

State of Iowa  
1928

REPORT OF THE

# STATE LIBRARIAN

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1928

JOHNSON BRIGHAM  
STATE LIBRARIAN

Published by  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
Des Moines

VOLUME III

Insurance Department, Annual Reports, 1927, 1928.  
Workmen's Compensation, Biennial Report, 1928.  
Fire Marshal, Annual Reports, 1927, 1928.  
Board of Control, Biennial Report, 1928.

(Contents of Volume Two)

VOLUME IV

Railroad Commission, Annual Reports, 1927, 1928.  
Attorney General, Biennial Report, 1928.  
Highway Commission, Annual Reports, 1927, 1928.  
Printing Board, Biennial Report, 1928.

(Contents of Other Volumes)

VOLUME I

Annual Report of Governor John Hammond, 1927  
Annual Address of Governor John Hammond, 1928  
Lecture and Remarks of Vice President of the Governor, 1927-1928  
Director of the Board, Report of 1928  
Director of the Board, Report of 1927  
Annual Report of the Board, 1928  
Annual Report of the Board, 1927  
State Board of Education, Biennial Report, 1927-1928  
Annual Report of the Board, 1927-1928

State of Iowa

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BRIGHAM

# STATE LIBRARIAN

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LIBRARY BUILDING, IOWA CITY, IOWA

JOHNSON BRIGHAM

STATE LIBRARIAN

LIBRARY BUILDING,  
IOWA CITY, IOWA

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HONORABLE JOHN HAMMILL, Governor of Iowa, and President of  
the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Library.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the forty-second  
biennial report of the State Librarian for the biennial period be-  
ginning on the first day of July, 1926, and ending on the thirtieth  
day of June, 1928.

JOHNSON BRIGHAM,  
*State Librarian.*

Des Moines, Iowa, October 1, 1928.

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## STATE LIBRARIAN'S STAFF

Johnson Brigham.....State Librarian

### GENERAL DEPARTMENT

Helen M. Lee.....	Librarian
Helen Lightfoot.....	Assistant Librarian
Elizabeth Berner.....	Assistant Librarian
Bernice Langfitt.....	Cataloger
Minnie E. Hess.....	Secretary and Library Accountant
Irene Keefner.....	Apprentice
Geraldine Dunham.....	Apprentice

### LAW AND LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

A. J. Small.....	Law Librarian
Bertha L. Hess.....	Assistant Librarian
Wendell Huston.....	Assistant Librarian
Minnie E. Ames.....	Assistant Librarian
Hope Hicks.....	Stenographer

### MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Helen McMahon.....	Medical Librarian
Gladys Faidley.....	Assistant Librarian
Callie Brewer.....	Assistant Librarian
Lulu Grace Saberson.....	Stenographer

### ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Mary M. Rosemond.....	Librarian
Pauline Lindblom.....	Assistant Librarian

Des Moines, Iowa, October 1, 1928.

## REPORT OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN

1848-1928

### THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF IOWA'S STATE LIBRARY

After eleven years' feeble existence as a territorial library, Iowa's State Library came into being as such in 1848.

The territorial library in its time had two distinguished librarians, James Clarke, afterward governor of the Territory of Iowa, and Theodore S. Parvin, afterward founder of the Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids, and author of many valuable contributions to Iowa history.

The first State Librarian of Iowa was Lemuel B. Patterson, his service extending from 1848 to 1851. That was the day of small things, "the day of candles and goose-quills," (as it is called in my "Library in the Making" published in 1912). The library, as reported in '51, included scarcely more than a few law books and state documents. Its one set of "late works issued from the press for the last ten years" was "Wilkes' Exploring Expedition," in ten volumes.

In 1852, on recommendation of Governor Hempstead, the General Assembly made its first appropriation, of \$500, for the purchase of general works,—"the first reported addition to the State Library since 1840." The purchase made included 240 general works,—most of them of lasting value—and 26 legal publications, in all 266 volumes.

While the State Library's legal existence began with the year 1848—eighty years ago, its existence as a general library began seventy-six years ago, and it owes its enlargement to the foresight and persistence of Governor Hempstead, and the liberal view of a majority in the Fourth General Assembly.

Passing over the intervening years, in which slow progress was made, until 1871, when Mrs. Ada North became the librarian, under her inspiration the general library began to assume proportions commanding the attention of research workers in Iowa and surrounding states. The slow evolution of the library continued under the supervision of Mrs. S. B. Maxwell, Mrs. Mary A. Miller, Mrs. Laura C. Creighton and Mrs. Lena H. Cope.

In 1898, fifty years after the birth of the State Library, the present incumbent on entering upon his duties found the number of volumes of record in both departments of the library to be 57,501.



Of these 2,500 were included in the traveling library section which in 1900 were turned over to the Iowa Library Commission, thus reducing the number to 55,001.

Thirty resultful years have elapsed since then.

In 1900, "the miscellaneous portion of the State Library" was consolidated with the Historical Department; but that department was placed under direct supervision of the Library Board and not made a department of the State Library.

In 1911, the appropriation for the Law Department, with its Legislative Reference Bureau, was \$6,000; the appropriation for the Miscellaneous, or General Library, was also \$6,000.

