

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# STATE LIBRARIAN

OF

# NEW JERSEY

For the Year Ending October 31st,

1902.

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TRENTON, N. J.:

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1902.

NEW JERSEY

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## Commissioners of the Library.

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The Governor, HON. FRANKLIN MURPHY, Newark.

Chancellor, HON. WILLIAM J. MAGIE, Elizabeth.

Chief Justice, HON. WILLIAM S. GUMMERE, Newark.

Secretary of State, HON. SAMUEL D. DICKINSON, Jersey City.

Treasurer, HON. FRANK O. BRIGGS, Trenton.

Comptroller, HON. J. WILLARD MORGAN, Camden.

Attorney-General, HON. THOMAS N. McCARTER, Newark.

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Librarian and Secretary, HENRY C. BUCHANAN, Trenton.

Assistants,

JOHN D. FAUSSETT, Law Librarian,

JOHN M. ROGERS, Reference Librarian,

SHEFFIELD TUESDAY, Messenger.

## Report of State Librarian.

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*Hon. Franklin Murphy, Governor of New Jersey:*

DEAR SIR—In accordance with the provisions of "An act to regulate the State Library," the following report is respectfully submitted for transmission to the Legislature:

At the date of the last annual report of the Librarian, the number of volumes and pamphlets was shown to be 58,370. The accessions during the year just ended numbered 3,539, as follows:

From the United States Government.....	867
From other States and Territories, in exchange.....	745
Books and pamphlets donated.....	652
Bought for the Law Library.....	472
Bought for the Reference Library.....	529
Daily and weekly newspapers donated.....	64
Received from the Custodian.....	210
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	3,539

Adding these to the 58,370 reported a year ago, makes a total of 61,909. The increase is 11 greater than during the preceding year, which was the greatest in the history of the State Library.

Of the accessions made during the year, 641 relate to New Jersey. Of these, 300 volumes contain the briefs and other papers in the cases that have been argued before the Court of Errors and Appeals, and by direction of that court have been transferred from the custody of the Secretary of State to the State Library, for the convenience of the members of the bar.

Of the appropriation of \$3,500 made for the repair, preservation and purchase of books, \$2,125.19 was expended for law books, \$1,052.45 for reference works, magazines, newspapers and miscellaneous books for the Reference Library, and about \$320 for binding and repairs. The expenditures for binding and repairs are confined mainly to the binding of the New Jersey newspapers that are kept on file in the Library, the magazines that are received

in numbers as published and the caring for volumes whose covers are worn by use.

In again calling attention to the need of a change in the arrangement and fittings of the Library in order to accommodate the additions made to the collection, it may be stated that when the present rooms were first occupied, in 1890, the number of books and pamphlets was but 37,146, according to the Librarian's report for that year, and that since that time but four new cases have been provided—in 1896, when the collection had grown to a little over 47,000. There have since been added about 15,000, and the cases are now so overcrowded that various expedients have been resorted to in order to make accessible the books in both the law and reference departments. The result is that some important sets are divided up, while recourse has also been made to the loft above the Library.

The recommendation made last year that a two-story steel stack be installed in the Law Library, is respectfully renewed. That will give the needed relief. Plans have been made by several manufacturers of library fixtures, and their estimates on the proposed improvement indicate that the cost will be from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

In accordance with a request made last year, the Legislature appropriated \$500 to permit a subscription to be made to the printed catalogue cards prepared under the direction of the Librarian of Congress, to be used in the new card catalogue being prepared for the State Library. But little more than half of the appropriation was spent during the fiscal year just closed. Several thousand of the printed cards have been purchased and added to those made in the Library. The work is being done by Captain John M. Rogers, the Reference Librarian, and while necessarily retarded by the pressure of other duties, it will probably be completed during the present year. Considerable progress has already been made, and as the cards are immediately put into use, the great advantages to be derived from the change in system are apparent.

The work of reclassifying the books in accordance with the decimal system was completed early in the year. The cards recently purchased are for books on American history and bibliography, which are the only departments in the collection of the

Library of Congress that have been reclassified. The greater part of the cards for the remainder of the State Library's collection will be made in the Library.

