute to the many loyal and efficient staff members who, under their leaders, steadily and consistently built toward their library ideal.

No attempt at completeness can be made here, but the purpose has been (while it is yet possible to secure first-hand recollections and observations from those who witnessed the early struggles of the Library) to impart something of the color and flavor of the times through personal memories or contemporary writings.

Most cordial thanks are due to the four former Librarians, Mary E. Foy, Harriet Child Wadleigh, Mary L. Jones and Purd B. Wright for their assistance in recalling the problems of the days when the Library was under their care. Thanks are due, also, to our present Board of Library Commissioners for their assistance, to W. A. Spalding former Library Trustee; to Adelaide Hasse and Emma V. Baldwin for their papers on Tessa Kelso; to Stella and Della Haverland for their biographical data on early Librarians; and to Helen E. Haines for her invaluable sidelights on the history of this Library which she has aided and abetted in its difficult emergence from adolescence to maturity.

Acknowledgment is made to William S. Lewis, who under a Writer's Project of the W.P.A. has made skilled and tireless search of early records and has collected hitherto undiscovered data on the events which shaped the history of the Library. His complete findings will be available in manuscript in the California Room and in the collection on libraries in the Literature Department.

To our City Librarian, Althea Warren, we owe the inspiration of the work, and to her enthusiasm for all things historical and her personal interviews with friends of the Library are due whatever color and vitality this *Brief History of the Library* may possess.

Faith Holmes Hyers

December 1936

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The Undersigned with the view of
 establishing a public library in the City
 of Los Angeles do hereby become members
 of the "Los Angeles Library Association"
 and agree to pay the sums set opposite
 our names, as Donations, Entrance fees
 - or for Life Membership as specified
 Los Angeles Dec 7th 1872

Names	Donations	Entrance Fees	Life memberships	Advanced Payments
John G. Downey			50	Paid
W. C. Austin		2.50		10
Dr. J. C. ...		2.50		10
Thos. ...		2.50		
Michael ...		2.50		
John ...		2.50		Paid
J. W. McCormall	(40 ... votes)	2.50		
A. J. ...		2.50		
W. M. ...		2.50		
Thos. ...		2.50		
Michael ...		2.50		
W. J. ...		2.50		
Chas. ...		2.50		
Peter ...	8 Books	2.50		Paid
W. ...		2.50		
J. G. ...	10 Books	2.50		Paid
George ...	20 "	2.50		Paid
Wm. B. ...		2.50		
Dr. ...			50 -	Paid
W. ...			50 -	
Dr. B. Nichols		2.50		Paid
W. ...		2.50		

Signatures of Founders of the Library

IV. Birth of the Library Idea in Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Public Library in the year 1936 has attained to its sixty-fourth year of existence, the fifty-eighth anniversary of its christening and the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the Central Library Building, 'the outward and visible sign' of more than a half century of growth.

Although a library which has been in existence but sixty-four years is young in comparison with many American libraries, yet we must bear in mind that the City of Los Angeles itself is only one hundred fifty-five years old; that the first English school was not established here until the 1850's; that the population of Los Angeles in the 1870's is estimated at less than 10,000; and that 1872, the date of the erection of the Los Angeles High School building, the first high school in the City, was the year of the founding of the Los Angeles Library Association.

First Attempts at Founding a Library—1844

There had been earlier, courageous attempts to found a public library. We have in J. M. Quinn's *History of California* record of the beginning of a free reading service as early as 1844. A society known as Los Amigos del Pais was organized to provide a social gathering place where books and magazines might be read. A grant was secured from the Ayuntamiento, of a lot 100 varas square, situated on North Main Street, near the Plaza. A building was erected known as Amigos Hall, with a large room for dancing and a small room partitioned off for reading tables and chairs. Donations of books and magazines were solicited, and newspapers from the East, even of dates six months back, were much prized. But interest slackened, the society found itself in debt and was forced to put the property up for sale in a lottery, although there was a provision recorded in the city archives 'that said property should belong to the public service, and never revert or go to any private individual.' General Andres Pico, brother of Governor Pio Pico drew the lucky number and acquired the property.

The Mechanics' Institute Library of 1856

The next attempt at founding a library was made in 1856, under the name of the Mechanics' Institute, patterned after the San Francisco organization. A reading room and a small collection of books and periodicals were provided in a corrugated iron building on the south-east corner of North Spring and Court Streets. This effort, however, faded in 1858.

The Library Association of 1859

A third valiant effort to establish a permanent reading room was made a year later. We may read in the Los Angeles Star of April 2nd, 1859, this notice:

All who are disposed to aid in establishing a Library and Reading Room in the City are requested to meet at Wells, Fargo and Company's Express Office, on Monday evening, April 4, 1859, at 7 o'clock.

In a later issue of the Star we read:

We are glad to know that the endeavor to establish a Library and Reading Room in this City is likely to prove successful. An adjourned meeting was held Thursday evening at which the constitution and by-laws were adopted. The admission fee is to be \$5 and \$1 a month subscription.

A Library Association was organized with John Temple, president, J. J. Warner, vice-president, Francis Mellus, treasurer, Israel Fleishman, secretary, and E. Drown, J. H. Lander, J. Frolong, H. Mellus, E. J. C. Kewen, S. F. Reynolds and R. Emerson, directors. Committees were appointed to solicit memberships and subscriptions, and to secure and furnish library quarters, books and newspapers. Library Rooms were secured in Don Abel Stearn's Arcadia Block, which was located at the southwest corner of Arcadia and Los Angeles Streets. Curiously enough this building is still standing in 1936.

The following notice may be found in the Los Angeles Star of September 24, 1859:

Library Association

The Los Angeles Library Association rooms are now open, and are supplied with all the leading periodicals and papers, not only of the State but of the Union. Such an institution has long been desired here, and now the want is supplied, we hope the citizens of all classes will rally to its support. The rooms are comfortably fitted up, and nowhere can one spend a leisure hour more profitably than by availing himself of the privileges of the Library. The terms of subscription are within reach of all and we hope to see a large list of subscribers. Contributions of books will be thankfully received by the Committee.

Reminiscences of the 1860's

Flavor and quality of the times is given by remarks of Mary E. Foy, later to be the first woman librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library:

That the books contributed by public spirited citizens to start the Library, had a rare and romantic flavor, may be imagined, when I tell you that Mr. Nobel Ezekiel Ewing Calhoun, double-cousin to John C. Calhoun, the statesman of South Carolina, had come from his home in Paducah, Kentucky, to Los Angeles on horse-back with pack animals, some loaded with their master's books. Mr. Calhoun was a Southern gentleman of the fastidious mould. Even in the frontier town he could not bear to use an unhemmed handkerchief. Most people simply used a square torn from a cotton bolt. He got my mother, a girl of twelve or fifteen, to hem the two ends of a stack of handkerchieves for him, and as a reward gave her one of the books which had traveled by pack, four thousand miles. It is called *Heroines of History* and is still in my possession. Undoubtedly, others of his collection he donated to the new Library.

Another delightful bit of color is imparted by W. A. Spalding, later a Director of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Henry Mellus who contributed the nucleus of that first, ill-starred library, was one of the most progressive citizens of the old adobe town. A native of Boston, he came to California in 1835, with Richard Henry Dana, in Captain Thompson's brig, *Pilgrim*, made famous in the story of *Two Years Before the Mast*. He returned to the East in 1837, and came back to the Coast the second time as super-cargo. He went into business in San Francisco, and was wrecked financially by the great fire of 1851. He returned to Massachusetts, and in 1858 for a third time came to California, casting his fortunes with Los Angeles. In May, 1860, he was elected Mayor of the City, and on the 26th day of December the same year, he died. Thus it appears the effort to establish a public library to which he contributed so generously, occurred before he was elected Mayor.

The Library flourished for a time and became a gathering place for members of the community. It was in these rooms that Mayor Henry Mellus with other citizens received the Governor of California, John G. Downey, on his first official visit to his home City, Los Angeles.

Of the untimely end of this Library Association Miss Foy writes:

That the venture did not prosper undoubtedly had some relation to the outbreak of the Civil War. Many of the most important people in Los Angeles in those days were Southerners and the next decade was a perturbed one.

It is interesting to note that the desire for books was evident even then as several of the local merchants in the 1860's displayed small collections of books or periodicals and carried circulating libraries, and even advertised books in the newspapers.

V. Today's Library is Founded, 1872

The next attempt at founding a Public Library in Los Angeles was destined to endure, to suffer trials and setbacks, to experience triumphs and praise and censure, and in six decades to emerge as one of the great Public Libraries of the United States. This was to be the outgrowth of the Los Angeles Library Association formed on December 7, 1872.

In the news columns of the *Evening Express* of December 4, 1872, and in the December 5 pages of *The News* and *The Star* readers came upon a notice of a public meeting to be held in the Merced Theatre for the purpose of forming and financing a Library Association. This meeting was attended by many of the leading citizens of the day. Sixty-six vice-presidents were elected, a roster of whose names would include the pioneers in every field of development in Southern California. Membership and book subscription lists were made up, the originals of which are still in the possession of the Library.

The first Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Public Library was named, with John G. Downey as President. These names are engraven on the bronze tablet in the second floor foyer opposite the tablet bearing the names of the Trustees and Librarian by whose efforts the Central Building was achieved.

For a period of six years these Trustees and others serving for varying lengths of time were responsible for the maintenance, constant support and continuing enthusiasm necessary to keep alive this library idea. According to Library records and early newspapers there were twenty-one men, in all, who acted as Trustees in that period.

Among these were leaders in state and city government: John G. Downey, and General George Stoneman, each of whom served as Governor of the State, and General John R. McConnell who had been Attorney General of the State; there were jurists and attorneys of distinction: Judge Ygnacio Sepulveda, Colonel George H. Smith, Wynn H. Mace and Colonel E. M. Stanford—men whose knowledge of the means of attaining legal sanction and protection of libraries was to prove invaluable. There were distinguished professional men in this group: Dr. Joseph P. Widney, second President of the University of Southern California and founder of its medical school, who at the age of ninety-five years is still writing on scientific and religious subjects; H. J. W. Bent, teacher and founder of a college, W. B. Lawlor, teacher and mathematician, H. D. Barrows, educator and historian; H. S. Orme and W. F. Edgar, physicians; and Harris Newmark, whose history *Sixty Years in Southern California*, has become a standard work—men who had faith in the educational possibilities of a public library. There were outstanding leaders in the industrial, commercial and physical development of Southern California: Samuel B. Caswell, A. W. Potts, T. W. Temple, R. H. Dalton; Isaias W. Hellman and J. W. Hellman, bankers, and W. J. Brodrick, developer of water and street car service—men who believed in libraries as a part of the cultural and necessary development of Los Angeles.

This list of the first Library Trustees is one in which anyone concerned with the history of the Library may well take pride.

ERAS IN LIBRARY HISTORY TRACED THROUGH TERMS OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND LIBRARIANS

In the sense that 'history is but the long shadow of a man' the story of the Library may be divided into the periods of trusteeship and librarianship of the leaders in administration. Division has been made by the term of the thirteen librarians giving due honor to the various Library Boards who appointed and supported these Librarians. The following chapters record the achievements and events during office of these Librarians.

John Littlefield, Librarian, 1872-1879

One of the first acts of the newly created Board of Trustees was to appoint a Librarian, and their selection fell upon a man who had acted for a time as editor of the Weekly Express—John Littlefield. Rooms for the new venture had been offered by the new President of the Trustees, Governor Downey, in the Downey business block, one of the principal office buildings of that time, extending on Temple Street from Spring Street to Main, where the post office now stands. The reading rooms were opened to the public on January 8, 1873. Description of the first reading rooms and a word picture of the first Librarian are vividly drawn for us by one who later served on the Library Board, and whose energetic interest in this Library has never waned to this day—Mr. Spalding. In a paper read before the Southern California Historical Society, he brings us these recollections:

'My personal knowledge of the Los Angeles Public Library begins in the spring of 1874 when the first permanently established Library was located in the Downey Block. Mr. Harris Newmark in *Sixty Years in Southern California* has described the beginning of the Library. He mentions four small dark rooms of the old Downey Block. There must have been a shifting of rooms or improvement in lighting, for the Library as I first saw it, was housed in two rooms. The front and principal room was probably twenty by thirty feet in floor dimensions, and was fairly lighted by two large windows looking out upon Main Street to the southeast. Back of this, shut off by a half-high partition, was a smaller room—probably twelve by twenty feet—which was used for storage and other general purposes, and a portion set off for chess and checkers. This last equipment consisted of a plain pine table and half a dozen chairs. This rear room must have been somewhat gloomy, for the only chance of lighting it was by the openings into the main room and possibly an interior corridor with a sky-light. These rooms were located about the middle of the block on the second floor. The main entrance to the block must have been seventy-five or one hundred feet north of the corner of Temple and Main Streets. There was a corridor running through the building to a small interior court, with a more or less ornamental fountain, and this gave access to rooms on the ground floor facing the court. Here was located the Del Restaurant, our most famous and popular French caravansary of those days. On the right of the main corridor, near the front, a fairly broad stairway led to the upper floor. The main room of the Library at the head of the stairs was lighted by two front windows, and along the two side walls were the book shelves. I make a guess that they contained fifteen hundred or two thousand volumes. These were mainly the books that had been loaned or given by citizens, as the Library was not sufficiently endowed to indulge in the extravagance of new books. In the center of the room were two or three ample tables upon which

reposed late copies of the few principal magazines of that day: Harper's Monthly, The Galaxy, The Atlantic—Harper's and Frank Leslie's Weekly (Illustrated papers), Bonner's New York Ledger, the Waverly, and files of the daily and weekly papers of Los Angeles City and County, and of San Francisco. At that time we considered it a noble array. I know that John Littlefield, the Librarian, was very proud of this showing that the Los Angeles Public Library was right up to date.

'The Librarian had his desk modestly placed in the southeast corner of the room, where the light of one of the windows reached him over his left shoulder. I have a distinct memory-picture of him as he sat there talking to some staid citizen or chatting with a bevy of high school girls or even gossiping with a cub reporter recently employed by the Herald. John was from Connecticut or Massachusetts or 'way down East somewhere, a man of large frame, rather spare, clean-shaven, a scholarly stoop and a Yankee curiosity. Besides, he had been in the newspaper game himself in earlier times and had not lost his nose for news. Such a man would naturally be interested in anything or anybody journalistic, and I found him a good counselor and friend.

