

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THIRTEENTH REPORT

of the

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

to

THE SENATE

Covering the Financial Year

April 1941 - March 1942

October, 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 Thirteenth
Report of the Librarian of the University, covering the
period from April 1st, 1941 to March 31st., 1942.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BLYTHE EAGLES

Chairman.

October 16th, 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 Thirteenth Report of the Librarian of the University, covering the financial year April, 1941 - March, 1942.

The Book Collection

The Library continues to grow at the rate of more than 5,000 volumes per annum. The number of books accessioned up to March 31st, 1941, was 124,975. On March 31st, 1942, the corresponding total was 130,485, an increase of 5,510 volumes in the course of the year.

Allowing for unaccessioned duplicates, and for certain files which have not yet been bound and therefore have not yet been accessioned, the number of books in the building at the end of the year was about 135,000.

The record for the year is encouraging, for a decline in accessions might well have been expected. Fortunately books received by gift have gone far to compensate for the rise in the cost of technical and scientific works. Foreign exchange continues to be a serious levy upon the book appropriation. A large number of the volumes purchased by the Library must be bought in the United States, and the premium on United States funds, plus the Canadian Exchange Tax, adds no less than 21% to the list price of every book. Hitherto, for patriotic reasons, if a book was printed both in Great Britain

and the United States, as many orders as possible were placed in London. Of late, however, the quality of the paper available to British publishers has in many instances fallen so low that their books will no longer stand up under student wear and tear. Reluctantly, but of necessity, the Library is therefore ordering more and more American editions.

Gifts

A nominal valuation is placed upon all books presented to the Library for purposes of record, and upon this very conservative basis the publications received during the year were valued at \$1132.50. Actually the value of gifts added to the collection greatly exceeded this sum, as the total includes neither the many books and pamphlets received on exchange, nor the thousands of government documents which reach the Library each year.

The oldest volume received was a copy of the Annotations of Jean Brodeau, dated 1552. This was one of twenty books presented to the Library by Dr. W. N. Sage, Head of the Department of History, most of which were at one time the property of a former librarian of Worcester College, Oxford. Several of the other titles were printed in the seventeenth century.

Miss Lucille Saunderson, of West Vancouver, presented a large and most interesting collection of old legal documents relating to the estate of Haynes Park, near Bedford, England. The property was for a time owned by Miss Saunderson's father. The documents cover three centuries, and date from 1553 to 1862.

In the course of the year it was found that the Library's file of the early Statutes of British Columbia was incomplete. Two most generous gifts quickly made good this deficiency. Dr. Robie L. Reid, K.C., presented a fine copy of the Ordinances for 1870, and Mr. Arthur Crease, K.C., of Victoria, gave to the Library the copy of the Statutes for 1872-73 from the library of his father, the late Sir Henry P.P. Crease, for many years a Justice of the Supreme Court of this Province. At the same time Dr. Reid gave to the Library a complete bound file of the B. C. Veteran's Weekly (1918-1922). The set is in perfect condition, and must be one of the very few which have been preserved.

As a result of negotiations with His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, conducted through the Agent General for British Columbia, the Stationery Office presented to the Library all the available volumes of the Journals of the House of Commons and the House of Lords required to complete our sets. A total of 296 volumes were received. As a result, the Library now has a practically complete set of the Journals of the House of Lords, which commence in 1509, and a very good run of the House of Commons Journals dating from 1640.

About the same time Mr. C. K. Morison, Provincial Librarian, agreed to deposit in the University Library several long runs of British Parliamentary Debates which the Provincial Library possesses in duplicate. The understanding is that should the set in Victoria be damaged or destroyed in the course of the war, the volumes will be returned. If this calamity does not occur, arrangements will

be made for the transfer of the books outright to the University Library. About 245 volumes were received, and there are now very few gaps in the Library's set of Hansard. It is hoped to fill in the last of these by purchase in the course of the next financial year.

About 150 volumes from the library of the late Francis Black of Vancouver, were presented to the Library by his son and daughter. Mr. Black suggested in his will that the University should receive any of his books which would be of use, and his wish was duly carried out by his heirs. Another 125 volumes from the library of the late W.A. Cates was received through the courtesy of the Fraser Valley Union Library, and the Official Administrator of New Westminster. The selection included a number of unusual titles which will be most useful to the Library.

