

THE LIBRARY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



DEDICATION-OCTOBER 31, 1924



*The Library of the*  
University of Minnesota



Dedication, Friday,  
October 31, 1924,  
New Library Building



Souvenir Booklet Issued to Commemorate the Official Dedication.

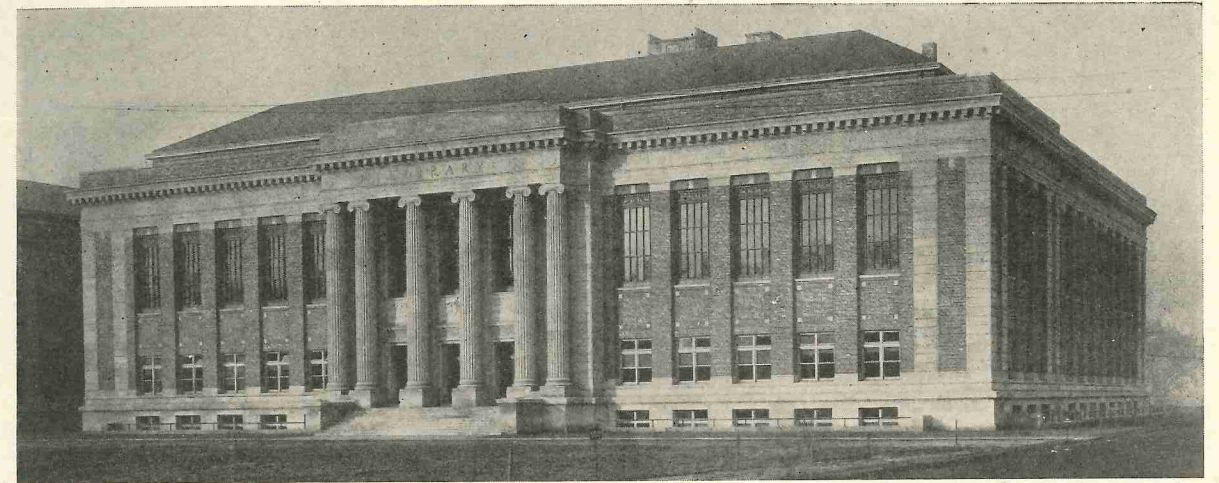




## Grace and Dignity in the New Library

*Dignified simplicity, reaching almost severity at times, graces the Delivery room and Halls of the new Library. Here we look from the delivery and catalog room through two green Alps marble pillars to the general hallway leading into the large main reading room which accommodates 350 students at one time. The walls are of Kasota marble (limestone), a native Minnesota product.*

# The Library of the University of Minnesota



*The exterior of the new Library is one of simplicity. Built of Bedford limestone and face brick with a six column Ionic-pillared portico it is well equipped to take care of the 10,000 students that annually attend the University of Minnesota.*

## The Building of a University Library

*The New University of Minnesota \$1,250,000 Library is the Result of Years of Research and the Work of Many Men—The Latest Architectural Features Have Been Incorporated.*

*By C. H. JOHNSTON, Architect.*

IT may be said without question that the Library of the University of Minnesota is now as adequately and appropriately housed as any university library in the country. The occupancy of the new building on the mall is the fruition of years of planning, of research, of study by many minds to give to the University a great building, perfectly coordinated in its many functions, a cultural and educational center of a great State.

Two years have elapsed since ground was broken and erection of the structure was started. Favorable building seasons and labor conditions were encountered and construction work moved steadily forward to the completion of the building in mid-summer of this year. The new building is designed in the Roman Renaissance style of the other mall buildings, though in general effect the design is more refined and graceful in type than its neighbors and predecessors. The large window openings of the second story, delicately framed in cast and wrought iron with a faint trace of polychrome color in the recessed surfaces, accentuate this freedom of design, and a close observer will note a refinement of the molded surfaces of the cornice as compared with earlier buildings further down the mall.

A colonnaded portico fronting the mall marks the main entrance to the building, three doorways framed in carved stone surmounted by sculptured panels symbolizing the various phases of liberal education. The panel over the central doorway encloses a quartered cartouche, bearing devices from the Seal of the University, supported by two youthful figures portraying Light and Wisdom. The panel over the right doorway comprises a group of male and female figures representing the child Education, and the various attributes in turn of Power—Ambition—Study and Abundance, facing the female figure Inspiration. In the left hand panel the figure of a child bearing the laurel

leaves of Attainment is attended by the female figure of Wisdom and male and female figures representing Geography, History, Inspiration, Work and Music, respectively. The three entrance doorways with their transoms have grilles of wrought bronze, and bronze candelabra surmount the buttresses of the granite stairway approach to the portico.

The main entrance to the building is at the first floor level through a stone walled vestibule, with a vaulted and coffered ceiling of decorated plaster. The vestibule opens into a large lobby with walls and cornice of warm-toned Mankato Travertine, a native limestone of striking similarity to the Travertine stone of which the buildings of ancient Rome were constructed. The lozenge shaped plaster coffers of the ceiling are modeled in low relief picked out in subdued tones of rose and old gold to harmonize with the mellow tones of the walls.

The spaces on the north and south sides of the building are reached through wide corridors separated from the lobby by columned openings of Green Alps marble. At the end of the right hand corridor and in the northeast corner of the building is the Standard library, a room designed and furnished as a typical library in the home of a person of wealth and culture. It is designed in the manner of the Italian Renaissance with ceiling beams of oak, recessed bookshelves on walls except the west where a carved stone fireplace surrounded by wood paneling forms a central and dominating feature. The room has been tastefully decorated and equipped with furniture of the Italian period.

### Dedication Program

8:30, October 31

Central Lobby, Second Floor

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

WILLIAM WATTS FOLWELL,

Presiding

Music - - - University Quartet

Presentation of the Building - -

Pres. Fred B. Snyder

on behalf of Board of Regents

Acceptance - - -

President Lotus D. Coffman

Frank K. Walter, Librarian

Address - - - James T. Gerould

Dedicatory Address - - -

Dean Frederick J. E. Woodbridge

Informal inspection of the building.



Adjoining the Standard library to the west and also entered from the right hand corridor is the spacious reserved book reading room with beamed ceiling of plaster and paneled wood wainscot. The reserved book delivery desk is separated from the reading room by an arched doorway. The delivery room is accessible to the public from the main stair hall through two large doorways fitted with wrought bronze folding gates, extremely decorative in character and substantially securing the valuable book collection on the reserved bookstack shelves when the reading room is closed. To the right of the lobby at the front of the building, the Treasure room houses the rare and valuable volumes of the library collection in locked and protected cases.

Adjoining the left hand corridor are the executive offices of the library and along the corridor on the south side of the building are the spaces assigned to the order, bibliography and cataloging departments, with the rest room and kitchenette for the women members of the staff in the southeast corner.

The main stair hall is separated from the lobby by three stone framed openings. At each end of the wide hall, stairways of Tennessee marble with turned marble balustrades ascend to the second floor between walls lined with the same Mankato Travertine stone used in the lobby.

A colonnaded Green Alps marble opening discloses the main delivery room to the rear of the stair hall. The delivery room and the stair hall in reality form a great stone lined hall in the center of the building, with skylights of tinted Cathedral glass forming the ceilings, and suffusing the entire room with soft mellow toned light. The main delivery desk, the center of the activities of the library, is on the west side of the room and connects directly with the second floor level of the stack room and with all other stack levels by electric booklifts. Small offices open to the desk on either side and adjoining these offices, stairways and elevators to the upper floors are under the direct supervision of the desk attendant. The desk is of carved Tennessee marble with cork top.

