



The University of Wisconsin's living Memorial Library. [1953]

[Madison, Wisconsin]: University of Wisconsin-Madison, [1953]

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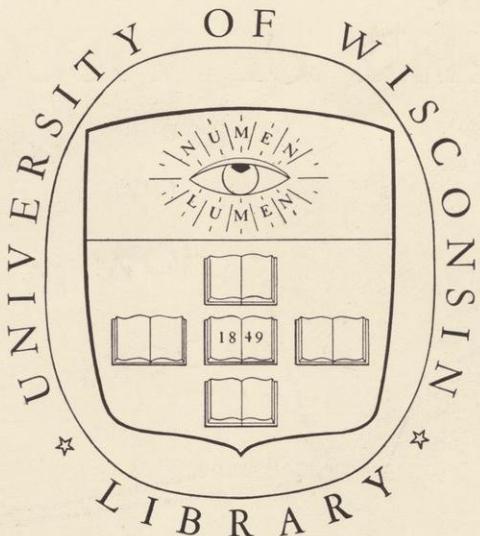
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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN'S



-living- MEMORIAL LIBRARY



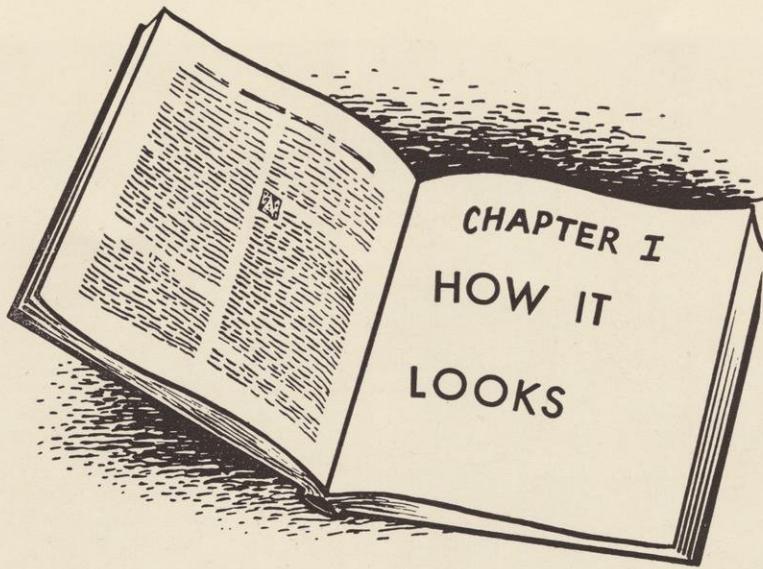
This building is dedicated as the University of Wisconsin Memorial Library to honor the men and women who served in the armed forces of the United States in the second World War. Many of them gave their lives that we might live in freedom. Let us not forget.

Other men of vision and devotion to the University have contributed to the realization of this memorial. The citizens of Wisconsin, represented by the 1945 and 1949 legislatures and by Governors Walter S. Goodland and Oscar Rennebohm, provided the public funds for the creation of this great study and research center at the beginning of the second century of the University of Wisconsin.

—The Regents of the University of Wisconsin.

(From a plaque inside the main entrance to the Memorial Library.)

PHOTO CREDITS—Milwaukee Journal, brochure pages 10, 11 (card catalog); Gary Schulz, cover, pages 4 (faculty study), 7, 8 (catalog department), 11. All other pictures: Milt Leidner.



THE FIVE STORIES of good grey stone and glass which brought modern library service to the University of Wisconsin are described by their designer, State Architect Roger Kirchhoff, as "a modern adaptation of the formal classical design of several surrounding campus buildings." A recent visitor from The Netherlands has come close to the essential quality of the Memorial Library in these words of praise: "It is plain and simple and beautiful."

Set at the eastern edge of the lower campus, the L-shaped structure—with its "foot" edging Langdon Street, its "upright" presenting a broad front to the lower campus—has indeed brought new beauty to Wisconsin. This will be even

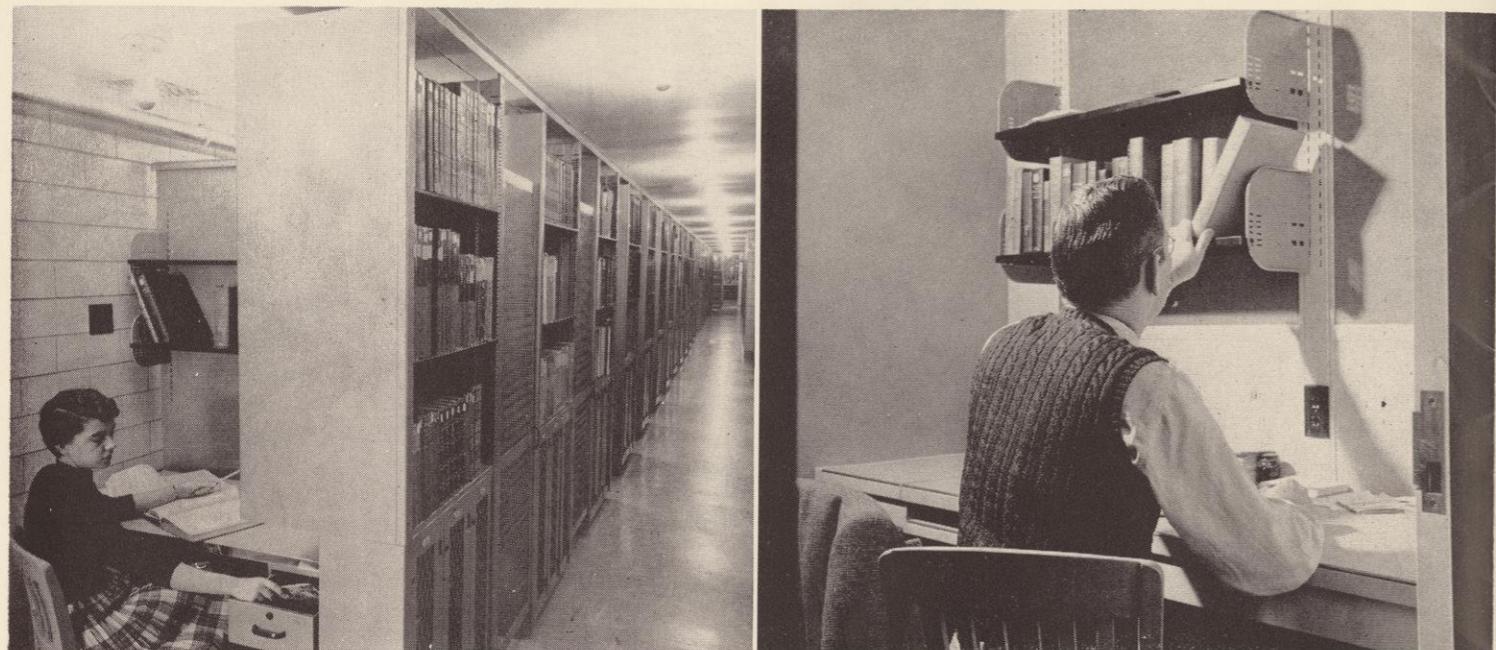
more apparent when landscaping colors the space between it and the State Historical Society Building across the Mall.

