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The Improvement of the Widener Building as a Research Center

THE removal of undergraduate facilities to the new Lamont Library makes possible a number of important rearrangements in the Widener building. These arrangements, designed primarily to afford improved service to readers and secondarily to increase the effectiveness of the library staff, are because of problems of space largely interdependent, and would in many cases be expensive to carry out. The library administration believes that no major change should be made without full discussion. The present article is accordingly intended to provide an outline of the chief possibilities, with a summary of foreseeable advantages and disadvantages, in the hope that it will elicit a free expression of opinion. Such an expression of opinion, plus experience accumulated through use of the building after removal of undergraduate facilities, will largely determine any major changes ultimately put into effect.

Perhaps the most salient drawback to existing arrangements in Widener, and the one which has affected the greatest number of people since the opening of the building, may be traced to the architect's plan which placed such basic services for readers as the charging desk, public catalogue, reference collection, and stack entrance on the second floor, seventy-five steps above the street level, while the first floor, reached by less than half as many steps, was allocated largely to library staff. The possibility of transfer of some or all of these services for readers to the first floor, as soon as circumstances would permit, has long been contemplated, and may be regarded as the focal point in any analysis of potential improvements at the present juncture. Many of the other rearrangements discussed in the following sections might, in varying combinations and degrees, affect the question of effective transfer. For convenience in following the discussion, plans of portions of the first and second floors are shown in Figures 1 and 2 (north in each case being at the bottom of the plan).

I. THE REFERENCE COLLECTION

A limited reference collection in Widener is at present located in the east end of the main Reading Room, and consists of approximately

4,300 volumes. An adjunct, and properly an integral part of a reference collection, is the bibliographical collection, of 4,000 volumes, formerly housed in the 'Bibliography Room' to the right of the circulation desk but because of crowded conditions there shelved latterly at the northeast end of the fourth floor stack. An additional 2,000 reference volumes, some of them duplicating items in the other sections, are located in the rooms of the Acquisition and Catalogue Departments on the first floor for the convenience of those Departments.

Since these various parts of the reference collection are already separated from the general collection, their consolidation would present questions of administration rather than of policy. However, a significant increase in the size of the reference collection, by transfer of volumes from the main stack, would mark a change in policy, the pros and cons of which should be carefully weighed.

Additions to the reference collection might include subject bibliographies and indexes now in the main stack; older editions of encyclopaedias; runs of yearbooks; guidebooks; files of important periodicals; standard works of importance to a number of disciplines; standard works in a particular subject; or even entire shelf-list categories in some of the smaller collections of a reference or semi-reference nature. Expansion might be by as little as fifty or seventy-five per cent of the present collection or it might range up to several hundred per cent.

A. Arguments for an Enlarged Reference Collection

1. An enlarged collection would facilitate introduction to and interpretation of the resources of the Library.
2. It would encourage the organization of a formal or informal program in the use of the Library, since its very existence would provide a convenient laboratory for this purpose.
3. It would increase the effectiveness of the reference staff, by making possible a more comprehensive familiarity with the body of reference material and permitting a more economical use of time.
4. It would make possible better physical control of the body of reference material, which includes many expensive and scarce volumes. One aspect of this physical control would be the equalizing of opportunities for use, since all volumes would be permanently and immediately available rather than, in many instances, scattered through the stack or reserved in stalls and studies.
5. It would permit easier access to books in related subjects, thereby