At either end of the delivery room, doorways ornamented with ancient printers' marks carved in the jambs are capped with sculptured lunettes, that over the right hand doorway having in the center a male figure of Wisdom, with companion figures typifying Industry and Agriculture. The lunette over the opposite doorway has a seated female figure, Law, with flanking figures symbolic of Science and Power. The north room has been assigned as a reference

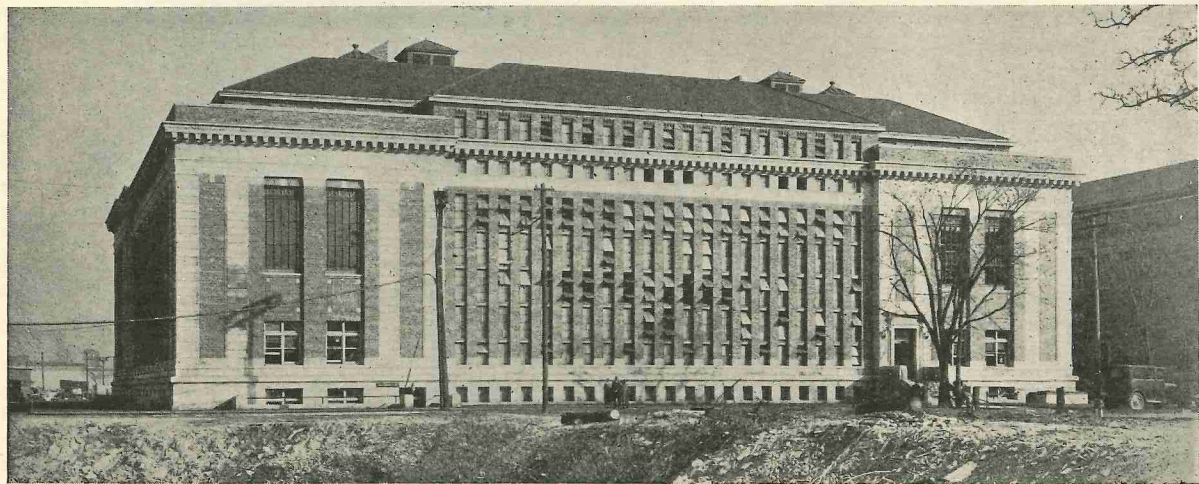
room for a group of scientific libraries and has direct access to a portion of the stacks where this growing collection is shelved. The Periodical room occupies a similar position on the south side of the building. These rooms are of impressive proportions with paneled wood wainscots and lofty ceilings, beamed in plaster and decorated with modeled plaster ornament picked out in soft polychrome colors.

The Main Reading room, which extends along the entire east front of the building is of truly heroic proportions. The walls are of Mankato Travertine stone, the ceiling of modeled plaster beams and coffers, painted in subdued tones of gold and blue. A zone of oak book cases six feet in height surround the entire room. Some conception of the size of this room may be obtained by its capacity of 8,000 reference volumes and seating accommodations for approximately 420 readers. The reference librarian's conference room is on a platform on the west side of the room.

The stack room is a large building in itself, occupying a space 97x60 feet in area on the west side of the building and extending from the sub-basement floor through the entire height of the building, a distance of some 95 feet. The stack proper is of the self supporting type, a twelve story steel structure, the fifth, seventh and eleventh floors level with the first, second and roof house floors of the building. Gray enameled steel book shelving is supported by the structural steel uprights, the floors in the aisles between cases being of Kasota marble. At present, shelving has been installed above the 5th stack floor only, the shelving for the lower levels having been omitted to be installed in the future as the expansion of the collection requires. Ten small cubicles on each stack floor are provided for the use of those of the student body or faculty doing research work requiring constant access to volumes in the stacks. The book capacity of the stack at present is 750,000 volumes and when completed the stack will shelve approximately 1,500,000 volumes, making it the largest bookstack of any university in this country.

The two upper floors of the building contain thirty-eight seminars and minor lecture rooms and the bindery. Except for the bindery the top floor is still unfinished.

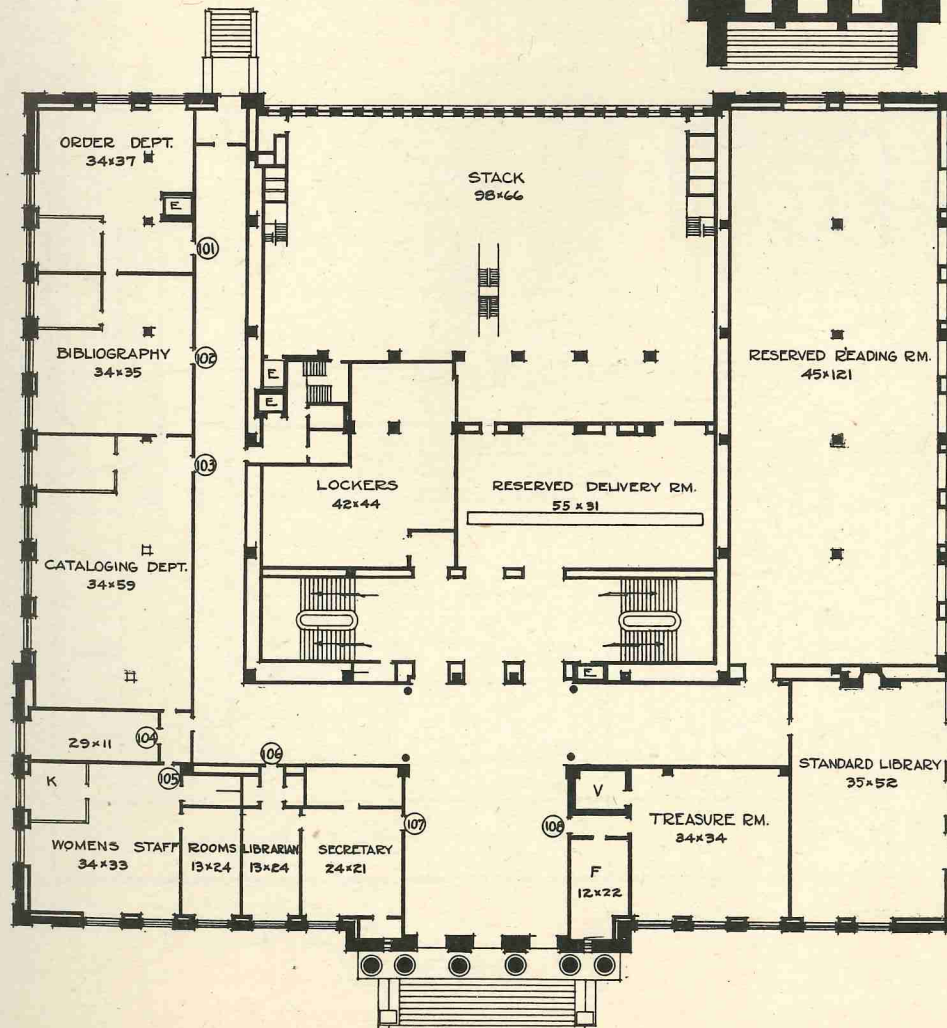
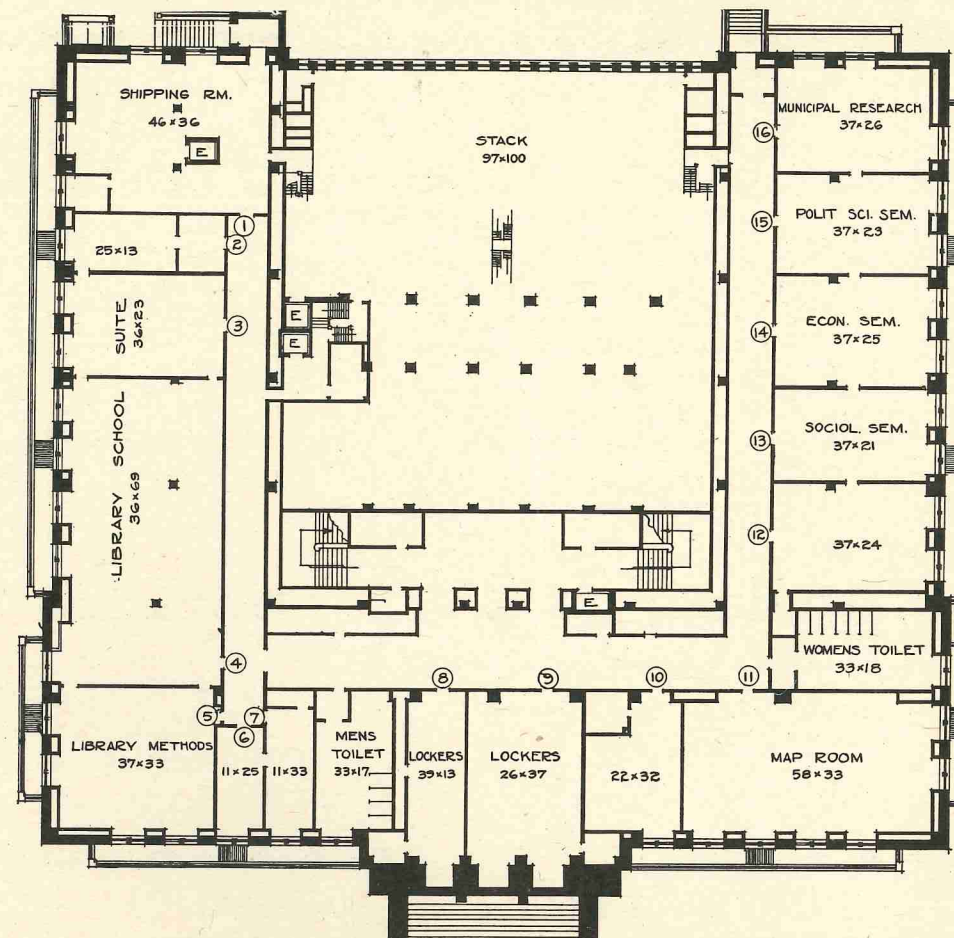
The south side of the building in the basement floor is assigned to the class rooms and offices of the Library school. On the north side are the departments of government and municipal research, rest rooms and a room for male members of the staff, the map collection being as-