In contrast to the columned Historical Society quarters, previous home for the University's books, the new construction is without pillars and other applied ornamentation. Severe exterior surfaces of Bedford limestone are broken only by long window openings with blue-gray metal sash and portals strongly defined with heavy blocks of North Carolina pink granite.

It was not without good reason that the University's Library Building committee studied and rejected 17 plans before selecting the one from which the present building

Four large reading rooms like this one, all located on the north side of the Library, are augmented by other study rooms and carrels to provide about 2,200 seating spaces. Incandescent lighting offers 30-35 foot-candles to students seated at reading level.





Enclosed carrels on the fringes of ten stack levels (left) and fifth floor faculty studies provide privacy for research and make books conveniently available to scholars.



Glass-enclosed typing rooms (left) and space-saving storage in sliding shelves for little-used books are features. Associate Librarians Naeseth and Kaplan demonstrate.

The main circulation desk is on the second floor.

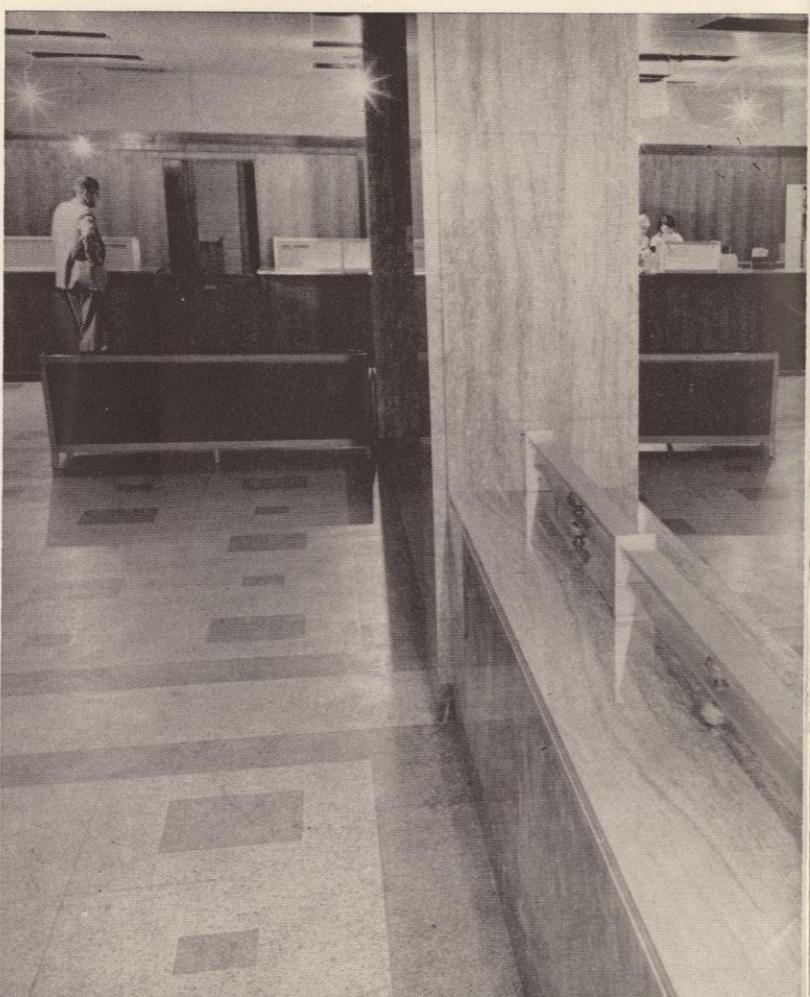
grew. If it was to be a fitting tribute to the men and women of Wisconsin who served in World War II, the Memorial Library would have to be a total service: an aid to good teaching; a laboratory for research, particularly in the social sciences and the humanities; a place where any citizen might find and use its printed riches. Further, it would have to be arranged and appointed so books and good study space could be obtained promptly and so that an atmosphere of quiet beauty would heighten respect for the process of education through books. Finally, in recognition of the fact that American research libraries have, on the average, doubled in size every sixteen years, both flexibility and the possibility for future expansion were essential. A careful study of the building plan reveals both.

A bright world of color and live working halls is the "modern" in Mr. Kirchhoff's "modern adaptation of the formal classical." Louis Kaplan, Library director of public service, explains: "We believed it was not necessary for achievement of our purposes to create rooms with monumental ceiling heights, expansive staircases, and corridors beyond what is necessary for the traffic involved. All these extravagances have been omitted."

The color, carrying fewer restrictions, is often frankly extravagant, but used on large plain surfaces, does not violate dignity or good taste. This is true of painted upper wall surfaces such as those of the larger study and reference halls—pale green, canary yellow, or pomegranate; of flooring in reds and green.

Type and use of areas has determined the selection of flooring, wall construction, and woodwork. Acoustical tile

Students may wait for books on comfortable lounges.



covers the ceilings of the reading rooms, staff quarters, and corridors. The heavily-traveled hallways and stairs are laid with terrazzo, reading and staff rooms with rubber tile, and stack floors with asphalt tile. Reading rooms have wooden shelving or wainscoting to door height. The woods of these lower wall surfaces, beginning with oak on first floor and progressing upward with walnut, korina (an African plywood), and Philippine mahogany to the fourth story, are in themselves distinguished and elegant contributions to the beauty of the building.

The same may be said for the green, tan, brown, and rose marbles out of Colorado, Vermont, and Italy, used as wall surfaces along the corridors and in entrance ways. A homely housekeeping virtue added its influence to eye-appeal in the choice here: marble demands very little in repairs or upkeep.

The general reference and study hall on first floor, largely for underclassmen use, and the corresponding rooms for upperclassmen and graduate reading in social studies, the humanities, and foreign documents on second, third, and fourth, are 40 by 240-foot, cheerful, light-filled chambers, all ranged along the north wall of the building. The arrangement according to subject fields is an important factor toward easy availability of library resources and reference service.

Furniture in rooms throughout the building is in light woods, attractive and functional. Study tables are long and wide, the seating especially designed and ample. The inadequacy of a mere 700 seating places—maximum that could be managed in old quarters—is here forgotten where more than 2,250 spaces are available.



The general smoking lounge is adjacent to the reserved book desk and there are three small faculty smoking rooms on the fifth floor. No smoking elsewhere.

In reading rooms alone, 1,800 readers may be accommodated. Additional reading areas are represented by 100 study rooms for faculty and 350 small cubicles, or carrels, for graduate students, these created in the conviction that scholars are most likely to be productive where there is a measure of privacy and a place to bring together a large number of books. All faculty studies are located on the fifth floor and all are enclosed, varying in size from 6 by 8 to 9 by 8 feet; each is equipped with bookshelves, a chair, and work counter. Similar furnishings, plus drawer space, are found in the 4 by 4½ foot carrels that are distributed, 35 to a floor, along the outer walls of all stack levels except the basement.