Other miscellaneous collections of books presented included 92 volumes from the library of Mrs. P. H. Proctor, of Vancouver; and a set of the Cambridge History of English Literature and other works from the Provincial Normal School. In the summer of 1941 a number of books and a large number of reports, periodicals, transactions, etc., dealing with mining and metallurgy, were offered to the Library by the Britannia Mining and Smelting Company, thanks to the good offices of Dr. Harry Warren. The offer was gratefully accepted, and the books arrived in due course. This gift enabled the Library to fill in a number of gaps in its files. A similar gift was made to the Library in September, 1941, by Mr. Hedley Fowler, of Rossland. The books came from the Library of a well-known mining pioneer, the late S. S. Fowler, of Riondel, father of the donor.

A large number of periodicals were presented during the year by Mrs. Jonathan Rogers, some of which have been retained, while others, at Mrs. Rogers' suggestion, will be made available on exchange. Later in the year Mr. Jonathan Rogers gave to the Library a striking portrait of Chief Harry of the Squamish. The painting is the work of C. S. Hatch, and was executed a year or two before Chief Harry's death, which occurred in December, 1918.

As usual, the Library is much indebted to many members of the staff of the University, who have been most generous in their gifts. Dr. R. E. McKechnie, Chancellor of the University, in addition to presenting the Library with the current files of several periodicals, gave a collection of some thirty medical works. A number of books and pamphlets were presented by Dean Daniel Buchanan, by Professor Soward, and by Professor Gage. The assistance received from Dr. Sage and Dr. Warren has already been noted.

It is impossible even to list the names of the many other friends whose generosity has enriched the Library, but special mention should be made of the gifts received from Mr. Hugh Leech, of Vernon; Mr. P.S. Walker, Vancouver; Mrs. W. W. Peck, Vancouver; Mr. F. E. Bescoby, Vancouver; Mr. R. T. Elson, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Ross Miller, Ottawa; Mr. James Mawdsley, Vancouver; Merck & Company, of New York; and the Library of the University of Western Ontario.

Organizations and institutions, too numerous to mention, have been as generous to the Library as individuals. To mention only two, the Library has received copies of the new volumes added to the

Canadian-American Relations Series, through the courtesy of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and several mail sacks were required to deliver all the books and miscellaneous publications furnished by the Smithsonian Institution, of Washington, D. C.

Circulation Statistics

(a) Total loans, by years:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
1937-38	55,005	66,066	121,071
1938-39	61,167	76,329	137,496
1939-40	63,393	62,513	125,906
1940-41	62,592	65,767	128,359
1941-42	57,955	66,742	124,597

(b) Monthly statistics of circulation:

	<u>1940-41</u>			<u>1941-42</u>		
	<u>General</u>	<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Total</u>
April	3653	8133	11786	4023	8528	12551
May	1151	-	1151	725	-	725
June	939	75	1014	1008	92	1100
July	4260	4140	8400	3269	3398	6667
August	2810	2379	5189	2234	2154	4388
September	2199	1592	3791	2291	2572	3863
October	7218	9451	16669	7294	9448	16742
November	9364	11523	20887	8366	11287	19653
December	4112	6291	10403	3617	5810	9427
January	7816	6584	14400	6695	6850	13545
February	8782	6008	14790	7857	7144	15001
March	7888	9591	17479	8066	10459	18525
#Nursing	2400	-	2400	2400	-	2400
	62592	65767	128359	57955	66742	124597

#Circulation from Nursing and Health Reading Room, which is reported annually.

Circulation

Circulation fell somewhat in 1941-42, as compared with the previous year, but the decrease was less than 3 per cent. The decline was due partly to a substantial drop in Summer School registration (457 in 1941, as compared with nearly 600 in 1940), and partly to the blackouts, shorter library hours, and cancellation of examinations which followed the outbreak of war with Japan in December. After a restless six weeks, the students once more settled down to work, and it is interesting to note that the Library was noticeably busier in February, March, and April of 1942, than it had been during the same months the previous year.

Except for the December blackout period, Library hours were the same as during 1940-41. The building was open 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 circulation statistics given above apply only to the main circulation desk, and to the Nursing and Health Reading Room (the latter being the only one of the so-called departmental libraries on the campus which makes any consistent effort to keep such records). A number of additional services given by the Library to various outside groups should be noted. (Students taking Directed Reading Courses borrowed 877 volumes during the session 1940-41.) A total of 1,899 books were loaned to study groups, persons enrolled in evening courses, and individual readers registered with the Department of University Extension. The special collection of plays and books relating to the theatre was used extensively, 6,079 volumes being loaned to drama groups

all over the Province. If these figures be included, total circulation for the year amounted to 133,452.

The number of books found to be missing at the time of the annual spring inventory in May, 1941, was 604. Of these, 246 were back on the shelves in May, 1942, leaving a net loss of 358 volumes. After the better showing made the previous year, when half the 590 books missing at the first count were recovered, this total was disappointing, but the net loss was still below that for 1939 and 1940. Use of the stackroom has been more closely supervised since the fall of 1941, and it is hoped that this will help to cut book losses substantially.

