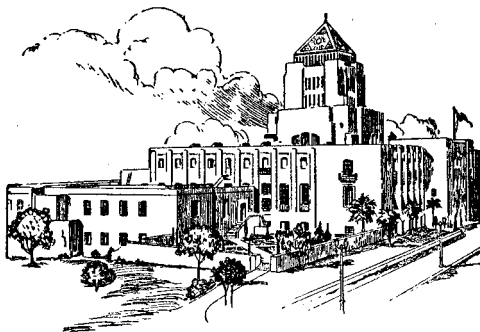


GUIDE



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Central Building, 530 South Hope Street

Entrances: Fifth, Grand, Hope and Flower

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

"The library is without question, one of the noblest buildings in America. It follows no accepted order of architecture, but through it, strains of the Spanish, of the East, of the modern European, come and go like folk songs in a great symphony, rising to new and undreamt-of heights in an order truly American in spirit"—MERRELL GAGE.

Architects: Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, Carleton Monroe Winslow

Sculptor: Lee Lawrie

Compiler of Inscriptions: Hartley Burr Alexander

Mural Painters:

History murals and first floor lobby	Albert Herter
Rotunda dome and second floor ceilings	Julian E. Garnsey
Ivanhoe murals in Children's Room	Julian E. Garnsey & A. W. Parsons
Rotunda murals (to be completed, 1931)	Dean Cornwell

Construction: Reinforced concrete, surfaced with buff stucco. Rectangular building—3 floors, 200 feet by 239 feet. 2 story wing 89 feet by 129 feet. Square tower rising 188 feet.

General Plan: First two floors contain 17 reading rooms with outside exposure. Steel stacks in four sections open on the reading rooms. Third floor is devoted to administrative and executive headquarters, and library school suite.

Cost of Building: \$2,325,000—Floor space: approximately, 260,000 sq. ft.

Seating Capacity: reading rooms, 1200, lecture room, 400.

Present Book Capacity: 1,200,000 volumes. Shelving: 26½ miles.

Building Completed, 1926

EXTERIOR

Sculptures and Inscriptions

"Goodhue and I arrived at a new kind of architectural sculpture that is essentially a part of the building, rather than something ornate or applied. Sculpture, here, is not sculpture, but a branch grafted on to the architectural trunk. Forms that portray animate life emerge from blocks of stone and terminate in historic expression." —LEE LAWRIE, Sculptor.

Sculptures at six doorways and tower were carved, in place, on the building. Limestone was incorporated in the concrete surface wherever carvings were to be executed.

The Tower: The square tower is crowned with a pyramidal apex which is treated in Spanish tile. This is completed with a finial hand and torch, symbol of the passing on of the torch of enlightenment. Eight heroic figures emerge from the corners of the tower, the "seers" of literature:

Shakespeare and Goethe
Homer and Milton

Plato and Dante
David and St. John

Flower Street Entrance (west)

Architecturally treated as the main entrance with sloping lawns and cascaded pools ending in a bronze relief "The Well of the Scribes" showing man's development of the art of writing.

Doorway: "The Torch Race," with the horseman of the east passing the torch to the horseman of the west. At either side are colossal figures of Phosphor (morning star) and Hesper (evening star) representing the Wisdom of the East and the West.

Cornice inscription from Lucretius:

Et quasi cursores vitae lampada tradunt

(And thus the runners hand on the lamp of life.)

Fifth Street Entrance (north)

Corner stone: library seal and date of laying cornerstone, 1925. City seal above door flanked by figures of Poet and Philosopher. Cornice inscription, from Richard de Bury's Philobiblion:

Books alone are liberal and free: they give to all who ask: they emancipate all who serve them faithfully.

Grand Avenue Entrance (east)

Garden terrace: Inscription from Plato's Phaedrus:

Love of the beautiful illumines the world.

Art Panel and Music Panel with symbolic carving and inscriptions from the Bible:

The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth His handywork.

The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.

Children's Entrance:

The world is my book.

Bronze doors bear relief panels illustrating famous stories. Caryatides supporting the lintel, symbolize Story-telling Spirits of the East and the West.