Flexibility in some areas of the Library, including seminar rooms, permits adjustment for smaller or larger quarters through removal of steel partitions and shelves. In the carrels the capacity for transformation lies in their light steel doors. Attached, the doors achieve privacy for the thesis-writing graduate with assigned carrel privileges; removed, they offer open semi-private quarters on first-come, first-served terms.

It is behind the scenes in the center of book concentrations that the very heart of the Library is felt. Row upon row of the blue-enameled steel shelves, filled with the

majority of Wisconsin's volumes, stretch through the stack chambers. Nothing exists of the clutter and neglect which previous inadequate facilities enforced. Shelving in the main stacks, adjustable on one-half-inch centers instead of on the usual inch, gains space for an extra 100,000 volumes. The basement level is equipped with newly designed sliding-tray shelves making space for 400,000 lesser-used volumes where on the traditional shelving only 200,000 could rest. Until the Library has increased its present holdings to one and one-half million volumes, order and honorable place for the printed word will prevail.

There are other bright evidences of modern mechanics adapted to the special needs of a book treasury: 400 aluminum-framed windows bringing the daylight indoors . . . incandescent illumination with an intensity of 30 to 35 foot-candles at the reading level . . . a down-feed steam-heating system disposing of the danger of heat damage to books in low-level areas . . . roosting on the roof of the building, well-removed from areas where quiet is essential, a penthouse for the noisy mechanisms of elevators, ventilator, and book conveyor . . . off of each main reading room on second, third, and fourth floors, a glass-enclosed room where a student may use his typewriter without violating the traditional quiet of a library.

Plans are being worked out for the Memorial Room which has been reserved to emphasize the Library's commemorative purpose. The room will be apart from regular library function and is located near the main circulation desk. In the minds of its planners, the Memorial Room should be a place that will allow serious contemplation with minimum intrusion by outside influences. It is possible the huge world globe given by the Class of 1927 will find a logical resting place in the Memorial Room.

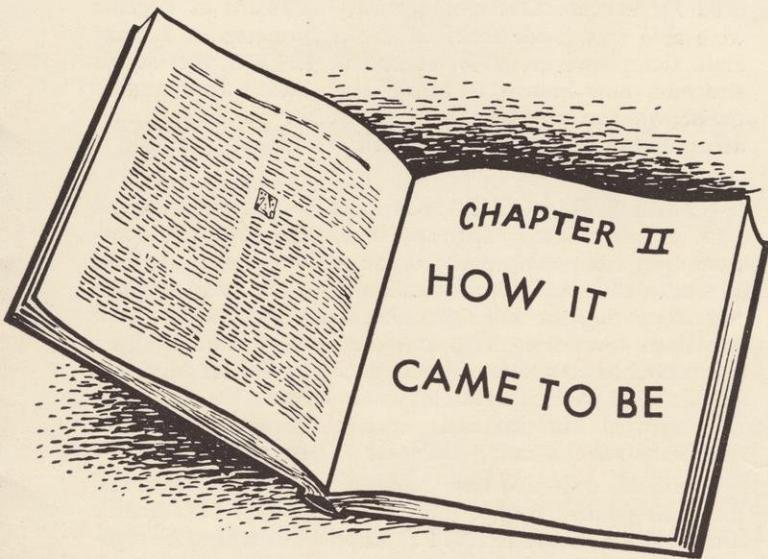
The citizens of the state have given their University of Wisconsin, in the name of their war-time sons and daughters, a modern library and an opportunity for service equal to the best. Students, faculty, and all others benefiting from this reservoir of human knowledge and learning are already paying highest tribute through Library use, at least doubled since operation in the new building began.

“We are all mentioned in the wills of Homer and Shakespeare and of all the great masters of letters; we do not share merely in part, but each of us inherits in full all their rich chattels.”

—Charles S. Slichter



A view of the old home—the State Historical Society Library—and the Hill from top of Memorial Library.



THE UNIVERSITY of Wisconsin Library is nearly as old as the University itself. Records show that the first books were obtained in 1849-50 and that upon the completion of North Hall in 1851, one of its public rooms on the fourth floor was to house the Library. By January young Badgers found installed there H. A. Tenney, Esquire, "curator of the cabinet and librarian," and 800 miscellaneous volumes, all of them gifts. Mr. Tenney's duties were undertaken out of enthusiasm, for there was no money for salary

or for the purchase of books. His job was to build up the collection by solicitation of gifts.

However, there were men at Wisconsin who recognized that an institution with claim to academic standing could not long depend upon hit-or-miss donations. Chancellor John H. Lathrop recommended to the Board of Regents Dec. 25, 1851, "that provision should be made for the increase of the Library." He reiterated the recommendation many times. Some acquisitions were made through "the attention of those who represent the State in both houses of Congress," but the new University needed many things and its library had no priority over professors, equipment, and buildings.

When Prof. John W. Sterling took over Mr. Tenney's duties in 1853, the number of books totaled about 1,000. This teacher of mathematics performed his service while carrying full responsibilities for instruction and was the first in a long list of faculty "librarians." During his administration, South Hall, second of the original three buildings planned for the University, was finished in 1855 and the library was moved into it in 1856. Two Regent appropriations of \$1,250 each for the purchase of books were made, one in 1856, another the following year. The expenditure



At long last there is ample space for the technical services carried on by the catalog and order departments, which are located on the third floor.

of these monies and additional donations of books sent the total book holdings to 3,000.

Professor Sterling left his post for a time, but returning in '63, found the library once again moved. In 1860 it had been transferred to the completed third of the original buildings, one that in its newness was called College Hall but which through the century came to be known as Main and finally Bascom. Enrollment had not yet reached 200, the book count was under 4,000, most of this number being contributions. There was still no regular appropriation for book purchases. The panic of 1857 and the Civil War were having their disastrous effect on Wisconsin.

In spite of these adverse circumstances, valiant efforts of Professor Sterling and men like him to improve library service had salutary results. Prof. John B. Parkinson in 1866 cataloged the Library and arranged the books according to a comprehensive plan; through the work of Prof. William F. Allen, a reading room was established; and the unflagging campaign which Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson pressed for teaching of Scandinavian languages and literature caught the enthusiasm of Wisconsin Norsemen and resulted in money to build one of the Library's outstanding collections, the Mimer's Subdivision. The famed violinist Ole Bull made a notable donation to the fund.

Other enthusiasms bore fruit at the pioneering institution. One was for the acceptance of young women as students. In 1866 the first coeds entered the ivied halls, but a strict segregation was observed. In the Library of 1871, open for one-half hour each day, four days a week, two periods were given over to the young women. A year later, with an enrollment of 435, 142 of this number being female, it became necessary to keep Library doors open for two hours daily.

Meanwhile, in the State Capitol, downtown, the library of the State Historical Society was becoming increasingly a Mecca for the students of the University who wanted to explore the fascinating world of books. Historians on the campus were utilizing its collections for the instruction of their students and for research, as the foundation for the University's reputation in this field was being laid. It is well to remember that in those days the textbook was the focus of course study; collateral reading as a part of the instructional program was almost unknown. Only the intellectually inquisitive browsed along the Library shelves, seeking knowledge beyond the reaches of the classroom.