A new reserve book system, which permits students to have direct access to the reserve-book stacks, was instituted in September, 1941. It was found that, as first arranged, the new plan made it possible for dishonest students to make off with books; but a revised arrangement, put into effect in 1942, promises to remove this objection. Direct access to the stacks has proven very popular with the students. It is interesting to note that although they were indignant when books were found to be missing, they hesitated to complain for fear the Library would revert to the old closed-stack system.

Loan of Phonograph Records

Early in 1941 the Department of University Extension issued a catalogue of phonograph records which it offered to loan to listening and study groups. A few of these records were owned by the Department itself, but the bulk of them were drawn from the Carnegie Music Set, which was presented to the University in 1937, and placed in the Library. This service was continued during the year 1941-42, when 37 music groups, some of them in relatively remote parts of the Province, received boxes of records. About 120 records a month were loaned to these groups.

Late in 1941, the Committee responsible for the Carnegie Music Set, of which the Librarian is Chairman, authorized the loaning of records to students. After careful investigation, a loan service was started late in January. It proved most successful, and was continued throughout the spring term. A total of 1,507 records were loaned during the period January 27th - April 28th, 1942. It speaks well for the students that not a single disc was broken, and that damage, beyond ordinary wear and tear, was negligible. It is hoped that the record loan service may become a permanent feature of the Library, as the experience gained last spring indicates that the privilege is greatly appreciated and not abused.

Periodicals

The effects of the war continue to be felt severely in the periodicals department. No German, French, Italian, Belgian, or Dutch publications have been received since 1940, and to these have now been added periodicals originating in Japan. The Library was on the complimentary mailing list of a number of Japanese scientific societies, and, to give the devil his due, found them obliging and generous. The material, while not of first importance, as it was in large part imitative, was nevertheless, well worth receiving, particularly as it related largely to the Pacific area.

Order has at last emerged out of the chaos arising from the imposition of the Canadian Exchange Tax of 10 per cent., and a large proportion of the serials received by the Library have been granted exemption from the tax. Unfortunately this does not apply to the publications of learned societies which are published by commercial firms, with the result that the proceedings and transactions of a number of genuinely non-profit organizations are still taxed, including those of the American Mineralogical Society, the American Meteorological Society, the Henry E. Huntington Library, and a number of others.

A special effort was made during the year to secure and complete long sets. In view of the exchange situation preference was given to British titles, and quotations were asked for chiefly from firms in Great Britain. More than thirty substantial files were thus acquired. The new titles include:-

Publications of the Percy Society. (Complete set.)
Isis, v. 6-27.
Publications of the British School at Athens. (Complete to
Royal African Society. (Complete to date) date).
Royal Asiatic Society. (1888 to date)
Antiquity. (Complete to date.)
Duke Mathematical Journal. (Complete to date)
Biological Review. (Complete to date.)
Biological Society of Washington. (v. 14 to date.)
Wilson Bulletin (ornithology). Practically complete set.)

The Library's files of the following titles were either completed during the year, or now lack only a few numbers or volumes, as the case may be:-

British Journal of Medical Psychology.
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology.
Journal of Comparative Legislation.
Scottish Historical Journal.
Publications of the New Shakespeare Society.
Philosophical Review.
Journal of English and Germanic Philology.

Not all the Library's efforts to fill in gaps in its sets were successful, and titles which still remain incomplete, in spite of a widespread search for missing numbers, include the Spectator, Notes and Queries, and the publications of the Royal Society of Arts, and of the American Geographical Society.

Gifts received included a broken but long and valuable file of Fortune, from Mr. R. T. Elson, while incomplete files of My Garden and Flora and Silva were presented by Mrs. Fyfe Smith. The missing numbers have been secured in each instance, so that, in effect, these gifts added three more complete sets to the Library's collection.

A few new journals have been added to the subscription list, including the following:-

American: Journal of Economic History.
Journal of Central European Affairs.
Review Index.

Canadian: Maritime Art.
La Nouvelle Relève.
Revue Canadienne de Biologie.
Culture.
Le Canada Français.

It will be noted that French Canada, which has hitherto been very badly neglected, is at last represented on the periodical list.

The most interesting war casualty of the year was the Living Age, which was published for almost a century, and completed its 350th volume. The last issue appeared in August, 1941. Long one of the most important of the general American reviews, it had latterly fallen upon evil days. This year American Authorities investigating enemy activities announced that it was one of several well-known journals which had been heavily subsidized by Japanese agents.