During the early years of the State government the annual reports of State officers and institutions were printed in the Minutes of the Assembly or Journal of the Senate—sometimes in both. Later they were collected and bound together as "Reports," "New Jersey Reports," "Legislative Reports," "Legislative Pamphlets," "Appendix to Senate Journal," "Appendix to House Minutes," until 1862, when they were called by their present title, "Legislative Documents." At the beginning these collected documents made a single octavo volume, smaller than some of the single reports of to-day; now they make five bulky volumes, into which the various reports are assembled in no regular order, and to find one it is often necessary to consult all five of the large volumes. To remedy this, last year the Printing Board adopted the device of having lettered on the back of each volume a list of all of the documents contained therein.

This is a great improvement and renders almost instantly accessible any particular report sought, but valuable material of the past years is still buried. Usually one seeking information desires to consult the reports of a single department or institution. In the State Library there are duplicates of all of the reports and public documents since 1855, and it is respectfully recommended that authority be given to the Librarian to have a set of the documents broken up and rebound, so that separate sets shall be made of the messages of the Governors, the annual reports of the Comptroller, Treasurer and all of the State officers and institutions. The cost of the rebinding will probably be less than \$1,000, and since the documents are probably used more than any other books in the Library, aside from the law books and county histories, the money will be well spent in adding to the convenience of the members of the Legislature, the State departments and the public.

In the Reference Library are many pamphlets that have been collected. They relate principally to New Jersey's history. The binding of some of them has been delayed in the hope that missing copies may be secured; in other cases lack of money has made necessary a postponement of the work. Some of these may be collected, where they relate to a single subject, and bound into

volumes, though in the Massachusetts State Library the rule has been adopted that "any pamphlet relating to Massachusetts that is of sufficient value to warrant its preservation, is worthy of a separate binding," and all such pamphlets have been given board covers with a binder's title to indicate the contents.

It is obvious, that if the recommendation to rebind a set of documents is adopted, the work must be done at one time. The binding of the pamphlets may be secured by caring for a portion of them each year and permitting the work to extend over a number of years. The cost would be comparatively slight, since in many cases the cheapest form of binding will serve every purpose.

The difficulty in securing for the State Library copies of books and pamphlets relating to New Jersey, and in many cases printed at the expense of the State, has been referred to in a previous report. Frequently the Librarian is obliged to buy books and pamphlets that were printed for free distribution but are now "out of print." Some of these have been printed for the use of the Legislature and others by different departments of the State government. The same experience is had in other States, and it is perhaps too much to expect that every official will remember to send to the Library copies of publications made by him. If all the printing was delivered through the Custodian, or some other officer, the problem of securing copies for preservation might be easily solved. But since dependence must be had in the vigilance of the librarians and friends of the Library, it may not be amiss to say that there is scarcely a book or pamphlet printed by any of the departments of the State that has not a present or future value historically, and at least one copy should be found in the State Library.

The important additions made to the Law Library during the year, besides the briefs in cases before the Court of Errors and Appeals, were a set of the Pennsylvania Weekly Notes of Cases, a set of the Pennsylvania County Court Reports and the Federal Cases. Sets of the English Weekly Reporter and of the reprint of the English reports have been ordered. The latter set will not be complete for several years. The purchases for the Reference Library included the bulletins of the Geological Society of America, a set of the first series of John Heneage Jesse's Historical Memoirs, Harper's Encyclopædia of United States History, Morgan's League of the Iroquois, Drake's Witchcraft Delusions and

Annals of Witchcraft, and the New York Historical Society's Collections.

In the contributions received were a number of valuable books and pamphlets relating to New Jersey, included in which was a typewritten volume from William H. Miers, of Trenton, of the official proceedings of the State Council of New Jersey, Jr. O. U. A. M., at its annual meetings from 1869 to 1880. Several other secret societies and fraternities have co-operated in the effort to collect for the State sets of their printed minutes for preservation in the Library, while others have promised to do so but have evidently overlooked the promise.