The prospects of the Library began to brighten in the 1870's. First, appropriations became somewhat more regular. By 1878 the Regents reported a Library expenditure of \$800 and the collection numbered 9,000 volumes. Secondly, the need for bookspace becoming acute, the Board of Regents were able to provide relief in the construction of Library Hall. Completed in 1879 at a cost of \$23,788, the Gothic structure, now known as Music Hall, was a true student center with an assembly hall, rooms for the literary and debating societies—and for Wisconsin's books.

WITH THE OCCUPANCY of Library Hall, a period of pronounced expansion began. By 1881 the doors were open from 8:30 to 12:30 and 2:30 to 4:30; "the best American and foreign periodicals were taken;" and students were clamoring for more generous hours. By 1886 the Hall was open from 9 to 5:30 and the staff of one had been augmented by an assistant. Four years later Walter M. Smith (UW '90), formerly that assistant, became the first full-time salaried librarian and began a distinguished service in library administration that was to last nearly 47 years.

The book collection now numbered 19,000 volumes and the signs pointed toward improvement. Under Mr. Smith's direction, the library received appropriations still more regularly and holdings were increasing steadily though not spectacularly. There was steady growth in the state's population



On the fourth floor there is an assembly room and art gallery used for small conferences and exhibits. Here a Civil Defense committee is meeting.



Ground breaking for the Memorial Library, back in July of 1950, attracted the usual shovel-wielding dignitaries, and three-year-old Rosemary, who well symbolizes the coming generations of Wisconsin students who will use the Library.

and with the consequent increase in young men and women at the University, Library Hall became crowded.

During the first year of his administration, 1892-93, Pres. Charles Kendall Adams saw to it that library appropriations tripled and he soon became forceful in the move for a new building. Many of his colleagues and the leading officials of the State Historical Society favored a building for the joint use of the two libraries. Close ties existed between the agencies; both needed new quarters; the Society's holdings would add prestige to the University; and economy could be effected by reducing duplication of valuable books.

In the course of seven years the proposed building became a reality on the lower campus and was dedicated Oct. 19, 1900. In the words of Reuben Gold Thwaites, superintendent of the State Historical Society, which was trustee of the \$750,000 structure to be shared with the University, it was "as nearly perfect from a librarian's point of view as was possible."

In this stately building of Bedford limestone, with spacious reading rooms, seminar rooms, and stacks, there were 335,000 volumes including the holdings of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters. Seventy-five thousand bound volumes and 25,000 pamphlets belonged to the University. It was hoped that for a long while to come there would be room for expansion.

But the growth in use of the Library was rapid and before six years had passed the building was open 8½ hours

a week, the bookstacks became crowded, and storage was inadequate. Branch libraries began to develop on the campus both as a matter of convenience for the student and as additional space for books. Finally Pres. Charles R. Van Hise obtained a legislative appropriation for the addition, in 1914, of the north stack wing and the Library got much needed relief. But there were other vital needs and funds to fill them were short. As late as 1920 Mr. Smith said: "While progress has been made, the Library is still greatly inferior as a working library to those of many American universities with which the University of Wisconsin is proud to compare herself otherwise in equipment and work."

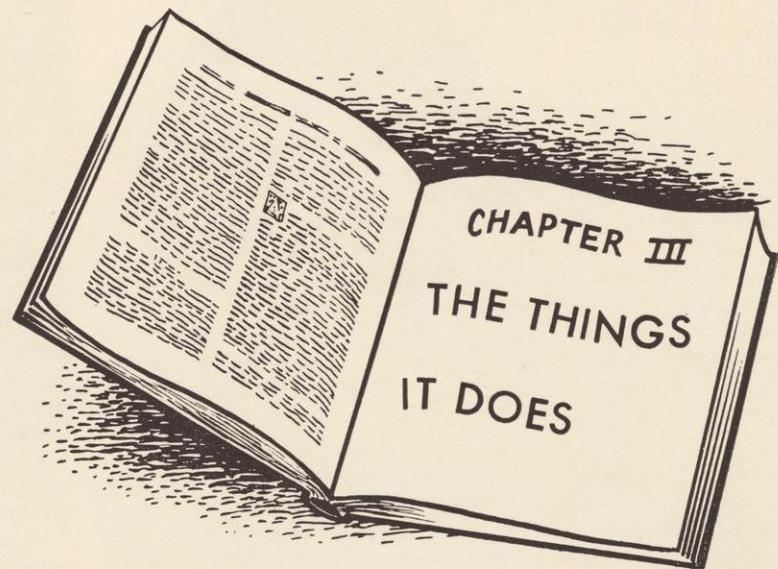
The collections had by no means caught up with the growth of the University. When Mr. Smith retired in 1937, the problems of study rooms, book acquisitions, and storage space were acute and keenly felt by faculty and students alike. Gilbert H. Doane, succeeding Mr. Smith, Feb. 1, 1937, renewed the efforts to make adequate the Library facilities and was given strong support by the faculty and student body.

IN 1943 TWO EXPERTS were invited to survey the libraries of the State Historical Society and the University. Messrs. Blegen and Metcalf recommended certain improvements in existing practices, especially in cataloguing and filing, but, most important, they supported the well-considered claims of all who had the interest of UW library service at heart: namely, that the Historical Society Building was inadequate to house effectively the two libraries.

During World War II, building plans had to be laid by. At the end of the conflict came the veterans, the largest enrollment in UW history, and a desperate need for improved Library facilities. Relief was at last certain when the 1949 Legislature—supported strongly by alumni and other friends of the University—made an appropriation of six million dollars for a library to be "a memorial to the men and women of Wisconsin who served in World War II." Ground was broken July 24, 1950. In the summer of 1953, the book collections were moved into place in its commodious stacks. In September the students and faculty returned from vacation to rejoice with the Library staff.

Incorporated in its great plan are modern devices for utilizing more efficiently all available space and for the use of books. There is a flexibility which will allow change and further extension of facilities. Here on its ample shelving are nearly 600,000 volumes, among them notable collections in the history of science (including pharmacy, medicine, and agriculture); in the development of social movements, including labor; and in Scandinavian and Germanic literature.

No longer, as in the 1870's to the 1920's, is the University of Wisconsin leaning heavily upon the Library of the State Historical Society. Its own library has come of age, and with strong holdings, takes a position in complement to that of its landlord of 53 years. Together these libraries may now offer adequate service to the University and to the citizens of Wisconsin.



Space for one and a half million volumes is provided in the eleven stack levels, now about one-third full.

NOT MANY YEARS AGO, university libraries were considered first, foremost, and, indeed, almost exclusively, as repositories of knowledge . . . storehouses preserving the history and thought of civilization. Today, the library is no such ivory tower. It has become a central power plant whose transmission lines run to every part of the campus. Students, teachers, research workers—all look to the library to provide the tools without which they cannot do effective work.

