

## XVI

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### The Library on the Eve of World War II

HAROLD WELLINGTON JONES, LIBRARIAN 1936–1945

TO succeed Hume the Surgeon General designated Colonel Harold W. Jones, a surgeon approaching the end of his career in the Army. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 5, 1877, Jones attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1894 to 1897 and Harvard Medical School from 1897 to 1901. After receiving his M.D. degree he spent 2 years at Children's Hospital, Boston, and then practiced medicine in St. Louis and taught at St. Louis University Medical School.

Joining the Army in 1905 Jones was stationed in the Philippines. Later he was a surgeon on troop ships and was attached to General Pershing's command on the Mexican border in 1916. For Pershing's expedition he organized the first motor ambulance company in the Army and afterward helped develop the standard motor ambulance for the Medical Department.

During World War I Jones commanded the large (22,000 persons) Beau Désert Hospital Center near Bordeaux. In 1920 he went to the Philippines again, where Brigadier General Johnson Hagood called him "the best post surgeon that has ever served under my command," and hoped that he would become "a general officer of the Medical Corps and Surgeon General of the Army."<sup>1</sup> Thereafter Jones was chief of the surgical service of large Army hospitals, coming from Tripler Hospital, Hawaii, to the Library in 1936.

Jones was modest, an excellent surgeon, fond of Shakespeare, and author of almost two-score articles. And like almost all of his predecessors he knew nothing about the administration and internal workings of the Library. "After serving more than thirty years in the Army, much of it in the field and more of it in the operating room, to my amazement I was ordered to Washington to finish out my active service as The Librarian," Jones reminisced later.<sup>2</sup> He was cautious and diffident at first, but as time passed and he became familiar with the theory and practice of good library management he gained confidence and brought about improvements as rapidly as conditions would permit. He urged the Surgeon General to continue efforts to have legislation passed to provide a new building, he began to diversify the bibliographies published by the Library and he cooperated in having microfilming facilities introduced into the



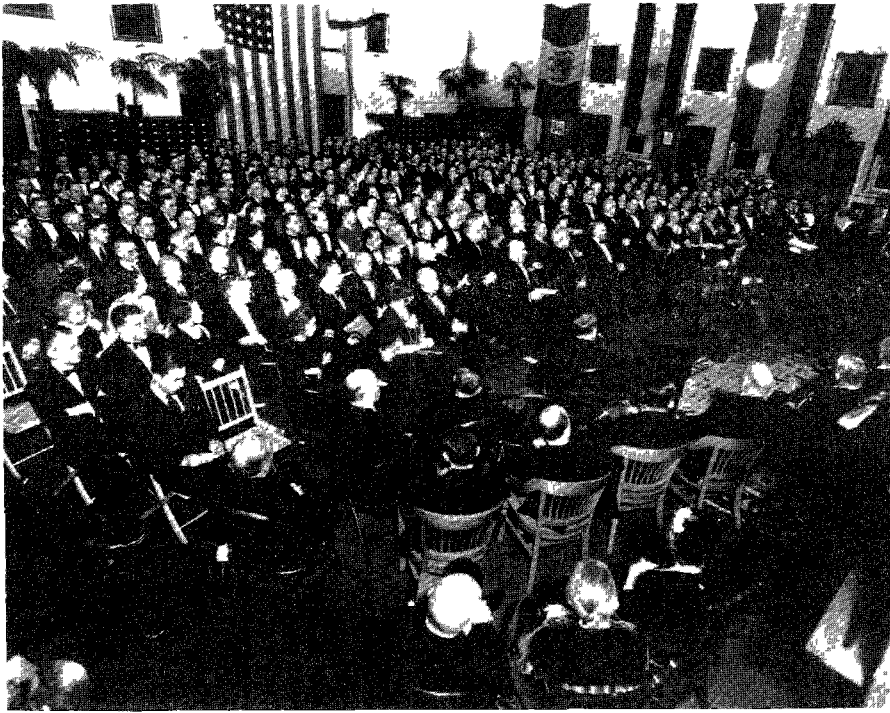
*Harold Wellington Jones, Librarian, 1936 to 1945*

institution. He visualized an *Army Medical Library Quarterly* for articles by the staff. He wondered if the Library could provide postgraduate study for medical librarianship, bibliography, and history.

Jones' tour of duty would normally have ended on August 6, 1940, when he would have completed 4 years' service as Librarian. He would then have been nearly 63 years old and approximately a year away from retirement. He asked Surgeon General James C. Magee to allow him to remain at the Library for his final year, instead of being transferred to some other post. Magee agreed, and Jones stayed on. Shortly before he would have retired in December 1941, the Medical Department, needing all its young officers for the war, retained Jones on active duty at the Library.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE CENTENARY OF THE LIBRARY

As though to mark the end of the Depression, the Library celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1936.<sup>4</sup> Actually, the Library did not have a birthdate because it was not established on a definite day, as was the museum (May 21, 1862). Instead, it evolved from a bookcase in the office of the first Surgeon



*Audience of distinguished physicians listening to Sir Humphry Rolleston in the reading room during the Library's Centennial Celebration.*

General. Librarian Edgar Hume probably did not know this when he began to think of a centenary, but when he became aware of it he did not find the absence of a definite date an insurmountable objection. He decided that 1836 was a reasonable arbitrary choice. Eighteen thirty-six marked the end of the career of Surgeon General Lovell, during whose term the first books were purchased, and the beginning for Surgeon General Lawson, by whose order the first catalog was compiled.

One cannot help noting that the year 1818 seems more logical than 1836 for a birthdate, since it was in 1818 that Lovell took office and since Lovell acquired the first books. One suspects that Hume chose 1936 because it permitted a centenary to be observed while he was there, whereas 1818 would have placed the centenary in 1918, already 18 years in the past. As to the day, Hume picked November 16, the date on which the medical officers stationed in the District of Columbia were scheduled to hold one of their monthly meetings.<sup>5</sup>

Hume laid the foundation and began to make plans for the Centenary before he was succeeded as librarian by Jones in 1936. Before leaving, Hume discussed with Jones the question of who should be the main speaker. They decided on

Harvey Cushing.<sup>6</sup> Cushing declined and suggested Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston, physician to King George V, formerly professor of physic at Cambridge, formerly president of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and Surgeon Rear Admiral of the Royal Navy. Rolleston accepted the invitation.<sup>7</sup>

Jones made the arrangements, including the sending of approximately 1,200 invitations to medical organizations and libraries in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. A few days before the meeting library furnishings were moved out of Library Hall and hundreds of folding chairs were placed in rows facing a speaker's platform erected at the end of the hall opposite the book stacks. Rugs that Jones had brought from the East were laid on the platform. Flags of many nations were hung about the hall. Scrolls and letters of congratulation were displayed.<sup>8</sup>

On Monday evening, November 16, nearly 600 guests arrived. Among them was the Cuban ambassador, British and German military attachés, former surgeons general and librarians, representatives of organizations from many countries, medical officers, and private physicians. Library Hall became full, and many visitors had to sit in the reading room below, listening to the speeches through speakers.