The rear of the Library shows well the unique wall space that was necessary to erect the "well" or room that houses twelve stories of stacks and provide for the "carrels." The building, dimly discernible at the right is the Chemistry building. In the immediate foreground is all that remains of the old Northern Pacific track dugout. This is being rapidly filled.

BASEMENT PLAN

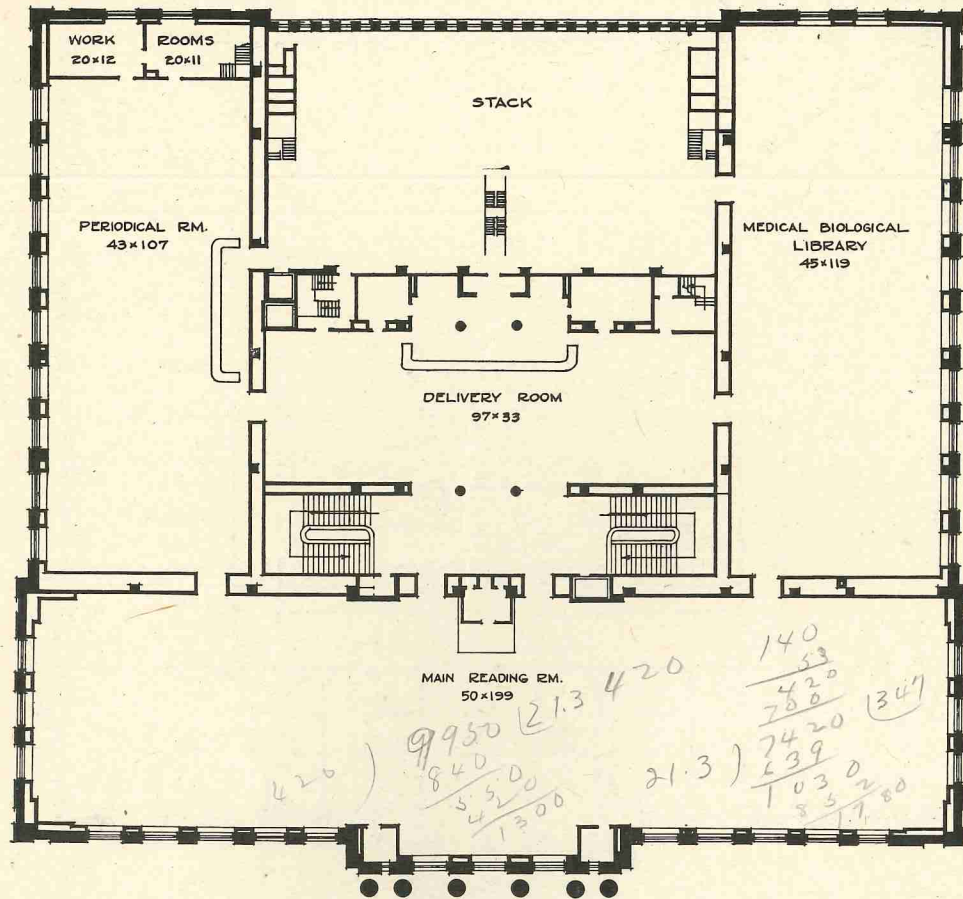
The basement plan contains a large portion of the stack room, unfinished at the present time, locker space, and seminar rooms. Included on this floor also are the shipping rooms, the Library methods class room and the Library school quarters, provided for possible future professional training in librarianship.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

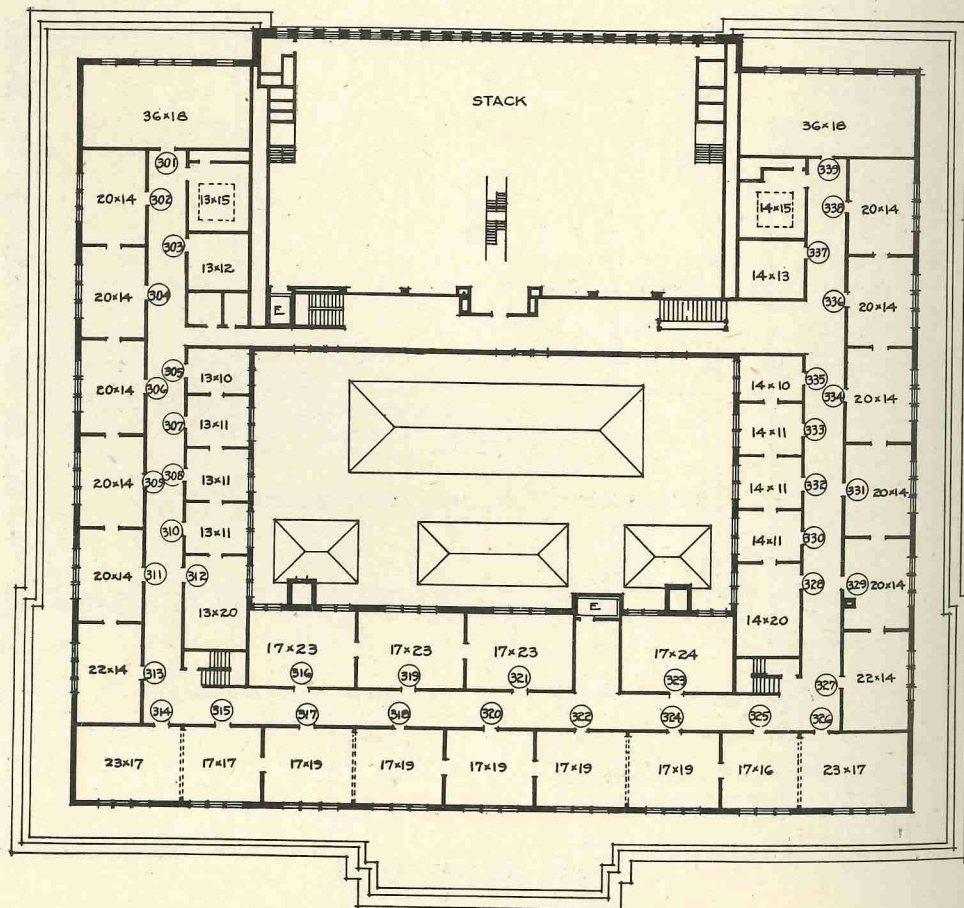
The reserved delivery room and reserved reading room occupy space on this floor. In addition there are the administrative offices, a standard library, the treasure room for valuable and antique books, the order department, the bibliography room and the cataloging department.