Why has this growth of the library come about? The changes in higher education itself provide much of the answer.

New methods of teaching and greatly enlarged classes demand much supplementary reading and correspondingly greater use of references by students. Library facilities at Wisconsin and other institutions were once used mainly by upperclassmen, preparing seminary papers. Underclassmen rarely went to the library, gaining their knowledge largely from lectures and textbooks. Now all classes use the library extensively, and freshmen are introduced to it early in their first semester.

Expansion of the curriculum, involving new specialized courses, departments and schools, has also had its effect on

library growth. Slavic and Oriental cultural studies, for example, have understandably become foci of interest for growing numbers of scholars at Wisconsin.

With these factors, there has been an accompanying emphasis on research that continues to grow. And, as the test tube is a standard tool of the physical science researcher, the printed word is one of the principal tools of the student in social sciences and humanities.

The library's scope has broadened to include virtually every field of human knowledge. This was not always so. Libraries of the last century were composed largely of the classics, philosophy and theology. In contrast, the library today tries to obtain all the significant books—fiction and non-fiction—which are related to the many fields in which the University has an interest. Annual acquisitions of the University of Wisconsin library now total about 45,000 volumes, or about 30,000 separate titles.

The character of library collections has changed as well. Books no longer hold absolute sway. About one-quarter of the annual acquisition budget of the Wisconsin library now is spent for subscriptions to regular periodicals, and irregularly-issued "serials." Subscriptions to both number about 11,000. About 3,000 periodicals are found in the Memorial

Library's periodical room; some of the others are distributed in branch libraries and others are immediately bound and put in the stacks.

In recent years, reproduction of books and journals, and even original publications on microfilm and microcards, have come into the picture. Through these methods, the library profits in a variety of ways. Bulky newspapers may be reproduced on film, which not only has a longer life than newsprint, but which may be stored in a fraction of the space required for the papers themselves. Many scarce books, long out of print, may be purchased in this form. And books of limited market, which couldn't economically be published by normal methods, may see the light of day on microcards.

Expansion in all these directions has meant that libraries nowadays require more space, microcopies notwithstanding; space for storage of new acquisitions, of course; but also general reading rooms for "mass use" by undergraduates; special reading rooms for reference material and for periodicals; seminar and study cubicles for graduates and faculty members engaged in research; specialized storage facilities for microfilm and other research aids; and a relatively large amount of space for such technical, behind-the-scenes work as cataloging, binding, lettering, shipping, and receiving.

With all these changes it is not surprising to find that the library staff has also changed. No longer are librarians the rather imposing curators of collections of dusty tomes. They are professional workers, not only trained in the techniques and principles of their field, but often possessing higher degrees in the academic subjects of their specialties as well. Students find them ready with information of many kinds.

You don't have to be a student or faculty member, either, to take advantage of the Memorial Library's book collection. Any individual off the campus may obtain books not available in his local library but in the University's stacks by inquiring through his local librarian. If there is no local library at his disposal, the individual may get books through the Wisconsin Traveling Library, an agency of the Wisconsin Library Commission, which frequently uses University library volumes in filling orders.

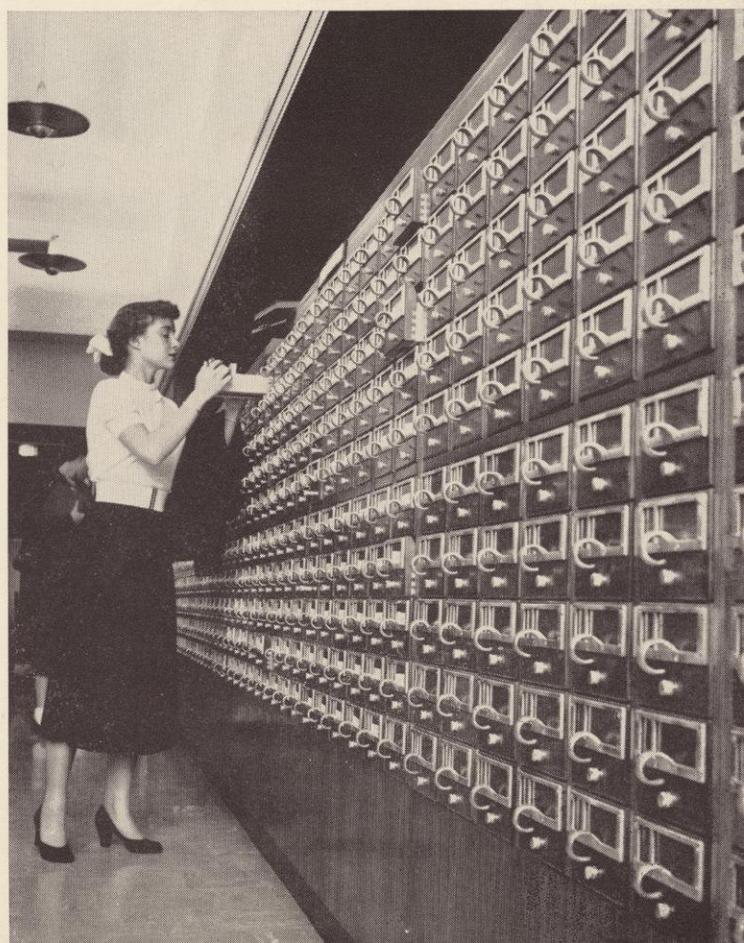
Wisconsin clubs which need specialized information on any given subject make use of the Extension's Bureau of Information and Program Services. The bureau, in turn, often turns to the library system in making up its packets.

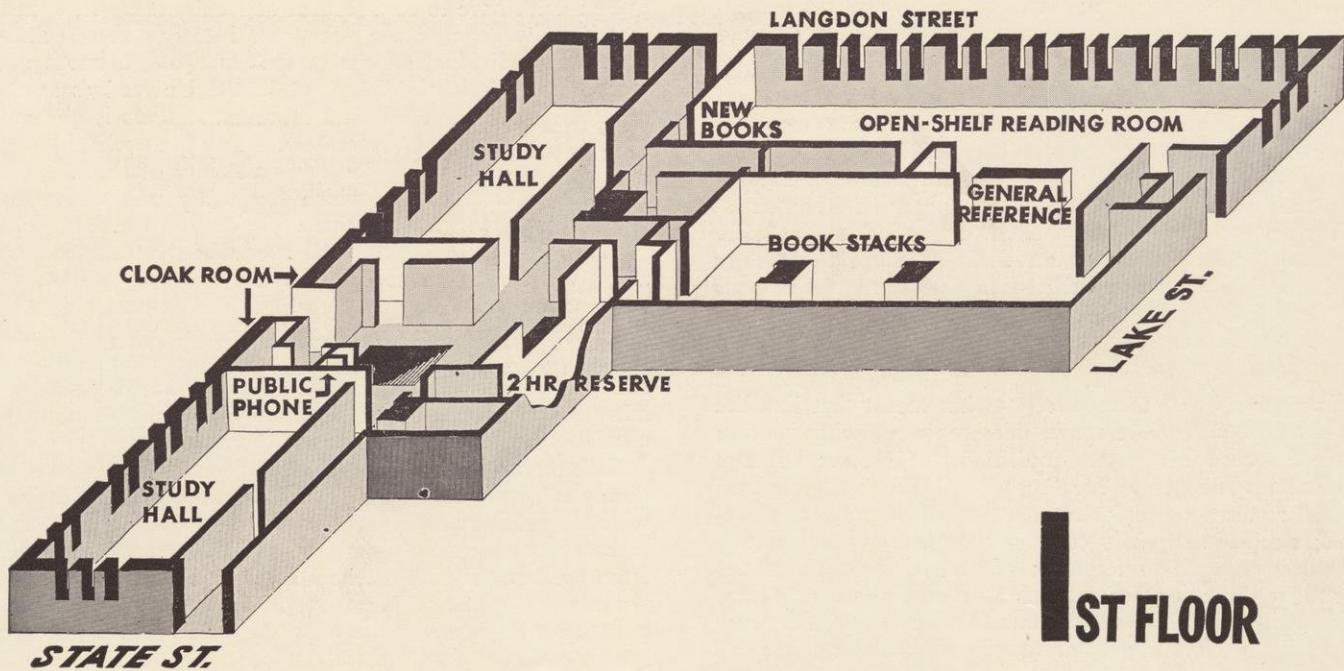
Madison area residents are perhaps the most fortunate among off-campus library users. A five dollar deposit permits them to withdraw books from the library, and their proximity makes its use especially convenient.