'I have another distinct picture of John, rising slowly, laboriously from his seat in the corner, with an explosion that might have been interpreted as a cough, a wheeze or a groan, taking from his desk a large red-leather memorandum book which he thrust under his left arm, and saying, 'Well, if I must, I suppose I must.' Then he walked out of the room and down the stairs. Everybody knew that he was going forth to collect installments on the Library Fund. In those times it was not a holiday excursion to gather in money for anything. During John's absence for this or any other cause, the Library ran itself; and why not? There were few calls for books to take out, the papers and magazines and other literature could be read as well without the presence of the Librarian, and nobody would be mean enough to steal anything from a public library. Poor old John Littlefield! He had a hard struggle to hold things together, keep the Library going, and provide a living for his little family. Besides that, he had a cross to bear; he was the victim of chronic asthma. At any hour of the day he was liable to be taken with a fit of coughing, and then he would retire to the little room in the rear, where he kept a pipe, which he filled with dried stramonium leaves, and smoked. And as he coughed and wheezed and gurgled and smoked, the abominable fumes of the burning stramonium permeated the whole establishment and nearly choked everybody in it. Patrons of high-strung temperament generally retired at the first asthmatic signal. Of course John was unfortunate and did the best he could under the circumstances, and everybody was sorry for him, and never mentioned the subject to him afterward, but the ordeal was hard to bear all the way round. I have never liked the smell of stramonium since.'

In spite of difficulties, however, through membership fees, cash donations and gifts of books, the Library made a promising beginning. By March, 1873, the Library had approximately 750 volumes on the shelves, ranging from standards in literature to books of history, travel and fiction. On the tables were the important American and English monthlies, and at least twenty daily newspapers, and ten weekly papers were provided.

The Evening Express of May 1, 1873, carried the following notice:

We have today the finest Library and the completest in all its detail and appointments of any in the State south of San Francisco—a delightfully popular resort, which is at once the pride and honor of our City.

Library Maintenance Support and Legal Sanction Obtained

Although interest in founding a public library had been active and use of the Library increased, it was a constant struggle to secure funds for books, for the modest salary of the Librarian and the slight expenses of the reading rooms. Expenses were met through the original life memberships mentioned (usually paid in fifty dollars in gold coin) by repeated gifts of loyal supporters and by monthly subscriptions, pledged and sometimes collected.

Among the subscribers to the Library were a few members who had been interested in the earlier venture of 1859. Indeed at the first regular meeting of the members of the Association on December 14, 1872, the subject of securing authority for public support of the Library was discussed and the following resolution, moved by Governor John G. Downey, was adopted:

Resolved: That it is the sense of this meeting that the coming Legislature be memorialized, and our delegation authorized to ask for the passage of an enabling act, in order that a small tax be levied for one year upon the taxpayers of this city for library purposes, subject of course to the vote of the people.

No action however was procured from the Legislature until the spring of 1874.

Enabling Act in 1874

The Trustees of the Los Angeles Library Association in January, 1874, caused a form of legislative bill for the desired purpose to be drafted. In thirty days, a bill providing for a bond issue for acquisition of a library site and building, and making it legal to provide a tax levy for library maintenance had passed the House and Senate. It received the approval of the Governor on March 4, 1874. This enabling act and its drafting and support are a testimonial to the acumen, legal experience and political influence of the members of the original Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Library, among whom were a number of highly trained legal minds. It is noteworthy that it was four years later before the State Legislature granted any similar powers to the City and County of San Francisco or to other cities and towns of California.*

The first line in the battle for recognition and support of the Library as a public institution had been courageously advanced. Legal authority for such public support had been granted. But the next offensive, the acceptance of the Library as a municipal institution and the granting of a tax levy for its support by the members of the City Council of Los Angeles, required four years of determined persistence on the part of the members and officers of the Library Association.

Ordinance of 1878 Creating Los Angeles Public Library

Nothing daunted by the former indifference of the City Council, the Trustees of the Library Association, in the latter part of February, 1878, again presented petitions for an ordinance establishing the Los Angeles Public Library under the Enabling Act of March 4, 1874. The general State Enactment, authorizing the establishment and maintenance of free public libraries by the cities of the State of California, with special mention of San Francisco, was then before the State Legislature. Finally spurred to action, the City Council requested the City Attorney to prepare a form for the long desired enactment. The ordinance was presented, read and adopted March 7, 1878. This was eleven days before the enactment of the general statute on March 18, 1878. Los Angeles had at length blazed the way for public library establishment and support.**

*Laws of California, 1877-78, Sec. XVI.

**Details of this procedure may be found in City Council Proceedings, Vol. XII, p. 208.

The ordinance provided for the taking over of the Los Angeles Library from the Library Association and for its subsequent operation as the Los Angeles Public Library under a Board of Regents to be selected by the City Council. The Council delegated the selection of Regents to the Mayor. On March 28, 1878, Mayor J. R. Toberman presented the following names as the first Board of Library Regents—citizens from the former Board of Trustees of the Library Association: H. K. W. Bent, Y. Sepulveda, W. J. Brodrick, J. P. Widney; and from the Common Council: B. Cohn, E. K. Green, C. C. Lips, J. H. Jones and H. F. Kercheval.

Benefits for Library Support

During the years from 1872 to 1878 and even after the beginning of municipal support of the Library, funds for books and maintenance were never adequate. Early records show repeated donations of both books and money, and these were augmented by 'benefits' of various kinds which afforded social gatherings and gave publicity to the library idea.

Two months after the forming of the Los Angeles Library Association a 'Grand Concert' was given in the Merced Theatre on February 20, 1873. The description of this concert is found in the Los Angeles Evening Express of that date. From the proceeds of this first benefit it is believed that several hundred books were purchased, for a summary of the first quarterly report of Librarian Littlefield in the Express of April 1, 1873, states:

700 volumes are now in the Library and 500 books have just been received.

A standing Committee on *Public Lectures and Essays* was created and maintained by the Library Association. This Committee prevailed upon General John R. McConnell, Vice-president of the Library Association to give an address on 'The Men of 1849: What They Did and Suffered,' at Turnverein Hall on December 17, 1873. At another gathering parlor entertainment in the nature of amateur theatricals was conducted by S. W. Piercy, a talented young actor. A traveling team of jugglers and magicians shared the proceeds of a benefit performance with the Library Association. A comedy of the day, 'Everybody's Friend,' written by T. Sterling Coyne, netted several hundred dollars and this was followed by a benefit ball. The records tell us that on such occasions, Librarian Littlefield closed the Library and presided at the box office.

The last of such benefits was the series of Dickens parties given in the 1880's. Harriet Child Wadleigh, later Librarian, writes:

The largest donation of books was made from the proceeds of the famous Dickens party, a social event that will be remembered for the lifetime of the elder generation. The idea was a hit, and the interest grew until not only all Los Angeles, but nearly all the surrounding country, was studying Dickens, dramatizing the striking scenes in the most famous of his novels, and selecting people to fit the characters.

Everyone helped and the scheme grew from a quiet evening party to four entertainments in the Turnverein Hall, given to packed houses. No good theatre properties were available, but such was the enthusiasm that everything needful for the scenes was supplied from private houses, even to whole sets of furniture. Three public enterprises were benefited by the proceeds, the share of the Library being \$250. The money was placed in the hands of a committee and applied to the purchase of a well selected collection of books, covering the best standard works in English literature.

Ladies' Reading Room

Returning to the last years of the Librarianship of John Littlefield, we read in his report of an increasing use of the reading rooms. The ladies of Los Angeles had begun to frequent the Library, using the membership cards of the masculine members of the family (for the original membership had been 'men only,' with the exception of Mrs. John G. Downey who accompanied her

husband to the initial meeting on December 7, 1872, and had been made an honorary member). It was in 1876 that a ladies' reading room was added, pleasantly furnished and equipped with tables and books and magazines.

Mr. Littlefield writes in March, 1877:

It is fiction, well written novels, that the general public wants to read, and are willing to pay for the privilege of reading. I am free to say that we cannot maintain a Library on the voluntary system unless we pander largely to the public demand for sensational fiction, not impure, vicious novels of the blood and murder class, but well written, entertaining stories . . . we need at least 400 volumes of new novels.

VI. Library Under Political Control

Board of Regents—Mayor and City Council—1879-1889

The First Board of Regents appointed by Mayor Toberman on March 28, 1878, held office about nine months, as in January, 1879, the provisions of the Amended Charter of the City of Los Angeles took effect, which stipulated that the City Council and Mayor act as ex-officio Trustees.

During their short administration, the nine regents had raised the salary of the Librarian to \$100 and had planned for a substantial increase in books purchased. The initial levy of one mill on the tax rolls of 1878-79 had provided \$5596 and the indebtedness of the Los Angeles Library Association had been only \$1074, leaving a sum sufficient to permit some slight expansion—for years desired by the four regents long associated with the library project: Judge Y. Sepulveda, W. J. Brodrick, H. K. W. Bent and Dr. J. P. Widney.

When these regents went out of office under the amended Charter, Mayor Toberman and the members of the City Council immediately inaugurated economy measures. The salary of the Librarian was reduced from \$100 to \$75 and he was required to perform his own janitor service or hire it done at his own expense. The matter of appointment of Librarian was to be taken up each year.

From the year 1879 to 1889 the following Mayors acted as Chairman of the Board of Regents composed of the members of the City Council: J. R. Toberman, 1879-1882; C. E. Thom, 1883-1884; E. F. Spence, 1885-1886; W. H. Workman, 1887-1888; John Bryson, 1889.

Patrick Connolly, Librarian, 1879-1880

When the question of appointment came up in 1879, there were three candidates for the position of Librarian: John C. Littlefield, Patrick Connolly and Mrs. Cornelia Bradfield.* We learn that Patrick Connolly received the appointment for February 1, 1879. Few facts are known about this Librarian. His name is found in Mr. Littlefield's records as a library reader, borrowing De Quincey, Burke and *Blackwood's Magazine*. The Los Angeles City Directory for 1879 gives his profession as that of painter. From such records as we possess it may be considered that Patrick Connolly was an Irishman of education and ability, and undoubtedly a political favorite.

Mary E. Foy, successor to Mr. Connolly, describes him as 'a typical Irish scholar, gray-haired and middle-aged in 1880.' Mr. Spalding recalls that Patrick Connolly was an educated Irishman, good enough in his way, but knowing practically nothing about running a Library. It soon developed that Mr. Connolly had a weakness, a periodic weakness. He was often absent from the Library and public sentiment finally forced the Mayor to make a new appointment for Librarian.

*Mrs. Cornelia Bradfield was the first teacher of art in the Los Angeles Public Schools.

Mary E. Foy, Librarian, 1880-1884

Mary E. Foy was eighteen years of age and had graduated from the high school on Telegraph Hill, when she received the notice of her appointment as Librarian, to take charge of the Los Angeles Library on the 1st day of September, 1880. Before assuming her new duties she went to study library practice with Ina Coolbrith, Librarian of the Oakland Public Library. Miss Coolbrith took a great interest in her young friend and introduced her to F. B. Perkins, Librarian of the San Francisco Public Library who had devised a scheme of classification well known to librarians of that day, and later used by Miss Foy in her arrangement of the books in the Los Angeles Library.

The Librarian at the time of Miss Foy's appointment had to be not only keeper of the books and accountant, but also hostess to the ladies who used the Ladies' Reading Room as a meeting place, and arbitrator at the daily chess games. Chess tables had been a part of library equipment since the day the reading rooms were opened. The players lined up at the door at ten o'clock every morning, waiting for the Librarian to open the doors, and they left reluctantly at five o'clock when the Librarian was given two hours for refreshment and rest. At seven o'clock they returned to take their seats at the tables beneath the windows overlooking the patio of the inner court below.

Mr. Spalding, referring to Miss Foy in his reminiscences of the 1880's, writes:

Her fund of common sense and her energetic and thorough business methods enabled her to fill the position of Librarian most acceptably.

Certainly she had need of common sense and business methods for, fresh from high school, the young Librarian was called upon to settle bets on the authorship of Webster's Dictionary (was it Daniel or Noah?). She must suggest reading for the Spanish matrons who used the Ladies' Reading Room and enjoyed the books of Augusta Evans Wilson and Mary J. Holmes. She received such distinguished regular library visitors as Judge Volney E. Howard who came to read the Congressional Record, Dr. Hathaway, grandfather of Sarah Bixby Smith, and Dr. John S. Griffin.



Then, too, Miss Foy had to act as accountant for all expenses incurred by the Library and as collector of subscription fees and fines. We find in her neatly kept account books such items of purchase as stove-lifters and ice. We have her photograph wearing a satchel-like purse strapped on in knapsack fashion, in which she carried the heavy silver dollars of that day, until she could deposit them in the City Hall Treasury.

A fitting comment on Miss Foy's term of librarianship is made by Charles F. Lummis, later Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library:

Miss Mary E. Foy was the first person in this City to grasp the privileges and the responsibilities of librarianship. So far as actual interest and use go, perhaps this public institution, now a great one, never had a more useful activity than it had in the hands of one who was a girl graduate from the Los Angeles High School of that day.

For three successive years Miss Foy was re-appointed but in 1884, political and personal interests led to the appointment of Jessie A. Gavitt as Librarian.

After resigning from the library position in 1884, Miss Foy attended Normal School in Los Angeles and graduated in 1885. She then served in the public schools as teacher and principal. She attended the University of California as a special student (1897 and 1898), and traveled in Europe for some time. She returned to Los Angeles and for many years has been active in real estate and in civic interests.

Jessie A Gavitt, Librarian, 1884-1889

Jessie A. Gavitt was the daughter of L. D. Gavitt, a farmer residing in the early eighties on a ranch bounded by Pico and Washington Streets, Hoover and Vermont. Mr. Gavitt died in 1883 with little provision for his widow and their younger children. At a meeting of the Mayor and City Council in January, 1884, it was decided that Miss Gavitt should be given the position of Librarian because she was in greater need of the salary than Miss Foy. She was appointed in February, 1884, and continued in this position until 1889. Mr. Spalding has characterized her as a 'successful and popular Librarian.' According to reports and newspaper records, Miss Gavitt made a complete inventory of the library collection, and volumes were increased from 3,000 to 6,000 in the five-year period. She carried on the card catalog system as adopted and used by the Mechanics' Library in San Francisco, which had been installed by Miss Foy. She discontinued the special reading room for ladies and installed new shelving and better lighting. For a time her sister, Alice L. Gavitt, was employed as Assistant Librarian at \$50 per month.



Lydia Prescott, Librarian, January to April, 1889

In 1889 when the new City Charter went into effect, the control of the Library passed from the Mayor and City Councilmen to a Board of Library Directors appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Under this Library Board with George A. Dobinson as chairman, a complete reorganization was effected and Miss Gavitt was succeeded by an appointee of the new Mayor, Lydia A. Prescott, who served acceptably for a short period of four months, January to April, 1889.

First Substantial Book Fund

The provision of the new Charter gave the Library Board for the first time a municipal appropriation on a reasonable scale including a \$10,000 fund to be devoted to purchase of books. Members of the Library Board were convinced that a person of some business experience and knowledge of books should administer this fund and in April, 1889, they appointed Tessa L. Kelso as Librarian. Miss Gavitt was re-engaged as Assistant Librarian under Miss Kelso, but resigned the following year, to marry Frederick T. Howland, who conducted a photographic supply store for some years in Los Angeles.