**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**  
*The second floor contains the Main reading room, the periodical room, the Medical-Biological library, the delivery room and part of the stack room, in addition to the general card catalog and several smaller rooms. The main reading room, 50x199 feet is perhaps the largest University reading room in the country at present.*

**THIRD FLOOR PLAN**  
*This floor is used for seminar libraries, individual studies and seminar discussion rooms. The stack room continues through this floor, through the fourth floor to the roof of the building.*  
*The third floor consists mainly of seminar rooms. Rooms 302 to 313 are Literature seminars; rooms 327 to 338, history and geography seminars; 317 to 326, education and psychology; 305 to 312, individual studies. 301, 312, 314, 315, 323, 328 and 339 are seminar discussion rooms.*



signed to a large room at the northeast corner of this floor. Mechanical equipment, machinery and the general unpacking and storage spaces of the building are in the sub-basement.

The building is of concrete construction of the skeleton type, faced with brick and trimmed with Indiana limestone, and is thoroughly fireproof: Additional precaution was taken in the stacks by completely isolating this space from the rest of the building by metal fireproof doors. Partitions throughout are of clay tile, floors of all public spaces are of marble or terrazzo, except in the reading rooms where floors of cork composition were used to eliminate noise. The operation of the windows in the large reading rooms on the second floor is worthy of note. These windows are of the double hung counterbalanced steel type controlled in groups by motor, making it possible to open and close all of the windows in each room simultaneously by the operation of an electric switch.

The building is heated by high pressure steam from the central power plant. Complete mechanical ventilation has been provided for the various portions of the building, some of the fan units being placed in the attic, others in the sub-basement. Intercommunicating and public telephone stations are conveniently located throughout. Vacuum cleaning machinery in the sub-basement has piped outlets to advantageous locations throughout the building including the stacks.

**MANY BOOKS HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTED**

WHILE the University has always received gifts of various kinds from interested citizens, it is only in recent years that the number of donations has reached any great proportions. A catalog of books presented to the library reveals, not the names of donors of large libraries,

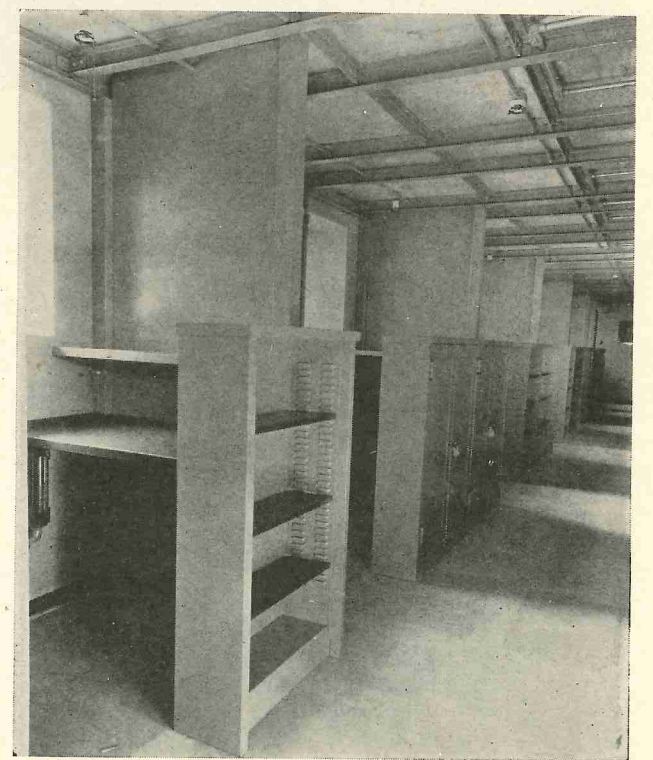
but many people who have given a few rare volumes or a small collection. For instance, in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Regents for April 15, 1924, we find this item:

"Voted to accept with thanks 660 volumes from 208 donors."

Some of the outstanding gifts which have been presented to the library and their donors include: Seventeenth Century newspapers, Herschel V. Jones; Publications of the Yale Press, John Crosby; loan of 5,000 maps, A. Benton; loan of books, Dr. J. P. Sedgwick; loan of library, State Board of Health; 67 volumes from the Academy de Buenas Letras of Barcelona; Engineering News from 1886 to 1904, Geo. L. Wilson; 22 volumes from the library of President Northrop; reproduction of II Codice Trivulziona della Divina Commedia, Luigi Carnovale; gifts from O. C. Merriman and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid; three volumes of the history of the Seventh Day Baptists from Seventh Day Baptist conference; library of the Engineers' club given to the college of Engineering and Architecture; 30 volumes of transactions of American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers to the library of the School of Mines, F. M. Warren; two volumes on Excavations in Samaria, Harvard university; set of Riksdagens Protokoll, Swedish Riksgaldskantoret; 24 books on mathematics, John F. Downey; 11 volumes of the Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan and five volumes of the Transactions and Proceedings of the Japan society, Dean Alfred Owre; 60 medical books, Mrs. W. F. Slater; gifts from Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences; books from B. L. Newkirk; nine volumes of guides and handbooks from the British Museum, Prof. M. B. Ruud; Parliamentary papers, Danish government; library of music, Harlow Gale; Hymnal, Mrs. C. C. Bovey; electrical engineering library, E. P. Burch; technical library given to School of Mines, Mrs. Rickard Hurd; two hundred dollars for books for English department, Elmer E. Stoll.



Looking down an aisle on one of the floors in the stack room. The arrangement of the shelves, the electrical fixtures and the rows show well in this illustration. The stack room, when finished, will house more than 1,500,000 books.



On each floor in the stack room there are cubicles or carrels where professors and graduate students may do their research work. Each is given the small space illustrated above, shelves where he may keep books, and access to the whole of the stack room. This is a great aid and time saver to the student who must use many and varied books.





The Main Reading room covers the entire front of the Library. Equipped with long tables, individual chairs and diffused lights, it is one of the best rooms for quietness and study in the University. The table lights, which had not yet been installed when this picture was taken, may be seen on Page 14. The floor is covered with linoleum and the ceiling is done with great elaborateness of design.

## The Library as an Administrative Unit

*In the Modern Scheme of Education the Library is Primarily a Service Station for the Entire University and it Must be Usable as Well as Beautiful*

By FRANK K. WALTER, *University Librarian*

IN the modern scheme of education the university library is primarily a central service station for the entire university. Any adequate university library building must in consequence be usable as well as beautiful. The new building of the University of Minnesota meets both tests. From the first, the two persons most concerned in the development of the present building (James T. Gerould, University Librarian from 1906 to 1920, and James H. Forsythe, associate professor of architecture and consulting architect of the university) had in mind the availability of the building for administrative purposes.

Most of the best university libraries of the country were visited by Messrs. Gerould and Forsythe. Any student of library architecture will notice at once in the present building features borrowed and adapted from other university libraries, notably those of the Universities of California and Michigan and the Widener Memorial Library of Harvard. It has, however, a distinct individuality and has

been definitely planned with a view to Minnesota conditions and problems.

Although we were fortunate in having the same architects throughout (C. H. Johnston and company, and Mr. Forsythe) there have been three library executives concerned in the development plan. Mr. Gerould laid the foundations and virtually fixed the general plan. Miss Ina Firkins, as acting librarian in 1920-21, had much to do in determining the general plans and equipment of the reading rooms. The present librarian, since 1921, has been occupied in working into a plan already virtually complete on his arrival such changes as the growth of the university and changes in its policies made necessary. It is very complimentary to the architects that all changes really necessary since 1921 have been made with no radical departure from the plans as complete at that time. This has been possible primarily because of the willingness of Mr. Johnston to consider any practical suggestion for betterment and through Mr. For-

sythe's quick perception of and sympathy with administrative needs.

Some of the administrative points of the building which are of more than local interest are briefly discussed below.