Among the contributors of valuable material have been Rev. Dr. Walter A. Brooks, of Trenton; Charles S. Taylor, Jersey City; Rev. Allen H. Brown, Atlantic City; J. William Miller, Washington, N. J.; Mrs. Helen B. Stryker, Trenton; Oliver B. Leonard, Perth Amboy; Harry B. Salter, Trenton; Hon. Franklin Murphy, Hon. John F. Dryden, Newark; H. E. Deats, Flemington; Francis E. Woodruff, Morristown; George D. Bower, Trenton; Mrs. B. F. Lee, Mrs. Lottie Durell, Prof. H. B. Kummel, E. P. Southwick, Francis B. Lee, Henry I. Budd, Lewis Parker, John W. Brooke, Trenton; L. C. Gosson, Kearny; Homer B. Sprague, East Orange; Alfred M. Heston, Atlantic City; H. P. Frothingham, Pompton Plains; Frank Tantom, Ocean Grove; Dr. E. L. B. Godfrey, Camden; Hon. John Kean, Hon. John J. Gardner, Hon. C. N. Fowler, Hon. William Stainsby, Herbert L. Thowless, Newark; G. F. Van Wagenen, Caldwell; Princeton University, Jersey City Free Public Library, Hon. S. D. Dickinson, Drew Theological Seminary, Madison; Thomas Willing Baleh, Col. John P. Nicholson, Col. William Brooke Rawle, Philadelphia; James B. Dill, Gen. James Grant Wilson, Robert H. Kelby, Librarian New York Historical Society. Captain Joseph A. Yard, of Freehold, contributed two bound volumes of the "Monmouth Democrat," for 1898-1901, completing the file of that paper since its establishment in 1854. The earlier volumes were given to the State by the late Colonel James S. Yard.

Besides the books purchased and contributed during the year, there have been many, as usual, received in exchange. The reports of the higher courts in all of the States and Territories, also copies of the Session Laws, are thus secured in exchange for similar



publications sent to the various States under the provisions of law. Besides these, some of the States send copies of their Legislative Documents, others the reports of a few of the State officers, while the majority confine their exchanges exclusively to the Law Reports and the Session Laws. Attempts have been made by the National Association of State Librarians to secure more reciprocity in the matter of State exchanges, but thus far with little success. New Jersey is exceedingly liberal in the matter of exchanges, giving not only the Law and Equity Reports, Session Laws, Minutes of the Assembly and Senate Journal, but the published Digests, General Statutes, Archives and other publications made by the State. New York, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Canada, Rhode Island, Maryland and Kentucky contribute liberally in return, but from some of the States and Territories the receipts consist of a single volume yearly. Exchanges are also made with Canada, the Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

#### TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

On November 1st, 1902, twenty-three of the sixty-two traveling libraries, made up by the Commissioners in accordance with the act of April 20th, 1898, are in use. At the time of the last annual report of the Librarian there were forty-one in operation. During the year twenty-two towns discontinued their use, while four new towns applied for them. Since the libraries were first made up, they have been sent to sixty-four municipalities. Of the forty-one that were using them on November 1st, 1900, but nine have maintained their interest, and new inquiries for information concerning the libraries are but few.

At the recently held meeting of the New Jersey Library Association a resolution was adopted "that it is to the interest of public libraries in New Jersey that the traveling libraries of New Jersey be transferred to the New Jersey Public Library Commission." The sentiment of the Library Association undoubtedly is that the Public Library Commission will be able to arouse more interest in them, and through the traveling libraries aid in the establishing of free public libraries in some of the towns that are now without



such institutions. This sentiment is probably based on the experience of some of the larger and less densely populated States, where the traveling libraries are popular, and where agents or organizers are employed to create a demand for them. None of these States is more liberal than New Jersey in the administration of the work. The restrictions in this State are fewer, while the nominal fee charged for their use is in many cases less than the transportation charges for conveying the libraries to and fro, and which in all of the States are paid by the borrowers. The reasons given for discontinuance are lack of interest, the establishing of local libraries, the public school libraries, the difficulty in finding suitable persons to care for and distribute the books, and the popularity of the "Book Lovers'" and "Tabard Inn" libraries. Such statistics as have been taken from the cards of the traveling libraries returned indicate that the popular taste is for fiction, and the demand is for the newer books and not for those of authors whose works have been approved as standard. History, travel, biography, essays, science and the other classes are but little read, and in some instances the cards show that but two or three books on any of these subjects have been taken out in a town, while the story books have been in great demand. No attempt has been made to place the traveling libraries in competition with the two private enterprises mentioned, since it was believed that the Legislature, in authorizing the establishment of the system, did not intend that the State should go into the business of providing especially for novel readers.

