

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

T W E L F T H R E P O R T

of the

L I B R A R Y C O M M I T T E E

to

T H E S E N A T E

Covering the Financial Year

April 1940 - March 1941

February, 1942

The University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, Canada.

President L. S. Klinck, M.S.A., D.Sc., LL.D.,
Officier de l'Instruction Publique,
Chairman of the Senate,
The University of British Columbia.

Dear Sir:

As Chairman of the Library Committee I have the honour to submit, for consideration of Senate, the Twelfth Report of the Librarian of the University, covering the period from April 1, 1940 to March 31, 1941.

All of which is is respectfully submitted.

BLYTHE EAGLES

Chairman.

February 12, 1942.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

Dr. Blythe Eagles,
Chairman, Library Committee,
The University of British Columbia.

Sir:

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Library Committee, the Twelfth Report of the Librarian of the University, covering the financial year April, 1940 - March, 1941.

In most respects the routine work of the Library continued in much the same fashion as described in previous reports. The event which made the year memorable was the retirement, on August 31, 1940, of Mr. John Ridington, Librarian of the University since the institution opened its doors in the autumn of 1915. When Mr. Ridington was appointed the Library consisted of a few thousand books, stored in packing cases. At the end of his quarter of a century of service it consisted of over 120,000 volumes, and many thousands of pamphlets, housed in a modern fireproof building. It had become the second largest library in Western Canada, with a book collection which is in many respects notable, and which is surpassed in size and variety only by that of the Provincial Library and Archives, in Victoria. This rapid growth was due in no small measure both to Mr. Ridington's breadth of vision, and to the indefatigable perseverance and enthusiasm with which he urged the Library's needs and possibilities upon the Library Committee, the authorities of the University, his colleagues in the library profession, and all whom he could interest in its progress and welfare.

Upon his retirement Mr. Ridington was appointed Librarian Emeritus. At a ceremony held in the office of the Librarian, the President, the Deans of the Faculties, and past and present members of the Library Committee joined in the presentation of a personal memento, in the form of a portfolio of art reproductions.

The Book Collection

In recent years the book collection has grown at the rate of slightly more than 5,000 volumes per annum. On March 31, 1938, the number of volumes accessioned had reached 109,829. Two years later, on March 31, 1940, this had increased to 119,830. During the year under review the total rose to 124,975, or a further increase of 5,145 volumes. When allowance is made for unaccessioned duplicate volumes, the total number of books in the Library on March 31, 1941, was approximately 129,000. It is interesting to recall that the book collection consisted of only 55,000 volumes when the Library was moved from Fairview to the new building at Point Grey in 1925, and it has thus more than doubled in size since the transfer.

Although the Library receives a substantial number of books by gift or exchange, the bulk of the new accessions are acquired by purchase. Many of these must come from the United States, and the Library has suffered considerably from the increased costs of importation which have been occasioned by the war. To the cost of purchasing United States funds (11%) must be added the War Exchange Tax (10%), and between them these charges increase the cost of an American publication by no less than 21%.

In the fall of 1940 the British Columbia Library Association, under the presidency of Miss Anne Smith, Reference Librarian of the University Library, made a vigorous effort to have the exchange tax removed from books. Librarians all across the Dominion joined in the effort, which received editorial support in many leading newspapers. Thanks to this campaign Miss Smith was able to bring the matter to the personal attention of the Minister of Finance. Although no general relief was secured, the campaign did result in one most important concession - the cancellation of the exchange tax on gifts. Had this not been granted, the Library might easily have found itself in the position of not being able to accept gifts from the United States because it could not afford to pay the tax levied upon them. Even official publications of the United States Government, sent free to the Library, had been valued and taxed, and the value of the concession, both in cash and in the elimination of delay and inconvenience can be imagined.

Gifts.

All gifts received by the Library are given a nominal valuation for purposes of record, and even upon this very conservative basis the publications presented during the year were valued at \$1,418.00. This total does not include a host of books and pamphlets received on exchange, nor does it take into account the thousands of government documents which reach the Library each year.

One of the most interesting gifts received was an edition of the works of Justinian, printed in 1478, which was added to the Stedman memorial collection. It is the second oldest volume in the Library.

Copies of the original quarto editions of the Voyages of John Meares (1790) and of the Voyages of Alexander Mackenzie (1801) were presented to the Library by Mrs. R. C. Boyle. The books were accompanied by a number of contemporary plates and charts.