These appropriations, fairly adequate in 1911, are inadequate now, the cost of books, periodicals and binding now being over sixty per cent more than seventeen years ago. I am asking the Budget Director to recommend an increase in each of these departments from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

The Law Department, long under the direct supervision of Mr. A. J. Small, is proving itself increasingly useful as a source of information to law students, attorneys and the courts. It is greatly enhancing its usefulness to the legal profession by thorough and exhaustive research work and is making its findings accessible by means of a card-catalog with many cross-references. The law librarian is increasingly embarrassed by limitations of space. Many hundreds of valuable books and documents are of necessity placed upon tables and the upper floors, every inch of shelf space being occupied. We are looking forward to the erection of the "Temple of Justice" to which the State is committed, as a relief from the present crowded condition of the State Library. The plan of the new building already adopted by the State, includes the occupancy of the entire first floor by the State Library; the Law Library to occupy the south half and the General Library the north half,—a wide hall between. It is hoped that the next General Assembly will appropriate funds sufficient at least to erect the structure.

The Department of Economics and Sociology was created in 1926, with Miss Mary M. Rosemond, formerly of the Legislative Reference Bureau, as the librarian's first assistant. The department has proved of great help to students, club-women and men in public life, supplying them with much needed statistics and literature relating to labor, capital, corporations, public service and the many social questions of our time.

The General Library, or Miscellaneous Department, has during the last biennial period added many works of permanent value. Its collections are many and varied, most of them increasingly valuable. Not a few of its books and periodicals bought on the book-market years ago have become almost fabulously valuable, as recent quotations reveal. While a very few purchases from year to year fill a present need chiefly, it is not too much to affirm that many others already "out of print"—not on the market—, will become increasingly valuable in coming years. Miss Helen M. Lee has long been a valued first assistant in this department.

The Medical Department of the State Library, created in 1919, has grown in usefulness until it has won cordial recognition from the medical profession and has proved itself eminently useful to students as well as physicians and surgeons. The present number of its bound volumes is 8,720. It regularly subscribes to 138 periodicals. Its total loans, made chiefly through the traveling library system, early adopted by me, (the first medical library in the country to adopt that system), during the last fiscal year numbered 10,156. Its correspondence during the year included 869 letters and 3,130 postcards. Its callers during the year numbered 1,523. Its librarian, Miss Helen McMahon, succeeded Miss Frances B. van Zandt, who resigned in October, 1927. Miss McMahon's resignation has been reluctantly accepted, to take place early next year. With the hearty concurrence of members of the Library Board, she will be succeeded by Dr. Jeannette Dean Throckmorton, well and favorably known to the medical profession,—a woman of extended experience as a practicing physician and lecturer.

The crowded condition of the General Library, and of the Medical Library as well, is quite as embarrassing as is that of the Law Library, to which reference has already been made, strongly emphasizing the need of the larger quarters provided for in the plan of the Temple of Justice.

#### To summarize:

The total number of books of record, as per inventory in the several departments of the State Library on June 30, 1926, was.....	193,994
The total additions to the several departments during the period ending June 30, 1928, was.....	9,646
These additions make a grand total of books in the State Library, June 30, 1928, of.....	203,640
The additions during the last biennial period by departments are as follows:	
To the General Library.....	3,942
To the Law and Legislative Reference Department.....	2,358
To the Economics and Sociology Department.....	1,264
To the Medical Department.....	2,082

To conclude:

Figures do not alone attest the growth of a library in usefulness; but they do show the physical growth and strength. As has already been shown in the two departments in existence in 1898, when the present incumbent entered upon his duties as State Librarian, there were of record 55,001 volumes. In the four departments in operation in 1928,—thirty years later—there are of record 203,640 volumes—an increase of 270 per cent.

The Financial Statement showing the classified expenditures for the several departments, prepared by the experienced and efficient State Library accountant, Miss Minnie E. Hess, is herewith submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHNSON BRIGHAM,  
*State Librarian.*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
RECAPITULATION**

Of Librarian's Expenditures for the biennial period beginning July 1, 1926, and ending June 30, 1928

**GENERAL DEPARTMENT**

Books purchased .....	\$ 7,088.87
Periodicals purchased .....	2,353.61
Binding .....	2,438.68
Printing .....	72.65
Miscellaneous Expense .....	295.89
Travel Expense .....	493.11
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$12,742.81</b>

**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT**

Books purchased .....	\$ 9,364.15
Periodicals purchased .....	1,236.60
Binding .....	1,621.74
Printing .....	198.50
Miscellaneous Expense .....	552.43
Travel Expense .....	345.53
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$13,318.85</b>

**MEDICAL DEPARTMENT**

Books purchased .....	\$ 1,159.31
Periodicals purchased .....	2,223.59
Binding .....	2.50
Printing .....	98.50
Miscellaneous Expense .....	118.95
Travel Expense .....	349.35
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,952.20</b>

**ECONOMICS AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Books purchased .....	\$ 1,520.79
Periodicals purchased .....	547.05
Binding .....	248.79
Miscellaneous Expense .....	94.44
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,411.07</b>

State of Iowa  
1928

**FOURTEENTH REPORT**

OF THE

**Iowa Library Commission**

MADE TO THE  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD JULY 1, 1926 TO  
JUNE 30, 1928

JULIA A. ROBINSON  
*Secretary*

Published by  
THE STATE OF IOWA  
Des Moines