VII. Second Era in Library Growth

The First Board of Directors—1889

George A. Dobinson, *President*

H. Jay Hanchette

E. W. Jones

Frank H. Howard

J. Mills Davies

Librarian

Tessa L. Kelso - - - - 1889-1895

Assistant Librarians

Jessie A. Gavitt - - - - 1889-1890

Adelaide R. Hasse - - - - 1890-1895

Lena B. Fenner - - - - 1890-1892

George A. Dobinson, President of the Library Board, 1889-1894

George A. Dobinson, attorney, business man and Shakespearean student and dramatic critic, served as the first President of the Board of Directors of the Library under the new Charter, in 1889.

In the 1880's Mr. Dobinson had organized a talented amateur dramatic club known as 'The Owls' and later founded the Dobinson Dramatic School.

The Los Angeles Library has a Dobinson collection of early theatre programs, photographs and clippings concerning the first dramatic productions in Southern California. This is on continual display in the California Room.

During Mr. Dobinson's term of office the following additional directors came in through changes in membership:

Mrs. C. M. Severance - - 1891-1892

Sheldon Bordon - - - - 1893-1894

W. J. Hamilton - - - - 1893-1894

W. A. Spalding - - - - 1893-1894

Tessa Kelso, Librarian, 1889-1895



In view of the rapid development under Miss Kelso's able and energetic administration, 1889-1895, it is of interest to note a comment made by the members of the Library Board in the Report of December 4, 1889:

The Board is of opinion, based on an examination of the records of this and other libraries, that it will be impossible to supply the immense demand for books which would immediately arise if the small charge now made were abolished, and that it will not be prudent to do away with such charge until the Library contains at least 20,000 volumes for circulation, independent of those to be kept in the Library for reference purposes.

Nevertheless the subscription fee was reduced in 1889, Miss Kelso's first year of librarianship, and removed in 1891. It is noteworthy also that by 1895 the number of volumes had doubled the Board's estimate of 20,000, and is recorded as 42,000. In the first year of Miss Kelso's librarianship the Library was moved to much improved quarters in the City Hall.

Mr. Lummis in *Out West* magazine of September, 1906, in an article called 'Books in Harness' summed up the library years of Miss Kelso:

To whatever proportions it shall grow, the Los Angeles Public Library will always owe a fundamental debt to Miss Kelso, who took charge of it with its removal to the City Hall, in 1889, and began its real expansion along modern ideals. A woman of extraordinary business ability, quenchless energy, and great executive force, and also in touch with the young science of libraries, she gave the institution a character and impetus which brought it into national prominence. In the six years of her incumbency the number of volumes was multiplied by more than seven, the circulation by about ten, and the registration of members by almost 160. Her predecessors had not had a fair chance nor free hands for the making of a public library in the modern sense of the word. Though the institution was still greatly handicapped by insufficient funds, the public consciousness was really awakened; and Miss Kelso made the most of her opportunity. The Library has never grown so fast in books, circulation, membership or scientific methods in any equal period since, as in the six years during which she raised it from 6,000 to 42,000 volumes, from 12,000 to 329,000 circulation, and from 132 members to almost 20,000.

As the progress of the young Library under Miss Kelso's direction can be explained only through a study of the woman herself, the following sketch by Emma V. Baldwin who knew and loved her in those days, is included here.

'When Tessa L. Kelso went to Los Angeles in the eighties, as a publicist and journalist, she carried with her a profound respect and admiration for the public library as a part of a city's educational system, based upon her own experience of its value. From childhood she had been an omnivorous reader, and, as a frequent borrower of books from the Cincinnati Public Library, she formed close friendships among the assistants of that Library, and through that association had sensed the opportunities for service which lay within the librarian's reach.

'This interest led her to apply for the position of librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, which became vacant shortly after her arrival.

'Her habit of going unerringly to the heart of a situation was demonstrated by her reply to the query raised by the Library Trustees regarding her knowledge of cataloging. Familiarity with cataloging technique had been advanced by one of the other aspirants for the position as essential to the library administrator, but Miss Kelso answered that while she personally did not possess this knowledge, she could secure assistants who were quite competent to handle that part

of the library's routine, and that, in her opinion, it was no more necessary for a librarian to be an expert cataloger than for a newspaper editor and publisher to be an expert compositor.

'This conception of the Librarian as an administrator rather than a specialized routine worker, appealed to the business men upon the Board, and led to her appointment as Librarian in April, 1889.

'Her ability to secure expert assistants and to allow them freedom to develop their particular phase of the work, sure always of her appreciation of its importance in the service of the Library as a whole, was one of Miss Kelso's outstanding characteristics as an organizer and administrator.

'The report of the Trustees at the end of the first year of Miss Kelso's incumbency of the position of Librarian, reads as follows:

Miss Kelso, the Librarian, has shown a capacity and intelligence which make her remarkably well fitted for the important position she occupies. The introduction of the latest methods of library arrangements, and the adoption of the best labor-saving devices in library economy, are owing to Miss Kelso's knowledge and good judgment in these matters. She has been ably seconded by her chief assistant, Jessie Gavitt, whose local acquaintance has been of great advantage to the Library.

'Subsequent reports of the Library as well as the records of discussions at library conferences, show that the Los Angeles Library, under her administration, became a progressive force and a pioneer in devising new means of serving its constituents.

'In 1891 reports show that the expenditures on salaries and working expenses had been remarkably low in proportion to the amount expended in the purchase of books—a condition quite the reverse of that which obtained then and still holds true in most libraries. This did not mean that she favored low salaries. On the contrary, she recommended publicity in regard to library salaries, and believed that those paid for library work should be commensurate with those paid for educational work in various grades.

'Her protest against the formation of a woman's section of the American Library Association, is voiced in the following letter which she wrote to the Library Journal in November, 1892:

As a woman librarian I beg leave to enter a protest against such a plan.

For years woman has worked, talked and accepted all sorts of compromises to prove her fitness to hold the position of librarian and to demonstrate that sex has no weight where ability is equal. In all these years the accomplishment is seen in the table of wages paid women librarians in comparison with those paid men for like work. For women to now come forward with the argument that a woman librarian has a point of view and such limitations that they must be discussed apart from the open court of library affairs, is a serious mistake. There is but one standard of management for a live business, and sex has nothing to do with that standard.

There is another side of the question. We do not attend these conferences in our capacity as individual men and women, but as representatives of a part of a city's educational system, and it is urgent that a city shall have full representation among other cities, without regard to the sex of the chosen delegate.

'In Los Angeles Miss Kelso had requested as a personal favor that she be placed under bond the same as other city officials. Commenting upon this, she remarked:

In the eyes of the City Council and politicians, it seemed at once to present the position of Librarian in an altogether new light, and for the first time they looked upon the office as part of the city government.

'Miss Kelso was one of the early advocates of the plan of opening the Library's collection to the public and of allowing free access to its shelves. She also believed in keeping the Library open on Sundays. It was not made an open-shelf Library however, until 1898.

'Her journalistic experience had made her sympathetically appreciative of the widely diversified interests of different groups in the community, and these interests she endeavored to meet by establishing special collections of books. Los Angeles was one of the first public libraries, for example, to develop a music collection which included sheet music and operatic and orchestral scores. To the group of scientists concerned with the discovery of trees and shrubs which could be adapted to California climate and conditions, she lent her enthusiastic support, and was indefatigable in her search for information which would be of service to them.

'She also urged the elimination of all restrictions which would hamper the use of the Library by business men, and made current material on civic and business problems available through clippings, pamphlets and periodicals as well as in books.

'Her readiness to recognize unusual ability among her assistants was shown in the free scope which was given Adelaide Hasse whose rare talent for bibliographical research was early demonstrated in her handling of the mass of documents which the Library, as a government depository, had accumulated. Miss Hasse later became an authority on public documents at home and abroad and a bibliographer of international repute.

'In 1891, Miss Kelso instituted a new method of selecting employees for the Library, by providing a course of systematic training for young women who were willing to give a certain number of hours of work a day in exchange for the instruction they received. Of this training class Marion Horton, later principal of the Los Angeles Library School, wrote in 1923:

In this course are reflected the initiative and resourcefulness of the young Librarian, Tessa Kelso, whose ideas in regard to library training, government documents, and the relation of the library to the community, were twenty-five years ahead of her time.

'Miss Kelso also encouraged systematic study on the part of those regularly appointed to the staff, for in 1892 Miss Hasse reported at a meeting of the Southern California Library Association that for some time some fifteen members of the staff had assembled every Thursday evening in the Library Committee Room to study systematically special features of library economy; that it had been suggested that they devote their attention to some cooperative work in bibliography, which would give a beneficial return to the Library, and that they had undertaken the preparation of a California subject index.

'An interesting evidence of Miss Kelso's vigorous personality and love of justice and fair play, was shown in the action she took when a local clergyman voiced his disapproval of the inclusion of a particular French book upon the Library's shelves by publicly praying for the Librarian. Miss Kelso took exception to this form of criticism and promptly brought suit against the minister for 'malicious slander.'

'A political change in the city government led to unfortunate appointments to the Library Board, and in 1895 both Miss Kelso and Miss Hasse resigned and went East.

'Although this resignation terminated Miss Kelso's active service as a librarian, her interest in, and enthusiasm for public library service was in no way abated. As long as she lived she maintained high ideals for that service, and throughout her long and busy career was instrumental in kindling the enthusiasm of hundreds of young librarians, and in giving inspiration and encouragement to scores of others with whom she came in contact.'*

*Letter concerning Miss Kelso's Library Years by Emma V. Baldwin.

Miss Hasse's recollections of the Los Angeles Library during the period of Miss Kelso's librarianship, follow:

'When Miss Kelso was appointed librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library, she took over raw material in the strictest sense of the word. The stock of books was small and miscellaneous, and the staff was without technical training. Confronted with this situation, Miss Kelso was guided by sheer common sense and a boundless appreciation of the civic asset which a public library, operated on a service basis, can be. In a comparatively short time a training class, believed to be the first in connection with a public library in this country, was established. A local history (Californiana) collection was installed. A news bulletin was issued regularly. Musical scores were circulated; certainly, considering the time and place, a most unusual innovation. Relations with the school system were inaugurated and maintained. Inter-library loans were instituted which supplemented the local resources with the far richer collections in San Francisco. An Art Department was established with the advisory cooperation of the Friday Morning Club. The Los Angeles Public Library had already been made a Government depository, but nothing had ever been done towards exploiting the collection which was then stored in the attic of the City Hall. With uncanny foresight, Miss Kelso undertook the arrangement of this material. A classification for departmental documents was devised which afterwards formed the basis of the present classification in use in the library of the Superintendent of Documents in Washington. At this time there was also compiled in the Library the first index to the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture published by that Department as its Bulletin No. 9, and which was designed to be the forerunner of a series of similar compilations for other Departments, a project subsequently covered by the Federal Government.

'The Board of Directors of the Library took a real and active interest in the Library. Miss Kelso acted as Secretary of the Board, attending all meetings. Throughout Miss Kelso's incumbency there existed the most cordial cooperation on the part of the Board. Miss Kelso's relations with her staff were always those of co-worker. She was quick to discern latent capacity, and was always most generous in making opportunity for its development. Even at that time the prospect of a Central Library building was broached by Miss Kelso, a prospect now so beautifully fulfilled. There was ever an atmosphere of open house about the Library, an atmosphere of its being notably a citizens' habitat where distinguished guests from across the divide were always brought as a matter of course.

'None of the staff of those days will ever forget the winter Eugene Field spent in Los Angeles and his visits to the Library. As he sat chatting in Miss Kelso's office huddled in an eastern great coat conspicuously flourishing a toy iron stove to help 'keep himself warm in this sunny clime,' illicit excuses for errands into the office were successively devised to see the great man plain. The genial Field quickly changed to a dour growler at each intrusion, the shyer the intruder the more violent the simulated eruption. Field seemed to get a lot of fun out of the performance, it amused Miss Kelso and certainly nonplussed the staff. Another trick which Field was given to during these visits was solemnly to announce his immediate and urgent need for an unexpurgated edition of Felicia Heman's poems.

'The Los Angeles of those days was an unusual community. Vastly more isolated than at present, its population was largely composed of families accustomed to an environment of culture and attainment. It was most felicitous that an individual having that rare sense of human values which prompted all Miss Kelso's relations, should have been selected by the Board of Directors to serve this community at that time.'

At her resignation from the Los Angeles Library, Miss Kelso went to New York where she was connected for a time with the publishing house of Charles Scribner's Sons and then for many years with the library department of the Baker and Taylor Company, book jobbers. After twenty-six years of varied library, publishing and literary relationships, during which she became widely known in the book world for her originality and personality as well as her knowledge of books, Miss Kelso retired and established a home in Santa Barbara, California, among many of her friends. She died, August 13, 1933. In the Santa Barbara Public Library is a memorial collection of books by authors she knew and loved, and books on some of her many interests—Persian art, Chinese porcelain, the Elizabethan period, the American circus. Each book in the collection bears a book-plate with the inscription: 'In memory of Tessa L. Kelso, 1863-1933, A Servant and Lover of Books.'

Term of the 7th Librarian—1895-1897

Board of Directors, December, 1895

George H. Bonebrake, *President*

Frank P. Flint

H. W. O'Melveny

George H. Stewart

H. E. Storrs

Librarian

Clara B. Fowler - - - 1895-1897

Assistant Librarian

Anna D. Austin - - - - 1895-1897

George H. Bonebrake, President of the Library Board, 1895-1897

Major George H. Bonebrake was active in the development of Southern California. He came to Los Angeles in 1878 and was a partner in the building of the Bonebrake-Bryson Building at Second and Spring Streets. He was influential in bringing the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to Los Angeles.

Major Bonebrake was born in Ohio and graduated from the Otterbein University. His activities include those of a professor of language, a partner in a law firm, a director of a number of banks and a member of the old Los Angeles Board of Trade.

Clara B. Fowler, Librarian, 1895-1897

Upon the resignation of Miss Kelso, appointment was made on May 1, 1895, of Mrs. Clara Bell Fowler, wife of Edwin W. Fowler, who is mentioned as an historian.

Mrs. Fowler's reports indicate innovations in book order records, carrying on of cataloging and the purchase of 'Rudolph Indexers' described as 'the latest improvement in catalog equipment' with pages rotated by means of a handle on the outside of the machine, and with provision for insertions to keep the Index up-to-date.



Mrs. Fowler repeatedly stated that the greatest needs of the Library were a suitable building and a complete catalog.

Under her administration books were increased from 41,000 to 48,000. The record of more than 50,000 students using the Reference Room illustrates the growing demands on the Library.

A list of principal authors considered necessary for replacement by Mrs. Fowler affords interesting side-lights on the reading tastes of 1896. Leading in popular favor were: Cooper, Stowe, Dickens, Besant, Lever, Black, Hale, Hardy, Weyman, Bunner, Stockton, Doyle, Burnham, Scott, George Eliot: next came King, Lyall, Caine, Hope, Davis, Barr, Alger, Adams, Alcott, Sidney, Munroe, Wiggin, Castleman, Ballantyne, Ellis, Fenn, Aldrich, Kingsley, Perry, and Trowbridge.