Another interesting gift came from Mr. J. T. Bealby, formerly of Nelson, B. C. Mr. Bealby is well known in British Columbia as a writer on agricultural subjects, but many will be surprised to know that he has translated a number of noted works from the Swedish. One of these was Sven Hedin's Scientific Results of a Journey in Central Asia, a monumental work in six volumes, published in 1899-1902. Mr. Bealby presented to the Library his own set, which bears a presentation inscription from the author. Oddly enough the fact that Mr. Bealby made the translation was not noted on the title page. This fact has been drawn to the attention of the Library of Congress, whose catalogue card will be corrected and reprinted in due course.

Miss Beveridge, of Vancouver, presented a number of books to the Library, including the rare 1864 and 1865 volumes of the celebrated Godey's Lady's Book.

As in previous years, members of the Faculty have been generous donors of books and pamphlets. Dr. H. T. J. Coleman, Head of the Department of Philosophy, who retired in the spring of 1940, presented 149 volumes from his own library. These covered a wide field, including Education, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics, and Classics. A few months later Mrs. Bishop, widow of the late W.B. Bishop, formerly of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, presented 198 volumes from Mr. Bishop's library to the Faculty of

Applied Science. Although housed in the Applied Science Reading Room, these books have been catalogued by the Library, and are therefore included in its accessions for the year.

Professor T. Larsen presented to the Library his file of the early Round Table papers, and 18 parts of the publications of the New Shakespeare Society. The latter are now rare and difficult to obtain, and were of great assistance in building up the Library's set. The Library is indebted to Professor F. H. Soward for many books and pamphlets in the field of international affairs; to Dr. Ian McT. Cowan for ornithological and zoological periodicals; to Miss Dorothy Somerset for several volumes of plays; and to Dr. M. Y. Williams for geological and other publications. A special word of thanks is also due Professor H. F. Angus, who made it possible for the Library to receive the complete reports of the Rowell-Sirois Commission without charge, and who secured for the Library many of the briefs and other documents submitted in evidence.

It is unfortunately impossible even to list the names of all the friends whose generosity has enriched the Library, but, amongst others, the following persons presented collections of books which were of special usefulness, interest, or value:- Miss C. J. De Vos Van Steenwyck, Vancouver; Mr. Arthur S. Bourinot, Ottawa; Mrs. Norman Hawkins, Vancouver; Dr. F. W. Munro, Vancouver; Mr. J. F. Hammett, Eburne; Mr. John R. Palmer, New York City; Mr. W. O. Webster, Vancouver; Col. C. E. Edgett, Vancouver; Mr. Hugh Leech, Vernon; Mr. D. M. Armstead, New York City; Mrs. Alfred Estabrook, Vancouver; Mr. W. G. Mather, Cleveland.

Organizations and institutions have been as generous to the Library as individuals, and their gifts have been so numerous that it is impracticable to do more than indicate the character and importance of the material received. Thus the Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California, has sent the Library free copies not only of its own publications, but of several volumes the research for which was done in the Huntington Library collections. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has presented the new volumes of the Canadian-American Relations Series, and these have been of the greatest value to both staff and students. Assistance of another kind was given by Yale University Press, which, through the generosity of a graduate of Yale, was enabled to give the Library a 50% discount on an approved list of its publications. It is indicative of the spirit of the gift that the discount was extended to include the United States exchange premium.

Circulation.

As the accompanying tables indicate, the volume of circulation has varied little in recent years. The Eleventh Report of the Librarian tabulated circulation statistics only to March 31, 1938, and for the sake of continuity the figures for the last three fiscal years have been included here.

Library hours were extended by half an hour in the fall of 1939, when it was decided that lectures should commence at 8:30 a.m., instead of at 9 o'clock. Service is now given from 8:15 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

The Loan Desk and Reference Department continue both to receive and to make complaints about the books which have been transferred to the so-called departmental libraries, and to the Applied Science Reading Room. In theory they are subject to recall if required in the main library, but in practice the staff cannot take the time to go and collect them if they are required quickly. More serious is the complaint that the books are not available for use after 5 p.m. This applies particularly to technical volumes, requests for which are made frequently by advanced students, and also by engineers and others among the extra-mural readers, who visit the Library in the evening.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the number of books found to be missing at the time of the annual spring inventory has declined somewhat in recent years, and that the proportion of these volumes recovered subsequently has increased. Thus in May, 1938, the number of books missing was 635. A year later 248 of these, or

39% were back on the shelves. Of the 641 volumes missing in May, 1939, 43% were recovered within a year. In May, 1940, the number of books missing fell to 590, of which 295, or exactly 50% were found to be on the shelves once more in May, 1941. These figures are encouraging, but book losses remain at what seems to be an unreasonably high level.