Following the invocation, Jones read a message from President Roosevelt and the names of scores of organizations that had sent messages of congratulation. Surgeon General Reynolds then introduced Rolleston. As the Washington *Star* pictured the scene, Sir Humphry, "an apple-cheeked Briton with thinning hair and rimless spectacles perched on the end of his nose, spoke glowingly of the library's history" while "men in white, attired for the occasion in dinner dress, and women in evening clothes strained to catch his soft-spoken syllables, for he could hardly be heard beyond the fourth row of the high-ceilinged library. Downstairs, however, an overflow audience heard his every word blaring through amplifiers."<sup>9</sup>

Afterward the guests sipped gin-rum fruit punch, ate chicken salad, finger rolls, and cakes and drank coffee while strolling along the corridor looking at rare books displayed in glass cases and listening to the Army Band.

The next day the folding chairs, flags, decorations, and amplifiers were removed, and the Library returned to its normal routine. Accounts of the affair, with quotes from Rolleston, were carried in Washington newspapers. The longest lasting benefit of the centenary to the Library may have been the effect of the publicity on legislators, particularly Rolleston's remark: "what better way of celebrating the commencement of the second century of the library could there be than the erection of a new building so urgently needed and so thoroughly deserved?"<sup>10</sup>

#### NEW BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Possibly because of the thoughts about the past and future of the Library aroused by the 100th anniversary celebration, Librarian Jones began to broaden

his view of the organization's activities.<sup>11</sup> For more than a century the Library had been collecting literature, and for more than 50 years it had been disseminating references to its literature through the *Index-Catalogue*. Now Jones decided to issue other bibliographies. The Library had no funds for publication, other than for the *Catalogue*, and it was doubtful that funds could have been obtained, but Jones could get special bibliographies into print by attaching them to the *Catalogue*. The first of these, conceived and compiled by Claudius Mayer, was a list published as a supplement to the *Catalogue* under the title "Congresses: Tentative Chronological and Bibliographical Reference List of National and International Meetings of Physicians, Scientists, and Experts."<sup>12</sup>

Jones visualized a number of other special bibliographies, one of which, on legal medicine, reached about 20 percent of completion before it ceased owing to the retirement of the compiler Loy McAfee.<sup>13</sup> Another special bibliography was the "Bio-Bibliography of XVI Century Medical Authors" by Mayer. Mayer intended this to be a union list of all 16th century works, not merely those in the AML, with biographical data and portraits of the authors. Jones had specimen pages of this bibliography, beginning with Abarbanel and ending with Adrianus, published at the front of *Index-Catalogue*, volume 4, 1939. Encouraged by the favorable reaction of readers, Mayer continued his task, obtaining information from several American and European libraries. Jones planned to publish a part of the bibliography in each volume of the *Catalogue* until it was complete, then to reprint it as a separate book. The first part covering half of the letter A appeared as a supplement to volume 6, 1941. Unfortunately the war caused Mayer to stop work on what promised to be a useful, authoritative reference book, and it was not continued.<sup>14</sup>

Jones' most ambitious plan in the field of bibliography was the compilation of a World Catalog of Medical Books, a complete inventory of all medical books ever published.<sup>15</sup> The foundation of the World Catalog was to be the Library's card catalog. The catalog was to be brought up-to-date by a partial reclassification of the Library's books, in accordance with modern library practice. Card catalogs of other libraries were to be microfilmed. From the film cards were to be made and interspersed in the AML catalog. Authors and titles of books would be placed in the *Index-Catalogue*. The microfilming of catalogs of other libraries began in 1940, but the war halted this project and eventually it was abandoned forever.

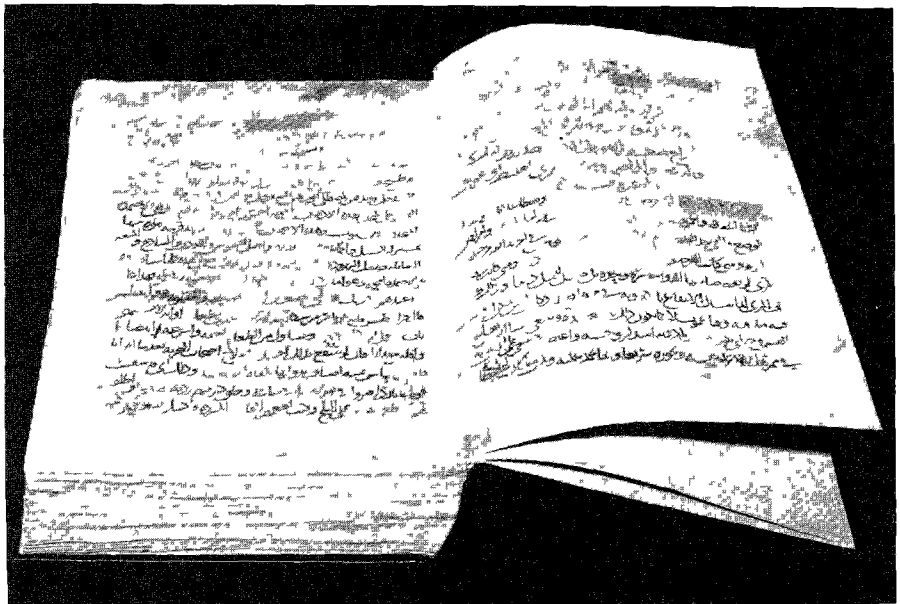
Although the portrait collection seems unrelated to the *Index-Catalogue*, the development of the collection was, in the 1930's, supervised by Mayer. In 1939 it was decided to broaden the card catalog of portraits into a Union List of Medical Portraits. Cards in the portrait catalogs at New York Academy of Medicine, College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Northwestern University Medical School, John Crerar Library, and Jefferson Medical School were photographed and combined with AML cards.<sup>16</sup> The war intervened and this work was stopped.