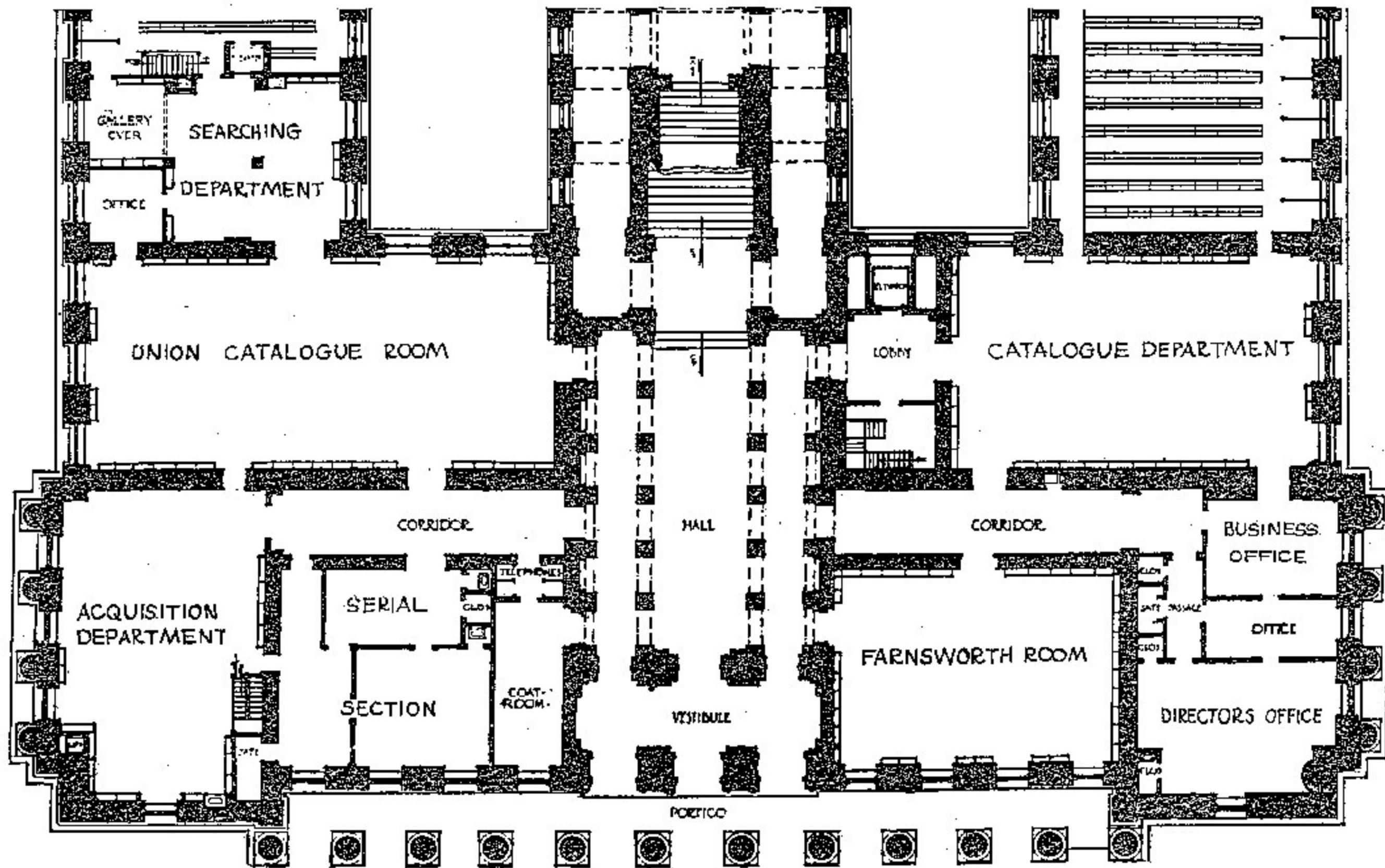


FIG. 1: THE WIDENER BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR

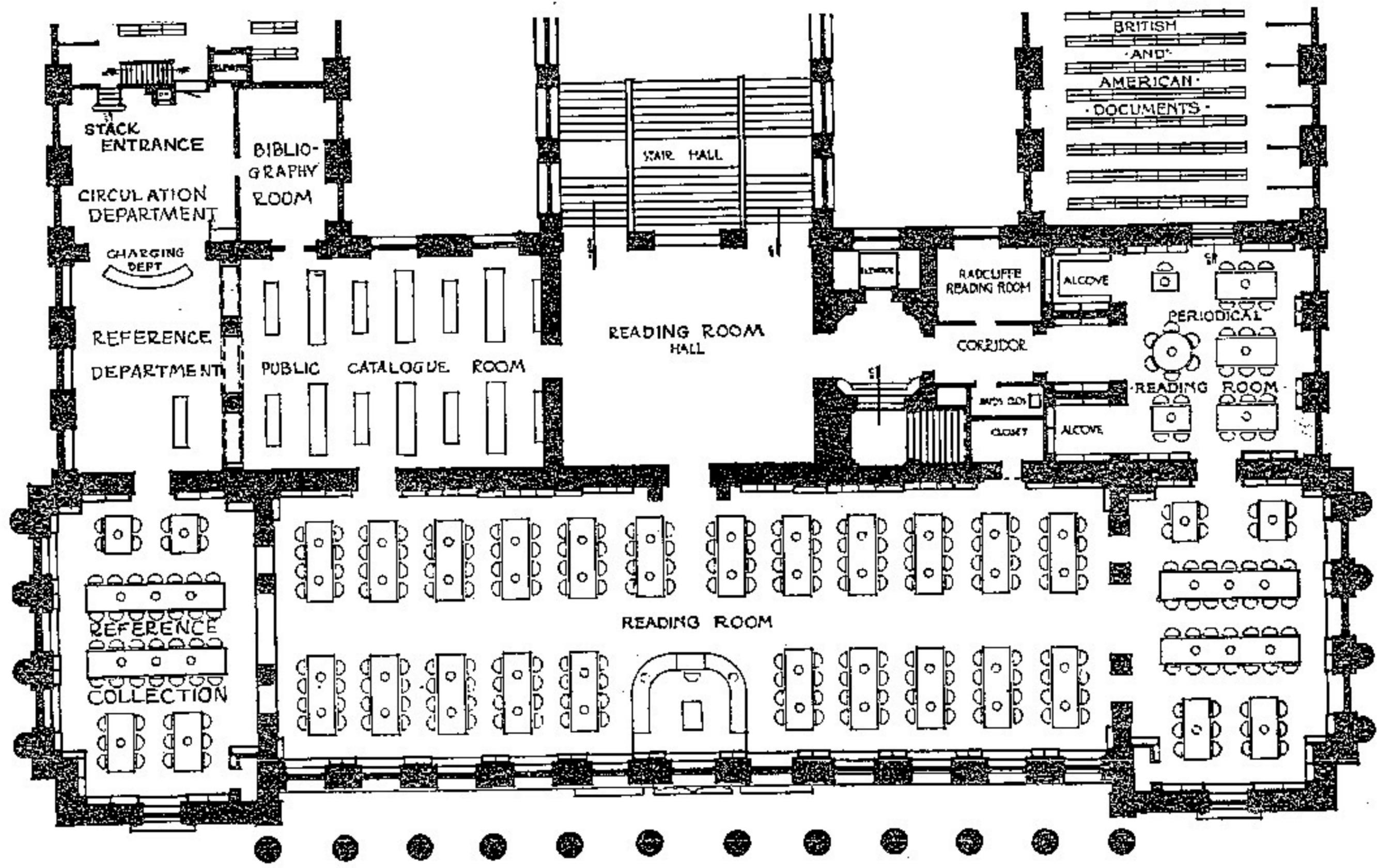


FIG. 2: THE WIDENER BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR

encouraging borderline or inter-disciplinary studies; such ready access should be particularly valuable in connection with the curricula in regional studies.

B. *Arguments against an Enlarged Reference Collection*

1. An enlarged reference collection might increase the demand for reference service by students and faculty, a development which would run counter to the principle upon which reference work in the Library has been based, namely, that users of the Library should conduct their own research, with the reference staff merely providing guidance. Such guidance is unquestionably necessary, in view of the inevitable complexities in making available the resources of a library system comprising several million pieces. But it would probably be generally agreed that a development in reference service beyond the guidance level, in the direction of the gathering or compilation of information, would be ill advised, not only because of the cost, but because of the value in experience and in discovery afforded the research worker by direct contact with his source material.

2. An enlarged reference collection would mean the transfer to a central location of standard reference works which are now shelved in the stack with other material in the same field; for the specialist in a given field, transfer of these works would entail frequent loss of time and energy in their consultation.

3. Similarly, material in the reference collection, being permanently restricted, would not be available for use in stalls or studies or outside the building, in conjunction with related material.

4. A considerably enlarged reference collection would have space requirements which, in relation to other arrangements or rearrangements in the building, might raise very serious if not insuperable problems. A decision in this regard would depend ultimately not only on the spatial needs of other services but on the relative importance of maintaining the reference service in immediate proximity to one or more of the other services. The question of space is therefore discussed in a separate subsection, immediately following.