Binding

The number of new volumes bound during the year was 1638. In addition 700 pamphlet cases and boxes were purchased. In spite of rising costs, the average cost of binding per volume was held down to \$1.87, as compared with \$1.90 in 1940-41. No sacrifice of strength or quality of binding was made to secure this result, but many details were simplified. Decorative stamping was eliminated or reduced, titles shortened, and skiver labels dropped. The small number of sets still being bound in leather was still further reduced, buckram of a corresponding colour being substituted.

The binding appropriation for the year was \$2,850.00, and this proved adequate for current requirements. An additional sum of

\$150.00 was made available in order that a start might be made on the binding of the set of the Journals of th British House of Commons, to which reference is made later in this report.

The Library Catalogues

The 5,510 volumes accessioned during the year were all fully catalogued and placed on the shelves. The stackroom was becoming hopelessly crowded by the spring of 1942, but some relief was in prospect, as wooden shelving was to be built on the west wall of floors 2 and 4 during the summer. Nevertheless. the end of such make-shift expansion is now in sight, and the need for additional steel equipment, to complete floors 6 and 7, will be pressing in another three years at the most.

The number of cards received for the Library of Congress depository catalogue again increased substantially, the total for 1941-42 being 63,633. Entries in the catalogue now total 1,782,337. Filing was kept well up to date throughout the year. The existing filing cabinets are becoming congested, and in the ordinary course of events it would shortly have been necessary to make a heavy expenditure for new trays. In the spring of 1942, however, it was announced that the Library of Congress had agreed to authorize the publication of a printed edition of its catalogue, and it was learned further that depository libraries purchasing the printed version would not be required to retain the complete card file. Publication of the catalogue is expected to require not more than three years.

The cost will be less than that of the filing cabinets which would otherwise be required during the same period, and when publication is completed the annual saving to the Library will be substantial.

A special effort was made to fill in gaps in the files of University series publications. The work will be continued in the new year. Many of the titles already in the Library are being recatalogued and arranged in series, instead of individually as heretofore, as this is found to be much more convenient for reference purposes.

Reference Department

The department has had an exceptionally busy year, but the standard of service has been fully maintained.

The Customs difficulties which for a time made it almost impossible to make inter-library loans with institutions in the United States have been adjusted most satisfactorily, and thanks are due to the Collector of Customs for his courtesy and consideration. Inter-library loans during the year numbered no less than 178. A total of 76 books were borrowed, and 102 loaned. The latter figure will doubtless surprise many, as there is a tendency to overlook the fact that the Library now possesses many books and periodicals not readily available elsewhere in the region.

Instruction in the use of the Library was given to several groups. These dealt, as a rule, with the specialized bibliography of some subject field. They consisted of lectures, practical exercises in the use of the Library, and, in some instances,

tours of the stackroom. The groups addressed, at the request of the departments concerned, included 4th and 5th Year Forestry students; the 4th and 5th Year Civil Engineering classes; the Poultry Seminar; and students in Public Health. More elementary instruction was given to the students in Agriculture 1, and it is interesting to note that this lecture has been made compulsory by the Faculty concerned.

The experiments with displays, to which reference was made in the last report, have proven to be both interesting and well worth while. Special exhibits relating to subject fields, courses and such student activities as the Musical Society and the Players' club were arranged during the year and attracted much attention. Some of the material displayed was of unusual interest, and was **specially** loaned for the occasion. Thus for the Musical Society, Mr. Lionel Haweis loaned a valuable collection of autographs which included those of Gilbert and Sullivan. Later in the year Mr. Jack Shadbolt, the artist, lent a number of his drawings, and these were shown as a series. Experience has proven quite definitely that the displays give rise to many requests for books relating to the topics illustrated, and they undoubtedly call the attention of the students to new subjects they would otherwise pass by.

The Library's collection of government documents continues to grow rapidly. Reference has **already** been made to the files of the Journals of the British House of Commons and the House of Lords, and to the many volumes of the British Hansard which have been received recently. Another very useful gift was received from

the United States Works Projects Administration, which presented a file of its National Research Project publications, consisting in all of some 80 titles. Many valuable studies in the field of technology and employment are included.

At the request of Dr. Blythe Eagles, Head of the Department of Dairying, a survey was made in order to discover what progress had been made over a five-year period in building up the files of agricultural documents. The survey revealed that the library receives currently no less than 555 series of agricultural publications, the majority being gifts from government departments and institutions in the United States and Canada.

The cataloguing of the British Sessional Papers, of which 500 volumes have now been bound, is well under way. Library of Congress cards analyzing these sets have greatly facilitated the work.