EDGAR'S BEQUEST HELPS BUY ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS

The Library has received many gifts of printed and manuscript material, of pictures and photos, but only a few of money. The second largest sum came from William F. Edgar, a physician who had wagon-trained west over the Oregon Trail in 1849 and eventually settled in California. There he prospered, and in 1893 and '94 he drew up a will leaving his estate to his wife during her life, to charitable, educational, and civic organizations after her death, and, for reasons not known to us, the residue to the Army Library-Museum

Edgar died in 1897, his wife a third of a century later. The trustees of the estate approached the Secretary of War in 1931, but the Library and museum could not accept the bequest until 1933 when Congress passed a joint resolution permitting them to do so. Under the terms of Edgar's will the Library received one-fifth of the residue, \$3,662, the museum four-fifths, \$14,647. Thirty-six hundred dollars was a respectable sum in the Great Depression year of 1933, when Congress appropriated only \$14,300 for acquisitions.

The Librarians found the bequest useful in purchasing items or having work done for which there was no appropriation. One of the earliest uses for the money was to cover the cost of repairs to portraits, and to pay artist Franklyn B. Clark for an oil painting of Garrison. Some expenses of the Centenary Celebration in 1936 were covered by the bequest. In 1940 Jones set aside a



*Arabic manuscript by al-Razi dealing with intestinal diseases. Written in 1094, this is the oldest book in the Library.*

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small area in the basement as a staff lounge, where employees who brought lunches from home could eat, and he paid for the furnishings with Edgar monies. The Librarians spent the money sparingly, generally less than \$200 a year during the 1930's, nevertheless because it was available for unusual expenses Jones considered it to be "a great comfort to the Library in time of need."<sup>18</sup>

While there was still a considerable sum remaining in the Edgar bequest, Jones had the opportunity of purchasing a group of Arabic medical manuscripts. These writings were part of a large collection assembled by Abraham S. Yahuda, a scholar who had brought them to the United States when he fled the war in Europe. In 1940 Yahuda sent packing cases filled with his manuscripts to the Library and spent weeks there sorting out the medical items. Jones was hesitant about buying such exotic material, but after much deliberation and negotiation he bought one lot and later another lot, 130 documents in all, for about \$7,500, some of the money coming from the Edgar fund.<sup>19</sup> Even at that, Jones felt that the sum was so large in comparison with the annual appropriation that he spread the payment over several fiscal years.

After this the librarians again drew money conservatively from the bequest, less than \$100 or \$200 a year until 1956 when the balance was exhausted by the purchase of 5 tables and 20 chairs for the Library's dining area.<sup>20</sup>

## THE LIBRARY IS FULL

During the tenures of Ashburn and Hume shelves became filled in Library Hall, the reading room, and the corridors. Publications had to be stored in every nook and cranny.<sup>21</sup> By the time Harold Jones arrived in 1936 he found the Library's portion of the building about to overflow.<sup>22</sup>

As far as I can see there is literally not an inch of room for expansion anywhere in the entire building except a dirty old coal hole in the cellar which is simply unspeakable. Everywhere books and magazines are piled high, and how anybody knows where things are or how anybody can get at anything if they want it, is beyond me. . . . Everywhere you go, every dark cubby-hole that is opened up in the basement, shows stacks and stacks of books and periodicals rising to the ceiling, the shelves groaning and bent under the weight, and really the confusion is indescribable. Valuable books are left uncared for, there is no rhyme or reason as to why they are placed where they are, and if anything happened to the people who know the locations I doubt if they would ever be found. The longer this confusion goes on the worse it will be when we try to eventually straighten things out, and not one move can be made now because there is nowhere to go except out on the street.

Jones searched the building and managed to find space here and there for additional shelves. He placed a few bookcases in Library Hall and the reading room, thereby decreasing space for readers.<sup>23</sup> By 1939 Jones could not find any more usable space. "Now the end has been reached," he informed the Surgeon General, "and the Librarian is using the last available space for between four and five thousand books. In a little more than a year there will be no room

whatever and by no stretch of the imagination can any more books be received unless something is done."<sup>24</sup>

Jones recommended that a temporary wing be erected next to the Library end of the building, or that space be borrowed from the neighboring Department of Agriculture, or that an empty house, hall, or church be rented.<sup>25</sup> But the Medical Department had been encouraged by the passage of legislation authorizing a new Library-Museum Building, and it would not accept Jones' suggestions. Jones had no alternative but to move volumes out of the building. He had all the duplicates, about 50 tons, packed into 500 boxes and shipped to the Army Medical Center for storage. Part of the freed space in the cellar was shelved for volumes, part was used for expansion of the infant microfilm service. Still searching for storage Jones thought of the recently erected National Archives Building. He asked Robert D. W. Connor, Archivist of the United States, for a loan of shelf space. Connor kindly offered 1,000 linear feet.<sup>26</sup> One wonders from whom Jones would have borrowed space next if events during World War II had not brought another temporary solution to the Library's space problem.

#### THE LIBRARY IS DIRTY

The Library was not only crowded, it was becoming run-down. The advancing age of the building was partially responsible, but there were other reasons. Washington now had many more buildings and houses than it had in the 1880's when the Library was erected, and the coal furnaces of these structures threw smoke into the air much of the year. Impalpable dust found its way into the Library and settled on volumes. A vacuum cleaner was in use constantly.<sup>27</sup> Several janitors spent their time cleaning and dusting.<sup>28</sup>

The plumbing and toilets were antiquated. Some of the furniture and rugs were badly worn. Paint was not applied often enough. When Jones was appointed Librarian in 1936 the Library looked like this to him:<sup>29</sup>

It is frightfully dirty, ragged, unkempt, and disorderly. Dirt is rampant, and you can hardly touch anything here without having to wash your hands. The linoleum is ragged and disreputable, the walls grimy, the paint flaking off, the books dusty and the leather bindings cracking, and so on. There seems to be no standard of decency, no minimum housing and working conditions. The place lacks proper toilets and lavatories. It is badly lighted, and while I do not wish to complain personally, the office of the Librarian is quite unspeakable. . . . We need the whole place cleaned, we need a lot of paint and electric wiring on the inside, we need varnishing, we need workers to go over the books and treat the bindings, we need people with vacuum cleaners, we need all the floors gone over, we need new linoleum, or better still floor rugs, we need new furniture, new shades, and many other things. . . .