C. *Possible Space Allocations and Relationship to Other Services*

It is obvious that with the transfer of undergraduate facilities to Lamont space in the main Reading Room of Widener might be made available to accommodate a high degree of expansion in the reference

collection. A large part of the wall shelves now filled with reserved books could be so utilized, while a series of floor cases could take care of a great number of additional books. Or, if the Public Catalogue should be moved to the first floor, the room it now occupies could be adapted by the installation of shelving (perhaps two stories high), with overflow going to the Reading Room to any extent required.

If the reference collection should be established on the first floor, less space would be available, not only as regards total area but presumably because of increased competition with other services. A possible allocation of other services, as suggested below, might leave available for the reference collection the rooms now occupied by the Acquisition Department and Serial Section of the Catalogue Department. The Acquisition Department room would have space for some thirty readers, the reference staff, and the approximately 4,300 volumes now in the east end of the main Reading Room. The Serial Section room could accommodate the bibliographical collection now temporarily shelved in the fourth floor stack (4,000 volumes), the collection belonging to the Catalogue and Acquisition Departments (2,000 volumes), and an additional 5,000 volumes. This would give a reference collection total of about 15,000 volumes. If it seemed best to expand the reference collection very considerably, and yet still have an important part of it on the first floor, a selected collection similar in size to the present one could be housed as just proposed, and the large general reference collection placed on the second floor in the Reading Room alone or in the Public Catalogue room and Reading Room combined. If, however, arrangements for the catalogue should include both the Acquisition Department and Serial Section rooms, the reference collection would presumably be concentrated on the second floor, with the exception perhaps of a small quick-reference nucleus, staffed by one reference assistant, and of course the small group of volumes of primary importance for use with the catalogue.

The relation of the reference collection to other services must of course be taken into account in any consideration of its location and consequently of its size. For readers, proximity of the reference collection to the catalogue and stack entrance would seem to be of first importance, with the charging desk of secondary concern; for the reference staff, proximity to the catalogue would be of primary concern. It should be noted that inconveniences of access created by physical separation of services might be considerably mitigated through the

installation of special automatic elevators connecting the east end of the Reading Room with the present Acquisition Department room.

II. THE CATALOGUE

Widener possesses two major catalogues, the Public Catalogue on the second floor and the Union or Official Catalogue on the first floor, each with over four million cards. The Public Catalogue contains cards for most of the books in the main collection of the College Library (primarily Widener, Houghton, and New England Deposit Library) and in certain of the special libraries; it has a few cards also for selected books in other special libraries and in departmental libraries. The cards in this catalogue include subject and a large number of title, as well as author, entries, and are filed in a single alphabet. The Union Catalogue is designed to provide a record of all books in the University (an aim now well on the way to fulfilment), but the entries are chiefly by author, with a few title and personal subject entries but none under topical subjects. This catalogue also contains cards for Library of Congress books not at Harvard. Again all cards are filed in a single alphabet. There is obviously a large amount of duplication between the two catalogues, since both contain author cards for the main College Library collection, amounting to well over two million volumes and pamphlets, yet neither catalogue is or can be complete for all purposes.

The possibility of merging the two catalogues has long been under consideration. A sweeping rearrangement of facilities in Widener would obviously present a valuable opportunity for effecting a merger, particularly since the merging might in return provide greater latitude in carrying through other aspects of the rearrangement. The advantages and disadvantages of a merger, as now foreseen, are accordingly set forth in the following subsections.

A. Arguments for Merging the Public and Union Catalogues

1. A consolidation of the two catalogues would have obvious advantages in convenience of consultation both for readers and for the library staff.

2. It would automatically eliminate the danger of confusion between the two catalogues on the part of readers. Many members of the University have never understood the differing scope of each.

3. It would bring to the attention of all readers the availability of

material in all parts of the University Library as well as in the Library of Congress. At present, many readers fail to consult the Union Catalogue because they do not know of its existence or because they consider it a staff catalogue and hence closed to them.

4. It would mean some saving in floor space, since the present eight million cards of the two catalogues would be reduced to six million in the combined catalogue. Considerations of space allocations and the interrelationship of services are discussed below, in a separate subsection.

5. Merging of the two catalogues would make possible a monetary saving of upwards of \$10,000 a year, effected by reductions in the typing of cards and filing, in the amounts of card stock and catalogue case equipment required, and in the number of expansions and minor shiftings of the catalogue. Against this saving, however, would have to be debited annually, for a considerable period, interest on the capital sum expended for the consolidation, which might well amount to as much as \$5,000 a year.

