



The Farmington Plan after six years

Citation

Williams, Edwin E. 1953. The Farmington Plan after six years. Harvard Library Bulletin VII (3), Autumn 1953: 370-374.

Permanent link

<https://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:HUL.INSTREPOS:37363700>

Terms of Use

This article was downloaded from Harvard University's DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA>

Share Your Story

The Harvard community has made this article openly available.
Please share how this access benefits you. [Submit a story](#).

[Accessibility](#)

bleue comme les profondeurs; puis, il anima des tableaux plus parfaits encore.

* *

[Page 5]

A côté de ces oeuvres [de l'époque bleue] [azurées] à l'azur insondable, on regardera les toiles roses beaucoup moins anciennes. Il y règne un calme admirable et l'on sent dans les plus récentes que peintre [qui est pour ainsi dire] qui conçut tant de grâce jeune et grave s'achemine déjà vers les formes les plus objectives de l'art, pour s'élever au sublime [même]. Car Picasso [est parmi les artistes de ce temps un de ceux qui en France et hors de France suscitent les plus d'admiration]. Sa modestie que l'on peut aussi appeler son orgueil l'éloigne des salons et de longtemps peut être le public

n'aura plus l'occasion de voir les toiles d'un artiste qui] est de ceux là dont Michel-Ange disait qu'ils méritent le nom d'aigles parce qu'ils surpassent tous les autres et se font jour à travers les nuages jusqu'à la lumière du soleil

[Page 6]

Et aujourd'hui toute ombre a disparu. [C'est la lumière clarté sublime règne dans l'oeuvre de Picasso.] Le dernier cri de Goethe mourant, *plus de lumière*, [a été le cri sublime] monte [de la vie entière] de l'oeuvre [d'un Picasso] [Et son oeuvre puissante] sublime et mystérieuse [sera mise au rang des plus grandes qu'aie produites l'humanité] d'un Picasso, comme il monte encore de l'oeuvre de Rembrandt.

Guillaume Apollinaire

The Farmington Plan after Six Years

THE first printed account of the Farmington Plan after it went into effect was an article by Mr Metcalf in the HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN,¹ and a brief report on developments during the plan's first three years appeared in the BULLETIN during 1951.² There were articles in other journals also, but much of the essential information on the plan had not been printed and could be obtained only by consulting a considerable mass of processed material. Now, however, the Association of Research

Libraries has published a *Handbook*³ that was prepared and printed at Harvard for use by the plan's foreign agents, its sixty-two participating American libraries, those who wish to locate recent foreign books in order to borrow them or obtain photographic copies, and others who are interested in library cooperation and resources for research.

The description of the plan with which the *Handbook* begins is followed by an outline of its history and a discussion of criticisms, problems, alternatives, and possibilities. The bibliography lists eighty-nine items, including ten articles in European li-

¹Keyes D. Metcalf, 'The Farmington Plan,' HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN, II (1948), 296-308.

²'The Farmington Plan after Three Years,' HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN, V (1951), 122-125.

³Edwin F. Williams, *Farmington Plan Handbook* (Bloomington, Ind., 1953).

brary periodicals. Statistics of receipts are tabulated, and nearly one hundred pages are devoted to lists of responsibilities by library, by Library of Congress Classification symbols, and alphabetically by subject. These statements of the fields assigned to each institution are considerably more detailed than the mimeographed lists on which dealers and librarians had to depend during the preceding six years.

The Farmington Plan is 'an experiment in specialization by voluntary agreement among American research libraries,' and its objective, as stated at the outset, is still 'to make sure that at least one copy of each new foreign book and pamphlet that might reasonably be expected to interest a research worker in the United States will be acquired by an American library, promptly listed in the Union Catalogue at the Library of Congress, and made available by interlibrary loan or photographic reproduction.' Those who support the plan are convinced that the objective is sound, but have never regarded the methods used as inflexible; the major development of the past three years has been an experiment with a new procedure for countries in which the book trade is poorly developed or in which the language of publication is one that few American libraries are prepared to handle.

For each of the seventeen countries⁴ that had been included by 1951, there is an agent who selects books that come within the scope of the plan, classifies them, and sends each

⁴ Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

volume to the library that is responsible for the subject it treats. This procedure continues for these countries, but each of the eighty countries⁵ added during the past two years has been assigned to a single library that has agreed to make its own arrangements for acquisition and to obtain that country's publications on all subjects. Non-commercial sources must be used in many cases.

The geographical scope of the plan continues to expand. As the *Handbook* notes, 'Studies have indicated that publications of the United Kingdom and English-language materials of Canada are reasonably well covered by American libraries. Russia and the other Cominform countries cannot be included because of the restrictions they impose on exports. The other areas that are not covered will be brought in as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made; they include Central America, Finland (except for Swedish-language publications), Japan, New Zealand, Oceania, South America (except for Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru), and the Union of South Africa.'