Stack room regulations remained unchanged in 1940-41, but the problems presented were under consideration throughout the year. More direct supervision of students entering and leaving the stack room was obviously desirable, and it was equally clear that the number of permits issued was too large. Between 650 and 700 permits were issued under the existing regulations, whereas there are never more than 60 seats available. A reduction of about one third is planned for the session 1941-42, and it is possible that this may be cut still further in subsequent years.

Periodicals.

The war has caused many changes and raised serious problems in the Periodicals Department. German publications ceased to arrive after the issues for August, 1939, and journals from France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, and most other European countries, were held up after June, 1940. The National Research Council made arrangements whereby Canadian universities might, through it, purchase periodicals from enemy countries, which were considered essential for scientific research; but after consultation with the heads of the teaching departments concerned, the Library decided not to continue any of its journals by this means. Most of the other Canadian university libraries seem to have come to the same conclusion. In view of the

paper shortage abroad, and the very limited editions in which many foreign journals are now appearing, the completion of the Library's sets will present a difficult, and probably costly after-the-war problem.

Directly or indirectly as a result of the war, several well-known journals have suspended publication. In England the casualties include the famous Cornhill, as well as Politica, German Life and Letters, Discovery, Science Progress, and Scientific Horticulture. The Library has complete files of all. In the United States the "deaths" have included Scribners, Forum, and Colophon. Many British publications have lessened their frequency of publication - monthlies have become bi-monthlies, and even quarterlies. Loss in transit has increased substantially, but all things considered, it has been remarkably light. The time in transit has increased greatly, and a climax was reached in December, 1940, when five weeks' mail arrived in a single shipment.

In spite of everything, a few notable new periodicals have made their appearance, including the Music Review.

Costs have risen sharply in the periodical field. All United States publications must be paid for in American funds, purchased at a premium of 11%. In addition, the 10% war exchange tax applies to many periodicals as well as to books. It is true that most of the scientific journals can secure exemption by making formal application in the required form, but this procedure took time, and in the interval the Library was compelled either to pay the 10% or leave its periodicals in the Customs warehouse, pending a decision by the authorities in Ottawa. For the moment the department is not suffering seriously, as the money which would normally

be spent on German, French, and other continental subscriptions is available to meet the cost of exchange and taxes; but the fact remains that the Library is paying substantially more for many of its periodicals than it did formerly.

Four new sets of some size were purchased in 1940-41: files of the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist; of Le Canada Français and its predecessor, Parler Français; of the Economic Record (Australia), and of the London Mathematical Society Journal. It was also found possible to make substantial additions to the Library's files of the American Journal of Physiology, the publications of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Naturalist, the British Yearbook of International Law, and the South African Journal of Economics. Chief of the gifts was a long run of its Transactions, presented by the Royal Canadian Institute.

A new edition of the Union List of Serials is in preparation, and the work of checking the Library's files was completed during the year under review. The University of British Columbia will be represented in the new edition by approximately 3000 entries. Publication is expected sometime in the summer of 1942.

Binding.

The "five-year plan," under which the Library received for a period of five years an annual binding appropriation of \$3,500.00, to enable it to overtake arrears dating from the depression, concluded with the financial year 1939-40. The grant for 1940-41 amounted to \$2,650.00, which it was hoped would prove sufficient for current requirements. Unfortunately a rise in the cost of materials, due to the war, raised the cost of binding by more than 10%, and the

appropriation proved inadequate. An additional \$500.00 was transferred to the binding fund from the sum provided for the purchase and distribution of reprints, and current requirements and a few lingering arrears were thereby dealt with.

A total of 1666 volumes were bound during the year. In addition 610 pamphlet boxes and 780 pamphlet cases were purchased. An interesting item was the purchase of 40 special cases to hold the publications of members of the Faculty. These are filed in the Librarian's office.

The average cost of binding per new volume in 1940-41 was \$1.90, as compared with \$1.70 in 1938-39, and \$1.72 in 1939-40. In view of this increase, the binding appropriation for current requirements was raised in the budget for 1941-42 from \$2,650.00 to \$2,850.00.

The Library Catalogues.

As already noted, 5415 volumes were accessioned during the year, all of which were catalogued and placed on the shelves. In addition, the cataloguing of the picture collection progressed satisfactorily, and the end of this work is in sight. The picture catalogue has brought about a much more extensive use of the Library's collection, both for teaching purposes and by outside inquirers.

A total of 57,561 cards for the Library of Congress Depository Catalogue were received and filed in 1940-41. They brought the total number of entries up to 1,718,704. The filing cabinets are now filling up rapidly, and additional drawers will become necessary within two or three years at longest.

