

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING

THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1, 1870.

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1871.

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OF

## THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

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The growth of the Library of Congress during the past year has been steady, and the aggregate additions are somewhat larger than those of the year preceding. At the date of my last annual report the Library numbered 185,227 volumes. At the corresponding date of the present year, December 1, 1870, the enumeration shows a total of 197,668 bound volumes, besides about 30,000 pamphlets. Of this aggregate, 27,170 volumes belong to the Law Department of the Library.

The number of volumes added during the year was 12,441, besides about 8,000 pamphlets, derived from the following sources:

	<i>Books.</i>	<i>Pamphlets.</i>
By purchase.....	7,663	366
By copyright.....	2,734	3,140
By deposit of the Smithsonian Institution.....	1,341	2,167
By presentation.....	485	918
By exchange.....	218	1,450
<b>Total.....</b>	<b><u>12,441</u></b>	<b><u>8,061</u></b>

The operation of the copyright law has increased the Library during the year to an unusually large extent, the number and designation of articles received from that source being as follows:

Books.....	2,734
Pamphlets and periodicals.....	3,140
Musical compositions.....	2,891
Engravings, photographs, and chromos.....	1,175
Prints.....	1,426
Maps and charts.....	146
<b>Total number of articles.....</b>	<b><u>11,512</u></b>

As the entire deposit of publications required to secure copyright, together with all the records pertaining to the issue of copyright certificates, have been concentrated in the office of the Librarian of Congress, by act of July 8, 1870, it is manifest that the annual enlargement of the Library from this source must henceforward become of increased importance and value. The expediency of the change is already demonstrated in the larger accessions from this source during the five months' operation of the law, while the possession for the first time, of authentic evi-

dence of all publications issued, which are the subject of copyright, secures an almost complete compliance with the law requiring the deposit of copies in the Library.

The rapid growth and present large extent of many of the great government libraries of Europe is attributable, in great degree, to the privilege of copyright publications. That the only library in the United States which possesses a national character should not at an earlier period have been made the repository of all American publications protected by the law of copyright, must remain a source of regret to the public. A part of the resulting loss will be supplied by the incorporation with the Library of the entire reserve of copyright books deposited under former laws at the State Department, and afterward at the Department of the Interior. These publications are now being removed to the Capitol, under the law of the last session, and may be expected to add fully twenty-five thousand volumes to this Library.

The copyright business transacted in the office of the Library during the current year, including the number and description of articles for which copyrights have been issued, will be made the subject of a special report to Congress, as required by section 85 of the act to revise, consolidate, and amend the statutes relating to patents and copyrights, approved July 8, 1870.

The fact that upward of five thousand copyrights have been recorded in the office during less than six months' operation of the law, with the great additional labor and responsibility involved, suggests the necessity of increased assistance being provided for the Librarian. I have been obliged to employ two of the Library force constantly upon the business of recording copyrights and preparing certificates of the same, besides devoting more than half of my own time to the prompt dispatch of the business involved. To continue this with the present force at my disposal, and still keep up the efficient administration of the rapidly growing Library, with its catalogues and accessions, is quite impossible. As yet the Library work has not fallen much in arrear, as the annual catalogue of additions, now in press, will evince; but large portions of the Library need a thorough rearrangement, and the heavy additions of the year 1871, including, as they will, over thirty thousand volumes from all sources, to be incorporated in their proper places, together with the new general Catalogue of the Library, now nearly ready for press, will render necessary an increase of help. Experience has convinced me that assistants of the intelligence and skill requisite in the service of a library are difficult to find, and still more difficult to keep without adequate compensation. To ask for a considerable number of new assistants at salaries approximating those paid to the lower order of clerks, while it might be justified by the large sum paid into the Treasury by the undersigned, in the form of copyright fees, and amounting to about ten thousand dollars per year, would not, in my judgment, be advantageous to the Library nor to the public service.