6. The merging of the catalogues should carry with it a systematic revision of entries and filing, thus eliminating in large measure the defects which have been produced in both catalogues by years of use and inevitable variations in procedure.¹ Once the revision had been effected, future maintenance at a high level of quality would be not only easier of execution but more likely to be provided. It is obvious, however, that a revision of the catalogues is not dependent on consolidation.

B. Arguments against Merging the Public and Union Catalogues

1. Consolidation might result in a single catalogue more complex than either of its components, admittedly complex as these are. Certain expedients, listed below, have been suggested for simplifying the merged catalogue; unfortunately, in all cases but the first the reestablishment of a separate catalogue is called for or suggested:

- a. Removal of Library of Congress cards representing books not in the Harvard Library, on the ground that records of such books are separately available in the *Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards* and its supplements.

¹A minor by-product of consolidation would be the duplicate author cards which could be used for the card shelf-list designed to replace eventually the present shelf-list on sheets.

- b. Removal of all subject cards to a separate catalogue.
- c. Removal to a separate catalogue of all subject cards except personal subject entries. Exception of the latter would keep together in the main catalogue works by and about a given author.
- d. Removal to a separate catalogue of cards under public document headings.
- e. Removal of most of the cards under authors whose entries are very extensive, such as Shakespeare or Longfellow. The complete record of these entries might be listed in a separate catalogue.

2. Consolidation would be an expensive and time-consuming process, particularly if done with sufficient skill to produce a combined catalogue less vulnerable to criticism than its components. Personnel of adequate caliber willing to devote the necessary amount of time would be hard to find, even if highly paid. The work could not be hurried, or the result would be disastrous; it could hardly be completed satisfactorily in less than two years. In the interim, use of the catalogue would be difficult, not to say precarious. The cost might run to \$125,000 or more. In time this would be made up through the savings resulting from a single catalogue, but deductions to pay for the interest on the capital expended must not be forgotten. Maintenance of a number of ancillary catalogues, such as have been suggested as a means of simplifying the consolidated catalogue, would also diminish the net amount of savings arising from consolidation.

3. A merging of the two catalogues would remove the partial insurance for records of the main College Library collection which now exists by reason of duplicate cards in two places. The only record for such books, if a card were lost or misfiled, would then be the shelf-list. Revision followed by improved standards of maintenance would unquestionably reduce deficiencies in this category, but equally certainly there would always be some missing cards.

4. Consolidation might produce serious over-congestion in use. Both catalogues are now well frequented, though by rather different categories of users, and the virtual elimination of undergraduate use, never very heavy, would certainly not compensate for the concentration of readers and staff which must inevitably converge upon a single catalogue. On the other hand, a larger catalogue (such as the combined catalogue in the present case) must automatically reduce congestion to some extent. One might expect, also, that the natural growth of the catalogue in future years would more or less match any further increases in use. Nonetheless, overcrowding at the trays remains as one of the more serious potential threats to a successful con-

solidation, a threat which might have to be met by a greatly extended system of case arrangement, extravagant of space.

5. Creation of a single catalogue at the present advanced stage of growth would almost preclude a return to the dual catalogue system if at some time in the future a return seemed desirable, because of the enormous labor and cost which would be involved. Many libraries have created two catalogues, but few if any have given up one already established. Possible directions in which future expansion of the Library might go would need to be very carefully canvassed before taking a step which would be practically irtraceable, and even then it is apparent that by no means all potentialities could be foreseen.²

If consolidation should ultimately be rejected as impractical, revision of the existing catalogues should still be carried out, to eliminate errors, inconsistencies, and obsolete information, and to simplify entries. Revision might carry with it the removal of certain special categories of cards, such as those of the Library of Congress in the Union Catalogue, or the separation of certain others, and it should definitely include the completion of the Union Catalogue, so that this catalogue might be in actuality what it is intended to be in theory, a reliable record of book holdings throughout the University. Revision in these terms would be expensive, because of the caliber of the personnel required for proper execution, but it would entail far less interference with the use of the Library than would a consolidation, and so could be extended over a longer period.

