

Des Moines Industrial Society for the Blind  
 Waterloo Independent School District  
 Harlan Independent School District  
 Des Moines School of Lip Reading  
 Kessler School for Deaf  
 Bradley Polytechnic Institute  
 Queen City College of Dressmaking  
 Edgewood School of Dressmaking  
 Sioux City Beauty School  
 Parisian Hair Shop  
 Iowa Barber College  
 Western Union Telegraph Co.  
 Postal Telegraph Co.  
 Coyne Electrical School  
 Midland Linotype School  
 Union Guaranty Co.

State of Iowa  
 1924

REPORT OF THE

# STATE LIBRARIAN

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1924

JOHNSON BRIGHAM  
 STATE LIBRARIAN

Published by  
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REPORT OF THE  
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STATE LIBRARIAN

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Honorable N. E. Kendall, Governor, and President of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Library.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith the fortieth biennial report for the biennial period beginning on the first day of July, 1922, and ending on the thirtieth day of June, 1924.

JOHNSON BRIGHAM,  
State Librarian.

Des Moines, Iowa, October 1, 1924.

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STATE LIBRARIAN'S STAFF

Johnson Brigham.....	State Librarian
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Mrs. Adria Grimsley, General Library.....	Assistant
Miss Bernice Langfitt, General Library.....	Assistant
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Miss Minnie E. Ames, Law Library.....	Law Assistant
Miss Frances B. van Zandt, Medical Library.....	Librarian
Miss Gladys Ramsey, Medical Library.....	Assistant
Miss Helen Lightfoot, General Library.....	Apprentice
Miss Elizabeth Berner, General Library.....	Apprentice
Miss Pauline Woodmansee, Law Library.....	Apprentice

REPORT OF STATE LIBRARIAN

Since the conclusion of the editor of state documents, six years ago, that the publication of the list of books and periodicals purchased and donated during the biennial period covered by the State Librarian's report, was an unnecessary expense to the state, there is little beyond the required Financial Statement to report.

I might restate, briefly, that my judgment concurs with that of the document editor as to the unnecessary expense of itemizing the library's purchases.

(1.) Library science had so far progressed in Iowa that librarians in the small libraries no longer depended on the state library cataloger's scientific classification of new books as listed in the biennial report.

(2.) The members of my library staff no longer referred to the printed list, preferring to go directly to the exhaustive card catalog in the General and the Law Library.

(3.) The long interim between the submission of the librarian's report and its issuance from the state bindery rendered the published list almost valueless as a down-to-date reference work.

BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

The total number of books of record in the several departments of the State Library, June 30, 1922, was.....177,864  
The additions to this total during the last biennial period number 7,903

These additions make a grand total of.....185,767  
The 7,903 additions made during the last biennial period are distributed as follows:

Additions to the General Library, or Miscellaneous Department..	3,071
Additions to the Law Department .....	2,146
Additions to the Legislative Reference Bureau .....	2,142
Additions to the Medical Department .....	544

Every year the value of the State Library as a storehouse of information and inspiration is steadily increasing. On the first day of July, 1899, when the present librarian made his first report to the Governor, the number of books in the State Library was, 65,093.

On the first day of July, 1924,—a quarter-century later—the number of books in the State Library (exclusive of the volumes in



the Historical Department which are separately reported) was 185,767, an increase of 120,674 in the last twenty-five years.

#### THE GENERAL LIBRARY

Realizing that the value of a collection of books does not depend upon mere numbers, the librarian has steadily endeavored to build up a reference library which shall be increasingly valuable from year to year.

A comparatively small number of the many works purchased lose most of their value as books of reference after a few years of service; nevertheless their immediate value warrants their purchase. Most of these have value also as showing the status—as of science and invention at a given period—enabling the student of affairs in future years to make intelligent comparison of the then present with the past. As for example, a reference here drawn from my first report, in 1899, enables me to measure the growth of the State Library during the last quarter century. But most of the books of present value for reference but of problematical future value are few in number and are comparatively inexpensive. At least ninety-five per cent of the books and periodicals added to the library from year to year, are clearly of permanent value. Many of the books purchased are soon out of print and can only be picked up, by catalog, from the so-called second-hand dealers, from buyers of publishers' remainders and from book auctions.

The last few years have been rich in offers of valuable out-of-print books. The English catalogs have been especially inviting to American libraries and collectors, owing largely to the fact that financial reverses following the war, with the breaking of home ties by war casualties, threw many valuable private libraries upon the market. Taking advantage of these conditions to the extent of the limited appropriations at my command, we have, during the years since the war, measurably enriched the state's Law Library by adding many rare volumes to the alcove set apart for "the Literature of the Law," and have, in larger measure, enriched English biography, history and first editions of English poetry and prose.

In previous years, taking advantage of conditions affecting the book markets at home and abroad, I have added many increasingly valuable sets to the state's collection of standard periodicals, until now that collection is surpassed in numbers and value by not more than two or three other reference libraries in the world. Many of

these sets of periodicals,—separately picked up, volume by volume and, in a few cases, number by number,—are frequently quoted by dealers, and purchased at auction sales, at prices ranging from a hundred to a thousand per cent more than the prices originally paid by the State—so rapidly are quotations on certain standard periodicals increasing.