A fundamental feature is the provision on different floors for three differing types of work: undergraduate "reserved reading," general reference work and facilities for advanced study and research. The "Reserved reading room" is on the first floor—the most accessible level—with 312 seats and an ultimate capacity of nearly 50 more if it is crowded as much as the one in the Old Library. A large delivery desk with floorstacks for required texts, a return slide and a large lobby make the service as prompt as possible with a limited staff and congested periods of student demands. The General Reading rooms with 420 seats and the Periodical Reading room with about 200 seats, are on the second floor, readily accessible, but apart from the rush lines of undergraduates wanting assigned reading. At the rear of the former are two small rooms in which manuscript and other theses are kept with easy access, but under supervision. At the rear of the Periodical room, only a short distance from the current periodicals, is a room with a mezzanine floor above for shelving unbound periodicals and other material awaiting binding. At the north end is the Medical-Biological Library in which are combined the former collections in medicine, animal biology, botany, dentistry and pharmacy. Nearly 12,000 volumes can be kept on the open shelves of this room. The adjacent portions of the stacks contain the main part of these collections.

The seminar libraries and discussion rooms on the third floor are devoted entirely to advanced students, graduate students and faculty use. To permit the grouping of related collections all rooms in a section have communicating doors. In this way an entire group of rooms can be administered fairly well from any room in the suite. At present there are four groups of seminar libraries: history, literature, education and psychology and the Social sciences (political science, economics and sociology). The last group is in the basement with the staff and collection of the Bureau of Municipal Research adjoining. Six rooms, at present not needed for other purposes, are set aside solely for seminar discussions. This plan, while open to some objection, was borrowed from the University of Michigan, where it has been in successful operation for some time. It permits the use of the library rooms for library purposes the entire time the building is open and avoids many of the objections incident to unsupervised collections of books.

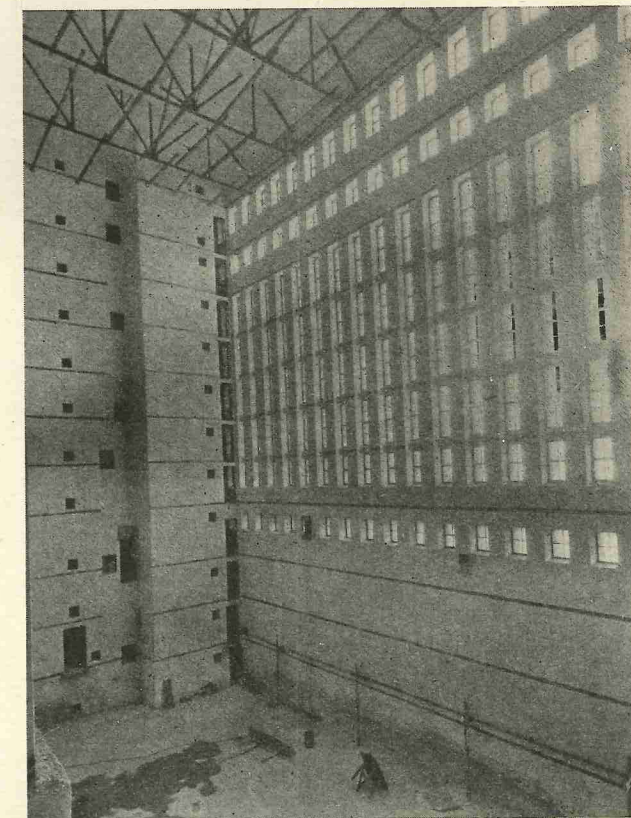
Eight individual studies are provided for faculty members or visiting scholars engaged on some definite book or article for publication. In the rear of the stacks are seventy carrels or "cubicles." Several of these on each floor will be kept free from assignment so as to be available to any one using the stack. The others will be assigned to students or faculty showing a real claim to them. In no case will a carrel or a study be assigned for more than a limited period, nor will any be assigned as private offices.

The four reading rooms have an ultimate capacity of nearly 1,300, dependent on the degree of crowding which is tolerated or made necessary. The seminars, studies and carrels (including unfinished space in the attic) will care for nearly 350 more. With a present seating capacity of about 1,500 and provision for 150 more, the library has one of the longest (and perhaps, the largest) ratio of seating capacity to student body of any university library in the country. Some consideration on the part of students of the need of "spread" and the recognition of the impossibility of caring at any one time, outside of an auditorium or a stadium, for nearly 9,000 students and 1,200 faculty is necessary. With such consideration, most of the reasonable demands for library service should be fairly well met. It should be noted also that about 450 additional seats are available in branches

of the library and in reading rooms outside the General Library.

The stack is a twelve-story structure with the upper eight levels completed. Access by the university public is gained only through the reserved reading room desk on the first floor and the general delivery desk on the second. There is an automatic electric service elevator to all levels, a stack telephone and two electric booklifts to each floor. The stack, built under the Hine patents, by the General Fire-proofing company, is painted a light gray which reflects considerable light and materially reduces the charges for electricity. Three stairways on each level are provided. Provision has also been made for pneumatic tubes for call slip deliveries and for a conduit for a book carrier operating on a single plane, whenever the growth of the library shall make them necessary. The completion of the upper levels first made it necessary also to complete the structural steel work for the four unfinished levels. Whenever additional stack space is needed, additional floors can be completed at a minimum cost.

There is provision for considerable expansion. The main stack unit (said by stack agents to be the largest single bookstack unit as yet erected anywhere) has a theoretical capacity of more than 1,500,000 volumes. The vacant space under the delivery rooms and front entrance is four stack levels high and will accommodate nearly 500,000 more volumes. At present this contains only a temporary stack in which the bound newspaper volumes are kept. The completed portion will take care of about 700,000 volumes, if no provision for economical shifting or growth of special classes is considered. It is also possible to provide storage in the sub-basement for nearly another 500,000. About 50,000 additional volumes can be cared for in reading rooms and seminars. The building has, therefore, a theoretical



The "well" or stack room as it appeared before the steel stacks were erected. This room now houses twelve stack floors. The upper eight are finished and have a capacity of 750,000 volumes.



capacity of nearly 2,000,000 volumes. Nearly 1,500,000 can actually be cared for under fairly good working conditions.

The administrative offices of the Order and Catalog departments and the Librarian's offices are on the first floor. A Bibliography room, in which are kept trade and national bibliographies of reference as well as of administrative use, is between the office of these two departments. Considerable increase in staff in both departments is possible in the present space. A staff rest room, a "Treasure room," a folio room for oversized books, and a Standard Library room, like the "browsing rooms" at other colleges, are also included on the first floor near the administrative centers.