Mrs. Fowler was a business woman at the time of her appointment having acted as deputy county clerk and cashier and later taking a position as expert accountant in the office of the County Supervisor. Her business experience was valuable to the library administration. We find her comparing the income of other libraries and the books circulated, in the report of 1896-97, showing that the Los Angeles Public Library circulated nearly half as many books as the New York Public Library and enjoyed less than one-third the income of that Library.

It was at this time, in the year 1897, that Harriet Child Wadleigh who had never lost her interest in libraries, though she had been out of library work since her marriage, applied to the Library Board for a position on the staff, because of the illness of her husband, and the necessity to increase their income.

Mrs. Fowler returned to a position in another city department in June and Mrs. Wadleigh was appointed Librarian.

VIII. Third Era in Library Growth Struggle for Organization

Term of the 8th Librarian—1897-1900

Board of Directors, December 1897

Isidore B. Dockweiler, *President*

W. M. Garland, *Vice-President*

Ernest K. Foster, *Secretary*

Wm. F. Burbank

Earl Rogers

Librarian

Harriet Child Wadleigh, 1897-1900

Assistant Librarians

Anna D. Austin - - 1897 - 1898

Celia Gleason - - 1897 - 1912

Mary L. Jones - - 1899 - 1900

Isidore B. Dockweiler, President of the Library Board, 1897-1898

Isidore Bernard Dockweiler is an attorney, a native son of California, a man of wide interests and a varied experience. Born and educated in Los Angeles, he attended St. Vincent's College where he took the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and LL.D.

Mr. Dockweiler's interest in educational projects has always been active and he served on the Library Board as President or as Trustee, 1897-1899 and 1901-1909. He has acted as Trustee of St. Vincent's College (now Loyola University) and as Trustee of the State Normal School of San Diego.

His political interests have been strong and he has served as a member of the Democratic National Committee, and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1908. By appointment of President Wilson in 1913, he was made a member of the Board of United States Indian Commissioners. In 1924 he was created a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Pius XI.

CHANGES IN BOARD MEMBERS 1897 - 1900

Ferd K. Rule, *President* - 1899 - 1901

M. J. Newmark - - 1899 - 1901

W. B. Mathews - - 1899 - 1901

H. W. O'Melveny - - 1899 - 1901

F. J. Thomas - - - 1899 - 1901

Harriet Child Wadleigh, Librarian, 1897-1900



With the advent of Harriet Child Wadleigh, we enter a new era of library development, for with the exception of the brilliant and eccentric Charles F. Lummis, the Librarians from that time forward were chosen because of former library experience or training.

Mrs. Wadleigh's interest in library service dated back to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. There as a young teacher, twenty-five years old, Miss Child was much attracted by a display and lecture explaining a model library, the work of three enthusiasts destined to become leaders in library development—Melvin O. Dewey, C. A. Cutter and Justin Winsor. From that time Miss Child was more intrigued by the possibilities of library work than of teaching, and when

Dr. William Rice invited her to become his assistant at the Springfield City Library, Springfield, Massachusetts, she promptly accepted the position. Dr. Rice had completed the classification of the Springfield Library and had established it in a Memorial Library Building. Under his inspiring leadership, Miss Child worked for five years, when she resigned to go to Los Angeles and to be married.

Mrs. Wadleigh, who is still living in Los Angeles, recalls that memorable journey to California in the early 80's. Rivalry between two railway companies made it possible to secure a ticket from Boston to Los Angeles for the sum of one dollar. For the ten-day journey, the passenger provided his own bedding and food, and purchased a straw tick in the railway station.

In Mrs. Wadleigh's Library Report for 1897, we have a brief history of the first twenty-five years of the Los Angeles Public Library, which she saw as then entering upon its third period of development. The first era had been from the founding in 1872 to the year 1889 as a Library Association. The second had begun with Miss Tessa Kelso's dynamic leadership when more rapid development became possible as the Library became a City Department. The third era would bring about the internal development of orderly collections, made easily accessible, and the building of reference facilities.

Mrs. Wadleigh recalls as one of the burning questions of the hour, whether a public library should have open shelves or closed stacks. Edwin Anderson, who was then librarian of the Pittsburgh Public Library, wrote his friend, Ernest K. Foster, one of the members of the Los Angeles Library Board, warning him of the danger of loss and theft and the disorderly shelves which would result from throwing open the shelves to the public. John Cotton Dana, who was ever in favor of innovations, wrote from the Denver Public Library, urging the freedom of the open shelves to encourage reading and browsing and improvement of library service. Mrs. Wadleigh accepted Mr. Dana's recommendation and re-arranged the reading rooms in the City Hall for free access to the shelves.

The services of the Reference Room were increased, and a school reference section was provided to supply supplementary reading to students. Celia Gleason, later to be distinguished in the California library field, acted as First Assistant Librarian under Mrs. Wadleigh. In 1899 a young woman, Mary L. Jones, applied to the Library Board for a position on the staff of the Library. She was a graduate of the New York Library School, and at Mrs. Wadleigh's recommendation she was made Second Assistant Librarian. In 1900 when Mrs. Wadleigh resigned, Miss Jones was appointed Librarian and Celia Gleason continued as First Assistant.

Term of the 9th Librarian—1900-1905

Board of Directors, December, 1900

Ferd K. Rule, *President*
M. J. Newmark, *Vice-President*
W. B. Mathews, *Secretary*
H. W. O'Melveny
F. J. Thomas

Librarian

Mary L. Jones - - - 1900 - 1905

Assistant Librarians

Celia Gleason - - - 1897 - 1912

Nora A. Miller - - - 1901 - 1906

Ferd K. Rule, President of the Library Board, 1899-1900

Ferd K. Rule was an energetic worker for the interests of Southern California and was President of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce when the present building was erected. His executive experience and knowledge of banking and investment made him a valuable Director of the Library. He was President of the Terminal Island Railroad, later the Salt Lake Road and now part of the Union Pacific.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1853, and graduated from the University of St. Louis. He was a resident of Los Angeles from 1891 until his death.

Complete change in the Library Board took place in 1901:

J. Ross Clark, *President* - 1901 - 1902
Isidore B. Dockweiler - 1901 - 1909
D. W. Edelman - - 1901 - 1903
Lee A. Phillips - - 1901 - 1902
J. W. Trueworthy - - 1901 - 1902
(*President* - - 1903 - 1906)

J. Ross Clark, President of the Library Board, 1901-1903

J. Ross Clark was closely identified with the business and civic life of Los Angeles. He acted as a bank director and president of the Y.M.C.A., and director of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and had organized the Los Alamitos Sugar Company in 1892 when he first came to Los Angeles. He was a brother of United States Senator William A. Clark, of Montana, and an uncle of the late William A. Clark, Jr., patron of the arts. He was born in 1850 at Connellville, Pennsylvania.

Changes in Board Members, 1901-1905, brought in these additional directors:

Arthur W. Fisher - - 1902 - 1905
C. J. K. Jones - - 1903 - 1904
Ross T. Hickcox - - 1903 - 1904
Sigmund Hecht - - 1904 - 1904
Willoughby Rodman - 1904 - 1908

Mary L. Jones, Librarian, 1900-1905



Mary L. Jones will always be remembered for the professional standards she brought to her term of librarianship in Los Angeles. She was the first Librarian here to be a graduate of both college and Library School. She received her A.B. at the University of Nebraska in 1885 and her B.L.S. at the New York State Library School in 1892. She had acted as Librarian at the University of Nebraska, her alma mater, and then she became Librarian at the Library of the University of Illinois and later classifier at the State Library of Des Moines, Iowa. Family interests had drawn her to California in 1899 and her connection with the Los Angeles Public Library followed.

Her training and experience in library technique were matched by her talent for knowing people and for adapting herself to new scenes and acquaintances. As the child of a Welsh minister who moved his family from one city to another as his calls demanded, she had known frequent change of environment and much social activity. Memories of her work are always closely bound up with the people she worked with. At the University of Nebraska, she was under Chancellor Canfield and recalls his fine leadership and his gift for oratory. Dorothy Canfield, daughter of the Chancellor, and Willa Cather both attended the University of Nebraska, and Miss Jones remembers a story written jointly by Miss Canfield and Miss Cather for the college paper.

In her five years as Librarian in Los Angeles, Miss Jones proved herself an effective and progressive executive, although she worked under severe handicaps. After the impetus given to the growth of book collections and library services, through the more generous provisions for library support in the City Charter in 1889, and through the able leadership of Tessa Kelso, the citizens' interest in the Library seemed to languish. Every Board reiterated in the yearly report, the pressing need for more room, and appealed in vain to the civic pride of Los Angeles to provide a library building.

In 1900, books were overflowing the crowded rooms of the City Hall. They extended to the attic and basement and were even lodged on the stairs. There was grave question of the safety of the floors under the weight of books. Documents were removed to the basement where these rooms were declared unsanitary for the lack of air, and the newspapers had to be housed in another building provided by the Chamber of Commerce. The Librarian pointed out that a room with dimensions of only 24x27 feet had to serve for the reading use of 35,000 people. The Library Board estimated that 50,000 square feet of floor space was needed for present library activities, while the City Hall quarters provided only 14,000 square feet.

Miss Jones, however, with the enthusiasm of youth and the assurance of her library experience, set about attaining three goals: better cataloging, relief of the over-crowded conditions of the Library through establishment of stations and branches, and arousing the interest of citizens in a Central Library building.

It was at the suggestion of Miss Jones that the Library became a subscriber to the catalog cards printed by the Library of Congress. She stated in one of her reports that she looked forward to the ultimate replacement of typewritten cards by printed cards.

In the absence of sufficient cataloging records, the Librarian printed a list of more than 4000 titles of 'Novels and Tales' to assist readers in finding fiction. Typical of the reading taste of the early 1900's we find these favorites: *Richard Carvel*, *David Harum*, *When Knighthood was in Flower*, *Janice Meredith*, *To Have and To Hold*, and *Red Pottage*.

The circulation of fiction increased rapidly, and evidently there were some complaints from tax-payers that fiction was too much in evidence, for we read in the Report of 1904:

The Directors desire to correct a misunderstanding as to the purpose and use of the Library. Among persons without information, or without sufficient interest in the subject to inform themselves, the impression exists that the Library is a repository and source of circulation of trashy or ephemeral fiction alone. Such is not the case. The Librarian's report shows a circulation of 269,299 volumes of fiction, and 481,368 volumes of non-fiction. The report also shows that the circulation of fiction was only 35 percent of the total issue. The shelves containing works of fiction are not open to the public, the books are taken from the Library and read at home.

As to fiction, the reading of novels is not necessarily injurious. The educational value of the best fiction is admitted. The Directors, with the able assistance of the Librarian, Assistant Librarian, and the head of the fiction department have endeavored to exclude those books denominated 'trashy.' New books of such character are not purchased, and old ones are discarded.

Under Miss Jones's direction, collections in many non-fiction fields were built up and bibliographies of subjects most in demand for study, were compiled and made available in the Reference Room. Business men and engineers were invited to make use of the Library and important periodical files indexed in 'Poole's Index' were filled out. Accessions on the history of the Southwest were made with the assistance of Charles F. Lummis, historian, and other authorities on the Southwest.

With these measures, and in her vision of branch service, Miss Jones laid the foundation of future growth in many important directions. Perhaps her most important achievement was in the encouragement of reading rooms and lending collections in the communities eager and solicitous for library service. During Mrs. Wadleigh's term of Librarianship, the Castelar Reading Room had been opened in 1897 and the Macy Street Reading Room in 1899. Miss Jones reports the re-establishment* of the Boyle Heights Delivery Station in September, 1900, at the Boyle Heights Drug Store. This is memorable because it is the first of the stations which attained permanency and developed into a flourishing branch, still in existence. From such delivery stations much of the present branch system was evolved. If the station prospered it was changed into a branch with permanent collection and library support. If use fell off, it could be discontinued with little loss to anyone. In many instances books and a library attendant were furnished by the Library for a probationary year, while space, lights and other expenses were contributed by the community. At the end of the year, the Library took over the Branch. An experiment was made under the direction of Miss Jones, in lending collections of books to the firemen in fire-engine stations, a service which is still continued.

In the last report written by Miss Jones, dated December 4, 1904, mention is made of eight branches, the largest of which, the Central Avenue Branch, circulated nearly 35,000 books during the year—a circulation Miss Jones stated, that was comparable to that of the towns of Redlands, or Pomona, each of which boasted a library building and a good collection of books—and eloquent, therefore, of the demand for branch service in Los Angeles.

*First established in 1891 and discontinued in 1892.

In 1902, J. Ross Clark, President of the Library Board, reported ratification by the State legislature of a Charter Amendment giving to the Library an annual support of 'not less than four cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation of City property,' instead of the former provision which set no minimum but stated a maximum of five cents. This guaranteed a more steady income to the Library. The amendment also carried the provision for longer terms of office of library trustees, giving the membership more continuity and less haphazard selection.

Under Mayor Snyder, a change in Board members was made, and the newly appointed president of the Board, secured the agreement of the majority of his Board members to appoint a new Librarian. In June 1905, Miss Jones resigned and Charles Lummis was appointed.

After leaving Los Angeles, Miss Jones was invited to take charge of the summer library school at the University of California at Berkeley for two successive years. From there she was called to Bryn Mawr where she served as librarian for six years. She returned to Los Angeles to assist Miss Gleason, her former associate in the Los Angeles Public Library, who was then organizing the Los Angeles County Library system. Memorable work was achieved by these two women, and in 1919 Miss Jones retired, to enjoy her home in South Pasadena where she now lives. Her contribution to library service was recognized wherever she was placed. She acted as president of the Nebraska Library Association in 1895, and vice-president of the New York State Library School Association in 1904 and again in 1909.

Term of the 10th Librarian—1905-1910

Board of Directors, November, 1905

J. W. Trueworthy, *President*

Isidore B. Dockweiler

Foster C. Wright

S. G. Marshutz

Willoughby Rodman

Librarian

Charles F. Lummis - - - - 1905-1910

Assistant Librarians

Celia Gleason - - - - 1897-1912

Nora A. Miller - - - - 1901-1906

J. W. Trueworthy, President of the Library Board, 1903-1906

John Wesley Trueworthy, physician and surgeon, graduate of Rush Medical School, was born in Troy, New York in 1843. As a boy of eighteen he enlisted in the Civil War and served a three months' term. He came to California in 1892 and was active in the interests of Southern California, serving as a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, a member of the Sequoia League and the Archeological Society. He belonged to national, state and local medical societies and served as President of the Academy of Medicine of Los Angeles.