It should not be forgotten that many classes of material have not yet been covered. Periodicals and other serials, government publications, and non-trade materials appear to be the most important of these classes with which the plan has not yet been able to deal.

Statistics for the countries assigned to individual libraries are not yet available and will be difficult to obtain;

⁵ Including countries and colonies in the Caribbean area, Yugoslavia, Greece, the Near and Middle East, all of Africa except the Union of South Africa, southern and southeastern Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Korea.

but, for the seventeen countries from which material is allocated by subject, receipts during 1952 amounted to more than 17,500 volumes costing approximately \$38,000.

As chairman of the committee that originally drafted the Farmington Plan in 1942 and that later became the Farmington Plan Committee of the Association of Research Libraries, Mr Metcalf has been more closely identified with the plan than any other individual. During June 1953, however, he asked to be relieved of the assignment; his successor as chairman is Robert B. Downs, Director of Libraries at the University of Illinois. Mr Downs has made notable contributions to the study of American library resources and has given valuable help to the Farmington Plan throughout its history.

The Farmington Plan Office, which was transferred to Harvard from the New York Public Library during 1951, will remain in the Acquisition Department at Widener for the present. A grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York supports this Office, which receives copies of all Farmington bills from agents and compiles annual statistics, handles the account that is maintained for the Bibliothèque Nationale, and forwards to the appropriate libraries books that dealers have not been able to classify; in addition, it attempts to collect samples of all new periodicals for which participating libraries have not subscribed, and classifies and forwards the samples from some countries.

HARVARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A number of changes in allocation have been made since 1948, when a

list of Harvard's responsibilities was included as a footnote in Mr Metcalf's article on the plan.⁶ Several subjects, including Byzantine literature, English literature by South Africans, and general ancient history, have been transferred to other libraries that were covering closely related fields. Harvard has taken over additional subdivisions of the fine arts classification in order to simplify the allocation system for the plan, and has accepted responsibility for commercial aeronautics, law, occult sciences, psychology, and several important sub-topics under religion.

Afghanistan, Ceylon, and Ireland are the three countries for which Harvard has volunteered to attempt inclusive acquisition of publications in all fields. Ireland was being covered in any case because of the library's interest in Celtic materials; it is not yet known how much is published in the two other countries, but the problems that they will present seem more likely to involve difficulties of acquisition than quantity of output.

Harvard's subject responsibilities under the plan now fall into ten areas, three of them covered by special libraries of the University, and two more divided between Widener and more specialized collections.

Anthropological and anthropogeographical materials are sent by Farmington Plan dealers directly to the Peabody Museum Library. The assignment does not include criminal anthropology or works on the ethnology or ethnography of any single country. Prehistoric archaeology and somatology are included, as well as works on any aspect of primitive cul-

⁶ See note 1 above.

tures except language, literature, music, painting, religion, or sculpture. Primitive cultures have been defined as those of all aboriginal inhabitants of America, Oceanica, and Africa south of the Sahara prior to their contact with Europe and those of other peoples prior to their adoption of an alphabetic or ideographic system of writing; works on features of such cultures that survive largely unchanged to the present are also assigned to Peabody. Tattooing, which Library of Congress classifiers evidently regarded as a survival from primitive times, is one of the sub-topics.

Commercial aeronautics is a responsibility of Baker Library at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. This includes the economic aspects (except advertising and labor) of both the aircraft industry and commercial transportation by air. A neighbor institution, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, covers aeronautical technology.

Law, international law, and international relations are fields of the Harvard Law School Library. Works dealing primarily with the law or legal aspects of all subjects are included, with the following exceptions: canon law; copyright; dental, medical, military, naval, primitive, and veterinary law; and legal chemistry. Among the sub-topics under international law and relations are diplomacy, international security and disarmament, treaties, and general works on the United Nations.

Fine arts, with the exception of engraving, are Harvard responsibilities; receipts are examined by the Librarian of the Fogg Museum Library, who decides which works ought to go to

the Fogg collection and which might better remain in Widener. Commercial art, drawing and design, painting, and sculpture are included, in addition to general works on fine arts; other institutions, however, cover the applied arts, engraving in all its forms, illumination of books and manuscripts, and painting of china, glass, and pottery.

Religious publications that come on the Farmington Plan are shared between Widener and the Andover-Harvard Library of the Divinity School. Atheism, religious agnosticism and rationalism, Free Thought, Deism, Mohammedanism, Baháism, and Theosophy are assigned to Harvard, as well as freedom of conscience, religious liberty, general works on Christianity (except those bearing the Catholic 'imprimatur'), and works on Eastern, Greek, and Protestant Christian churches. The plan excludes editions of the Bible and all ephemeral or popular works on doctrinal and practical theology.