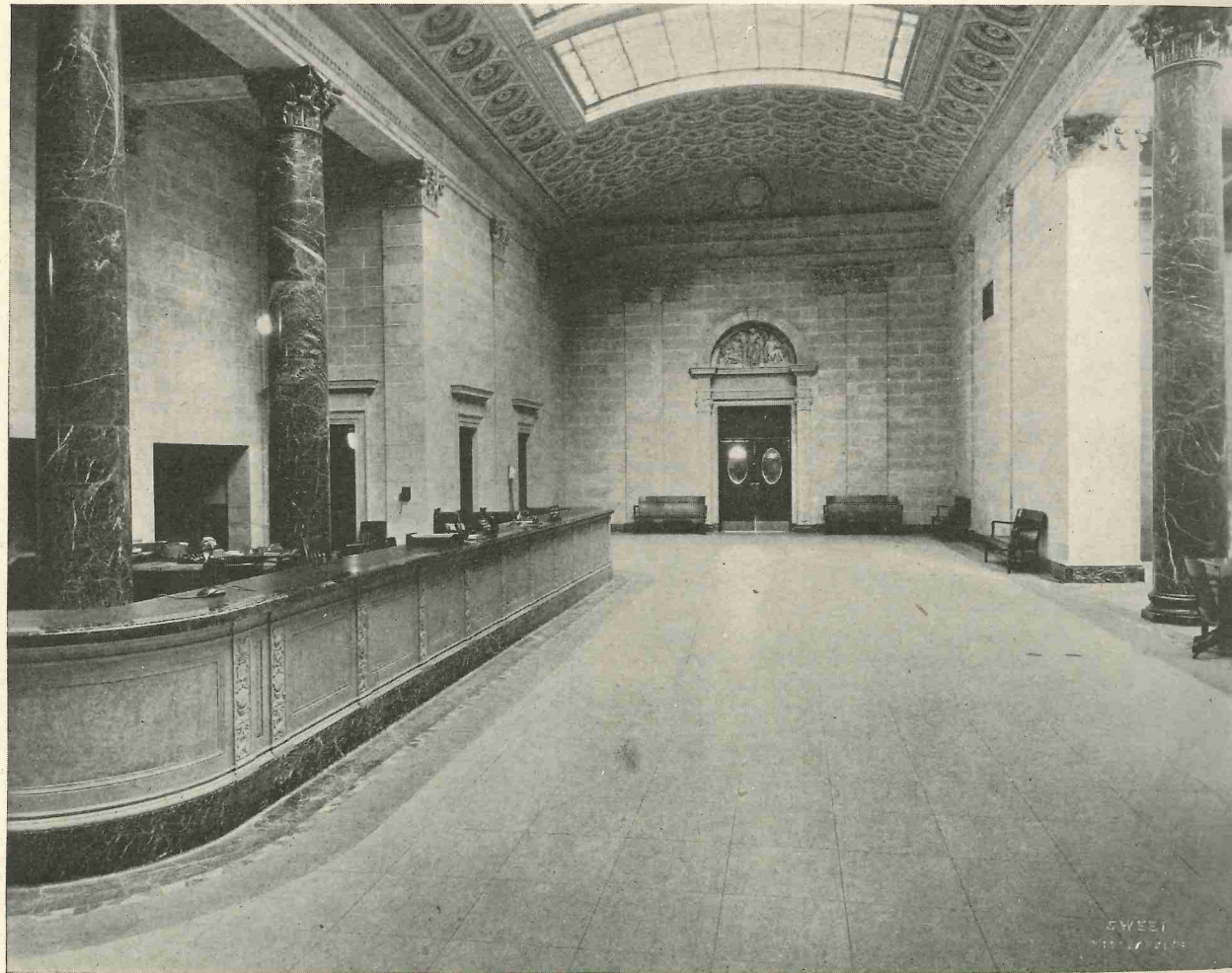
An automatic electric elevator gives public access to the seminar floor from the first floor and basement. Another for staff and faculty use connects the order and catalog departments with the public catalog and general delivery desk. A hand elevator connects the order department, the shipping room and the storage space in the basement.

Although no funds or faculty are yet available for a library school, quarters for one have been planned in the basement. These are at present used for other library purposes. A large Map room will also be fitted up as soon as funds are available.

Economy of operation has been aimed at throughout. The reading rooms are provided with table lights like those at the John Crerar library. These give indirect illumination and are based on the principle of the general lighting of the

University of Michigan library. All chandeliers are controlled by unit switches which permit varying degrees of illumination. The ventilating system is also divided into sixteen separate units, any or all of which can be shut off at any time. Electric thermostats should prevent both uncomfortably cold rooms and wasted heat. Even the architectural finish and decorations are planned with a view to economical service. Four sunken panels, copied from those in the University of Michigan, are placed in the entrance lobby for bulletins and other advertising material. There is practically no woodwork to be marred by thumb tacks and other advertising adjuncts. Heavy battleship linoleum and linoleum give a quiet, easily cleaned floor. The walls not only are colored with a view to artistic effect, but to avoid easy soiling and unnecessary refinishing. Storage closets and janitors' closets are provided in abundance on every floor and every work center as well as every stack level is provided with a washbowl.

It will be some time before the administrative routine is completely fitted to the new conditions. The staff has made much more progress in this connection than could have been expected and many of the difficulties that do still exist arise from the impossibility of giving personal service under our present financial limitations and under so complete a change of physical environment. It is, nevertheless, a tribute both to those who planned the building and to the staff who are working in it that increased service is being given with a relatively small increase of staff.



The delivery room occupying the second and third floors is a great hall, well lighted and efficient. At the left is the counter over which books are given students. The door in the background leads to the Medical biological reading room. Note the green Alps marble pillars, the walls of Kasota limestone and the mural decoration carved out of marble above the doorway.

## An APPRECIATION

*A Comparative Summary by Minnesota's  
Second Librarian Who Declares That Our  
New Library Has No Superior.*

By JAMES T. GEROULD, *Princeton Librarian*



JAMES T. GEROULD  
*University Librarian from 1906 to 1920. He is at present  
the Librarian of Princeton University.*

THE University is to be congratulated on the possession of a library building that has no superior in the country. This is not a mere expression of local pride; it is the deliberate judgment of competent librarians and of scholars, accustomed to work in large libraries both in this country and abroad, who have inspected the building during the past summer.

It is the only building in any of the large institutions of the country that has a proper provision for the rapidly increasing use that is being made of our university libraries. In its four reading rooms, seats have been provided for more than 1,200 readers. The University of California Library building, which heretofore has had the largest seating capacity, has seats for only 660; the Widener building at Harvard accommodates in its reading room only 336.

University library construction is, to a certain extent, becoming standardized. No two institutions have precisely the same needs and a building perfectly adapted in one university might serve another imperfectly; but, in general, systems of book storage, of seminar rooms, of carrels and rooms for private study, are much the same in most of the newer buildings. The only thing that is at all unique in the Minnesota building is the system of control of the seminar rooms and the directness of their connection with the book stack. This permits a freedom of access that is most helpful to the busy student and it tends to broaden his foundations by freeing him from dependence on a necessarily restricted seminar collection.

The results of Mr. Walter's careful study of the technical problems of administration involved in the furnishing of the building and the regulation for its governance are of detailed interest only to the professional librarian, but upon the smoothness with which the machinery works, depends the usefulness of the building. No detail of planning seems to have been lost from sight and, while experience alone can determine the success of such plans, it is hard to see where they could have been improved.

Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Forsythe, who prepared the original sketches, and to Mr. Johnston who developed the plans for the building. To their willingness to study the highly technical details involved in the planning of a library building and to their skill and resourcefulness in solving them, the University owes the splendid building just completed.

Necessary as is a convenient and comfortable library building, the prime interest of the scholar is in the books that it contains. Nothing more completely furnishes an index to the substantial growth of an institution than the amount of money it is willing to spend for books. It is interesting to compare Minnesota's library with that of her sister institutions. Among the state institutions the Library ranks fourth in size; or fifth if account is taken of the Historical Library of Wisconsin, in the same building with that of the University. If the institutions on a private foundation are included in the reckoning, Minnesota stands twelfth.

In the number of books added in 1922-23, the last year for which statistics are as yet available, her place is fifth among the state universities and among all the universities twelfth again.

While Minnesota holds the same relative place in a comparison of her budget, the showing here is less satisfactory. For books and salaries she spent in 1923-24 for her General Library \$104,974, while California spent \$182,710, Illinois \$205,520, and Michigan \$215,116.

In the last ten years Minnesota has added 217,500 volumes to its library, California 251,500, Illinois 308,000, and Michigan 223,600. The disproportion has been greatest during the last few years, for in 1922-23 California added three books and Illinois and Michigan two to every one added at Minnesota.

As with every other commodity the price of books has advanced very sharply since the war and it is safe to say that a dollar spent today will not buy hardly more than sixty cents spent two years ago. Only a fraction of the books purchased by a scholar's library are new publications and as the number of libraries, both here and abroad, increases, the available copies of valuable books tend to acquire a scarcity value. Particularly is this true of the sets of scientific periodicals, which form the backbone of any university collection. The cost is rising very rapidly and there is no likelihood whatever that these prices will ever fall.