The Library Association also asked that the fee required for the use of the traveling libraries be abolished. This appears to be impracticable. If they are made absolutely free the privilege will undoubtedly be abused, and there would be need of a large annual appropriation to buy books and for additional assistants, and for the added incidental expenses.

The fact that the libraries are furnished on application has been well advertised in the newspapers of the State, and there are probably few localities in which their existence is not known. As has been before said, the lack of demand is in a measure due to the greater ease with which books and newspapers may be obtained in a small State so situated as is New Jersey, in which there is

no point not easily reached by railroad or trolley road from the large cities.

The towns now using the libraries are Westwood, Bergen county; Pemberton and New Gretna, Burlington county; Roadstown and Shiloh, Cumberland county; Millburn, Essex county; Bridgeport, Gloucester county; Rosemont, High Bridge and Raritan township, Hunterdon county; Old Bridge, Spotswood, Metuchen and Newmarket, Middlesex county; Eatontown and Englishtown, Monmouth county; Mine Hill and Dover, Morris county; Bloomingdale, Passaic county; North Branch and Liberty Corner, Somerset county; Beemerville and Branchville, Sussex county.

The three years of service which many of the books have seen is becoming quite apparent. Of the \$245.29 which was spent of the appropriation of \$500 made for maintaining the libraries during the past year, \$126.95 was for rebinding and repairing books, \$105.84 for charges for delivering and returning the libraries, \$6.50 for formaline used in disinfecting the books returned to the State Library, and \$6 for postage stamps. There were received in fees for the use of the libraries (at \$5 a year) \$105, which sum was paid over to the State Treasurer at the close of the year.

Generally the books are well cared for. Half a dozen have been lost during the nearly three years the libraries have been in operation. In every case but one these were paid for and replaced.

Such statistics as could be made up from the cards of the libraries returned and the reports of those having them in charge, are shown in the following table, which gives the libraries' numbers, the towns in which they were used during the year, the number of volumes of fiction and other classes circulated, the total circulation, number of readers and greatest number of times a single book was read. The figures are by no means accurate, but are probably sufficiently so to give one an estimate of the success of the scheme:

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Library.	Location.	Fiction.	Other	Total.	Readers.	Average	Highest.
No. 1.	Pemberton .....	104	34	138	80	1.70	10
2.	Blairstown .....	138	42	180	..	....	10
3.	High Bridge .....	130	24	154	60	2.56	10
	Beverly .....	41	5	46	..	....	5
4.	Bridgeport .....	147	56	203	42	4.83	11
5.	Eatontown .....	..	..	53	15	3.53	7
	Shiloh .....	..	..	..	60	....	..
6.	Port Oram .....	37	11	48	..	....	11
7.	Beverly .....	44	9	53	..	....	7
	High Bridge .....	157	47	204	..	....	14
8.	Branchville .....	151	31	182	19	9.57	..
9.	Glenwood .....	50	29	79	..	....	7
10.	Old Bridge .....	65	38	103	22	4.68	10
11.	North Branch .....	57	12	69	..	....	10
12.	Liberty Corner .....	52	27	79	21	3.76	8
13.	Lawrenceville .....	23	14	37	..	....	3
14.	Succasunna .....	74	17	91	..	....	9
15.	Washington .....	235	42	297	..	....	17
16.	Mount Pleasant .....	168	78	246	..	....	14
	North Branch .....	..	..	..	20	....	..
17.	Newmarket .....	..	..	..	23	....	..
18.	Rosemont .....	89	27	116	10	11.01	..
19.	Shiloh .....	178	53	231	105	2.2	12
	North Branch .....	99	15	114	17	6.7	8
20.	Shiloh .....	259	97	356	62	5.7	19
21.	Branchville .....	130	38	168	31	5.4	10
22.	Shiloh .....	122	27	149	106	1.4	9
	Dover .....	32	10	42	27	1.5	..
23.	Westwood .....	206	102	308	83	3.7	10
24.	Roadstown .....	170	42	212	50	4.2	15
25.	Hamburg .....	93	19	112	..	....	9
26.	Three Bridges .....	95	32	127	..	....	9
27.	Titusville .....	..	..	..	..	....	..
	Newmarket .....	..	..	..	28	....	..
28.	Spotswood .....	47	16	63	30	2.1	6
	Beverly .....	59	12	71	..	....	6
29.	Bloomington .....	22	10	32	30	1.0	5
30.	High Bridge .....	141	21	162	..	....	14
31.	Rosemont .....	95	19	114	..	....	11
32.	Adelphia .....	76	47	123	40	3.0	8
33.	Dividing Creek .....	11	7	18	..	....	3
34.	East Millstone .....	113	13	126	..	....	11
35.	Belvidere .....	90	23	113	..	....	7
	Eatontown .....	..	..	64	17	3.7	..
36.	Blairstown .....	212	64	276	..	....	16
	North Branch .....	121	20	141	..	....	10
37.	Millburn .....	49	9	58	26	2.2	8
38.	Liberty Corner .....	72	21	93	18	5.1	9
	Eatontown .....	..	..	57	17	3.3	..
39.	Eatontown .....	188	86	274	..	....	18
40.	Millburn .....	73	38	111	18	6.1	9

Library	Location.	Fiction.	Other.	Total.	Readers.	Average	Highest.
No. 41.	Bellemend .....	89	60	149	..	....	13
42.	Mine Hill .....	107	22	129	..	....	10
43.	Flemington .....	55	22	77	14	5.5	13
44.	Seaville .....	50	4	54	..	....	5
45.	Vineland .....	41	5	46	..	....	5
	Beemerville .....	108	48	156	22	7.0	9
46.	Spotswood .....	75	26	101	..	....	9
47.	Manasquan .....	468	101	569	..	....	33
48.	Raritan .....	148	45	183	..	....	11
49.	Belvidere .....	98	26	124	..	....	7
	Mine Hill .....	51	23	74	10	7.4	..
50.	Stockton .....	...	...	...	..	....	..
51.	Roadstown .....	273	57	330	60	5.5	..
52.	Old Bridge .....	82	18	100	..	....	6
53.	Metuchen .....	144	39	183	..	....	14
54.	Pompton Plains .....	118	50	168	29	5.7	11
55.	Westwood .....	188	121	309	67	4.6	13
56.	Newmarket .....	154	32	186	35	4.4	12
57.	Adelphia .....	91	26	117	..	....	7
58.	Bridgeport .....	219	65	284	43	6.6	..
59.	Flemington .....	...	...	...	20	....	..
60.	Titusville .....	113	21	134	27	4.9	10
61.	Pemberton .....	168	38	206	70	2.9	12
62.	Belvidere .....	87	24	111	..	....	8

The towns which have discontinued the use of the libraries since they were established are Freehold, Port Oram, Pensauken, Blairstown, Millstone, Belvidere, Hamburg, Pompton, River Vale, Tuckahoe, Fair Haven, Pennsgrove, Belleville, Lawrenceville, Stockton, Woodstown, Glassboro, Wildwood, Washington, White House, Bellemead, Manasquan, Rochelle Park, Asbury, Seaville, Titusville, Oradell, Three Bridges, South Dennis, Holly Beach, Lafayette, Pleasantville, Raritan, Allendale, Soldiers' Home at Vineland, Glenwood, Dividing Creek, Old Bridge, Adelphia, Mount Pleasant, Spotswood, Beverly, Succasunna, Pompton Plains.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY C. BUCHANAN,

*State Librarian.*

November 1st, 1902.

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ORANGE FREE LIBRARY