Geography and cartography, including astronomical, mathematical, and physical geography, are Harvard responsibilities. Sheet maps are excluded, however, and atlases come to Harvard only if they are world-wide in scope. It should be noted that the geography of any specific subject is classified with other works on that subject, not with geography. Materials on description, discovery and exploration, geographic names, pirates and piracy, topography, and travel come to Harvard only if they deal with more than one of the world's regions, which are Africa, America, Asia, Europe, Oceanica, and the polar regions. Mountaineering and tourism are relatively minor sub-topics.

Commercial communications in-

clude the economic aspects (but not advertising or labor) of messenger and postal services, radio and television broadcasting (but not announcing, drama or dramatic production, or special uses), signaling in general, telegraph, and telephone.

Aesthetics, ethics, etiquette, manners and customs, occult sciences, and psychology are fields that cannot easily be defined. Only general works on aesthetics, ethics, etiquette, and manners and customs are included in Harvard's assignment, so receipts are much less extensive than might otherwise be expected. Psychology, likewise, does not include the psychology of particular subjects (for example, educational or social psychology), and the following are assigned elsewhere: abnormal, criminal, and pathological psychology; psychopathology; and psychotherapy. If it were to be admitted that no normal individuals exist, Harvard's psychological responsibilities would vanish. In occult sciences the library receives a certain amount of material that is not particularly useful to any department of instruction, but — though alchemy, conjuring, and lycanthropy are assigned elsewhere — Widener's extensive holdings in folklore are supplemented by some acquisitions under this heading.

Sociology and political science are represented in Harvard's allocations only by works on social classes and groups, social protection and welfare, and general materials on colonies and colonization. Charities, cruelty to ani-

mals, mob psychology, poverty in general, public welfare in general and relief, race conflicts, slavery, and suicide are sub-topics. Special homes and institutions for the aged, the blind, cripples, the deaf, defectives, the feeble-minded, and orphans are also included.

Philology and literature account for the remainder of Harvard's receipts. General works on modern languages of western Europe are relatively few, but Celtic languages and literatures are an important assignment. So are the literatures of Afrikaans, Dutch, Flemish, and Low German (works on these languages, it should be noted, are assigned elsewhere). Dalmatian, Friesian, Rumanian, and Vegliote languages and literatures are assigned to Harvard in addition to all those falling within five language-and-literature sections of the classification: Finno-Ugrian, Hyperborean, Indo-Iranian, mixed, and Slavic (except Russian). Despite the importance of some of the scores of languages and literatures in these five groups, receipts ought never to be very numerous, because publications of the countries using these languages are, for the most part, to be assigned *en bloc*, not allocated by subject. Mixed languages, incidentally, include Creole, Papiamentto, and Pigeon English.

The foregoing summary is based on the pages devoted to Harvard in the new *Farmington Plan Handbook*, but has not reproduced all the detailed definitions that are to be found there.

EDWIN E. WILLIAMS

Arts, by E. Louise Lucas, are also available, at \$.50 each.

A *Farmington Plan Handbook*, by Edwin E. Williams, Chief of the Acquisition Department of the Harvard College Library, has been published this autumn by the Association of Research Libraries. The *Handbook* gives the history of the plan, explains its operations, and sets forth in detail the allocation of subjects among the participating libraries.¹ Copies, at \$2.50 each, may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Secretary, Association of Research Libraries, Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Indiana.

For some years an up-to-date list of

¹For further information concerning the scope of the *Handbook* see pp. 370-374 above.

books for undergraduate study has been a desideratum. Early this year the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which had been concerned in the production of certain earlier lists, undertook to subsidize the publication, by inexpensive means, of the current holdings of the Lamont Library, thus providing a list not only up-to-date but with the new feature of representing an actual working collection rather than the theoretical selections of the past. The Lamont list, prepared by Philip J. McNiff, Assistant Librarian of the Harvard College Library in charge of the Lamont Library, in cooperation with members of the Lamont Library staff, has now been published by the Harvard University Press as *Catalogue of the Lamont Library*, at \$7.50 per copy.

List of Contributors

- THOMAS H. JOHNSON, Chairman of the Department of English, The Lawrenceville School
- PAUL L. WARD, Professor of History, Carnegie Institute of Technology
- DMITRY CIZEVSKY, Lecturer on Slavic, Harvard University
- ROBERT F. METZDORF, Secretary to the Boswell Editorial Committee and Curator of Manuscripts, Yale University Library
- KEYES D. METCALF, Professor of Bibliography, Director of the Harvard University Library, and Librarian of Harvard College
- DAVID C. WEBER, Assistant to the Librarian of Harvard College
- JACOB BLANCK, Editor, Bibliography of American Literature
- WILLIAM H. BOND, Curator of Manuscripts in the Houghton Library, Harvard University
- LEROY C. BREUNIG, Associate Professor of French, Barnard College
- EDWIN E. WILLIAMS, Chief of the Acquisition Department of the Harvard College Library