The cataloguing of the British sessional papers, over 400 volumes of which have now been bound, is well under way. Library of Congress cards analyzing the set were purchased, and these have greatly facilitated the work.

The Cataloguing Department is most fortunate at present in having a fully trained librarian in its clerical post, as Accessions Clerk. The post is held by Miss Doreen Woodford, who is responsible for the routines of accessioning, labelling, and various processes preparatory to cataloguing. The excellence of her work has contributed not a little to the department's successful effort to keep the cataloguing of new accessions reasonably up to date.

Reference Department

The activities of the Reference Department were described in some detail in the Eleventh Report of the Librarian, and only the changes and developments which have taken place recently need be dealt with here. The service the department renders is greatly appreciated by both staff and students, and the Reference Librarian and her assistant are frequently swamped with inquiries and pleas for assistance of all kinds.

The Reference Department is responsible for inter-library loans, and for a time Customs restrictions imposed after the outbreak of war made it virtually impossible to continue to borrow books from or lend books to libraries in the United States. Fortunately a direct personal appeal and statement of the case to the local Collector of Customs solved the difficulty; and the courtesy with which the Collector treated the inquiry and dealt with the matter was greatly appreciated.

The most interesting development of the year was in the matter of displays. A series of art and poster exhibits was shown in the main reading room, some of which attracted much attention. The old shelving in the wall cases in the main hallway was removed, and a number of experiments made with various forms of electric lighting. A satisfactory solution of the problem having been worked out, the cases were equipped with permanent fixtures during the summer of 1941. Judging by the number of inquiries and comments which have resulted, the displays are well worth while.

For a time the future of the Library's important and growing collection of government documents was jeopardized by the imposition of the war exchange tax, to which reference has already been made. Even though most of the documents received from foreign countries, and notably from the United States, were being supplied free of charge, the new regulations compelled the Customs officers to require that every item be valued and duty paid thereon at the rate of 10%. Fortunately the campaign instituted by the British Columbia Library Association was successful in securing the exemption of gifts from this tax, and documents are now received as before, without cost to the Library.

The Library continues to develop its exchange relations with other institutions. During the year under review exchanges on a piece-for-piece basis were arranged with the Institut Agricole d'Oka, in Quebec, the University of Pittsburgh Library, and the University of Washington Library. Some 760 pieces were exchanged in all, enabling the Library to fill gaps in its document collection, and to dispose profitably of a number of duplicates.

The Problem of Accommodation.

The problem as to how to accommodate more books and more students becomes more pressing year by year. So far as the stack room is concerned, some relief was secured by the building of wooden shelving on the west wall of floors 1 and 3, during the summer of 1940. About 1100 feet of shelf room were thus provided. This made it possible to reshelve large sections of the book collection, and to give some relief to the most crowded classifications. Similar shelving can be added to floors 2 and 4, and present indications are that this will be required urgently by the autumn of 1942.

After the completion of the Brock Memorial Building, where a room was made available to members of Faculty, the Faculty Association gave up the room in the Library which it had occupied since 1925. In September, 1940, this room was converted into a new periodical and reading room, with seating accommodation for 64 readers. This raised the number of seats available in the various reading rooms from 357 to 421. While it is true that the former Faculty Room had been made available to the students in the last weeks of each term, when overcrowding was most serious, the pressure on accommodation is now so great at all times during the session that permanent possession of the room benefits the students considerably.

Main Reading Room

The maintenance of discipline in the main reading room is becoming most difficult, the two chief causes being overcrowding and noise. There would seem to be little that can be done about the overcrowding, unless an addition is made to the building. In part this is due to local conditions, for the absence of dormitories on

the campus, and the distance separating the University from the city, prevent the students from working at home, as many of them would do if circumstances permitted. The new Brock Memorial Building has not relieved congestion to the extent that was hoped, since students are not permitted to study there. In the absence of any alternative study hall, students naturally crowd into the Library, whether or not they have at the moment any particular need for its special facilities.

Overcrowding inevitably causes noise, particularly at the end of the lecture period, when scores of students wander about the reading room in a vain search for an empty chair. Nevertheless it is clear that most of the noise in the room, and the lax discipline in which it inevitably results, arises from the design and construction of the Library itself. The present main reading room was designed originally as a concourse, and its faults spring from that fact. There is no barrier whatsoever between the reading room and the hallways and staircases. If a student talks even in the basement he can be heard distinctly in the reading room, two stories above. The revolving door in the main entrance to the building adds to the turmoil. In addition the Loan Desk, at which talking and telephone are essential, is situated in the middle of the reading room. Finally, the room itself is unfortunately a thoroughfare. Regardless of the kind of service a reader is seeking, he must cross the room, and while so doing he can hardly fail to disturb at least a score of students.