Calls upon the services of the University of Wisconsin library come not only from readers within the state. Nationwide inter-library loan makes it feasible for any library to borrow books from almost all other collections. Material from the labor section of the University library and related holdings of the State Historical Society library are in constant demand. The Wisconsin library, itself, makes frequent use of volumes from special collections in other libraries throughout the world.

It is evident that the library is a dynamic institution—which must grow with the University. Slight changes in curriculum are reflected in the use of library materials. The staff of the Wisconsin Memorial Library is confident it will be able to meet the growing demands upon it—with particular thanks to the new physical facilities that are matched by few libraries in the world.

Assistance from informed library assistants stationed in reading rooms and elsewhere is a welcome adjunct to rows of card catalogs in locating needed information.



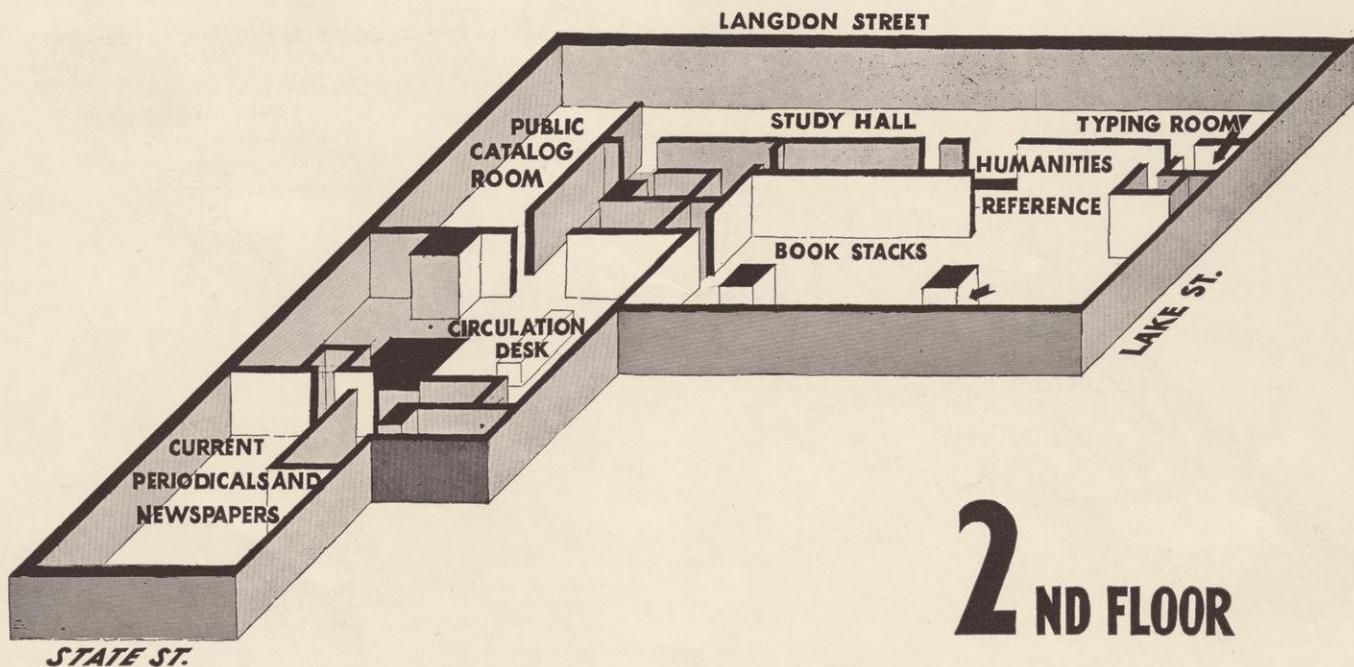


the floor plans

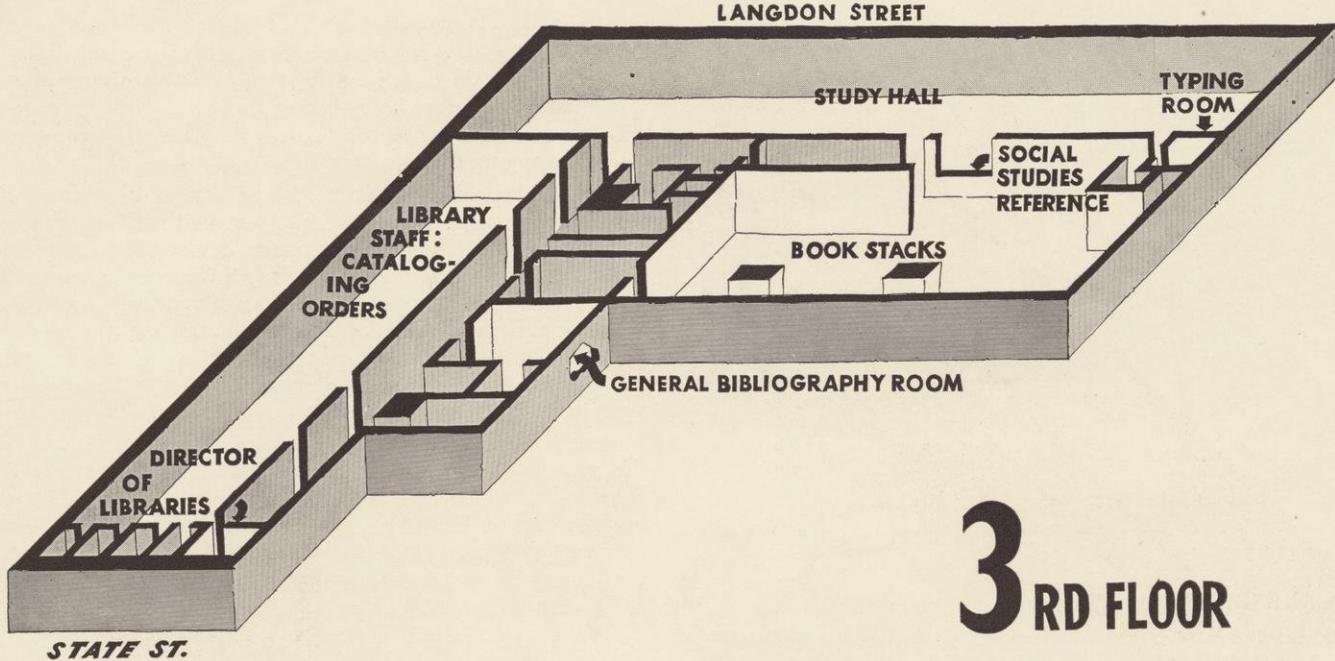
GENERAL USE of the Memorial Library is concentrated on the levels whose floor plans are reproduced on these pages, and in the ten levels of stacks that extend upward from the basement. There are three other levels, however, which are hardly less important.