Isidore B. Dockweiler, *President* - 1907-1909

(see page 46)

Changes in Board Members, 1905-1910, brought in these additional directors:

G. M. Giffen - - - - 1906-1913

Henry W. O'Melveny - - 1907-1909

Fred A. Hines - - - - 1909-1909

Henry M. Newmark - - 1909-1910

President - - - - 1910-1915

W. C. Patterson - - - - 1910-1910

Mrs. S. H. Tolhurst - - - 1910-1914

Charles Fletcher Lummis, Librarian, 1905-1910



Volumes could be written of the five years during which Charles Fletcher Lummis administered the affairs of the Los Angeles Public Library. The Library Board had decided to appoint a man as Librarian and they selected one whom they recommended (according to the 17th Annual Report, 1905) as

A man of ripe experience as editor, explorer, author, critic of literature, historian, lexicographer, and director of several important public utilities, a scholar and yet a practical leader.

The long list of his innovations in library procedure and his dramatized and visionary plans of the future of libraries, serve to reflect his manifold experiences and his love of variety and adventure.

Charles Lummis when a young man of twenty-five had made a walking trip from Cincinnati to California for recreation and observation, later recording this experience in *A Tramp Across the Continent*. He had been a newspaper man in the East, and shortly after his arrival in Los Angeles he became City Editor of the Los Angeles Times (1885-1887). He lived among the Pueblo Indians for a time and became fascinated with the folk-lore, tradition and history of the Southwest. The greatest part of his writings reflect this interest. *The Land of Poco Tiempo* and *The Spanish Pioneers*, perhaps his best known books, appeared in 1893. For years he edited a magazine devoted to stimulation of interest in the Southwest, *Land of Sunshine*, later known as *Out West*, and in 1923 consolidated with *Overland*; he founded the Landmarks Club and worked indefatigably for the preservation of the Spanish Missions; he founded the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles to preserve the historical, archeological and ethnological interests of the Southwest; he even made phonographic records of more than 500 Indian songs in many languages. In his first publication of such songs, he included fourteen under the title: *Spanish Songs of Old California*, setting down the verses in their original Spanish, and giving their English translation.

No less noteworthy was his interest in photography. It is said that he had taken over ten thousand photographs, and consequently he was enthusiastic in building up a collection of historical photographs in the Library.

Undoubtedly his greatest contribution to the Library was the development of the collection on the Southwest, that is in its way, as much a monument to his life interest as the Southwest Museum. He called it 'The Department of Western History Material.'

If there is any place in America (he wrote) where early American history and particularly the history of California and the Southwest, and of all Spanish America, should be studied, it is here.

We read in a Resolution passed by the Library Board at the time of Mr. Lummis's death:

This collection of sources and secondary books bearing on the history of California, the Southwest, Mexico and Spain, gathered together through the scholarship and specialized interest of Mr. Lummis, cover the whole field of interest, literary, historical and philological, and form a collection surpassed in the State only by the Bancroft collection at the University of California and by the State Library.

In various other ways Charles Lummis may be said to have left 'his mark upon the Library.' Impatient with the theft of books, he caused a 'brand'—PUBLIC LIBRARY—to be burned into the top leaves of all valuable reference books. It proved disfiguring but effective.

He established a 'Department of Reading, Study and Research' and appointed as Director, Dr. C. J. K. Jones, A.M., 'a living encyclopedia and guide.' To furnish more casual information, he appointed young women as 'Library Guides' or 'Walking Information Desks.'

He established the 'Duplicate Fiction List,' renting extra copies of fiction according to the practice of the St. Louis Public Library.

He encouraged freedom in selection of books for the public, advocating only one line of selection, 'decency,' and stating that 'personal creed, politics or literary taste of a manager of books should not be allowed to play Czar to the users of books.'

He even considered a 'Literary Pure Food Act,' inserting in some books what he extravagantly called 'the poison label'—a notice pasted in pseudo-historical books or those touched with romance in any research field a label to the effect that

There are more reliable works on this subject. Consult for instance—
While in other books he pasted reviews by leading critics, to assist readers in selection.

One of his interesting hobbies was the building of an autograph collection of letters, drawings and writings on uniform library stationery. These pictorial autographs were secured by Mr. Lummis through writing to Americans he considered of national importance.

Mr. Lummis had been Librarian but one year when he accomplished the long-awaited move from the City Hall to quarters designed for library use. We have his own vivid description of this move in his article 'Books in Harness' written for *Out West Magazine*, September, 1906:

GOOD QUARTERS AT LAST

In March and April, 1906, the Library of more than 123,000 volumes was moved from the quarters of which it had complained for seventeen years to the Homer Laughlin Annex, corner of Third and Hill Streets. It was most fortunate that a modern building of the highest type of construction was so nearly ready. After the beginning of the transference of this enormous bulk—one of the largest libraries ever moved in the United States—the fitting up of the new quarters done by carpenters, cement men, painters, glaziers, upholsterers, etc., was equivalent to the building of something like six five-room cottages. The Library was not closed for a day.

He enthusiastically describes the new quarters, with special pride in the roof-garden reading room with its rose and geranium hedges and bamboo and potted trees, from alligator pears to the picturesque banana. He points out that the floor space has been increased from the 14,000 square feet of the City Hall to 20,000 square feet in the main rooms.

For the first time in the history of the Los Angeles Public Library, now thirty-four years old, there is reasonable provision of space for the visitor, the reader and the student.

He tells us that the roof-garden contained a portion 'where mere men may read while they smoke.' He adds:

Only one public library in America, so far as I know, gives the young women of its staff so attractive a lunch room. I know of none which has as beautiful a workroom.

He was looking forward to the day when a real building and a permanent home for the Library would be possible. He scornfully inspected the great libraries of the East and wrote in characteristic forcefulness:

It does little good to the reader in a dark corner, straining his eyes and breathing his fellow man unduly, that the outside of the building is noble with Corinthian columns and with cornices and masonry. The Public Library today is no longer a monkish cloister—it is a Business. It needs first of all security against fire, earthquake, and whatever other providence of God. It needs, next, light and air.

Enthusiasm marks the report of Isidore B. Dockweiler, President of the Library Board, at the close of the year 1907. The growth of the Library under

Mr. Lummis's many innovations had been so phenomenal that larger quarters were necessary. These were found in the Hamburger Building at Eighth and Broadway (now the department store known as the May Company) to be completed in July, 1908. Floor space was increased from 20,000 to 32,000 square feet and a new and larger roof-garden was assured with outlook of a

360 degree horizon with a sweep of the coast line of Southern California for fifty miles, and of the mountain line from Santa Monica to San Bernardino.

Unfortunately, however, an iron-clad lease at a ruinous rental was more detrimental to the Library's future than the roof-garden was advantageous. The move to the Hamburger Building was one of the many mistaken legacies of Charles F. Lummis to the Los Angeles Public Library.

Probably Charles Lummis in these intensive five years had exhausted his feverish interest in library innovations. On March 31, 1910, he resigned to devote himself to his many interests in writing and in building up historical data of the Southwest.

Mr. Lummis died, November 25, 1928, in Los Angeles. Tributes to his writing and his personality poured forth. There were editorials in *The Nation*, *The Los Angeles Times*, of which he had once been editor, and the many magazines to which he had contributed. He is mentioned in Newmark's *Sixty Years in Southern California*, Graves's *Seventy Years in California* and Willard's *History of Los Angeles*, and there is an excellent biographical sketch in the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

IX. Fourth Era—The Building Program

Search for a New Librarian

Although originality and love of experimenting with the new and daring, and an ability to write and speak with dramatic fervor, may be excellent attributes for a writer, they are not necessarily the qualities most to be desired in a Librarian. At the close of the term of Mr. Lummis's leadership, the Library Board were conscious of many things that needed correction. Their bewilderment may be partially explained in the words of Helen E. Haines:

The most discouraging state in the Library's history was during the six years' librarianship of Charles F. Lummis. Although possessing a literary and scholarly reputation, the Librarian had no executive capacity and no practical experience in or knowledge of library management; while at the same time his voluminous and highly dramatic library reports, reaching all other libraries, attracted much attention to the Los Angeles Library. Therefore, when during these years successive innovations—an abortive roof-garden, 'poison labels,' 'reasoned catalogs,' and so on—were declaimed in picturesque phrases, and finally a civil service trial of charges preferred against a library employee gave newspaper cartoonists and paragraphers rich material for humor, it is not to be wondered at that the Los Angeles Library came to be regarded in the library world as a cross between a comic opera and a civic disgrace.*

The Library Board sought now to secure a man with library experience and the recommendations of leading members in the American Library Association.

*The Los Angeles Public Library—A Critical Summary, April 1911.

Term of the 11th Librarian—1910-911

Board of Directors, July 1910

Henry M. Newmark, *President*

Isidore B. Dockweiler

W. C. Patterson

Mrs. S. H. Tolhurst

G. M. Giffen

Librarian

Purd B. Wright, 1910-1911 (resigned March 31, 1911)

Assistant Librarian

Celia Gleason - - - - 1897-1912

Henry M. Newmark, President of the Library Board, 1910-1915

Henry Myer Newmark, appointed as a member of the Library Commission in 1909 by Mayor Alexander, brought excellent qualifications to this post and for six years gave earnest, unflagging effort to the Library's organization and development. It was due to him that stress was laid on library experience and Library School training in the selecting of City Librarians—first with the appointment of Purd B. Wright, and upon his resignation, with the appointment of Everett R. Perry.

To Mr. Newmark belongs the lasting gratitude of our City for having made possible the Library's liberation from all political entanglement by providing a Librarian strong enough to establish the high standards demanded by a period of phenomenal growth.

Henry Myer Newmark was born in Los Angeles in 1877 and entered the University of California in 1894. After leaving college he returned to Los Angeles to be associated with M. A. Newmark and Company, wholesale grocers. In 1904 he became a partner in the firm of Morgan, Newmark, manufacturers' representatives. Mr. Newmark resigned from the Library Board in 1915 to accept a position on the Christian Science Monitor in Boston.

Changes in Board Members, 1910-1911, brought in these additional directors:

Prof. Laird J. Stabler - - 1911-1914

Dr. J. S. Glass - - - - 1911-1915

Purd B. Wright. Librarian, July 1910-March 1911

After an exhaustive investigation, the Board finally appointed to the librarianship, Purd B. Wright, for fourteen years Librarian of the Free Public Library of St. Joseph, Missouri; a member of the Executive Board and the Council of the American Library Association, the American Library Institute, the Missouri Library Commission and Vice-President of the Missouri Historical Society. The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Public Library considers itself fortunate in having secured Mr. Wright for the librarianship. He is pre-eminently practical in his work, and has made the St. Joseph Library a distinct factor in the community, having opened its shelves to many in all walks of life by appealing to their personal interest.



This statement from the Annual Report of 1910 introduces the Librarian who continued in office only eight months. It was a difficult task, that of gathering up the many loose ends of plans begun by Mr. Lummis, and of building inwardly and outwardly to meet an adolescent City. Mr. Wright did not remain long enough to lose his heart to Los Angeles, but in his brief term he set in motion several important improvements. Andrew Carnegie had become interested in Los Angeles as a field for his library philanthropy and Mr. Wright's letters explaining the benefits of the Carnegie libraries he had opened in St. Joseph, Missouri, and his appeal for funds for Los Angeles libraries brought a promise of the sum of \$210,000 if the City would furnish the usual ten percent annual maintenance. Mr. Wright recalls a novel manner of selecting suitable locations for the future Carnegie branch libraries—that of making an ascension in a captive balloon, to survey the most congested districts and to determine regional centers.

A second important service of Mr. Wright's was questioning the procedure of returning petty cash receipts (such as money for fines and lost books) to the general City funds instead of to the Library fund. His investigation resulted in securing a favorable opinion by the City Attorney, and later the passing of a Charter provision for the future assuring of this revenue to the Library. The amendment also stipulated improvement in Civil Service regulations.

At his resignation, on March 31, 1911, when he accepted the position of City Librarian at Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. Wright summarized his service saying in part:

'In severing my connection with the Los Angeles Public Library, this somewhat informal report of eight months' service as Librarian is submitted for your consideration.

'Briefly outlined, the results may be indicated as follows:

'Newspaper reading room removed to a more pleasant location in the Library quarters, at a saving of \$600 yearly rental, besides salary of attendant, and increasing by fifty percent the hours during which newspapers are accessible;

'Installation of a modern charging system in the Library and Branches, doing away with much of the delay in releasing cards at the library desk;

'Consolidation of the Municipal Reference Library established by Dr. Dana W. Bartlett with that of the Library, removing one difficulty in securing additions to the Library's valuable collection;

'Creation of a Trades Catalog Department, now practically ready for public use (having been classified by Miss Oakley), which it is hoped will prove of not a little value to the business community. The rapidity with which this collection of over 3,000 volumes and pamphlets was made was largely due to assistance rendered by other libraries, especially that of Washington, D. C., through its Librarian, Mr. George F. Bowerman;

'The Hollywood and San Pedro Libraries, which, until the extension of the city limits early last year, were independent libraries, are being merged into what will in time be a system, by re-classification and re-cataloging, now in process. These comprise the only actual Branch Libraries in the City, and the work done by them may be taken as an indication of what will be accomplished when others of like nature are in operation;

'Making it possible for children to receive a card as soon as they could write their names, has greatly increased the demand for children's books;

'Between five and six thousand volumes of children's books have been purchased and are now in process. The distribution of these throughout the system of branches, deposit branches, and playground libraries, will be attended with a largely increased use of the Library by children. The purchase of a like number of volumes, to be ready for use as school room collections at the beginning of the fall term of school, will give much-to-be-desired library service to portions of the City sadly in need of it;

'Lists of books and references to magazine articles in this Library on city planning and all allied subjects, compiled by the reference documents divisions, were prepared for the first city planning conference held here in the autumn, where they attracted not a little attention. The demand for the list from all parts of the country was so great as to cause regret that it was not printed;

'In a business and legal way, it was demonstrated to the City departments that, under a misconception of the law, the Library had for several years been deprived of the petty cash receipts, which were credited to the general fund instead of the library fund. The Library's contention was sustained by the City Attorney, and since September this fund has been credited with sums averaging about \$400 a month. The new Charter Amendment, approved by the recent special election, takes this matter out of the realms of future dispute by a clearly stated provision giving these collections to the Library;

'Other sections of the new Charter exempt heads of departments from the provision of the civil service, and place all other employees under the direct control of the Library Board, after first appointment, without recourse to another body;

'It is believed that satisfactory sites will be offered, and sincerely hoped that adequate support will be provided for the six additional branches given by Mr. Carnegie. When in operation, these branches will greatly relieve the congestion at the Central Library, and give better service to the general public;

'An effort to secure more adequate quarters for Central Library, at a reduction in rental charges, failed through the inability of the Library Board to effect a release from an existing lease;

'The report at the close of the fiscal year, June 30, will show by the increased use of the Library that the reading public of this City is deeply appreciative of every effort that tends to make library books accessible at the least expenditure of time and trouble. This increase will be especially noticeable from January of the current year, co-incident with the opening of the open shelf section and the improved service at the branches through direct purchase of books therefor.

Respectfully submitted,
Purd B. Wright'

Mr. Wright still continues in his successful administration of the Kansas City Public Library, and recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Among his hobbies is that of collecting first editions and he makes frequent displays of first editions and manuscripts of Eugene Field and Mark Twain.