Prodded by Jones the department repainted Library Hall and the reading room, installed reading lamps, touched up the exterior, repaired leaks in the roof, purchased new furniture, and enlarged the visitors parking lot. More radiators were placed along the walls of the reading room. The building stopped



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using its boiler and began to receive central heat from the government heating plant. Still, the department was reluctant to sink much money into the old structure since it was thought that a new building would soon be constructed.

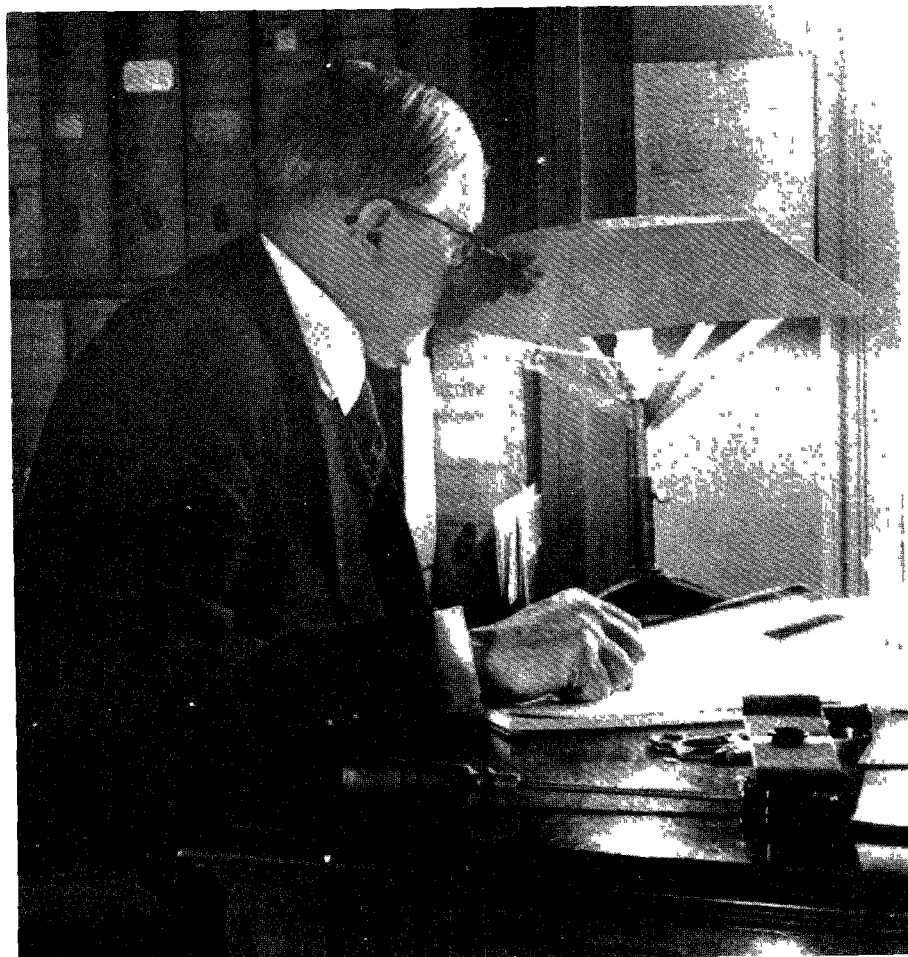
### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, THE BEGINNING OF MICROFILMING, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF *Current List*

In 1907 Atherton Seidell, a biochemist, published the first edition of his classic reference book *Solubilities of Inorganic and Organic Substances*. During the years that followed he spent many hours in various libraries compiling data for later editions. In 1926 at Maison de la Chimie in Paris he became acquainted with microfilm. Two years later in France he had to leave his family and laboratory to travel to Monaco to peruse a specialized journal. It occurred to him that this time-consuming trip would not have been necessary if microfilm facilities had been available for scholars and scientists engaged in library research. Thereafter he never stopped his efforts to encourage libraries to develop free microfilm service for patrons.<sup>30</sup>

In the 1930's he was a leader in organizing the American Documentation Institute, a nonprofit microfilm service. The Department of Agriculture loaned the institute office space. Seidell installed a camera in the Agriculture Library and began to provide microfilm at a low price. Subsequently he placed cameras in the National Bureau of Standards Library, the Geological Survey Library, and, in 1937, the Army Medical Library. The medical library, understaffed, could not spare a person to operate the camera, and Agriculture sent over a photographer two or three times a week to film orders that had been received. During fiscal year 1938–1939 this service filled 1,591 orders totaling 5,000 pages of text.<sup>31</sup>

Microfilming was moving slowly into libraries at this time. Firms were developing cameras and viewers, libraries were purchasing equipment and integrating microfilming into their operations, and researchers were being informed of the availability of film. By 1940 Librarian Jones was convinced of the potential usefulness of microfilm, and he wanted the service improved. He did not have funds to purchase a camera and other equipment and to hire an operator, but Seidell offered to form a volunteer organization to sponsor microfilming and publish a periodical that would inform researchers of recent articles available on film.<sup>32</sup>

Seidell began in August 1940 by inviting five prominent physicians of Washington to join him in a group to be called "Friends of the Army Medical Library."<sup>33</sup> These men were Hugh Cumming, formerly Surgeon General of the Public Health Service and now director of Pan American Sanitary Bureau; Aristides A. Moll, secretary of Pan American Sanitary Bureau, George B. Roth, professor of pharmacology at George Washington University; Michael X. Sullivan, director of Medical Research Institute, Georgetown University; and William L. White, National Institute of Health. After these men had agreed to unite with him in the undertaking, Seidell set about enlarging the group. He des-



*Atherton Seidell, who introduced microfilming into the Library. He devised a number of simple, inexpensive magnifying viewers to enable persons to read microfilm in their laboratories, offices, or homes. Here he is looking through a microfilm viewer built into his lamp shade. Another of his viewers, consisting of a handle and magnifier, is on the table.*

ignated the original six as the executive committee and himself as executive secretary. He was, in fact, the active member of the original Friends and paid the starting-up expenses out of his own pocket, the others were silent partners who added prestige by their presence. He sent out 2,800 form letters inviting physicians and scientists to become Friends, to use the microfilm service of the Library, and to subscribe to his proposed journal<sup>34</sup>

In the months that followed many individuals and libraries became Friends,

but in the meantime Seidell proceeded with microfilming and the periodical. He gave his camera and processing equipment to the Library, paid the cost of installation, and advanced \$200 to start the work. Under his direction and the nominal sponsorship of the Friends, "Medicofilm Service," as it was named, produced its first film in September 1940, filling 122 orders for 22 customers.<sup>35</sup>

Medicofilm Service was managed by Seidell, and the work was done by library employees on their own time. Two members of the reference staff collected and brought volumes to the camera, for which they received 3 cents a volume. Two other employees filmed the material. The expense and the remuneration of the workers was paid by charging 30 cents (reduced to 25 cents in July 1941) for an article up to 25 pages in length, plus 10 cents for each succeeding 10 pages. Microfilms were made free for the Surgeon General's office and the Library. The operation became self-supporting eventually and thereafter showed a profit.