BASEMENT

In the northeast corner of this bottom level are the receiving-shipping room, reached by a freight elevator from Lake street, and the Library's bindery section, where periodicals are prepared for binding. The binding itself is done by a contract firm. On this level the stacks begin their climb, and these basement stacks are of a newly-developed com-



2 ND FLOOR



3RD FLOOR

pact storage design that saves much space. A temporary storage space for newly received books, a steam intake for heating and a transformer room are also located in the basement. Other portions of the basement are used for storage. Half a level above, the student smoking lounge is situated, adjacent to and below the area in front of the reserved book circulation desk on the first floor.

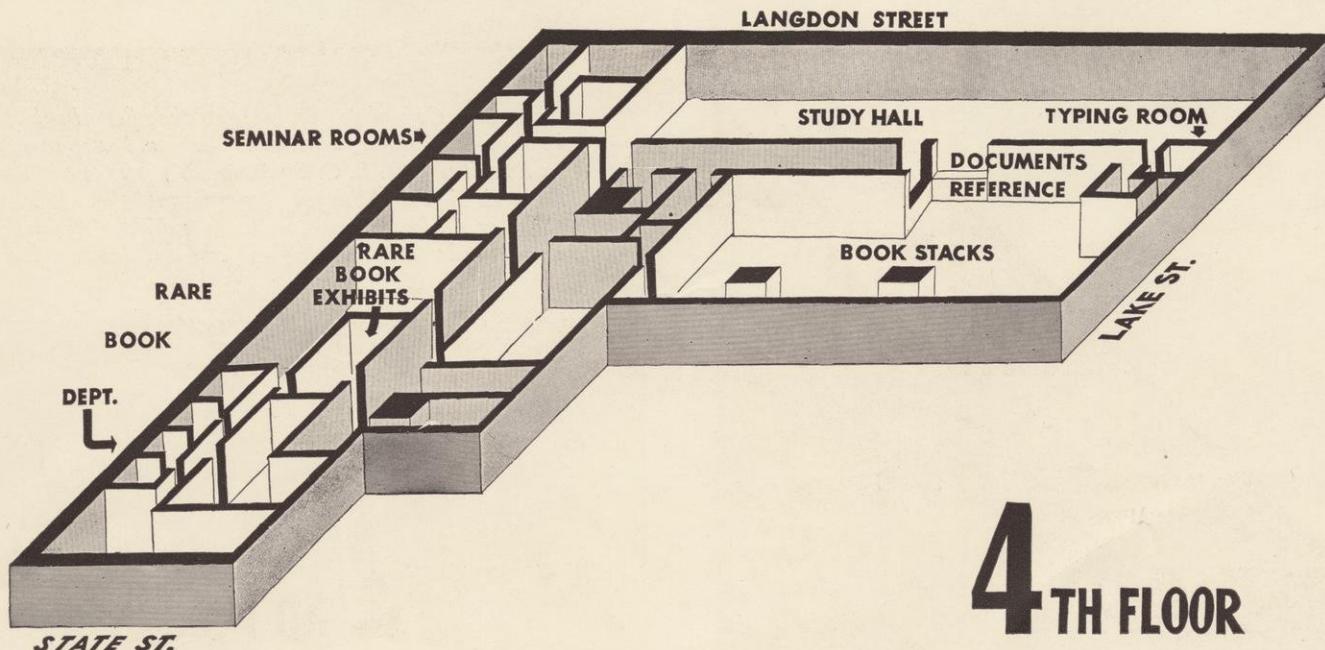
FIFTH FLOOR

This level contains only about two-thirds as much floor space as is available on the lower floors, since outside dimensions are that much smaller. The book stacks continue to this floor (and half a level beyond). Most of the remain-

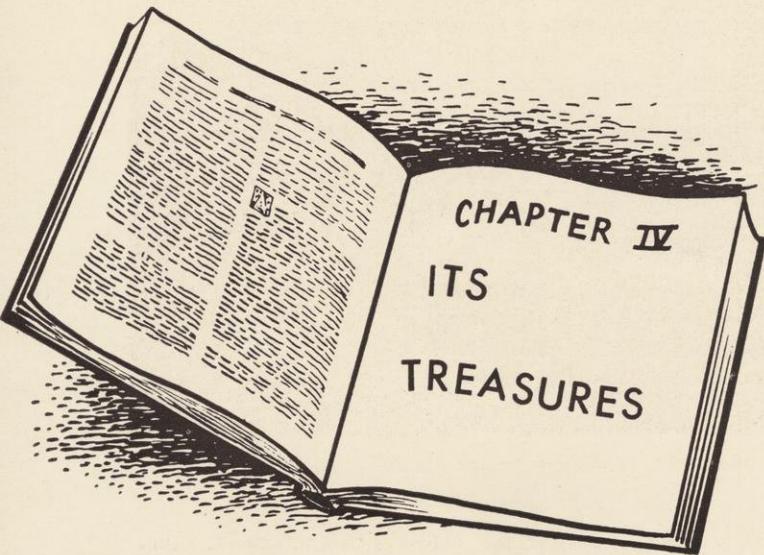
ing area is devoted to 99 small faculty study rooms, where privacy and adjacency to books go hand in hand. A staff room for use of library personnel and three small faculty smoking lounges are also on this floor.

UTILITY FLOOR

This is the "penthouse" above the fifth floor in which are housed mechanisms for the electronic public elevator, the hot and cool air circulating system, and a 20,000 volt air "purifier" that shocks insects and other material out of incoming air. In hot weather, thermostatically-controlled louvers are designed to reduce the amount of warm air taken in by the ventilating system's 100-horsepower fan.



4TH FLOOR



RARE BOOKS at Wisconsin are not the privilege of serious scholarship alone. They belong to all who seek knowledge or beauty through ties with the past. A strong awareness of this public share is evident in the rare books department of the new library.

