



# "Acknowledgements" in "The first 350 years of the Harvard University Library: Description of an exhibition"

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## Acknowledgements

Many have contributed to this exhibition in various ways. Harley Holden, Curator of the University Archives, and the staff of the Archives, gave me unusual access to the collections and answered a host of questions. Clark Elliott informed me that an exhibition had been commissioned and mounted by a student, Kevin L. Cope, in 1979 and that the record existed; I have greatly benefited from that work. It soon turned out when I read what had been written on the Library that my "discoveries" had often been made before. The very first issue of the *Harvard Library Bulletin* in 1947 had an article by Keyes D. Metcalf on "The Undergraduate and the Harvard Library, 1765-1877." Robert W. Lovett wrote a continuation, and numerous other articles in the HLB have been relied upon. In 1939 the Library had published Clarence E. Walton's *The Three-Hundredth Anniversary of the Harvard College Library*, a well written pamphlet, which has been of great help. William Bentinck-Smith's *Building a Great Library: The Coolidge Years at Harvard* (1976) is a thoroughly researched and beautifully written book. Among other books and articles on the history of libraries in the United States, I have profited above all from *The University Library in the United States: Its Origins and Development* (1981), by Arthur T. Hamlin, a Harvard graduate and former Harvard librarian. That this exhibition does not place the history of the Harvard Library more in the context of library developments elsewhere is only partially a reflection of the lack of full-length histories for other major university libraries of the East Coast.

Susanna Kaysen improved the prose, as did numerous other individuals who also saved me from a variety of pitfalls: Charles Berlin, Lawrence Dowler, Alan Erickson, G. Edward Evans, Dale Flecker, Joan Nordell, and especially Edwin E. Williams. Numerous librarians have read the sections that particularly concern their areas of the

Library, but by no means have all had the chance to do so; and they should be held blameless for errors of fact or interpretation. Thomas J. Siegel, a doctoral student in American Civilization, furthered my access to eighteenth-century Harvard documents. James Lewis and his colleagues in the Houghton Reading Room very much eased the process of reproducing materials at no little trouble to them. Pamela Matz gave truly indispensable assistance in numerous ways, even at the cost of greatly increasing her workload beyond any reasonable point. Yvonne Zinfon handled the correcting in the word processor, the coding for the printer, and the harried author-editor with her usual competence and cheerfulness. Barbara Mitchell helped with proofreading at a crucial time. I received so much assistance from the above individuals and others that the inherent tendency of librarians to be helpful was completely confirmed.

William Mercer labored mightily to get documents and photographs copied for the printer and taught a verbally oriented editor much, although only the photographs that he composed bear his name in the List of Illustrations.

This is not the first book to be manufactured in great haste for an event, but it has required unusual effort from the printer. I am grateful to Dan McCarron of the Office of the University Publisher and among others at the OUP Dan Griffin especially.

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Jeff and Mary are two people who know that this catalog could not have been produced without them.