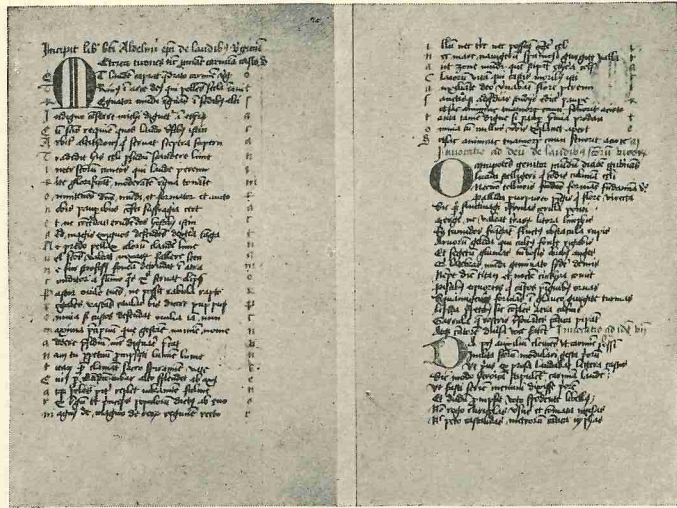
For the next few years every institution which is looking toward the future should strain every nerve to secure funds for the purchase of the books which are the foundation on which all scholarship stands. In nothing can it have a wiser investment.

THE University of Minnesota library has never had enough funds for the purchase of books to enable it to buy large private collections such as those which have made other university libraries notable. There have been many noteworthy gifts of books but these have also been few in comparison with the donations to most of the older private and endowed universities. The result is that the library is a good general working collection in many lines rather than one notable for its specialties.

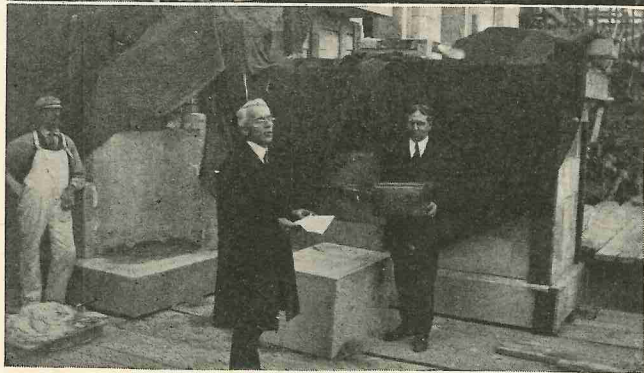


# Leaves from a Library Notebook

The two pages illustrated are from an ancient book antedating printing by several centuries. Beautifully done in black ink with marginal notations and initial letters in gold, red and blue, on parchment, the book is the work of a monk copyist. This is undoubtedly the University's most valuable book.

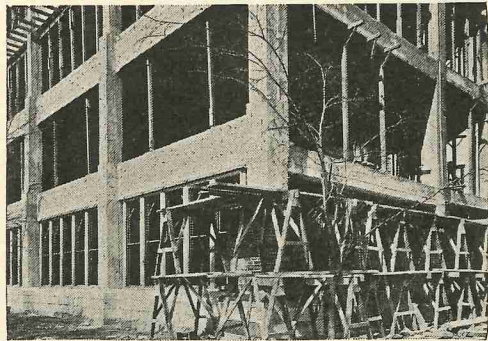


Housed in the Treasure room of the new University of Minnesota Library are many priceless books of an early age. The greatest care is used to preserve these books the most valuable are kept in a fireproof safe; others are locked in heavy cases protected by wired glass.

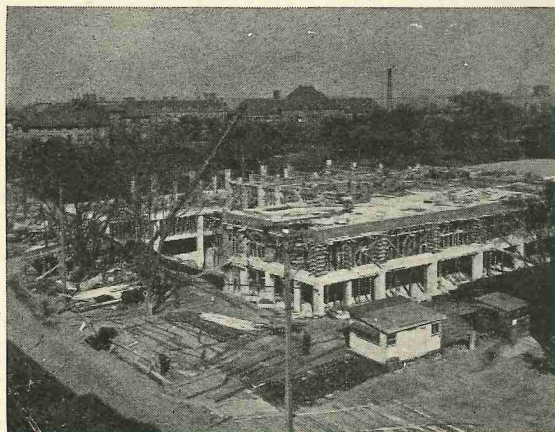


On May 16, 1923, the cornerstone of the Library building was laid amid appropriate ceremonies. The illustration at the top shows President Coffman introducing President Emeritus Folwell, who, as the University's first librarian, was accorded the honor of being one of the chief speakers. The lower picture shows Dean Guy Stanton Ford, chairman of the Library committee, delivering the cornerstone laying address, while Frank K. Walter, present librarian, stands at the right holding the copper box with relics to be inserted in the cornerstone.

This is how the Library appeared two years ago this fall when students returned. Nothing but the structural work on the first floor was in evidence then. At that time the Northern Pacific tracks had not been removed and it was necessary to move a viaduct out of the path of the new building. In the distance one sees the Dentistry building, Minnesota Union, Folwell Hall and the Army.

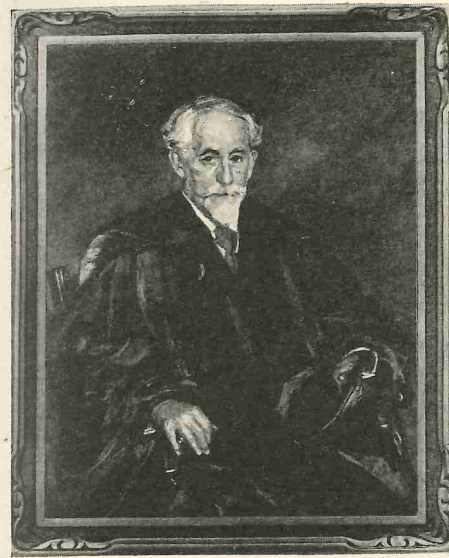


A corner of the Library as it was two years ago. This shows the skeleton steel and concrete construction that was used.



# Early Beginnings—A History

## The Foundation for Minnesota's Library Was Firmly Laid by William Watts Folwell, the University's First President and First Librarian.



President-Emeritus William Watts Folwell has the distinction of being our first librarian as well as the first president. This plate is from an oil painting of Dr. Folwell made at the instance of the Chicago Alumni unit and painted by Emily Mac-Millan ('82).

*Wm. W. Folwell*

President-Emeritus William Watts Folwell, more perhaps than any other one person at the University, does the completion of the new Library mean something like the fulfilment of a life's ambition, for Dr. Folwell was the University's first librarian and never ceased in his efforts to secure for it an adequate supply of books.

The beginning of a University library was simultaneous with the founding of the University itself, for, when the University was established in 1851 by an act of the Territorial legislature, provision was made for appointment of a secretary, a treasurer, and a librarian, who were to hold their respective offices during the pleasure of the board. At their first meeting the board appointed for the position of librarian, William R. Marshall, one of their own number and later governor of the state, but inasmuch as the library itself was practically non-existent, his position was merely nominal.

From 1851 to 1869, the University existed only as a preparatory school, and little, if anything, is left of that early collection of books.

With the inauguration of Dr. Folwell, however, the University acquired not only a president, but a scholar whose love for books and impeccable taste in selection laid firm foundations for the library of the future.

The circumstances of Dr. Folwell's taking charge of the library were really accidental. The story is told by James T. Gerould in "Forty Years of the University of Minnesota."

"Shortly after the arrival of Dr. Folwell, the executive committee of the board, without the knowledge of the president, appointed a student by the name of Campbell, a brother of Professor Campbell, as assistant in the library. It was the understanding of Professor Arthur Beardsley, instructor in engineering, that Campbell was to work under his direction and of Campbell that he was to have exclusive charge.

"Sparks flew for a while and one fine morning, when Professor Beardsley appeared at the library, he found the door locked against him and Campbell holding the fort. In the informal manner of those days, Beardsley kicked in the door and took possession. In a few hours Professor Campbell appeared on the scene, accompanied by Governor Pillsbury, the president of the board, and demanded that

Beardsley be dismissed from his position in the University. The matter was referred to President Folwell, who succeeded in quieting, if not harmonizing, the warring factions and cut the Gordian knot by taking charge of the library himself. Mr. John Sinclair Clark, then a student and later our honored professor of Latin, was engaged as assistant."

The first really large purchase of books was made in 1867, when Dr. Folwell expended \$4,000 of the \$10,000 which the legislature had appropriated for University repairs and equipment, on books. During this same year, Professor Campbell brought back 3,000 volumes which he had selected while on leave of absence in Europe.