At first patrons were informed of the new microfilm facilities by a pamphlet, "Medicofilm Service of the Army Medical Library; its purpose and plan of operation together with a list of more than 400 abbreviated titles of modern periodicals currently received by this library."<sup>36</sup> To publicize the services more widely, Seidell began publishing on January 1, 1941, a pocket-size 20-page weekly periodical, *Current List of Medical Literature*. It appeared under sponsorship of the Friends, but it was managed entirely by Seidell.

The titles in *Current List* were copied from index cards prepared for *Index-Catalogue*. A library employee, Deborah Hannon, typed the manuscript out of working hours. The copy was pasted in columns and reproduced by the Washington Planograph Co. Each issue contained about 1,000 titles. The work was done so rapidly that a subscriber was furnished with the titles of articles eight to 10 days after journals arrived at the Library. In contrast, readers of *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus* had to wait from 2 to 3 months to learn of the articles.

Articles in *Current List* were arranged under approximately 50 subject headings dealing with medicine and allied sciences. A researcher glancing at articles under his speciality, as cardiology, dentistry, ophthalmology, could ascertain quickly the presence of new articles he might wish to read. *Current List* did not displace other index journals; it was merely a rapid, convenient, inexpensive way of announcing new articles, microfilms of which were obtainable quickly from the Library.

On the inside of the back paper cover was frequently printed an order blank for readers to use in sending for film. At other times the inside of both covers carried news and announcements of the Friends and the Library, and editorials written by Seidell, Jones, Claudius Mayer, and other persons. On occasion the Library used the covers of several issues to publish a long list of wanted journals needed to fill gaps in the journal collection. Beginning in February 1941 the Friends began to issue the Library's "Recent Book Acquisitions," as a supplement to *Current List* with hope of attaining wider distribution of the former.

The publication of *Current List*, including typing, printing, and postage, cost about \$5,000 a year. The subscription price was \$5 a year (which amounted to about 10 cents a number). The cost of starting the journal was paid by Seidell. The number of subscribers increased rapidly, but the journal did not begin to pay for itself for some time. Seidell supplied almost all of the deficit, the remainder coming from profit earned by Medicofilm Service.<sup>37</sup>

The plan of informing researchers of newly arrived articles and supplying microfilm copies was very successful. The number of customers increased rapidly. During the first 6 months an average of 444 orders arrived each month. By June 30, 1941, 1,300 persons and institutions had become Friends. Medicofilm Service had exposed almost 2 miles of film to fill 4,736 orders for 950 universities, hospitals, research institutions, individuals, and government agencies. With funds from Rockefeller Foundation and assistance of the Sanitary Bureau of the Pan American Union, *Current List* and microfilm copies of medical publications were being sent free to 150 medical institutions in Central and South America.

#### LEGISLATION FOR A NEW BUILDING

Talk of unification of Army Medical Library with Library of Congress or removal to the LC annex persisted. In November 1936 Harvey Cushing told Surgeon General Charles Reynolds that Herbert Putnam saw no reason why the medical library could not be located in the annex while retaining its name and being operated by the Surgeon General's office:<sup>38</sup>

I have talked once or twice with Herbert Putnam about it and he is under the impression that the medical profession doesn't quite know what it wants, whether to go to the site near the Walter Reed Hospital or to join up with the Congressional Library. I think that he himself, now that the new building is going up, feels differently from what he originally did. He intimated to me that one floor of this new building would be about double the space now occupied by the Library and Museum and that he did not see any reason why it should not be called the Surgeon-General's Library and be run by the Army just as it now is. Meanwhile, it could take advantage of their cataloguing system and all the rest; and what is more important still, the Library of Congress had very little difficulty in getting money for whatever it wanted whereas the Surgeon-General's Library might sometime have difficulty in getting support.

Something more was said about the suggestion that the incunabula might be moved over to the Congressional Library where they could be put in the air-conditioned room, for they were rather deteriorating in their present quarters.

Finally Librarian Jones decided that he had to separate rumor from reality and he, with Surgeon General Reynolds in tow, went to see Putnam. Putnam told them that "certain influential persons" had advised the President not to erect a new library building at Army Medical Center, that he did not believe that it would necessarily be more economical if the AML were transferred to LC, that he preferred AML to be in its own building, but that he would have

to admit, if questioned by congressmen, that LC had plenty of space to absorb AML.<sup>39</sup>

It is usually impossible to learn precisely all the events that cause a bill to be introduced into and passed by Congress. The Medical Department had many friends besides Cushing urging Congress and the Administration to provide a new building. Yet, probably none of them was able to approach President Roosevelt as closely as Cushing, and it may have been Cushing's letters to the White House that finally resulted in the President's sending for Surgeon General Reynolds in April 1938, to tell him legislation would be prepared. The President suggested that he marshal public sentiment to urge Congress to act and that he hold a news conference to inform reporters that a new library-museum would be forthcoming.<sup>40</sup>

Within a few days Reynolds requested from the Adjutant General an allotment of \$3,750,000 from Public Works Administration or other funds for construction of the building at Army Medical Center.<sup>41</sup> The War Department placed the building on a list of construction projects that would be presented to the PWA.<sup>42</sup>

Librarian Jones and Curator James E. Ash of the museum now began a broad campaign to persuade Congress to pass the bill that would come from the White House. They drew up lists of hundreds of names of medical libraries, institutions, and influential persons to whom the Surgeon General could write asking for support.<sup>43</sup> Scores of replies reached the Medical Department and were later presented to the congressional committees that, in the meantime, had received the bill.<sup>44</sup>

On April 28 Representative Andrew J. May and Senator Morris Sheppard introduced identical bills, drawn up by Surgeon General Charles Reynolds, to authorize construction of a new Army Medical Library-Museum Building in Washington.<sup>45</sup> Congress enacted the legislation very rapidly, and the President approved the law June 15.<sup>46</sup> The Secretary of War now had permission to construct a building costing no more than \$3,750,000 on a site approved by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, but he had not been given any money to carry out the work.