At the resignation of Purd Wright in March, the Library Board made Celia Gleason Acting Librarian, and began once more to search for a Librarian. They were conscious of facing a crisis, and they asked Helen E. Haines, who, before coming to Southern California had served in an editorial capacity on the *Library Journal* and *Publishers' Weekly*, to draw up a 'Critical Summary' of the condition of the Los Angeles Public Library.

After reviewing briefly the early history of the Library Miss Haines states:

The election to the Librarianship of Mr. Wright in July, 1910, was the most important step yet taken toward the reorganization of the Library, and its development to greater efficiency. Mr. Wright had the recommendation and support of the leading librarians of the country; his work in St. Joseph seemed to promise the qualities needed in Los Angeles; and his prominence in the National Library Association was of great service in bringing the 1911 annual meeting of that great body to the vicinity of Los Angeles, this being the first California meeting of the National Association in twenty years. Mr. Wright's resignation after eight months of service to accept the librarianship of Kansas City leaves the Los Angeles Library again in a position where the action of the trustees will either make or mar its future as a center of educational influence and public service.

Miss Haines pointed out the possibilities of development under right conditions and outlined the functions of the ideal modern library (a surprising number of which were to be carried out by the next Librarian). In conclusion she reminded the Board members of the importance of close relations of fellowship between the Los Angeles Library and other progressive libraries of the country.

Term of the 12th Librarian—1911-1933

Board of Directors, July 1911

Henry M. Newmark, *President*

Dr. J. S. Glass

Prof. Laird J. Stabler

Mrs. S. H. Tolhurst

G. M. Giffen

Librarian

Everett R. Perry - - - 1911-1933

Assistant Librarians

Celia Gleason - - - - 1897-1912

Joseph L. Wheeler - - - 1912-1914

Helen T. Kennedy, 2nd Ass't 1923-1931

Althea Warren, 1st Assistant 1926-1933

Changes in the Library Board

Orra E. Monnette - - - 1914-1936

President - - - - 1916-1936

Mrs. Frances M. Harmon - 1914-1920, 1922-date
(later Mrs. Otto J. Zahn)

President - - - - 1936-date

Herman C. Kaestner - - - 1915-1918

Francis J. Conaty - - - 1915-date

Frank H. Pettingell - - - 1916-1926

Dr. Walter Lindley - - - 1919-1921

Mrs. Katherine G. Smith - 1920-date

E. N. Martin - - - - 1926-date

Orra E. Monnette, President, 1916-1936

Orra E. Monnette serving for a longer time as Board member than any other Commissioner, was unanimously elected as President of the Board for twenty consecutive years. His qualities of leadership, his forceful personality and his energetic advancement of civic interests were recognized by the entire community.

As a member of the Municipal Annexation Commission, a member of the original City Planning Commission, and a member of the Board of Freeholders which framed the City Charter of 1925, Mr. Monnette was enabled to protect and insure the interests of the Library.

Mr. Monnette was born in Bucyrus, Ohio, in 1873. He received his A.B. degree from the Ohio Wesleyan University in 1895 and was admitted to the bar a year later, practising law in Bucyrus and Toledo. He came to Los Angeles in 1907 and became interested in banking. He was an organizer, director and president of the Citizen's Trust & Savings Bank, organizer and president of the Bank of America and later served on various committees and directing boards of the Bank of Italy National Trust and Savings Association.

He served as an active member of the local, the State and the National Chambers of Commerce, and belonged to many civic, patriotic, cultural and social organizations and clubs. An honorary degree was conferred upon Mr. Monnette by the Lincoln Memorial University in 1930. He died after a brief illness on February 23, 1936.

Everett Robbins Perry, Librarian, 1911-1933

The Library Board cognizant both of the difficulties and the opportunities facing a new Librarian, let it be known that they were seeking a man with executive and library experience. Many candidates were made known to them at the Pasadena Conference of the American Library Association in May. A letter from Dr. John Shaw Billings, Director of the New York Public Library and one of the outstanding figures in the library profession, recommended Everett Robbins Perry, a young man of thirty-five years whose experience and qualifications appealed to the Library Trustees.



Everett Robbins Perry as a member of the staff of the New York Public Library, had acted as secretary to Dr. Billings, and as Clerk of the Board of Trustees. In these positions he had learned much of the administrative methods of the greatest public library in America. He had been Chief of the Information Department of that Library, had devised a system of classification of the Astor collection and had assisted in the moving of the Library to its ten million dollar building. He had a bachelor's degree from Harvard (1903) and he was a graduate of the New York State Library School. His experience had included work in the Harvard University Library and the St. Louis Public Library.

The wisdom of the Board's selection of a leader for this great era in library development is eloquently proven in the history of the constructive program of this Library under the forceful, balanced and resolute direction of Everett R. Perry. At his death in 1933 Helen E. Haines wrote:

The magnificent lifework of twenty-two years was brought to an untimely close on the last day of October, 1933. It is a close tragic in suddenness: the instant crumbling of an impregnable bulwark, the sudden extinction of a controlling strength and power that sent its flow into every artery of the great library system it had created, and that gave direction and force to the whole body of library endeavor in Southern California. But the structure built by that controlling power remains, its fabric complete, its organization enriched and vitalized for the future.

It is possible only to summarize his achievements and through the words of his reports to his Board, to gain an idea of the inspired motive which enabled him to build so steadily toward his ideal.

He entered upon his task as Librarian of a collection of some 190,000 books inadequately housed in crowded quarters of a department store. There were a few stations but no branches of much development. He must have even then had the vision of the great system he left in 1933—A Central Library plant of modern style and dignity, a branch system extending to all parts of a spreading City and book collections numbering more than one million volumes. But he attempted no impossible thing. He did first the thing at hand—the inner building of a more harmonious body of staff and books. In his first report we read

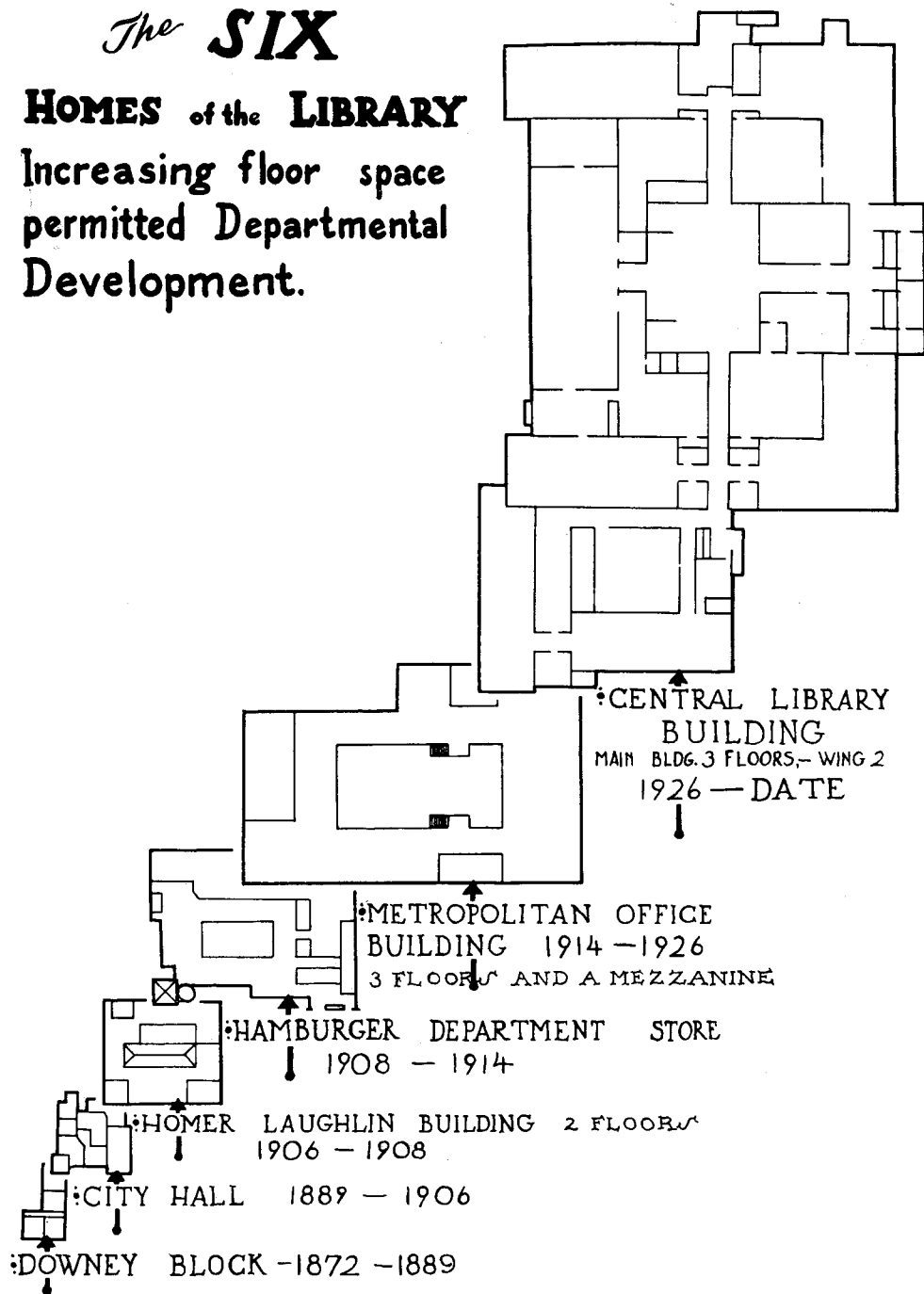
Emphasis has been placed this year on the re-organization of the staff and co-ordination of the work of different departments.

He faced the difficulties of a long-term lease on the unsuitable quarters of the Library and the lack of funds for the building of a Central Library. But

The **SIX**

HOMES of the LIBRARY

Increasing floor space
permitted Departmental
Development.





The Old City Hall



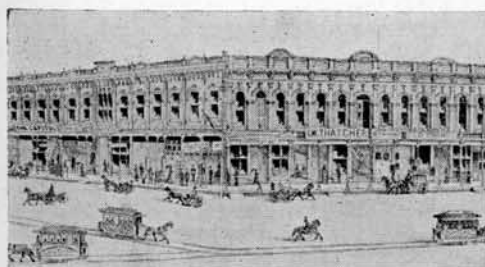
Central Library



Hamburger Department Store



Metropolitan Office Building Interior



The Downey Block
First Library Home



Homer Laughlin Building
Roof Garden

the librarianship of Purd Wright had left the legacy of the Carnegie branch building fund. With this fund, there were six branches planned, and this was to be only the beginning of a great extensive system for Librarian Perry wrote:

The ultimate goal of the Library Commission and the Librarian—the placing of branch libraries at community centers with a frequency that requires no citizen to walk more than a mile to reach the nearest branch.

As he visioned a system bringing books and hospitable reading rooms to every citizen through branch libraries and stations, he also kept ever before his Board and staff the ideal of a great reference center in the Central Library, both through adequate book collections and specialized departments where staff members developed intensive knowledge of the resources of their collections.

Our aspirations turn toward the acquirement of a book collection that will make our Library a Mecca for scholars and research workers throughout the West.

If the advent of the Central Building was not yet feasible, the building up of departments and collections was entirely possible. Under the skilful and balanced direction of the Librarian, departmentalization was very nearly completed before the new building became a reality. This development of departments was very important in the determination of the plan and design of the new building, as each department is a unit in itself requiring separate work-room, office and stack space and must be so designed.

One phase of Mr. Perry's genius consisted in his selection of people fitted for their particular tasks, and his ability to trust these people to carry out their work, inspiring them by his confident expectation of achievement. Within their orbit of service they were allowed to develop and initiate plans, but the moment they overstepped the boundaries that belonged to another department or to the executive direction, they were firmly checked and reined in. His administration was balanced as well as resolute.

Nor did the many demands on his time and attention within the Library prevent a study of the conditions outside which had bearing on library prosperity and well-being. The Training Class converted into a Library School had been steadily developed with continually improving curriculum until in 1918 it was admitted to the Association of American Library Schools and in 1926 it was accredited as a junior undergraduate Library School by the Board of Education for Librarianship.

His interest extended to the raising of professional standards of librarianship and he participated in the work of the California Library Association serving on many committees and elected its President in 1917. He was Vice President of the American Library Association in 1930 when that Association held its conference in Los Angeles.

He was alert to the necessity of improvement of the status and support of the Library through provision of revenue by law. With the assistance of the Library Board under Orra E. Monnette, attorney and financier, an increase in the tax rate allotted to the Los Angeles Public Library was secured, in 1918, raising the minimum from four-tenths of a mill to five-tenths. In the year 1925 the consistent and steady efforts of the Board of Library Commissioners resulted in better Civil Service regulations and improved rate of revenue, with the five-tenths minimum raised to seven-tenths.

This increase in income came at a most auspicious moment, for a tremendous building campaign was in progress, and expansion meant increase in maintenance requirements. The 1920's had begun with a determined effort to secure a Central Library building. The Metropolitan office building occupied since 1914 when the incubus of the lease in the department store had been shaken off, was completely outgrown. Three building bond issues were launched with the consent of the City Council and enthusiastic campaigns to interest tax-

payers were participated in by every member of the staff. The issues of 1921, 1923 and 1925 totaling \$3,500,000 provided the fund from which the Central Library and practically all branch buildings except the Carnegie buildings were financed.

The Library Board and the Librarian who secured for the City of Los Angeles the physical structure of buildings and equipment valued at more than \$10,000,000 also provided for the legal protection of library interests. The Charter of 1925 attempted to assure freedom of the Library from political influence, to guarantee a reasonable percentage of City income, and to invest authority in a Board of five members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, but with entire control of library funds and non-Civil-Service appointments of department heads. These Board members serve without salary and are drawn from citizens who are willing to give the benefit of their cultural, legal or business background to the direction of library administration.

In 1926 the goal of a Central Library was reached. 'We have struggled for it by day and dreamed of it by night,' said the Librarian. It was only seven years later that Everett R. Perry laid down the torch he had carried forward so victoriously.

Mr. Perry was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on October 5, 1876. His nature was expressive of New England integrity, thrift and resolute belief in right achievement. Again we turn to Miss Haines's biographical sketch for the fitting description:

No summary of a man's work conveys the manner of the man. What we recall of our fellow-farers in life is their personality: the twinkle of the eye, the gesture, the habit of movement and of speech. To all who knew Everett Perry his personality will long stand undimmed in memory. Like most of us, a compound of opposites, his nature in its essence always seemed to me resistant, simple and indrawn. Strength, impassive and impenetrable, an instinctive, quiet authority, and a quizzical, courteous informality, were perhaps his most obvious characteristics. No fine man ever outgrows small-boyhood; and in him the small boy always lurked: the gleam of mischief would wake in his eyes in the most solemn and portentous conferences. He had an innate conservatism; the granite of the old New England was in his foundations. Yet there was always a quality of charm, a flavor of the lovable and the friendly, in his personality, and in his whole being there was no vestige of that cardinal weakness of the executive—that almost inescapable attribute of those with power over others—the snobbery of spirit that enforces and battens on humiliating distinctions between superiors and inferiors. Toward the humblest member of his staff there was always the same simple, unconscious courtesy that was offered to the highest mandarin of officialdom or the most distinguished guest.