Sculptured panel above doorway:

The globe of the world with great bear at zenith and the Chinese frigate and clipper ship at opposite ends of the horizon. Proteus and Galatea ride the waves beneath the globe. Inscription arranged by H. B. Alexander:

Books are doors into fairyland: guides unto adventure: comrades in learning.

Hope Street Entrance (south)

Books invite all: they constrain none.

Street level:

Curved panel decoration above the lintel, "the library's colophon" with printing press in the center and figures of famous printers:

European—Gutenberg, Aldus, Elzevir.

Anglo-American—Caxton, Morris, Goodhue (designer of types)

Terrace, first floor level:

In the world of affairs we live in our own age: in books we live in all ages.

The open book, ray-encircled, is flanked by the figures of the Greek Thinker and the Egyptian Writer. The facade above the entrance has six piers which terminate in realistic figures representing six great modes of expression:

History (Herodotus)

Statecraft (Justinian)

Letters (Virgil)

Fine Arts (Leonardo da Vinci)

Philosophy (Socrates)

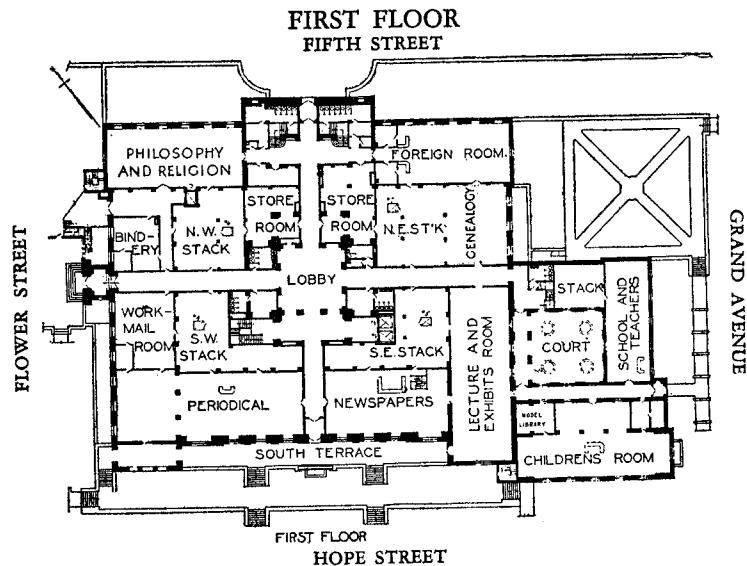
Science (Copernicus)

INTERIOR SCULPTURES

North Stair Hall

Marble Sphinxes at either side of the stairs, second floor.

Marble Statue of Civilization, in niche at head of stairs.



FIRST FLOOR

READING ROOMS

Foreign Books: Philosophy and Religion *Fifth Street (north)*
 Periodicals and Newspapers *Hope Street (south)*
 Lectures and Exhibits: Genealogy *Grand Ave. (east)*
 Children's Books: Teacher's Books *Grand Ave. (wing)*

FEATURES OF INTEREST

Central Lobby:

Decorations by Albert Herter. Designs from Grecian, Cretan and Moorish motives.
 Exhibits in Cases (changed each month)

Lecture and Exhibit Room (east corridor)

Art Exhibits (changed each month). Lectures as scheduled.

Children's Court (east of Lecture Room)

Relief Panels by Lee Lawrie.

Mother Goose, Alice in Wonderland, Arabian Nights, King Arthur, Robin Hood.

Fountain Pedestal

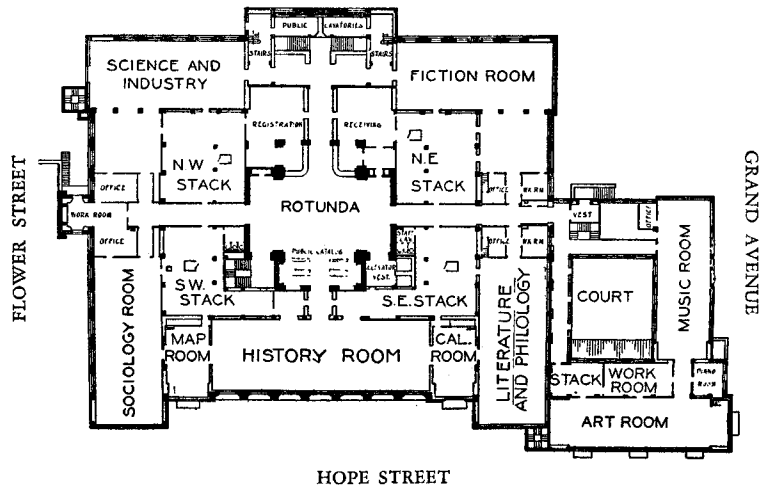
Lotus shaped shaft in a square basin, Carvings:

Blanche of Castile teaching her son Louis to read. Chapel of Louis IX.
 Osburh, mother of King Alfred presenting the book. English castle.

Children's Room

Ivanhoe murals illustrating scenes from Sir Walter Scott's story of Ivanhoe.

SECOND FLOOR
FIFTH STREET



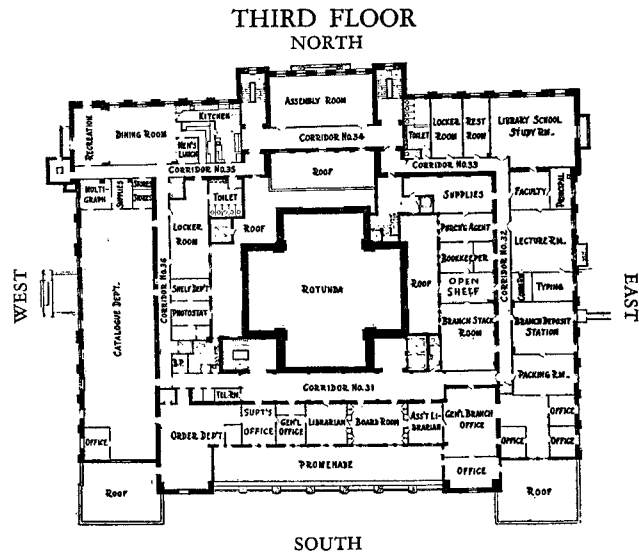
SECOND FLOOR
READING ROOMS

- Science and Industry
(Patents above Science) } *West Corridor from Rotunda*
- Sociology
- History
Map Room
California Room
- Fiction
Literature and Philology
Music and Art (in wing) } *East corridor from Rotunda, or by
Grand Ave. entrance*

FEATURES OF INTEREST

Rotunda

- Registration and Receiving Desks. Readers' Adviser and Information Desk.
Main Catalogue.
Dome decorations by Julian E. Garnsey. Painted directly on concrete surface. Designs and color based on historic ornaments of many styles.
Chandelier designed by Goodhue Associates, modeled by Lee Lawrie. Translucent globe of the earth, surrounded by bronze ring containing signs of the zodiac, suspended from central sunburst, with crescent moon and stars in the chains. Sixty-eight lights set in bronze ring. Weight 2000 pounds.
Murals for Rotunda walls by Dean Cornwell.
Four large panels and eight smaller panels, California History. To be completed in 1931.



THIRD FLOOR

South side of building near elevators:

Board of Library Commissioners' Room. City Librarian's Office with entrance through General Office (Room 303). Second Assistant Librarian's Office (348). First Assistant Librarian's Office and Branches Headquarters (346).

Second Group Branches
Work with Children
Stations Department
Branch Shipping Room
Inter-library Loan

East side of building:

Library School Suite: Principal's Office. Rooms for lectures, study and faculty. Offices of Accountant and Purchasing Agent.

North side of building:

Locker rooms, Staff Assembly Hall, Staff Cafeteria.

West side of building:

Catalogue Department with multigraph division. Office of Shelf Department. Photograph and Photostat service. Order Department and Building Superintendent's Office.

MEZZANINE FLOOR (not shown in floor plan)

Between second and third floors

Printed Publicity Office. Adult Education Office and work room. Reached by stairs from Fifth Street on north side, above second floor.

Study rooms above History and Literature Departments.
Seminar Room for small gatherings above California Room.



LIBRARY COMMISSION

ORRA E. MONNETTE

MRS. J. WELLS SMITH

FRANCIS J. CONATY

MRS. OTTO J. ZAHN

E. N. MARTIN

CITY LIBRARIAN

EVERETT R. PERRY