On June 13 Roosevelt asked Congress to appropriate \$3,750,000 for construction of the proposed building.<sup>47</sup> The Senate passed a bill quickly appropriating one-third of the sum, but the House did not have time to act before Congress adjourned on June 16, and the bill died.

More than a year passed before the legislative process began again, with the White House directing the War Department to include funds for the building in its estimate of appropriations.<sup>48</sup> The department's estimate, submitted to Congress on January 4, 1940, requested \$470,000 to purchase a site and \$130,000 for plans. The House Committee on Appropriations agreed to the amount for plans but not for a site, pointing out that the law passed in 1938 had not authorized the buying of land.<sup>49</sup> The Senate did not agree with the House and desired to give the entire sum of \$600,000. But the House remained

adamant, stating that money was needed more urgently for other military projects. The final appropriation act, June 15, 1940, thus gave the Army \$130,000 for planning the building.<sup>50</sup> A supplemental appropriation act passed several days later specified that the Secretary of War and Surgeon General should approve the selection of the architect and the design.<sup>51</sup>

On October 4, 1940, the Secretary of War authorized Surgeon General James Magee to form a committee to choose an architect and a design. This committee selected the firm of Eggers and Higgins, New York, which had participated in the design of the National Gallery of Art, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and National Archives. The Secretary approved and a contract was drawn up.<sup>52</sup> The architects developed a series of plans that they submitted first to Jones and Ash, and, after May 1941, to a board consisting of Jones, Ash, former librarian James Phalen, and two other officers.<sup>53</sup>

Meanwhile President Roosevelt had told the Army to place the building behind the Library of Congress near East Capitol Street.<sup>54</sup> Through 1940 and '41 the National Capital Park and Planning Commission kept changing its overall plan for the Hill area as it sought to make a harmonious setting for the Supreme Court building, the proposed Justice Holmes Memorial Garden, and other structures. Finally in March 1941 the commission and the Surgeon General agreed on a block on the south side of East Capitol Street between Third and Fourth streets.<sup>55</sup>

In October 1941 the Commission of Fine Arts approved the architect's plans but asked for more ornamentation (one result of which was a planned statue of Billings) and suggested a larger site.<sup>56</sup> The Army still did not have funds to purchase ground on Capitol Hill. In June 1941 Surgeon General Magee had asked Representative May to introduce a bill that would provide the Army with \$1,000,000 for the land.<sup>57</sup> May's bill passed but like previous legislation it only authorized, it did not appropriate, funds.<sup>58</sup> The sense of the House during debate was that nothing more than planning of the building would be done until the war emergency period had passed.<sup>59</sup> In the spring of 1942, at the request of the Army, the contract with the architects was canceled because the United States was now at war.<sup>60</sup>

#### JONES ORGANIZES THE STAFF

The employees, up to this time, were organized very loosely, as they had been since the days when Billings directed the Library. Everyone knew his or her job and carried on without much supervision.<sup>61</sup> When the promise of a new building brought Jones and the architects together in 1940, he realized that the staff would have to be organized along functional lines if the interior of the Library's half of the structure was to be laid out for maximum convenience and efficiency.

Finally in November 1941 Jones carried out his ideas and grouped the employees into three divisions and one department named the Index-Catalogue

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and Research Division, the Acquisition, Finance and Supply Division, the Custody and Loans Division, and the Clerical Department.<sup>62</sup>

The duties of the Index-Catalogue and Research Division, headed by Claudius Mayer, included: cataloging all publications for the library, maintaining the main card catalog, selecting articles and sections of books for inclusion in *Index-Catalogue*, publishing *Index-Catalogue*, developing the portrait collection and catalog, arranging the manuscript and autograph collection, performing bibliographical research for government agencies and private individuals, translating, and abstracting. This division also did the planning to fill in Jones' ideas for changes in organization, cataloging, accessioning, subject classification of books, and other matters.

The Custody and Loans Division had charge of the main book and periodical collections, served readers in the library, and ran the interlibrary loan system. The Acquisition, Finance and Supply Division searched book-trade sources for works that should be acquired, ordered the works, handled the financial accounts (this had been done in the Surgeon General's office until early 1941), and accessioned new arrivals. The Clerical Department included the clerical, messenger, mailing, and labor services, and later the microfilming service. Thereafter Jones modified the organization from time to time to meet changing conditions<sup>63</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Efficiency reports on Jones by Hagood, 1923-1924 MS/C/8

<sup>2</sup> Jones, "The Army Medical Library in Retrospect and Future," *Bull Med Lib Assoc* 34 4 (1946)

<sup>3</sup> Biographical information on Jones may be found in his papers in MS/C/8, and in his articles "A Journey to the Kingdom of the White Elephant," *Military Surgeon* 56 159-68 (1925), "The Pill Artillery in Mexico," *ibid*, 59 545-568 (1926), "A Doctor chases the Pulajanes," *ibid*, 67 297-316 (1930), "Following Rainbows 'Round the World," *ibid*, 71 76-85, 172-181 (1932), "Looking Backward," *ibid*, 76 74-83 (1935), "Delegate-at-Large," *ibid*, 81 430-442 (1937)

<sup>4</sup> Correspondence regarding the arrangements for the Centenary, letters of congratulation, scrolls, programs, clippings, and reprints of articles are in MS/C/140. Several articles were written for the Centenary. Jones, "The Centenary of the Army Medical Library," *Military Surgeon* 80 1-4 (1937), Rolleston, "the Oration Commemorating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the Army Medical Library, Washington," 5-20, Jones, "The Greet-

ings from Beyond the Seas," 21-31, Claudius F. Mayer, "From Drawings to Photography in Color," 31-44, E. E. Hume, "Buildings for the Army Medical Library," 45-52. Jones', Rolleston's, and Mayer's articles were also published (without the illustrations used in *Military Surgeon*) in The Army Medical Library Number of *Med Life*, 43 Dec 1936, along with additional articles. P. M. Ashburn, "A Greenhorn's Experience in the Library," J. M. Phalen, "American Medical Literature", Albert Allemann, "Dr. Billings and His Work." Jones had reprints of all the articles in *Military Surgeon* and *Med Life* bound in volumes for presentation, *The One Hundredth Anniversary of the Army Medical Library, Washington, D C*, 1936

<sup>5</sup> Letters, Hume to Victor Robinson, July 11, 1936, Surg Gen C. R. Reynolds to H. Cushing, Aug 11 MS/C/140