The staff of the Los Angeles Public Library in loyal recognition of the qualities of their Chief, and of his genius in building, contributed through their Staff Committee to a memorial executed by Lee Lawrie, sculptor of the Library. This memorial is a beautifully carved tablet in grey Batesville marble, placed on a wall of the Rotunda. It bears a profile portrait of Mr. Perry in relief and an inscription from his dedicatory address of the Central building.

Term of the 13th Librarian—1933-to date

Board of Directors, November 1933

Orra E. Monnette, *President*
Francis J. Conaty
Mrs. J. Wells Smith
Mrs. Otto J. Zahn
E. N. Martin

Librarian

Althea Warren - - - - 1933-date

Note: Orra E. Monnette died in February 1936 and E. N. Martin was elected President. Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid was appointed as the fifth Library Commissioner. Mr. E. N. Martin asked to be relieved of the Presidency in July 1936 and Mrs. Otto J. Zahn was elected President.

E. N. Martin, President of the Library Board, February 1936-July 1936

Edgar Neill Martin, President of the Library Board from February to July, 1936, has served on the Board for ten years. Born in Mississippi and educated in private schools, Mr. Martin spent his early life in newspaper work. Coming to Los Angeles in 1907, he has been an able influence in legal, business, civic and art interests. He is a founder and director of the Hollywood Bowl, and has been active on the boards of the Los Angeles Chapter American Red Cross, Los Angeles Community Chest, the Civic Bureau of Music and Arts and the Braille Bible Fund. He is a member of The Writers, the Los Angeles Country Club and has served as president of Club Casa Del Mar.

Mrs. Otto J. Zahn, President of the Library Board, July 1936-date

Mrs. Otto J. Zahn (or Frances Sproston Harmon) the present President of the Board of Library Commissioners, was elected to this post July 29, 1936. She is the first woman to act in this capacity. Her original appointment to the Library Board of Los Angeles was in 1914 and by various reappointments she served until January, 1920. In February, 1922, she was again appointed and has been a member of the Board consecutively since that date.

Born in Virginia City, Nevada, Mrs. Zahn was brought up in San Francisco. She came to Los Angeles in 1896, and for several years headed the Science and Mathematics Departments of the Marlborough School.

She is the only woman who was ever a member of the Board of Trustees of the California State Library, acting from 1913 until the State Library management became a function of the State Department of Finance in 1922.

During the Great War she was secretary of the Women's Committee of the State Council of Defense for California, library publicity director for the Food Administration, and chairman of Information and Library Service for the State Council of Defense; and following the war, chairman of the War History Committee of Los Angeles County. The great amount of material and data collected in these various capacities is part of the war collection in the Bancroft Library of the University of California with duplicates as far as was possible in the Los Angeles County Museum.

She was for two terms state chairman of literature of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and is a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles City Planning Association.

To quote Mr. Spalding:

Mrs. Zahn is one of the Library Board's most efficient members—a woman of marked intellectual gifts—recognized as one of Los Angeles's most useful citizens.



MRS. OTTO J. ZAHN
President



FRANCIS J. CONATY
Vice-President



MRS. J. WELLS SMITH



E. N. MARTIN



DR. RUFUS B. VON
KLEINSMID

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1936

Althea Warren, Librarian, November 1933-date



At the time of the death of Everett R. Perry, Althea Warren had been his First Assistant City Librarian for seven years. Under Mr. Perry's expert executive direction she had administered the development of branch libraries in a rapidly growing era, and had also acted as Assistant in determination of Library policies.

The Board of Library Commissioners, headed by Orra E. Monnette, saw in Miss Warren the logical successor to Mr. Perry and made the appointment almost immediately, conferring upon her the title of City Librarian on November, 8, 1933.

Miss Warren had all the educational requirements, specialized training and executive experience requisite to fit her for this position. She made Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year at the University of Chicago, and took her A.B. in 1908. Her interest in library work had been awakened but she accepted an opportunity to tour Europe, as a tutor to three young women. Returning, she attended the Library School of the University of Wisconsin and received her certificate in 1911. Her first position was in Burr School Branch of the Chicago Public Library. Her second library experience was gained as librarian of Sears Roebuck and Company's business library for employees. As her family had gone to California, she traveled westward in 1914 and became organizer and cataloger for the San Diego Public Library. A year later she was made City Librarian of San Diego, a position which she held for ten years until 1926 when she came to the Los Angeles Public Library as First Assistant Librarian.

Since coming to California in 1914 Miss Warren has been active in district, state and national library associations. She has served as president and vice-president of the California Library Association and on numerous professional committees. She is a member of the Executive Council of the American Library Association and a member of the American Library Association Committee of Fellowships and Scholarships under the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and of the American Library Institute. She has been active in projects and programs of the library association and is a frequent contributor to professional bulletins and journals.

She was reared in an atmosphere of books and journalism, for her mother, Emma Blodgett Warren, was a book collector and reader, and her father, Lansing Warren, was manager of the Chicago Inter Ocean, editor of the Denver Times and editor and publisher of the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Miss Warren, the thirteenth Librarian, picked up the torch of leadership in the time of the Library's first drastic retrenchment. In her first year she had to face the new conditions of a falling budget, a book stock heavily drained by the abnormal use of the depression years and a system expanded to satisfy prosperity demands. Income had dropped from the \$1.10 per capita of peak days to 75c per capita. Retrenchment policies must be made to balance the diminishing budgets, without jeopardizing service to any part of the City rightfully expecting library service. Measures taken to balance the budget included reduction in hours of branch service, reduction in staff salaries and in staff personnel (effected by not replacing those who resigned); discontinuance of the Shelf Department and the position of Superintendent of Building Maintenance and that of First Assistant City Librarian, with Branches placed under one Department Principal; and a registration charge for non-residents.

In 1935 Miss Warren stated: 'We take pride in reporting that the Staff has manfully cooperated in adapting our service to changed conditions, practicing every sane economy consistent with efficiency!'

The problem of depleted book collections became acute, and the policy was followed of sacrificing circulation in order to conserve the necessary reference collections at the Central Library. At the first sign of upturn in the 1935-36 tax receipts, first consideration was given to the book budget, and the second to a return to longer hours in branch service.

During this period, under Miss Warren's direction, attention of the staff was turned toward professional advancement in study of book collections, simplification of methods and cooperation of departments and branches. Intensive study of Central Library Departments was made by the Central Library staff, and regional meetings were held for branches. Solidarity and efficiency became the watchwords for the period of stress and strain.

BEGINNING OF PRESENT BRANCHES

I

Municipal Libraries, Established in Annexed Communities

- 1900 Arroyo Seco (formerly Garvanza)
- 1909 Wilmington
- 1909 San Pedro
- 1910 Hollywood
- 1923 Eagle Rock

II

County Branches, Acquired by Annexation

- 1915 El Sereno
- 1916 Van Nuys
- 1916 Canoga Park (formerly Owensmouth)
- 1918 Angeles Mesa
- 1918 West Los Angeles (formerly Sawtelle)
- 1923 Hyde Park
- 1924 Annandale
- 1924 Sidney Lanier (formerly Lankershim)
- 1926 Venice
- 1926 Watts (had Carnegie building)

III

Established as Stations—Developed into Branches

- 1900 Benjamin Franklin (formerly Boyle Heights)
- 1900 Pio Pico (formerly Pico Heights)
- 1901 Lincoln Heights (formerly East Los Angeles)
- 1902 Vernon
- 1905 University
- 1908 Echo Park
- 1908 Junipero Serra (formerly Moneta)
- 1912 Gardena
- 1912 Jefferson
- 1912 John C. Fremont (formerly Colegrove)
- 1913 Edendale
- 1915 Figueroa
- 1916 Palms
- 1920 Wilshire
- 1920 Alessandro
- 1920 Richard Henry Dana (formerly Dayton)
- 1923 Henry Adams (formerly Atwater)
- 1923 Malabar
- 1924 Los Feliz
- 1926 La Cienega (formerly Vineyard Playgrounds)

IV

Established as Branches with Permanent Collection and Equipment

- *1913 Vermont Square
- 1914 Robert Louis Stevenson (formerly Stephenson)
- *1916 Cahuenga
- 1921 Ascot
- 1922 John Muir
- *1922 West Hollywood
- (1925 Bret Harte
- * (1925 Helen Hunt Jackson
Outgrowth Central Avenue
- *1926 Washington Irving
- 1928 Mark Twain
- *1929 Felipe de Neve
- *1929 Henry David Thoreau
- *1929 Memorial

*Opened in permanent Library Buildings.

X. The Branch Library System

The story of the development of the spreading system of Branches and Stations of the Los Angeles Public Library is in very large measure, the story of the growth of the City of Los Angeles and the various communities which, one by one, were added to the original site of the Spanish Grant comprising the Central District of Los Angeles.

Rapid Expansion of City Limits

The rapidity of expansion of Los Angeles since the year 1900 may be seen in the statistics of acreage of this City. In 1900 the original territory incorporated in 1850 as '4 Square Spanish Leagues' or 28 square miles had increased by annexation to 43 square miles. In the next twenty-five years, by consolidation with neighboring towns or cities, or by annexation of territories, the City limits had increased to 415 square miles. Today it spreads over 450 square miles, the largest territory of any city in the United States.

Branch Family Grows with Territorial Expansion

It is inevitable that the history of Branch Libraries should parallel this story of rapid development since 1900. In fact the first delivery station which developed into a future branch library was established in 1900 as the Boyle Heights Station. The progressive addition of Branch Libraries or Stations would closely follow the contours of the changing map of Los Angeles from 1900 to 1925 if we could imagine an ink spot gradually spreading over a virgin map of Southern California, south to the shoe-string strip and the ocean, east to Eagle Rock, north to the San Fernando Valley, west to the Venice Coast.

Branch Libraries became family members of the Los Angeles Library system in four ways: first, through the annexation of a small city or town with an established library (sometimes in a Carnegie building such as Watts, Eagle Rock, San Pedro and Hollywood); second, through annexation of county or unincorporated territory served by a County Library Branch; third, through establishing a Book Station which proved its usefulness and was developed into a Branch; and fourth, when available funds matched the demand for service in a new district, through the establishment of a Branch, full grown, like Minerva, opening its doors in a library building or in well-equipped rented quarters.

Communities Initiate Libraries

In whatever manner the Branch Libraries became a part of the system, however, the initial movement toward acquiring a library was usually made by a community group—a local Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce, a literary society, members of a Woman's Club or Ladies Aid Society, property owners, church members, improvement associations. These people gave time, money, books and in a number of instances, a site for a library.

Little wonder, that personal pride and a sense of ownership in the community libraries is handed down even to the second generation of those who formed library committees, solicited donations of books and money, dipped into their own pockets for modest salaries of custodians, and arranged benefit programs until a library ideal became an actuality!

Rather is it cheering that library patrons may retain this personal pride, and at the same time rejoice in the larger opportunities of membership in a system which owns one million and a half books.

Colorful History of Branch Beginnings

If space permitted, many colorful stories could be told of library beginnings; of earlier Branches in districts greatly changed in character today—
Boyle Heights such as Boyle Heights, once an exclusive residential section built on the old rancho of Andrew Boyle, and early acquiring a mule-car service that inspired the opening of a public reading room under a Boyle Heights Library Association in 1899.

Or such as Lincoln Heights, in the North East section of the City, selected by Mary L. Jones, Librarian, as a location for a station 'to relieve the congestion of the Central Library' with site paid for by local assessments and a piano purchased through a benefit dance; or San Pedro in the harbor district where a literary association was founded in 1888 to promote 'literary, musical and social activities' and where by persistent effort in 1905 a site had been secured on the Plaza overlooking the water-front, a \$10,000 Carnegie building had been provided and equipment followed, the gift of citizens. Annexed in 1909 and given a new building in 1924, this branch still retains a history of much significance to the community, offering generous service to the merchant ships during the war time, and always maintaining a hospitable welcome to men from the sea.

Vernon Branch, beginning as a station in 1902 and recognized by the Library Board as important enough to be housed in one of the first six Carnegie buildings, rapidly became the center of the cultural and social life of the community, through the years adapting its service to the change from residential to industrial interests, and becoming the center of a Negro district with a Book Club led by a gifted colored librarian who has built up an excellent collection on the literature of the Negro; or Arroyo Seco, an example of community cooperation when the sections known as Garvanza, Highland Park and Yorktown united in subscribing towards purchase of a site for the Carnegie building erected in 1914, and where a friendly spirit still prevails with keen interest in the library as a center of cultural activities.

Pico Heights, one of the earlier residential communities in the Southwest, had an active Station as early as 1900 which soon justified its existence and was converted into a Branch Library in 1903. A vigorous Improvement Association campaigned for a building in the 1920's and although the library today is flanked on one side by stores and a motion picture house and on the other by a neighborhood where the Japanese are replacing older residents, it remains a healthy and progressive unit of the system.

Hollywood, too, had a picturesque library history. Becoming a city of the sixth class in 1903 it formed a Library Committee, raised money by a burlesque bail game, a minstrel show and a concert, solicited funds from the Board of Trade, secured a valuable site as a gift from one of its residents, Mrs. Daeida Wilcox Beveridge, asked Andrew Carnegie for a building, triumphantly served scenario writers from twenty-two studios and reluctantly became a Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, in 1910, upon annexation of Hollywood. The importance of this community, and the far-reaching service of the library were recognized by the decision of the Library Board to remove the Carnegie building of English cottage style and place it in West Hollywood as a new Branch and to erect on the Hollywood Boulevard site the largest building in the system—at the cost of \$100,000. The John C. Fremont Library began as the Colegrove Station, giving service to another section of Hollywood.

**Branches
Serving
Colleges
and
Schools**

The University Branch with humble beginning in a store-room on Jefferson Boulevard, in 1905, has become a good neighbor to the University of Southern California students: the Cahuenga Branch, one of those which sprang full-grown in a dignified building to serve a district without library privileges, has catered to the needs of the successive educational institutions on the Vermont Avenue campus, first, the State Normal School, then, the home of the young Southern Branch of the State University, and today the Los Angeles Junior College.

Later Branches which serve primary and secondary schools in a rather unusual way are the bungalow known as Henry David Thoreau established in answer to a petition from the Parent Teachers' Association of the Santa Barbara Elementary School, and for some time known as a 'children's Branch' until the librarian built up the idea of adult service: and the Memorial Library built on a site given to the City by the students and alumni of the Los Angeles High School and used by students as an annex to their schoolrooms, with great pride in the beautiful stained-glass memorial window dedicated to the Los Angeles High School graduates who lost their lives in the World War. This Branch also has solicited and developed a steadily growing use by the adult members of the community.