This state of affairs cannot be corrected completely unless extensive and costly alterations are made to the Library building; but it is clear that noise would be reduced very greatly if the

reading room were screened off from the hallways. It would seem therefore to be worthwhile investigating the practicability of placing swing doors on the landing of the stairways leading to the reading room, and of building a plate-glass screen into the central archway separating the reading room and the main hallway.

Finances.

The Library budget for the last three years has included the following appropriations:

	<u>1938-39</u>	<u>1939-40</u>	<u>1940-41</u>
Books & Magazines	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 11,750.00
Binding	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,650.00
Equipment	355.00	510.00	510.00
Supplies & Expenses	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,800.00</u>
	\$ 15,705.00	\$ 16,610.00	\$ 16,710.00

Books & Magazines. Of the total of \$11,750.00 appropriated in 1940-41, \$700.00 was for the Department of University Extension, leaving \$11,050.00 for the Library proper. To this sum were added fines collected (\$716.35), a grant of \$550.00 for books for Summer School, and a special appropriation of \$250.00 for the Department of Commerce. As stated elsewhere, it was found necessary to transfer \$500.00, to binding, and the final total available for the purchase of books and periodicals was therefore \$12,766.35. Orders outstanding on March 31, 1940, for which provision was made from previous appropriations, totalled \$3,002.35, while the orders outstanding on March 31, 1941 and carried forward into the new year, amounted to \$4,409.02. Expenditures from the appropriation actually completed during the financial year thus amounted to \$11,359.68.

Binding. Owing to the sharp rise in binding costs during

the year 1940-41 the appropriation proved inadequate for current requirements, and it was necessary to supplement it from the sum provided for books and magazines.

Supplies & Expenses. For some years the appropriation under this heading has proven inadequate to meet essential expenses, and it has been necessary to divert various balances from other items in the Library's budget to meet the deficit. This practice is obviously unsound as a long-term policy, and if the budget total cannot be increased sufficiently to provide the sum actually required for supplies, it would seem to be wise to recognize the fact frankly, and adjust the other items accordingly.

Staff.

The Library staff, on March 31, 1941, was as follows:

Librarian's Office

W. Kaye Lamb, Ph.D.	Librarian
Evelyn Hearsey	Order Clerk
Christina McGregor	Stenographer

Reference Department

Anne M. Smith, M.A., M.L.S.	Head
Dorothy B. Kelly, M.A., B.L.S.	Assistant

Catalogue Department

Dorothy M. Jefferd	Head
Mary K. Cockburn, B.A., B.L.S.	Assistant
Doreen Woodford, B.A., B.L.S.	Accessions

Periodicals and Binding

Roland J. Lanning, B.A., B.L.S.	Head
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Circulation Department

Mabel M. Lanning, B.A., B.L.S.	Head
Eleanor B. Mercer, M.A., B.L.S.	Assistant
Jean G. Fannin, B.A., B.L.S.	Directed Reading

In addition, three full-time pages were employed throughout the winter session, and a considerable number of student assistants served part time.

Library Committee.

The Committee appointed by Senate in October, 1937, upon the recommendation of the Faculties, consisted of the following members:

Dr. M. Y. Williams	Representing the Faculty of Arts and Science
Dr. Isabel MacInnes	" "
Professor T. Larsen	" "
Dr. Blythe Eagles	Representing the Faculty of Agriculture
Professor A. H. Finlay	Representing the Faculty of Applied Science

This Committee met on November 10, 1937, and Professor Finlay was elected Chairman. All the members were reappointed by Senate in October, 1939, and again in October, 1940. In November, 1939, though nominated to serve a third year as Chairman, Professor Finlay declined the office, and was succeeded by Dr. Williams.

In conclusion, it remains for the Librarian to make what must be understood to be much more than a routine acknowledgment of the assistance, courtesy, and co-operation which he has received from the members of the Library staff, the Library Committee, and the Faculty and administrative staff of the University. The first months following the appointment of a new librarian are of necessity a period of adjustment which is none too comfortable for all concerned; and the loyalty shown by the staff both to their new chief and to the institution was most deeply appreciated. The liberty of action accorded to the librarian by the Library Committee likewise calls for a special word of thanks. Finally, it is my duty

and pleasure to acknowledge the assistance given by the President of the University, Dr. L. S. Klinck, and in particular to mention his willingness to give time and attention to the consideration and discussion of Library problems and policy.

Respectfully submitted,

W. KAYE LAMB,

Librarian.

February, 1942.