The Problem of Accommodation

Overcrowding in the Library is more serious than ever, and the noise and commotion which inevitably result make the maintenance of quiet and discipline most difficult. The problems which arise directly from the design of the building were outlined last year, and need not be referred to again in detail. The new open-stack reserve book system has helped to relieve congestion at the main loan desk, and closer supervision has resulted in a definite improvement in discipline in the stackroom.

The problem of supervising and accommodating the students

in the library is essentially a traffic problem. What amounts to a traffic census will have to be taken before the Library's needs can be ascertained and forecast with any accuracy, and it is planned to undertake such a study during the winter session. With this data available, plans for changes in the building, and additions to it, can be worked out intelligently. It is entirely possible that new construction may be decided upon relatively suddenly after the war, and it is most important that an economical and practical plan should be ready, in general outline, if not in complete detail.

Finances

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

	<u>1940-41</u>	<u>1941-42</u>
Books & Magazines	\$ 11,750.00	\$ 11,800.00
Equipment	510.00	510.00
Binding	2,650.00	2,850.00
Supplies & Expenses	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,870.00</u>
	\$ 16,710.00	\$ 17,030.00

Books & Magazines. To the appropriation of \$11,800.00 (which included \$700.00 for the Department of University Extension), the following sums were added during the year:-

Fines money	\$ 657.45
Directed Reading Courses	300.00
Special grants:-	
Department of Philosophy	443.75
Librarian's Fund	230.00

In addition the sum of \$4,409.02 was carried forward, against orders outstanding at the beginning of the new financial year. A total of \$17,440.22 was thus available for expenditure. The sum of \$150.00 was transferred to binding account, and at the end of the year \$2,753.12 was carried forward. Expenditures actually made during the year thus amounted to \$14,537.10.

Binding. The appropriation amounted to \$ 2,850.00, to which the \$ 150.00 referred to above was added for the specific purpose of binding a portion of the new file of House of Commons Journals, most of which were received unbound.

Supplies & Expenses. This appropriation again fell somewhat short of essential requirements, and was increased to \$ 1,900.00 in the budget for 1942-43. It is hoped that this will prove sufficient for current needs, for, as noted last year, there is no point in keeping the appropriation below the sum actually required for supplies.

Staff

The Library staff, on March 31st, 1942, was as follows:-

Librarian's Office

W. Kaye Lamb, Ph. D.	Librarian
Evelyn Hearsey	Order Clerk
Eileen Heaton	Stenographer

Reference Department

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

Cataloguing 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

Circulation Department

Mabel M. Lanning, B.A., B.L.S.	Head
Eleanor B. Mercer, M.A., B.L.S.	Assistant
Edith M. Stewart, B.A., B.L.S.	Extension

It will be noted that two staff changes took place during the year. Miss Edith **Stewart** was appointed Assistant, Extension, in July. **Previous** to her coming, the reorganization of the Extension Library had been commenced by the Reference Department. Miss Stewart completed the work most satisfactorily, and her service to extension borrowers, drama groups, teachers, and staff has been such as to elicit favourable comment from everyone.

Miss Christine McGregor, who had been Secretary and Stenographer to the Librarian for seven years, resigned early in September, because of her approaching marriage. Her resignation was accepted with much regret, as her services were valued very highly, both by the Librarian and by the Cataloguing Department. She was succeeded by Miss Eileen Heaton, who joined the staff on October 6th, 1941.

Library Committee

The Committee appointed by Senate in October, 1941, consisted of the following members:-

Dr. Blythe Eagles	Representing the Faculty of Agriculture
Prof. A. H. Finlay	Representing the Faculty of Applied Science
Prof. T. Larsen	Representing the Faculty of Arts
Dr. Isabel McInnes	" " " " "
Dr. D.C. Duff	" " " " "

This Committee met on November 18th, 1941, at which time Dr. Eagles was elected Chairman for the year 1941-42.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Librarian wishes to acknowledge formally the assistance, courtesy, and co-operation which he has received throughout the year from every member of the Library staff, the Library Committee, and the Faculty and Administration of the University. The Library is exceedingly fortunate in its staff, for it would be difficult to find a more interested and hard-working group, and one with which it would be pleasanter to work, day by day. Once again, sincere thanks are due for the liberty of action which the Library Committee has accorded the Librarian. A special word of acknowledgement is due Dr. Eagles, who has taken much time and trouble to investigate and discuss various Library matters. Finally, it is my privilege to acknowledge the assistance given by the President of the University, Dr. L.S. Klinck, who is ever ready to consider and advise upon Library problems and policy.

Respectfully submitted,

W. KAYE LAMB,
Librarian.

October, 1942.