<sup>6</sup> Letters, Hume to C. R. Reynolds, Aug 11, 1936, Reynolds to H. Cushing, Aug 11. Jones to Reynolds, Aug 24 MS/C/140. Fulton, *Harvey Cushing*, p. 665, 676

<sup>7</sup> Jones' remarks on arrangements in *Bull Med Lib Assoc* 40 103-104 (1952)

<sup>8</sup> Hume and Jones prepared for distribution

to the guests an eight-page pamphlet, *Routine Operation of the Army Medical Library*. A copy is in Archival Collection

<sup>9</sup> *Star*, Nov 17, 1936

<sup>10</sup> The Washington *Star*, *Herald*, and *Post* all mentioned the need for a new building in their accounts of the Centenary

<sup>11</sup> *Annual Report of the Surgeon General*, 1939, p 248

<sup>12</sup> *Index-Catalogue* vol 3, 1938. The 288-page supplement has its own pagination, apparently Jones hoped to have copies printed, bound, and issued separately. An addition to the list was published in *Index-Catalogue*, Vol 4, 1939

<sup>13</sup> Memo, Jones for Dr Bickel and the indexing department, May 31, 1940 MS/C/42

<sup>14</sup> Mayer's plans, sources, and methods for the bibliography are in his seven-page introduction to the supplement

<sup>15</sup> *Annual Report of the Surgeon General* 1939, p 248. *Index-Catalogue* 5, 1940 p iii, 6, 1941, p iv. *Current List Med Lit*, 5 Aug 5, 1943, inside cover

<sup>16</sup> Changes in the style of cataloging and coverage in the fourth series are listed in Annual Report of the Librarian FY 1940-41 file, Consolidated Fiscal Year Activities, MS/C/309

<sup>17</sup> Jones, editorial inside covers *Current List*, 4 no 23, June 10, 1943

<sup>18</sup> *Annual Report of the Surgeon General*, 1940, p 260

<sup>19</sup> A survey of the manuscripts may be found in Sami Hamarneh, "Arabic Manuscripts of the National Library of Medicine, Washington, D C." *J Hist Arabic Sci* 1 72-103 (1977)

<sup>20</sup> For background of the Edgar bequest see Henry, *Armed Forces Institute of Pathology*, p 234-5. Brief remarks on the fund are in annual reports, 1937-1949, *AML Bulletin*, Jan 3, 1952, May 23, 1956. Correspondence between Jones and Sommer, NLM. Correspondence between Jones and Mayer, and Mayer and Yahuda, MS/C/42. Claudius F Mayer, "The Collection of Arabic Medical Literature in the Army Medical Library," *Bull Med Lib Assoc* 30 96-104 (1941-42), "Checklist of Arabic Manuscripts," *Bull Hist Med* 16 201-16 (1942). Princeton University purchased the bulk of Yahuda's manuscripts

<sup>21</sup> "The other day, one of our staff was complaining about the crowded conditions in the 'Thesis Room' unfortunately for our peace of mind this is not the only place where we keep such dissertations, for it is impossible to keep them confined to a single room. They crawl all over the library, some 200,000 of them. There is not a single inch of space left in any of the boxes for the squeezing in of any more theses. All the available room is taken up now by the

medical dissertations of the last three centuries." C F Mayer, *Current List Med Lit* 1 No 14, April 2, 1941, inside cover

A list of all the rooms used for library purposes, the number of square feet in each room, and the use made of the room is in Memo, Jones to Surgeon General, Mar 16, 1937 file, Space Information, MS/C/309

<sup>22</sup> Memo for the Surgeon General by Jones, Sept 2, 1936 MS/C/205

<sup>23</sup> Some of the cases had glass fronts and locks. In these all the incunabula, more than 450, were brought together and arranged in alphabetical order. Similarly 3,000 16th-century volumes were selected from the general collection and placed in locked cases for the first time. Erotica was locked up in a cherrywood book case with a solid front. A unique copy of the 1721 reprint of Thomas Thatcher's *A Brief Rule to Guide the Common-people of New-England how to order themselves and theirs in the small pocks or measles*, a broadside, and perhaps a few other small, rare publications were kept in the Library's safe

<sup>24</sup> *Report of the Surgeon General*, 1939, p 249. Letter, Jones to Surgeon General, Oct 12, 1939 file, Space Information, MS/C/309

<sup>25</sup> Memos, Jones to Surgeon General, Oct 5, 1939, Oct 12, Nov 28 file, Space Information, MS/C/309

<sup>26</sup> Letter, Jones to Connor, July 16, 1941, and attached corr file Space Information, MS/C/309. Books, including the stock of *Index-Catalogue* and the old *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, were stored in the Archives from Sept 1941 until January 1944, when they were moved to the Cleveland Branch

<sup>27</sup> In 1910 the Library acquired its first vacuum cleaner, a Duntley Pneumatic Cleaner. It was in constant use for 2 years before it wore out. Librarian McCaw told the Surgeon General that the "method of cleaning books and shelves in the Library by a pneumatic machine is invaluable," and requested a stronger, more durable cleaner. See letter, McCaw to Surg Gen, Feb 5, 1913, MS/C/116

<sup>28</sup> The Librarians complained in their annual reports to the Surgeon General that more janitors were needed

<sup>29</sup> Memo, Jones to Surgeon General, Sept 2, 1936 MS/C/205. Jones also said "To my mind the Museum is in an infinitely better position than the Library. It is fairly clean and looks prosperous, apparently has plenty of space in which to display its wares, and meanwhile the Library is barely able to stagger along and is in a condition that has to be seen to be appreciated."