The section on fourth floor is approached through an exhibition room fitted with modern air-tight cases designed to display books advantageously. It is a handsome room with saffron walls, and mahogany wainscoting and woodwork. Two cases are especially made to exhibit the splendid beauties of Audubon's "Birds of America" in the original elephant folios. In the others will be shown for limited periods other outstanding items from among the printed treasures.

In the interests of scholarship is a colorful, comfortably equipped reading room where the reference works and

catalogs related to rare books are kept and the rare volumes themselves are studied under the watchful eye and expert guidance of trained assistants. A microfilm reading alcove stems from this area; here the use of two microfilm readers extends the boundaries for learning to the rare or unique holdings of other institutions all over the world.

Careful guardianship is necessary where the rare book collections are concerned. Now at last in the Memorial Library are to be found the modern devices for extending book life. The storage vault is a locked chamber, tile-walled, fire-proofed, and air-conditioned. Range upon range of steel shelving on the main floor and the mezzanine provide for the first time substantial, adequate resting places for the 15,000 rare volumes which Wisconsin now possesses. The vault has an ultimate capacity of 50,000 volumes.

Most of the books which are thus protected belong to the two major rare book collections of the University. Seven thousand of these are from the library of the late Chester H. Thordarson. Devoted largely to ornithology, botany, horticulture, and agriculture, it is one of the best holdings in the history of the natural sciences in the nation. The Denis I. Duveen Library of some 3,000 books on the history of chemistry and alchemy is another notable assembly.

Holdings of lesser dimension include the George H. Brownell collection of Mark Twain and Twainiana, recently acquired Russian underground propaganda, and a group of 83 Greek papyri, purchased long ago.

The rare book department of the Library is a recent development, begun in 1946. Before that date its holdings could not claim exceptional attention. Nor could they perform their full function until properly equipped quarters were provided.

Now in the Memorial Library the department is growing, and with the present facilities, a place to expand, and security to guarantee, it can welcome rare book gifts and those who come to use them.

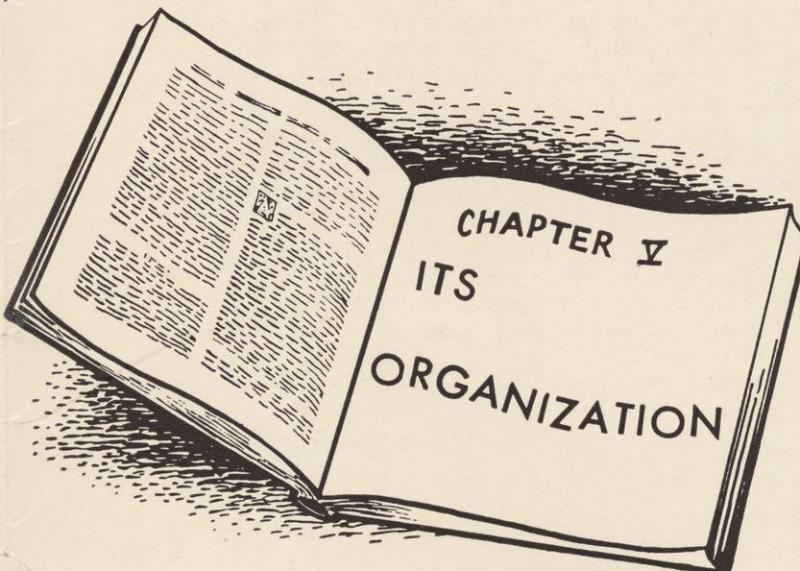


The rare Coverdale Bible was the first book to be moved officially into the Library and was carried by Emeritus Prof. L. C. Burke in the presence of President E. B. Fred, Regent Oscar Rennebohm, Library Director Gilbert Doane, and Dean Mark Ingraham. Rare books are on display on the fourth floor.





Engineering (left) and Medical Libraries are frequently-used branches of system.



ALTHOUGH THE NEW Memorial Library's ten stories of stacks now contain upward of 500,000 volumes, all the library books on the Wisconsin campus are not in new surroundings. Within four college and seven branch libraries rest nearly 400,000 books in special fields.

Eventually, every volume in the branch libraries will be listed by author in the Memorial Library, a goal now close to realization.

These libraries cover the fields of law, medicine, engineering, agriculture, biology, pharmacy, chemistry, geography and geology, music, astronomy, and physics. The education library, since 1939 a fixture in the old engineering-education building halfway up Bascom Hill, has come back to the new Memorial Library. In addition to branch libraries, there are also on the campus a number of departmental libraries, or office collections, usually without affiliation with the University Library.

Of all the University's libraries, perhaps the most famous is the Woodman Library, reputed to be one of the best astronomical libraries in the world. Like the Law Library, it is relatively autonomous and only loosely connected with the library system of the University. Also outstanding is the College of Agriculture Library, which accounts for almost one-tenth of the holdings of the University library system. Unique in this country and scarcely equalled in Europe is the Pharmacy Library with its extraordinary collection in the history of pharmacy, including many rare pharmacopoeias. The Medical Library, in addition to its carefully selected collection of journals, contains also the classics of medicine in their original editions collected by the late Dr. Wm. Snow Miller.

Some of the most notable collections in the branch libraries, as well as in the Memorial Library, are the result of gifts from friends of the University. Very often these gifts represent the personal collections of outstanding faculty members.

In nearly every case, the branch libraries are supervised by professionally trained librarians who are specialists in their respective fields.

Law (left) and Agriculture are also among the largest libraries on the campus.



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summing up

“THE LIBRARY is the heart of the university.”

This observation is made so often that it has become a cliche in professional and educational literature. Yet how else can one succinctly say all the statement implies? No scientist or humanist, freshman or fellow, teacher or administrator, can live in the academic world without printed matter; nor can a citizen of the state, for that matter, exist in any community without in some way using the printed word.

The Memorial Library, the new heart of the University of Wisconsin, is a physical plant and could be merely a new organ without much of the substance which it is designed to contain and dispense. Such, fortunately, is not the case. It was with increasing cognizance of the demands of students and faculty that the administration of the University anticipated the construction of a building adequate to meet the needs and began in 1947-48 to materially increase the budget for books and periodicals.

But the Memorial Library means more than book stock. It means also much greater use of books by both faculty and students—especially the students. Members of the faculty can stimulate their students to both required and independent reading by conveying to them their own enthusiasm for books and arouse intellectual inquisitiveness that will send those students to the library to explore its resources.

A century ago, less than a thousand books housed in a single room in North Hall made up the Library of the infant University. Fifty years ago approximately 80,000 volumes comprised the collection as the Library functioned in conjunction with the State Historical Society. Today, in 1953, the Library contains nearly a million volumes, about three-fifths of them in the Memorial Library, which has a capacity of a million and a half.

The Library Committee reported to the Faculty in September, 1953:

“We anticipate a growth in the recorded use of the Library of at least 75 per cent, and probably considerably more . . . We hope that history will repeat itself and that this great Memorial Library will become as crowded with books and readers in the next twenty-five years as the seemingly spacious Historical Building became with its first quarter century.”