C. Possible Space Allocations and Relationship to Other Services

A combined catalogue of six million cards could be placed on the first floor in the room now occupied by the Union Catalogue. Additional expansion, up to three million cards, could be cared for by the building of a mezzanine in this room. A similar combined catalogue could be accommodated on the second floor chiefly in the space now occupied by the Public Catalogue, with some overflow into the Reading Room through a door already existing, or alternatively into a mezzanine added to the Public Catalogue room.

If merging of the two catalogues proved undesirable, both catalogues

² A trial consolidation of a number of representative trays, employing the caliber of personnel which might be used for the full task, would undoubtedly yield valuable data for a final decision, since it would allow more accurate estimates of cost and time, provide a basis for judging the quality of the execution, and perhaps suggest alternative procedures or reveal new difficulties.

could be accommodated on the first floor by placing the Public Catalogue in the space now occupied by the Union Catalogue and moving the Union Catalogue to the northwest end of the stack. This would keep the Public Catalogue near the Reference and Circulation Departments (assuming their transfer to the first floor), and would bring the Union Catalogue into a position of maximum convenience for the Catalogue Department; but it would mean the separation of the two catalogues, with consequent traffic through the Catalogue Department room, and would render the Union Catalogue even less accessible to general use than it is at present. An alternative, which would bring the two catalogues together, would be to place the Union Catalogue in the Acquisition Department room, with possible overflow into the Serial Section room. This would, however, mean the virtual elimination of the reference collection from the first floor. Once again the automatic elevators connecting the first and second floors would be almost an essential.

On the second floor, accommodation of both catalogues, uncombined, would be a simple matter, assuming that space would be available for the Union Catalogue in the Reading Room, or, alternatively, that there would be no serious objection to its installation in the Reading Room Hall. In either case, the Public Catalogue would remain where it is.

Proximity to the catalogue or catalogues is of importance to other basic services, from the point of view of both readers and staff, though in varying aspects and degrees. It is important both for readers and for the Reference Department that the reference collection should be near the Public Catalogue, or a catalogue containing subject entries. The conveniences of having the charging desk near the Public Catalogue, or the combined catalogue, need not be emphasized. The efficiency of the Acquisition Department, and more particularly that of the Catalogue Department, depend to a considerable extent on the speed with which they can consult the Union Catalogue, or its consolidated equivalent. Again, it is obviously a matter of great convenience to readers to have the main stack entrance near one or the other of the catalogues, or the combined catalogue. Somewhere within the welter of possible arrangements there would have to be found one (necessarily a compromise) which would provide the greatest number of advantages in the most important directions, even though disadvantages in other directions might be considerable. For obvious reasons, it would

seem as if such an arrangement might more readily be based on a combined catalogue than on a dual catalogue system, which is at least a contingent argument in favor of consolidation. If consolidation should ultimately be rejected, very careful consideration should be given to the advantages of placing the two catalogues in close proximity, in spite of the difficulties which this would entail in working out convenient arrangements for certain other services.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that, given the rate of growth anticipated for the Library, the catalogue, whether combined or uncombined, will have doubled in approximately twenty-five years. By that time the problem of space allocation for it in the Widener building may well have become so acute in relation to other services that a basically altered procedure will be necessary. A possibility then to be considered might be the substitution of a catalogue in book form, reproduced from the cards by photo-offset or a similar process, and kept up to date by supplements, after the fashion of the *Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards*.

III. CHARGING DESK AND STACK ENTRANCE

The location of the charging desk, a function of the Circulation Department, is of primary concern to readers. If the charging desk were to be moved to the first floor, it could be placed in the space immediately adjoining the present Union Catalogue room on the south, with the main stack entrance, just beyond. This move would presumably not take place unless the Public Catalogue, or a combined catalogue, were to occupy the present Union Catalogue room.

If the charging desk should remain on the second floor, with other major services in conjunction, an auxiliary desk, with stack entrance, might still be installed in the space off the Union Catalogue, or, alternatively, at the Massachusetts Avenue entrance on the ground floor. A stack entrance on the first floor would of course have the advantage of opening more nearly into the center of the ten floors of stack. A ground floor entrance would be of comparable serviceability only if the elevator system were expanded, a very expensive undertaking in a building of Widener's construction. An auxiliary charging desk would of course entail separate maintenance.

IV. PERIODICAL ROOM

One change which would be simple in itself and uncomplicated by interrelationships with other possible changes would be the expansion

of the Periodical Room from its present quarters into the west end of the main Reading Room. This move would double both the shelving and number of seats available, and would appear to be in order, whatever rearrangements may or may not be carried out elsewhere.