**Incorporated
Cities with
Library Spirit
Full Grown** Eagle Rock, acquiring a new building in 1927, had a tempestuous and eventful library history. The little city of the sixth class formed a Library Board and petitioned books from the County, and then a building from Andrew Carnegie, finding difficulty because the city of Eagle Rock had not been heard of by the Carnegie authorities. The sum of \$7,500 was finally secured and a gala opening held, when the price of admission was a book. The pioneer sense of pride in this community library has been fostered by a Librarian who served on the first Board, then as Librarian of the Eagle Rock Library, and has continued as Librarian of the Eagle Rock Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library since annexation in 1923.

**Watts
(The
Shoestring
Strip)** The Watts Library, coming into the Los Angeles System in 1926 in the small Carnegie building it attained in 1914, is an example of difficult growth of the library idea in a community of varied nationalities and few centralized interests. Six years after it was incorporated as a small city, Watts made application for a Carnegie building. The Women's Improvement Association held benefits to raise funds to beautify the library grounds and a small collection of books was provided by the County Library. Some years later a Japanese family presented five royal blossoming cherry trees direct from Japan for the Library grounds, in recognition of the service of American libraries to Japanese children.

Wilmington and Gardena are two suburban communities which had made valiant attempts to establish a library before annexation made the communities a part of Los Angeles. Wilmington, through book gifts of citizens, had a book station in the City Hall in 1909 when it became a part of Los Angeles. The two libraries of Wilmington and San Pedro were administered by the same staff for a time but in 1913 Wilmington was given a full time librarian, and in 1927 the new Wilmington building was completed.

Gardena made several attempts to form a library. In 1910 the Wednesday Progressive Club had contributed books for a lending library but the interest in the project died out. A campaign for a library had also been made by the Woman's Club. It was an inspiring book talk by Gertrude Darlow that caused members of the community to ask for a Book Station. This was established by the Los Angeles Library in 1912 in a school, later becoming a Branch Library

and acquiring a building in 1928. The site for the Branch was a gift from Mrs. Lizzie Coltrin and the sum of \$500 was contributed by another citizen of Gardena, Mr. L. A. Schofield, for the beautification of garden and walks.

Van Nuys Angeles, situated eighteen miles from the heart of Los Angeles, has a robust library spirit. A record says: 'Not long after the town site of Van Nuys was carved out of the barley fields of the San Fernando Valley in 1911, the first public library was organized through the efforts of the Van Nuys Woman's Club.' Books were secured from the County Library; space was given in a school; shelves were donated by a carpenter; custodianship was offered by women of the neighborhood. In 1916 this library became a branch of the Los Angeles Public Library and ten years later ground was broken for the beautiful Spanish building which, it is hoped, may some day become a regional headquarters for the Valley Branches.

From County to City Branches A number of the present branch units were wholly or partially supported by the County Library system when annexation brought them into the City system. Among these Branches are Angeles Mesa, Annandale, and El Sereno (formerly Bairdstown); Hyde Park, which is built on a site which was the gift of Mrs. Lizzie Clarke; the valley Branches of Sidney Lanier (formerly Lankershim), Van Nuys, and Canoga Park (formerly Owensmouth); the Branch in the beach town of Venice, and West Los Angeles. The Branch in the latter town, known as Sawtelle, had the unique experience of existing first as a county branch then as a city library, returning to the county while a heated political controversy was waged as to the legality and desirability of annexation and finally settling into membership in the Los Angeles City system in 1918.

From Stations to Branches There is a long list of members of the branch family which grew by the process of demand and supply, beginning as a 'Station' with a collection of books lent by the Central Library, usually in response to a petition for book service by members of the community. Equally picturesque as the tales of branches of incorporated cities, are these stories of personal enthusiasm and enthusiastic support of the humble beginnings of Book Stations. Twenty of our Branches began in this manner.

Branches Beginning With Permanent Collections and Equipment The last manner of branch additions was the instances when a Branch opened with equipment and permanent book collection housed in a new building or rented rooms in a district hitherto without library service. Two of the Carnegie buildings were established in this manner, the Board selecting the locations for Cahuenga and Vermont Square libraries, both of which have ably justified their location, Cahuenga serving the several successive colleges on a neighboring campus, and Vermont Square rising at one time to first place in branch circulation, and now keeping a close second to Hollywood. Helen Hunt Jackson and Bret Harte Branches were formed from the separation of the old Central Avenue Branch in 1925, Helen Hunt Jackson in a small stucco building and Bret Harte in a store room. Ascot, Mark Twain, John Muir were established as Branches in rented quarters, John Muir attaining a building in 1930. Henry David Thoreau opened in the bungalow it now occupies; Washington Irving opened its doors in a substantial modern brick building in 1926; Felipe de Neve and Memorial were built on park sites with appropriate buildings, in 1929 and 1930.

XI. Branches Administrative Headquarters

With a lusty family of branches to be kept thriving and new members coming into the family at a rapid rate, it was found necessary to appoint a head of the Branches Department as early as 1906. Necessity for further organization came about when the Carnegie fund of \$210,000 made a building program possible. The story of branch buildings, illustrated with photographs and floor plans, has been published in the handbook *Los Angeles Public Library, Branches*, 1928.

Administration of branches during these expanding years was under Miss Helen T. Kennedy, appointed by City Librarian Perry in 1913. Miss Kennedy assisted in the planning and equipment of buildings, in selecting furnishings and in establishing the general policies of branch service and the steadily developing organization of the Branches Headquarters. In 1919 Betsey Foye was appointed to assist Miss Kennedy in care of sub-branches.

In 1924 the Branches Department was re-organized into three divisions with Miss Kennedy in charge of larger branches, Miss Foye of second group branches and Rhoda Williams in charge of sub-branches. The sub-branch division was abolished in 1929 and branches were grouped by size and circulation.

From 1926 to 1933 the Branches Department was under Althea Warren, First Assistant Librarian. When she became City Librarian in 1933 Betsey Foye who had been assisting the head of branches since 1919, was made Department Librarian in charge of Branches.

Stations Division

Stations, which differed from Branches in consisting of a loan of books from a central collection, usually administered by volunteer custodians, were administered by the general Branches Department until the service became more specialized, requiring a technique in selection and delivery of books, in registration of readers and keeping of contracts for guarantors of Stations. In the year 1928 Stations became a Division of the Branches Department under Annabel Learned who had carried on the work for some time. Stations since that time have varied in number and type as demand and funds dictated. Some of the community stations serving the general public have developed into Branches; others have been discontinued; still others, with the aid of community residents who gave free or reduced rental, and care of the books, have been enabled to continue through the depression period. At the peak of book budgets and personnel there were more than ninety Stations which carried on a circulation exceeding 600,000, greater than that of the largest branch. This service is maintained at a lower cost per book circulated than any other library service.

Today, the earlier purpose of establishing Stations as an experimental nucleus for a Branch has, through lack of expansion funds, largely given way to providing the best service possible under restricted budgets at the least possible cost, to outlying communities or to special groups. At the close of the fiscal year there were sixty-nine Stations recording a circulation of 512,250 books. Thirty-nine of these Stations serve the general community, many of them in outlying districts such as Point Firmin, the Pacific Palisades, Chatsworth, Sunland and Mt. Washington; five are in institutional homes, nineteen are in Fire Engine Stations, two in municipal camps and four in hospitals.

The picturesque book service to the large hospitals of Los Angeles, in which a library assistant visited each hospital twice a week, wheeling a book-truck to the bedsides of the patients and acting as reader's adviser, was one of the services which was cut off by depression budgets in 1933. The service has

been gradually resumed to four hospitals with the assistance of volunteer visitors, and general supervision by the Stations Division.

The latest experiment in Stations is the out-door reading room opened in July, 1936, on the library grounds. Men and women who wanted to spend an hour with books out-of-doors, transients from down-town hotels and readers who were too timid to ask for a library card, enjoyed this service, borrowing 1500 books in a month's time. Permission of the Park Department officials has been given to extend this service to Los Angeles's down-town park center, Pershing Square, and it is proving popular even in the winter months. Discarded books and magazines and gifts are used for these out-door reading stations and care has been given by W.P.A. workers.

Inter-Library Loans

In order to make book collections more flexible for use by all parts of the system, and to meet the demand from smaller Branches and Stations to borrow a specialized or popular book from a larger collection, the Open Shelf, later known as the Inter-Library Loan Department was organized in 1919 under Miss Blanche Herzog. Today an Inter-Library Loan collection of 25,000 volumes has been developed and 56,800 books were sent out to fill requests in a single year through this collection or by borrowing from Central Library Departments. Books not available through Inter-Library Loan or Central Library Departments, in many cases are sent through Inter-Branch Loans, handled by this Department.

Work with Children

The very first buildings, financed by Andrew Carnegie in 1913, were designed to include children's rooms. The need of specially trained children's librarians was soon apparent and courses in book selection, service to schools and administration of children's rooms were gradually incorporated in the Library School training, and Civil Service examinations for the position of Children's Librarians were offered.

Supervision and direction of the Work with Children was carried on by the head of the Juvenile Department in the Central Library until 1920 when the Department of Work with Children was established under the Branches Department. The Department Librarian directs the policies of Work with Children and the purchase of children's books under a budget for juvenile purchase, and supervises children's librarians in Branches. The staff of children's librarians increased from thirteen in 1920 to forty-seven in 1936, including four in the Central Children's Room.

Service to elementary schools was ably developed by Gladys E. Case, Department Librarian, 1922-1927, who compiled a handbook in 1926: *Public Library Service to Elementary Schools*.

Under Gladys English, Department Librarian since 1930, a survey of schools was made as a project of children's librarians, and the service to children in the schools has been established on a firm basis with cooperation and support given by the Board of Education and the Supervisor of the City School Library. In 1932 a Work Book for Children's Librarians was compiled as a term problem by the Library School Class.

Since the organization of the Department in 1920, the annual circulation has increased from 895,000 to 2,650,000. Children's book collections have grown from 72,000 to 273,000. Book selection has been thoroughly organized by Miss English with compilation of a 'first purchase' list revised annually, a 'superseded list' and a current list of titles for replacements. Children's librarians have been encouraged to develop individual plans for vacation reading, story hours and book clubs.

XII. The Library School, 1891-1932

The Los Angeles Public Library was one of the first public libraries in the United States to establish a definite system of instruction within the Library, for its employees; and this system, first as an apprentice class, later as a more formal training school, and since 1914, as a one-year Library School, continued with unbroken record for forty-one years.

Highlights in this record are interwoven with the leadership of many outstanding personalities, and the contributions of skilled faculty members, of lecturers and librarians too numerous to mention in this brief space, but whose professional enthusiasm and specialized knowledge added much to the many-sided and well-developed curriculum which was finally achieved.*

Beginnings of the school date back to 1891 when Tessa Kelso was instrumental in establishing the first training class, admitting six selected students to a six-months' training course each year. A report of 1899 states that:

Four members of the class spent several days on the job of classifying and shelving the Long Beach Library as a part of their practice work.

The next step in development was carried on by Mary L. Jones, a graduate of the New York Library School, who taught a number of classes in the School and encouraged staff members to attend. It is recorded that in 1906:

Other libraries were requesting the services of the graduates, many of whom were winning distinguished places in the library world.

Under the librarianship of Charles F. Lummis standards of entrance examinations and selection of students were made more exacting, and new courses added.

It was during the period of librarianship of Everett R. Perry, however, that the most intensive development of the School was carried on. In 1911 Mr. Perry appointed as principal of the training class, Helen T. Kennedy, a graduate of the Library School of the University of Illinois and an instructor in Wisconsin Library School. Miss Kennedy enlarged and intensified the scope of instruction, drawing assistant lecturers from heads of library departments, including Anna Beckley, Grace White and Gertrude Darlow.

When Miss Kennedy was placed in charge of Branch Libraries in 1913, the directorship of the Library School was taken over by Theodora R. Brewitt, Wisconsin Library School graduate (now Librarian of Long Beach Public Library). Mrs. Brewitt in a term of five years built up a curriculum in line with the best standards of library training, increasing hours of study and practice work, lengthening lecture courses and adding one month to the school year. In 1918 the school was admitted to membership in the Association of American Library Schools.

Among the successful innovations in courses were a class in current events conducted by the City Librarian, a course in library binding given by W. Elmo Reavis of the Pacific Library Bindery, courses in book selection, library history, trade bibliography and history of publishing houses conducted by Helen E. Haines. Other courses were gradually added, including library administration, book-buying and work with children, and lectures were given by department heads on their specialized subjects.

In 1918 Marion Horton, graduate of Stanford University and of New York State Library School was appointed as instructor, and shortly afterward, when Mrs. Brewitt resigned, Miss Horton became principal.

Intensive development in a balanced curriculum with additional instructors in specialized fields began under Miss Horton's directorship, raising the stand-

*See circular of Information, Library School of the Los Angeles Public Library for list of lecturers.

ards of entrance requirements, applying advanced methods of teaching, allying courses with the practical work of the library, and making an effort to attract young college women to library work. Short courses for clerical library aids were given once or twice yearly. The results of the improved curriculum were evident when the Board of Education for Librarianship of the American Library Association granted to the Library School in 1926 the rank of an accredited junior undergraduate Library School.

This year marks the beginning of a new epoch in the history of the School with its recognition as an accredited school, and with the occupancy of the spacious school suite in the new building, including lecture, study and work rooms. Here students had the advantages of carrying on their reference work, under ideal conditions and enjoying practice work with the most modern equipment.

In 1928 Miss Horton resigned as principal, to become instructor in the School of Library Service of Columbia University, and she was succeeded by Grace Hill, who had been instructor in the Library training class of Kansas City and in the School of Library Science of Simmons College. In 1929 Miss Hill resigned to accept a position in the Kansas City Public Library and the direction of the School was taken over by Faith E. Smith (a graduate of Northwestern University and of New York State Library School, and for a number of years, member of the Los Angeles Library staff). In 1930 the School was accredited by the California Board of Education for training for school library work.

The last class was graduated in June, 1932, when, as a necessary economy measure the Los Angeles Library Board voted to discontinue the Library School, stating:

This action was taken with profound regret, as the School, by virtue of its long record of efficient work in preparing for librarianship, has won an enviable name for itself.

In the history of the School there were 167 students who completed the training course from 1891 to 1914 and 466 who completed the Library School course from 1914 to 1932, a total of 633 students.*

From June, 1932, until September, 1936, the Los Angeles area was without a professional accredited library school. Although every effort had been made to have the school taken over by one of the universities, the lack of positions open, and the lack of funds for new courses were the cause of delay. However, with the opening of the School of Library Service at the University of Southern California in September, the scholastic records of the Los Angeles Library School were taken over, and the alumni were formally adopted as members of the greater Alumni Association of the University of Southern California with provisions made for credit toward an A.B. Degree or an M.S. in library science.

At a dinner given at the University by faculty members and alumni, welcoming alumni of the Los Angeles Library School, Faith Smith, the last director of the School voiced the hope that the new school might cement the bond between universities and libraries in this community, both types of institutions working for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding.

*See *Directory of Graduates: Library School, Los Angeles Public Library.*