For example, a complete set of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, edited by Poe, has not been offered for sale for more than thirty years,—if ever—and will doubtless never be put upon the market at any price. The State Library has within the last quarter-century nearly completed its set of this valuable periodical, now lacking only a few numbers of completion. And the entire cost of the separate purchases of volumes and numbers is considerably less than volumes I and II commanded at auction two years ago. These two volumes were then bid in at \$200.

Meantime many other purchases have been made, at home and abroad, adding volumes from time to time in contribution to various other collections; as for example, first editions of the standard poets, colonial literature and history, the illustrated "Annuals" of England and America in which first appeared much of the poetry of the Victorian age, the quaint "almanacks" of the "Poor Richard" type in which appear the "wise saws" and rough woodcut drawings of the eighteenth century. These are but a few of the collections—some complete, other yet to be completed—which, besides the more numerous general purchases, are constantly enriching the state library.

This "university" (Carlyle's synonym for "a collection of books") constitutes a vast reservoir of information and inspiration made available to every citizen. Many students, scholars, professional men and laymen, individual women and club women, come from all parts of the state, to avail themselves of literature and sources of information rarely found in public libraries or private collections.

And, too, many in our cities, villages and rural communities, through the agency of their nearest public library and the loaning system of the State Library Commission (with which the State Library is closely coordinated) draw from the shelves of the State Library books for home reading and club study which would not otherwise be available.

## NEW LIBRARY LEGISLATION

The last General Assembly embodied in the Code of Iowa two changes in library management which should be noted.

(1.) It created a new department of the State Library, entitling it the section of Economics and Sociology, turning over to the new department all the books, periodicals, pamphlets and clippings of the Legislative Reference Bureau of the Law Department, except the state, national and foreign documents deemed by the law librarian essential to the service which his department is rendering to the state. Miss Mary Rosemond, formerly in charge of the Legislative Reference Bureau, has been named by me as the executive head of the new department.

(2.) The Law Library, previously reporting through its librarian directly to the State Library Board, was placed on the same footing as the Miscellaneous Department, the Medical Department and the Economics and Sociology Department, all four departments to be under the general supervision of the State Librarian, that official as theretofore, directly responsible to the State Library Board.

## THE LAW LIBRARY

The state's Law Library, under the management of its veteran librarian, Mr. A. J. Small, is steadily attaining a higher degree of efficiency, as members of the courts and the bar gratefully attest.

## THE MEDICAL LIBRARY

The comparatively recent creation of a Medical section of the State Library, under the librarianship of Miss Frances B. van Zandt, formerly of Cornell University, N. Y., is more than meeting the most sanguine expectations of the medical profession, as numerous letters to the state librarian enthusiastically attest. My long cherished hope that this department would be a source of strength to physicians and surgeons of Iowa, as the Law Department is to the lawyers and courts of the state, has already been in large measure realized, as the following figures indicate:

From July, 1922, to July, 1923, the number of requests for books was 1,661; the number of telephone calls was 167; the number of books loaned was 2,587.

From July, 1923, to July, 1924, the number of requests for books

was 1,992; the number of telephone calls (many of them long distance) was 332; the number of books loaned was 4,358.

Thus, in various way, is the State Library fulfilling its present mission and laying a broad foundation for service to future generations.

Following is a classified financial statement covering the expenditures of the miscellaneous, the law, (including its legislative reference bureau), the medical and historical departments of the library for the last biennial period.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHNSON BRIGHAM,

State Librarian.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## RECAPITULATION

Of Librarian's Financial Statement, published in full in Report of the Executive Council, June 30, 1922 to July 1, 1924.

## MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT

Books purchased .....	\$ 6,540.18
Periodicals purchased .....	2,304.56
Binding .....	2,579.24
Printing .....	68.60
Carriage .....	134.38
Miscellaneous expense .....	465.88
Total .....	\$12,092.84

## LAW DEPARTMENT

Books purchased .....	\$ 8,822.94
Periodicals purchased .....	710.33
Binding .....	1,306.13
Printing .....	42.12
Carriage .....	201.23
Miscellaneous expense .....	293.60
Total .....	\$11,376.35

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

## (Law Fund)

Books purchased .....	\$ 440.49
Periodicals purchased .....	139.55
Miscellaneous expense .....	45.85
Total .....	\$ 625.89

## LAW AND LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

## Ch. 313-26-39th G. A.

Books purchased .....	\$ 335.02
Periodicals purchased .....	53.60
Binding .....	338.30
Printing .....	8.30
Carriage .....	15.16
Salaries (extra help during Legislature).....	351.17
Miscellaneous expense .....	139.41
Total .....	\$ 1,240.96

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

## Ch. 307-20-40th G. A.

Books purchased .....	\$ 932.75
Periodicals purchased .....	235.86
Binding .....	734.95
Carriage .....	7.73
Miscellaneous expense .....	30.48
Total .....	\$ 1,941.77

## MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Books purchased .....	\$ 2,032.50
Periodicals purchased .....	1,716.39
Carriage .....	70.50
Miscellaneous expense .....	181.21
Total .....	\$ 4,000.60

## HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

Books and periodicals .....	\$ 2,545.32
Newspapers .....	24.00
Portraiture .....	636.93
Maps and manuscripts .....	426.75
Museum .....	1,113.22
Carriage .....	174.98
Printing .....	4.87
Printing and binding .....	6,148.55
World War (Pictures, etc.).....	115.75
Miscellaneous expense .....	647.21
Total .....	\$11,837.58