I have determined, rather, to ask for but two additional assistants, to be employed in the copyright department, at salaries of \$1,800 and \$1,200 respectively, together with a readjustment of the compensation of the present Library force, on a basis more nearly proportioned to their very valuable services. The following table will show the proposed re-arrangement of salaries, with the amount of increased compensation suggested :

Present number employed.	Proposed number.	Present salaries.	Proposed salaries.	Total increase.
3.....	3.....	\$2,160	\$2,500	\$1,020
1.....	1.....	1,728	1,800	72
.....	1.....	.....	1,800	1,800
1.....	1.....	1,440	1,600	160
2.....	2.....	1,440	1,440	.....
1.....	2.....	1,200	1,200	1,200
1.....	1.....	864	1,200	336
2.....	2.....	864	1,000	272
1.....	1.....	960	960	.....
12.....	14.....	.....	.....	4,860

The very moderate increase of compensation suggested is asked for with confidence, on the ground that most of those employed have been many years in the service of the Library; that their acquired knowledge and skill are worthy of a sufficient recompense; that the assistants in the Library are now and always have been paid less liberally than assistant clerks employed in the service of the Senate and House of Representatives; that the whole force of the Library must be diligently employed throughout the year; and that the valuable talents required to fill these positions with efficiency cannot be permanently secured for less compensation than that proposed. It may properly be added that the amount annually paid into the Treasury for copyrights, where little or nothing was received under former laws, is more than double the increase asked for the administration of the Library in all departments, copyright business included.

The rapidity with which the Library is now growing renders necessary some provision for additional shelf-room. A small ante-room adjoining the Law Library has been prepared for the accommodation of books, and a room under the north wing of the Library, heretofore used for storage, has been connected with the alcoves by the courtesy and efficient aid of the Architect of the Capitol Extension. It is designed to use this space for the accommodation of duplicate books and documents belonging to the Library. To meet the cost of shelving it throughout, and of a light iron stairway to communicate with the Library, an appropriation of \$500 is recommended. The proper arrangement of the large accessions coming to each department of the Library appears to require the construc-

tion of about thirty cases of shelves, of light material, to be placed in the upper alcoves, and a further appropriation of \$500, to meet the cost of their construction, is respectfully recommended.

The unexpended balances of the several funds in charge of the Joint Committee on the Library are as follows, including the amounts in the hands of the disbursing agent of the Library, as well as undrawn balances in the Treasury:

Fund for the purchase of books.....	\$5,242 41
Fund for the purchase of law books.....	433 13
Fund for the purchase of periodicals.....	1,247 64
Fund for contingent expenses of Library.....	1,775 15
Fund for pay of superintendent and assistants in Botanical Garden.....	6,498 41
Fund for expenses of exchanging public documents.....	1,733 05
Fund for Powell's painting of a naval victory for the Capitol.....	6,905 00
Fund for portraits of ex-Presidents of the United States.....	3,900 00
Fund for completing the publications of the Exploring Expedition.....	17 14
Fund for pay of arrears to authors and artists of the Exploring Expedition.....	5,837 75
Fund for replacing the works of the Exploring Expedition destroyed by fire.....	1,346 10
Fund for putting in order the plates of the Exploring Expedition.....	457 79
Fund for ornamenting the Capitol with works of art.....	9,092 90
Fund for completing walk, labor, fencing, mansard story, &c., in Botanical Garden.....	6,572 50
Fund for grading, draining, procuring manure, &c. in Botanical Garden ..	1,106 53
Fund for general Catalogue.....	28 59

The completion about one year since of the Catalogue of subjects, in two volumes, has been followed up by the preparation for the printer of the titles for a new edition of the general Catalogue of the Library, arranged by authors' names in a single alphabet. The last issue of this catalogue was in 1864, and there have since been printed seven annual catalogues of additions to the Library. The titles of pamphlets, not printed in the annual supplements from economical reasons, are all plainly catalogued upon cards, and ready to be incorporated in the new general Catalogue. To add the requisite collations to the titles embraced in the catalogue of 1864, so as to make the new edition of the complete catalogue correspond in accuracy and value to the annual catalogues recently issued, will involve some months of labor, but it is hoped that the printing may soon be proceeded with.

The catalogue of books added to the Library during the year 1870 is now passing through the press, and will shortly be ready for distribution.

A. R. SPOFFORD,  
*Librarian.*

HON. A. G. CATTELL,  
*Chairman Joint Committee on the Library.*