V. GRADUATE STUDENTS AND THE READING ROOM

The need for a greater number of stalls for graduate students, a chronic disability of Widener almost from the beginning, could be relieved by utilization of portions of the main Reading Room for individually assigned table space, or, if this should not be feasible, for individually assigned shelf space without special seating. The latter expedient would be designed primarily to take care of first-year graduate students.

A certain number of reserved books, for graduate courses, would presumably be maintained on the Reading Room shelves even after the removal of undergraduate facilities to Lamont. However, neither these reserved books nor a partial use of the shelves and tables for graduate study should interfere with the establishment in the Reading Room of a large reference collection if it were decided that the Library should have one.

As an illustration of the range of possibilities, there might be simultaneously housed in the Reading Room the Union Catalogue (or part of a combined catalogue), a large reference collection, tables and shelves for graduate study, reserved books for graduate courses, and the current periodical collection.

VI. ELEVATORS

Reference has already been made to a possible expansion or renovation of the present rather antiquated and certainly inadequate elevator system in Widener. Of fundamental importance for a reasonably efficient division of major services between the two floors (and a division of some sort would seem inevitable) would be the installation of two light fast elevators to connect the east end of the Reading Room with the Acquisition Department room below. These elevators would be so adjusted that when not in use they would automatically stand open at opposite floor levels. As already noted, major changes in a building of Widener's construction are likely to be very expensive, but it might be possible to install a new elevator near the Massachusetts Avenue entrance if a charging desk and stack entrance should

be placed there. Further, the present large slow freight elevator might be renovated for rapid passenger service. And it would undoubtedly be desirable, for psychological as well as other reasons, to improve the performance of the elevators in the stacks.

VII. LIGHTING

An obvious and important concomitant of any changes which may be made is the installation of modern lighting in all areas utilized by readers and staff. This would include stalls, studies, stack, and work rooms.

VIII. COST

It has been estimated that, whatever combination of rearrangements might ultimately be adopted, not less than \$500,000 would be needed to achieve a reasonably satisfactory development of the potentialities of the Widener building as a center for research. This sum would be expended under the following major heads:

1. Structural alterations
2. Combination or revision of the catalogues
3. Elevators (renovation and expansion)
4. Lighting
5. New roof³

Summary

Here then is a rather extensive array of possible arrangements of facilities within the Widener building, presented with sufficient detail, it is hoped, to indicate the nature of the problems existing in some instances and the very intricate network of interdependent relations characterizing the whole.⁴ It would be merely confusing (as well as

³ Not discussed elsewhere, but assuming a higher priority rating with each succeeding year of makeshift patching.

⁴ No mention has been made of certain special sections of the Library, housed chiefly on the top floor, such as the Archives, Map Room, and various of the special libraries, since the potentialities or problems in these cases are largely different in kind from those relating to the basic facilities discussed above. Some of the special libraries will, of course, be directly affected by the centering of undergraduate activities in Lamont. Individual treatment of these more specialized cases is planned for future issues of the BULLETIN, as the situation in a given case may render discussion appropriate. It should be remembered that the Farnsworth Room and the Poetry Room have been transferred to Lamont entire. Potential expenses relating to these special cases have not been included in the estimate of \$500,000.

infinitely tedious) to catalogue all the combinations which might be worked out. However, a summary statement of two major examples drawn from the many possibilities may serve in some fashion to recapitulate the outline just presented and to point the way toward the critical discussion which it is the purpose of this article to produce. One example will presuppose a concentration of the basic services on the first floor, the other their concentration on the second floor.

With concentration on the first floor, the catalogue, if combined, would occupy the Union Catalogue room, with possible expansion by means of a mezzanine, or, if uncombined, the Union Catalogue room and the Acquisition Department room, with possible expansion into the Serial Section room. The Circulation Department, including the charging desk, would be placed to the south of the present Union Catalogue, with the main stack entrance to the south of the desk, as in present arrangements on the second floor. If the Acquisition Department room were available, a somewhat enlarged reference collection would be placed here and in the room of the Serial Section adjoining. But if the catalogue remained uncombined the entire reference collection would be on the second floor, except for a small bibliographical section. The Serial Section would remain in its present room or move to the Farnsworth Room; the Acquisition Department would be either in the Farnsworth Room or on the second floor. The main Catalogue Department, the Director's office, and the business office would remain as at present.