<sup>30</sup> Elizabeth E Medinger, "A Brief look at the activities of Atherton Seidell, Ph D (1878-1961) in the field of documentation," typescript



## THE LIBRARY ON THE EVE OF WORLD WAR II

in MS/C/198 Sketches of Seidell may be found in Proc Nat Microfilm Ass 10th Convention, 1961, pp 302-305 with port , Wyndham D Miles, *American Chemists and Chemical Engineers*, (1976), 432-433, with refs Information was also obtained from Miss Medinger (Seidell's niece) and from Joseph H McNinch

Reginald Hawkins, *Production of Micro-Forms*, (1960) and Jean Stewart, Doralyn Hickey, and others, *Reading Devices for Micro-Images*, (1960) provide an account of the development of microfilm for library use, and refer to Seidell and the AML

<sup>31</sup> Annual report of the Librarian, FY 1938-39 file Consolidated FY Ac MS/C/309

<sup>32</sup> Another purpose of this organization was to attract gifts to the Library, but so far as I am aware this did not happen

<sup>33</sup> Letters, G B Roth to Seidell, Sept 3, 1940 W C White to Seidell, Sept 4 Seidell to Surgeon General James Magee, Nov 8 file, Friends of AML, MS/C/309

<sup>34</sup> Letter, Seidell to members of the Friends, Nov 25, 1940, with draft of form letter attached file, Friends of AML MS/C/309 A copy of the printed form letter is also in this file

<sup>35</sup> *Current List Med Lit* 1 No 5, Apr 9 1941, gives statistics for the first few months of service Information on microfilming in the Library by Microfilm Service and its successor, Photoduplication Service, may be found in *Current List* and in reports of Photoduplication Service annual reports of library activities, and reports of activities of the Microfilm Service, MS/C/309 A good account of microfilming, the Friends, and *Current List* is on pp 128-146 of 'The National Medical Library Report of a Survey of the Army Medical Library Appendixes,' by Keyes D Metcalf and others, 1944, in Archival Collection or MS/B/190

<sup>36</sup> Published in September 1940 A copy is in Archival Collection

<sup>37</sup> "Dr Seidell has already sunk a good deal of money in it and I doubt very much if he gets it back" H W Jones, Brief notes for answers on war effort in Army Medical Library, 1942, file Historical Info, MS/C/309

<sup>38</sup> Letter, Cushing to Reynolds, Nov 25, 1936 MS/C/183

Thomas S Cullen's scrapbook, Proposed New and Centrally Located Surgeon General's Library Building, copy at NLM, contains correspondence and clippings regarding efforts to obtain a new building during this period

<sup>39</sup> H W Jones "Interview with Mr Herbert Putnam January 5, 1937", Reynolds, "Record of conference with Dr Putnam January 5, 1937", letter, Putnam to Jones, Jan 8, 1937, Memo, Reynolds to Jones, Jan 11 file, Transfer of AML, MS/C/309

<sup>40</sup> Letter, Reynolds to W Bierring, Pres AMA, July 21, 1938, this letter states that Reynolds talked with Roosevelt on April 18 Another document, "Efforts to secure congressional appropriation for new army medical library building," p 6, gives the date as April 21 Letter, Reynolds to Marvin McIntyre, Secretary to the President, Aug 5, 1938, also gives the date April 21 File, New Building Misc Corr , MS/C/309

<sup>41</sup> Letter, Reynolds to Adjutant General, Apr 21, 1938 file, New Building Misc Corr , MS/C/309

<sup>42</sup> Extracts concerning Army Medical Library and Museum, Apr 15, 1942 file, New Building Misc Corr , MS/C/309

<sup>43</sup> Jones, memo for the Surgeon General, in letters to secure site for new library and museum, May 3, 1938 file, Location of New Building, MS/C/309

<sup>44</sup> Letters or excerpts are in "Hearings before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, Seventy-Fifth Congress, Third Session, on H R 10455", in the hearings before the Senate Committee, and in H R Report 2493 to accompany bill H R 10455 copies are in MS/C/47 Henry, *Armed Forces Institute of Pathology*, pp 236-240

<sup>45</sup> 75th Cong , 3d sess , bill H R 10455, Apr 28, 1938 and bill S 3919, Apr 28, 1938, "To authorize the Secretary of War to proceed with the construction of certain public works in connection with the War Department in the District of Columbia " Copies of these bills, accompanying House and Senate reports, excerpts from Congressional Record, and Communication from the President, are in MS/C/47

Reynolds stated that he drafted the bill, in letter to Col L Gardner, Mar 15, 1946 file, New Building Misc Corr , MS/C/309

<sup>46</sup> P L 611, 75th Cong copy in MS/C/47

<sup>47</sup> 75th Cong , 3d sess , Senate Doc 204 copy in MS/C/47

<sup>48</sup> Memo, A G Love to Gen Magee, Feb 5, 1940 file, Location of New Building, MS/C/309

<sup>49</sup> 76th Cong , 1st sess , H R Report 1912, "Military Establishment Appropriation Bill, Fiscal year 1941," p 16

<sup>50</sup> *Congressional Record*, June 10, 1940, pp 7895-7896 76th Cong , Public Law 611, approved June 13, 1940, p 15

<sup>51</sup> 76th Cong , Public Law 668, approved June 27, 1940, p 32

<sup>52</sup> Status report of Army Medical Library and Museum by H C Jones, Apr 2, 1941 MS/C/47

<sup>53</sup> Office order 119, May 21, 1941, established this Board file, New Building Boards and Meetings MS/C/309

## A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

<sup>54</sup> Memo, A. G. Love to Gen. Magee, Feb. 5, 1940: file, Location of New Building: MS/C/309.

<sup>55</sup> Memos and letters regarding sites on Capitol Hill and a large map are in file, Location of New Building: MS/C/309.

<sup>56</sup> Records in Eggers & Higgins Corr., file, Location of New Building: MS/C/309.

<sup>57</sup> Letter, Magee to May, June 24, 1941, in H.R. Report 884, June 28, 1941.

<sup>58</sup> 77th Cong., 1st sess., bill H.R. 5146, intro. June 24, 1941; H.R. Report 884, to accompany bill H.R. 5146, June 28, 1941; Senate Report 600, to accompany bill H.R. 5146, July 28, 1941; Senate Report 665, to accompany bill H.R. 5146, Aug. 21, 1941; P.L. 256, approved Sept 24, 1941; copies in MS/C/47.

<sup>59</sup> *Congressional Record*, 77th Cong., 1st sess., pp. 4748, 7122, 7214, 7378, 7415, 7571.

<sup>60</sup> George F. Denniston of Eggers & Higgins, office instructions and report, Feb. 7, 1944: file, New Building contracts: MS/C/309.

<sup>61</sup> The organization of the Library in the 1930's, with a list of all employees (30 civilians and one medical officer) and their duties, is in Report of survey of the duties and responsibilities of the positions in the Army Medical Library, Nov. 6, 1936: MS/C/186.

<sup>62</sup> Library Order 6, Oct. 29, 1941, to take effect Nov. 1: file, Library Orders, MS/C/309. Annual report of Library activities for FY 1942; file, Consolidated Fiscal Year Activities: MS/C/309. The names of the above divisions were modified later.

<sup>63</sup> Details and dates of the many changes in organization during World War II may be found in file, Library Orders: MS/C/309.