

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS,

EXHIBITING

THE PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY

DURING THE

CALENDAR YEAR 1887.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1888.

ANNUAL REPORT
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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, February 22, 1888.

The undersigned herewith submits his annual report, exhibiting the condition and growth of the Library of Congress, and the business of the copyright department, during the calendar year 1887.

The annual enumeration of the books has been attended with increased difficulty and delay, owing to the great portion of the collection now unprovided with shelves, and which must be counted in piles wherever they are stored—some in all departments of the Library proper, but the greater part in store-rooms underneath the Capitol. The result of the count is to be regarded as an approximation rather than an exact statement. The additions to the law department during 1887 have been 1,831 volumes, and to the miscellaneous library 13,448 volumes, besides about 1,000 pamphlets. At the date of my last report, January, 1887, the whole Library numbered 581,678 volumes of books, and about 193,000 pamphlets. The increase during the year makes the following exhibit of the contents of the Library in January, 1888:

Volumes of books.....	596,957
Pamphlets.....	194,000

Of the above aggregate the law department of the Library embraces 71,446 volumes.

The accessions to the Library during the past year have come from the following sources:

From copyright deposits	9,369
From purchase.....	3,146
From deposits by the Smithsonian Institution.....	1,845
From exchanges.....	563
From donations.....	236
From increase of the Toner collection (presented).....	120
Total.....	15,279

STATISTICS OF COPYRIGHT FOR 1887.

The large business of the copyright office again exhibits an increase which runs beyond that of any former year. The business of the calendar year 1886 footed up an aggregate of 31,241 copyright entries, while that of the calendar year 1887 exhibits 35,083 entries, an increase of 3,842 copyrights. The fees received for copyright amounted to \$27,916.25, being an increase of \$2,494.37 over the preceding year. The copies of publications deposited to perfect copyright aggregated 53,924, being an increase of 3,890 over the deposits of the year 1886.

The following summary exhibits the various classes of copyright publications entered in the office during 1887, with the aggregate number of each class :

Number and designation of articles entered in 1887.

Books	13,685
Periodicals	6,708
Dramatic compositions	536
Musical compositions	7,744
Photographs	1,850
Engravings and chromos	1,848
Maps and charts	1,322
Prints	598
Designs and models	442
Paintings	252
Drawings	98
Total	35,083

The following statement shows the number of each class of publications actually deposited under the law requiring two copies of each publication to be sent to the Library :

Number and designation of copyright publications received in 1887.

Books (including all printed matter so designated)	19,159
Periodicals	12,108
Dramatic compositions	338
Musical compositions	13,308
Photographs	3,073
Engravings and chromos	3,393
Maps and charts	1,901
Prints	414
Designs and drawings	176
Paintings	54
Total	53,924

As two copies of each copyright publication are required to be deposited in fulfillment of the law of copyright, the net additions to the collections of copyright material are 26,062 articles.

The discrepancy between the total entries of titles and the actual deposit of copies during the year has always existed, and is due to several causes: First. A considerable number of entries are made which are

not followed up by any publication. This is generally true of the class of dramatic compositions, where no copies of the play may be printed at all. Other failures to deposit copies are due to the postponement of publication for months or years, to the duplication or change of entries, to the non-publication of books where renewal of copyright for an additional term has been entered, or to the abandonment of the idea of publication. There still remains, however, a considerable deficiency in depositing the copies of actual publications required by law, necessitating the issue from this office of many notices of delinquency to publishers or authors.

The unexpended balances to the credit of the various funds appropriated for the Library stood as follows January 1, 1888:

Fund for increase of the Library	\$8,700.61
Fund for purchase of works of art	841.97
Fund for contingent expenses of Library	1,325.69
Fund for printing and binding	9,681.23
Fund for printing unpublished historical manuscripts relating to early French discoveries in America	1,953.44
Fund for preparing for publication the continuation of the American archives	4,000.00

The extensive and highly valuable series of public journals, and especially of American newspapers, which the Library contains, are still further enriched by the contributions each year of the Department of State, the Bureau of Statistics, and the Senate of the United States. This department of the Library is very largely used for reference by the Departments and bureaus of the Government, as well as by the public.

THE TONER LIBRARY COLLECTION.

The collection of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts presented to the United States by J. M. Toner, M.D., has been augmented during the year by the donor's gift of 120 volumes of books and 643 pamphlets. He has also continued to add to the extensive series of biographical material collected and arranged by him in an alphabetical series for ready use and reference, and destined to form, by means of as complete a series of excerpts as can be gathered, a comprehensive cyclopædia of American biography.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES.

The attention of the Joint Committee on the Library is again invited to the important question of rendering our exchanges of publications with foreign governments more productive of results. Without here repeating the facts as to the history and condition of these international exchanges, fully referred to in the report of the Librarian made in January, 1886, it may be said in brief, that thirty-eight foreign governments have for years received all the publications of the United States Government, an extensive and costly series of public documents; that from most of these countries very imperfect and inadequate returns have been received, while from some of them nothing has come in exchange;

that repeated and long-continued efforts to secure more adequate reciprocity by correspondence have been productive of very slight results; that only fragmentary and incomplete sets of the publications of foreign governments are to be found in the Library, thus depriving Congress of that full access to information concerning other countries which is so important an adjunct to their labors; and that experience has amply proved that no efficient or permanent system by which adequate returns would be secured can be organized without active and zealous personal agency present at proper intervals at each European capital, and furnished with adequate credentials. It is recommended that the committee consider the expediency of securing an appropriation adequate to defray the necessary expenses of an agent of international exchanges, to be sent abroad during the present year.

THE NEEDS OF THE LIBRARY.

The heavy and continued increase of the copyright business of the country has thrown upon the Librarian and his assistants an amount of labor to which his small force of assistants is found inadequate. More and more of this working force, as stated in former reports, has been taken year by year from the catalogue department in order to prevent the pressing daily work of the copyright bureau from falling into arrears. The result has been the stoppage of the printing of catalogues, as all the time of the small remaining force of assistants employed upon the catalogue is absorbed in keeping up to date the index catalogue of authors, kept upon cards. Meanwhile the daily service of the Library in supplying promptly books and information to Congress, to the Departments, and to the public, has grown more exacting, in the direct ratio of the growth of the Library and its consequent utility in contributing to the public intelligence. The Librarian is also constantly called upon to produce, in evidence of copyright property, copies out of the hundreds of thousands of publications deposited in his office under the law, and for the proper arrangement of which no room has been or can be provided within the Capitol. The time and clerical labor necessarily consumed in making and verifying records of copyright, including in the latter case all those of the district courts of the United States from 1790 to 1870, in addition to the voluminous records of the Librarian's office since that date, demands an increase of clerical force. The copyright business has increased during the last three years 33 per cent., while no addition whatever has been made to the force employed. The request for two additional assistants, embodied in the estimates for the next fiscal year, is necessitated by the wants of the public service.

THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING.

The last Congress having provided in a liberal and far-sighted manner for the future accommodation of the great Library which has grown

up within the Capitol, it is now the urgent interest of all to press forward the construction of the new building as rapidly as is compatible with safe and thorough architectural work. The difficulties which have arisen to cause delay have relation to the foundations of the structure, and have been elsewhere fully elucidated. It is hoped that they are so far solved as to insure the energetic prosecution of the work henceforward.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

Hon. W. M. EVARTS,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.