On the second floor, there would be space in the Reading Room either for a second and much larger reference collection or for substantially the entire reference collection; for accommodations for a number of graduate students, either first-year only, with reserved shelf space only, or of all years, with table and seating space as well; and for an enlarged current periodical collection. Automatic elevators would provide rapid passage between the Reading Room and the Acquisition Department room. The space vacated by the Circulation and Reference Departments and the Public Catalogue would readily house the Acquisition Department or other functions of the Processing Division.

If, on the other hand, concentration of services on the second floor should be decided upon, there would first of all be fewer major changes to put through. The charging desk and headquarters of the Circulation Department would remain in their present location, together with

the main entrance to the stack. The Reference Department would establish its headquarters in the east end of the Reading Room, and the reference collection would expand westward through the Reading Room in proportion to the size of the collection desired. Both catalogues would now be on the second floor. A combined catalogue would occupy primarily the present Public Catalogue room, extending into a small section of the Reading Room through the already extant doorway between the two rooms. If the catalogues were not combined, the Public Catalogue would remain where it is, and the Union Catalogue would be placed either in the Reading Room or in the Reading Room Hall. The latter course would allow more space in the Reading Room for graduate student accommodation, particularly if a very large reference collection should be installed there. The placing of both a very large reference collection and the Union Catalogue in the Reading Room would plainly greatly restrict the space available for study arrangements. In any case, the current periodical collection would be housed in the west end of the Reading Room.

On the first floor, the various staff departments would remain substantially as at present, with space available for additional units of the Processing Division, by reason of the removal of the Union Catalogue. The retention of the charging desk and main stack entrance on the second floor would render an auxiliary desk and entrance on the first floor or ground floor highly desirable, although the utility of a ground floor installation would depend to a considerable extent upon a renovation of the elevator system.

The general arrangements here alternatively proposed would, it is clear, convey benefits in varying directions and degrees. Concentration on the first floor would be of marked convenience for readers, would improve the position of the Catalogue Department, and would presumably give considerable scope for graduate study accommodation in the Reading Room, but it might mean the separation of the reference collection and the Acquisition Department from the catalogue, and under any circumstances would mean a division of the reference collection if a large collection should be desired. On the other hand, concentration on the second floor would permit a unified reference collection, however large, and in conjunction with the catalogue, but the concentration would be relatively inaccessible to readers (a drawback which would be only partially offset by auxiliary installations), it would be likely to curtail Reading Room space for graduate study,

and it would separate the entire Processing Division from the catalogue. A constant for both general alternatives, it will be noted, is the placing of both catalogues on the same floor, and in conjunction, even if they should not be combined.

The first alternative, or concentration on the first floor, would presumably be the more expensive to carry out, although installation of an auxiliary charging desk and renovation of the elevator system would if undertaken as an adjunct to the second alternative tend to even the score. Consolidation of the catalogues and expansion of the reference collection would involve changes not logically dependent on either alternative. It should be borne in mind that any major rearrangement or development would require special financing by the Library and hence ultimately by the University.

In view of the variety of interests and problems involved, it is plain that no immediate decisions should be taken. Further, there is undoubtedly much to be learned through observation of the functioning of Widener for a period after the removal of undergraduate services. This period should provide opportunity for discussion, criticism, and further suggestion. The library administration solicits an expression of opinion.

List of Contributors

HENRY R. SHEPLEY, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott, Boston, Massachusetts

KEYES D. METCALF, Professor of Bibliography, Director of the Harvard University Library, and Librarian of Harvard College

MICHAEL J. WALSH, Goodspeed's Book Shop, Boston, Massachusetts

HAMILTON VAUGHAN BAIL, Treasurer of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MARGARET CURRIER, Librarian of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University

MERTON M. SEALTS, JR, Assistant Professor of English, Lawrence College

S. F. JOHNSON, Instructor and Tutor in the Department of English, Harvard University

NANCY G. CABOT, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

HERMAN W. LIEBERT, Research Assistant, Yale University

HYDER E. ROLLINS, Gurney Professor of English Literature, Harvard University

ELEANOR N. LITTLE, Treasure Room, Law School Library, Harvard University