The accession of these volumes made it necessary to have more space to house them, so the library was moved from its room in the north end of the top floor of the original part of "Old Main," to a room on the second floor next to the office of the president.

Not once during his term of office, did Dr. Folwell relax his efforts to secure adequate appropriations for the library from the legislature. Examination of his reports shows that year after year he hammered away, asking, demanding, and pleading for more books.

His second report, made in 1873, states: "I would respectfully renew my recommendation that so soon as possible the standing annual appropriation for the library be fixed at a sum not less than the salary of a professor."

In 1874, he recommended the purchase of the library of President Tappan of the University of Michigan, containing 3,000 volumes. After two or three years, the purchase was finally consummated, after which the library was estimated to contain upwards of 10,000 volumes.

For a number of years thereafter, the collection grew too slowly, the annual expenditure not exceeding \$500.

Nevertheless, Dr. Folwell did not relax in his efforts, and in his report made in '79, he says:

"Next to the teaching force in my judgment stands the library in point of importance in universities. With the latest books on the shelves, able and enterprising instructors extend and supplement their work, and incompetent and inefficient teachers cannot remain in an institution whose students have access to such books."

By this time, the library had again outgrown its quarters, and was moved to four rooms on the first floor of "Old Main." Beginning in 1875, Dr. Folwell began a persistent search for government documents, which has resulted in making our collection one of the most complete in the country. He was greatly aided in this effort by Governor Ramsay.

Repeated requests finally brought about the enlarging of the annual library appropriation from \$500 to \$1,000, in 1877. In this year, also, the legislature turned over to the University all of the miscellaneous books in the state library.

For the remainder of Dr. Folwell's administration, there was little change in the library, aside from the annual acquisition of new books. After the retirement of Mr. Clark as assistant in 1877, Graham Cox Campbell served for a year, but retired to enter the ministry. Miss Charlotte A. Rollit, his successor, was assistant librarian until her death in March, 1885, and Lettie M. Crafts, who had been



already connected with the library, was chosen to take her place.

In 1884, Dr Folwell resigned the presidency, handing over the reins to President Northrop, and himself becoming professor of political science and librarian. In the fall of '86, he submitted a report on the condition and future of the library, which shows clearly how thoroughly he understood the proper administration of the library, as well as his own deep interest in developing it.

"The ideal library," he says, "is not a mere collection of books, but it is books plus skilled hands and brains to discover and record the contents of books and put them instantly before the eyes of busy men. . . . It involves a large proportionate expenditure for administration with the purpose of converting mere dead volumes into live books."

That our first president and our acting chief executive thoroughly agree on this point, is shown by President Coffman's statement at the recent meeting of the Minnesota Library association, to the effect that a library's chief function is to put the books into active circulation, surrounding the student with them, and making them readily accessible.

President Northrop urged the board to carry out as far as possible the recommendations made by Dr. Folwell. Later he renewed his plea for a fireproof building, the necessity for which was shown by two fires which occurred, one in December, 1889, and the other in April, 1892. In both fires, considerable damage was done.

President Northrop and Dr. Folwell found it difficult,

however, to come to an agreement on the type of building to be erected, even after the appropriation had been secured from the legislature.

President Northrop's power lay in his personal influence over the students; he was an orator, and to him the most imperative need was an assembly hall where he could address the student body. Dr. Folwell, a scholarly, bookish man, felt that the greatest need was for books and a place to house them properly. When the plans were finally prepared, provision was made for a chapel in the basement where President Northrop could preside over the student assembly, and for several recitation rooms. This made the arrangement of the rest of the building as a suitable library, capable of adequate expansion practically impossible. The building was planned to fill too many needs, and as a working library building it was unsatisfactory from the beginning. This is the library which most of us know. It was completed in 1895, and is designed on the plan of the Parthenon, the material chosen being Bedford limestone.

Dr. Folwell never ceased to protest against the arrangement of the building, and when he prepared his inaugural address for reprinting in 1909, he added a notation expressing in no uncertain terms his opinion:

"In regard to the library it is not too much to say that the policy of the regents and the state has been niggardly. For nearly forty years the oversight was left to a busy professor who was allowed a petty compensation for the extra labor. In 1895, scorning all professional counsel, the regents erected a library building violating every principle of library construction, at a cost of \$200,000. It would



The Medical biological reading room with the open shelf collections of medical, biological, dental and pharmacy books.



The Greek Parthenon front of the Old Library is imposing still after its twenty-nine years of service. The old structure could seat but 350 students for study at one time and house with difficulty the 350,000 books in the University's general collection.

have been far more judicious to expend \$50,000 or say, \$75,000 on a plain brick building and put the rest of the money into books. All the books now owned by the institution do not exceed 120,000. This number ought to be quadrupled in the next decade."

During the period of his service here, he organized an efficient administration and outlined the plan of centralization which has been substantially followed in the building of the new library. After careful study and examination of buildings in all parts of the country, Mr. Gerould submitted his plan to the board of regents in 1912. Professor J. H. Forsythe commenced work on architectural designs for the building before the war. President Vincent approved the plans, and in Dr. Burton's administration a bill was passed by the University senate giving this building a preferred place on the University's building program.

He remained at the University until September, 1920, when he went to Princeton university to take charge of their library.

On the retirement of Mr. Gerould, Miss Ina Firkin, reference librarian, was appointed acting librarian, remaining in full charge until the coming of Frank K. Walter, the present administrative head, in 1921.

Mr. Walter's experience has been educational as well as executive, for he was vice director of the New York

State Library school, librarian of the General Motors Corporation, and has taught at the Universities of Michigan and Illinois.

Under his able and vigorous direction, plans for the new building were perfected and pushed to completion. Actual work upon the building began in 1922, and the building was in use for the opening of school in 1924.

It must be a source of great satisfaction to "Prexy" Folwell, who had so much trouble in securing an annual appropriation of \$500 for the library, to know that the University is now given \$37,500 (exclusive of Law and Agriculture) each year for the purchase of books, and that there is room in the steel, fire-proof stacks, for 2,000,000 volumes.

## THE LIBRARY - A BUILDING OF SERVICE

*A Tribute by President Lotus Delta Coffman*

ONE of the most competent judges of libraries, a man who has traveled widely and who in his travels has visited every important library in the country, said recently in referring to the new library at Minnesota, "There are libraries that have cost more, libraries that are a little larger, libraries that are more artistic and beautiful, but there is none with so little waste of space, none whose rooms are more economically and wisely arranged, none that lends itself to more efficient administration."

I believe this critic's statement to be true. Credit for the plans for the building belongs to Mr. J. T. Gerould, who was librarian at Minnesota from 1906 to 1920, and to the Library Committee which is composed of members of the university staff. They spent years visiting libraries in every part of the country, studying plans and holding conferences on the subject. The building as it stands is the result of their work, but the equipment was purchased, the rooms allotted, the administration of the building determined by Mr. F. K. Walter, the present librarian.

The building is the work of many minds and many hands. One point has been kept clearly in mind in the drawing or the plans, the construction of the building, and arranging the details of administration, i. e. that the building is to be a building of service—service to the students and service to the faculty. It is to be a center for study, investigation and research. It is to be a place for leisurely reading as well as a place for intensive study. It is the University's central laboratory of the mind: its instruments are books; its methods are personal; its aim is the training of students in systematic study.—L. D. COFFMAN.

## TWIN CITY and UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

LIBRARIES of St. Paul and Minneapolis have agreed on a fairly systematic scheme to prevent useless duplication. The Minneapolis Public Library, through the Athenaeum fund, buys many expensive books on art. The Minnesota Historical society specializes in American local history and genealogy. The St. Paul Public library keeps certain files of technological papers, and the James Jerome Hill Memorial library purchases certain expensive reference books and periodical files that the other libraries do not have. The University generally specializes in the scientific research material and research material in literature and history, excepting American local history. Duplication is chiefly confined to the books which are actually needed in duplicate in the different libraries. This puts the combined resources of all the libraries at the disposal of the University community.