



DIGITAL ACCESS TO  
SCHOLARSHIP AT HARVARD  
DASH.HARVARD.EDU

HARVARD  
LIBRARY



# News of the libraries - Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume III.2

## Citation

Cottrell, George William Jr. 1949. News of the libraries - Harvard Library Bulletin, Volume III.2. Harvard Library Bulletin III (2), Spring 1949: 304-308.

## Link

<https://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:HUL.INSTREPOS:37363423>

## 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 (LAA), as set forth at

<https://harvardwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/external/NGY5NDE4ZjgzNTc5NDQzMGIzZWZhMGFIOWI2M2EwYTg>

## Accessibility

<https://accessibility.huit.harvard.edu/digital-accessibility-policy>

## Share Your Story

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

the original architectural scheme is preserved.

#### *Cold Cathode*

As already indicated, the original skylight area, now to be filled by louvers, occupied less than one third of the total ceiling space. It seemed desirable to provide supplementary ceiling illumination to reduce the contrast between the louvered and non-louvered sections. An obviously convenient location for the source of this supplementary light was the existing cove in the cornice, located 4 feet below the spring line of the ceiling. Here were placed two rows of 120 MA 3500° white high-voltage cold cathode lamps. The lampholders were staggered, in order to avoid shadows on the walls.

#### *Incandescent*

The old hanging incandescent lighting fixtures, facing down, were remodeled for indirect light. The original ornamental shells were retained, but the white plaster reflecting surfaces were removed. Each fixture is now a hollow band housing a 750-watt silver bowl lamp shielded by a four-ring louver.

In addition to added intensity, each fixture supplies warmth of color. The incandescent lamps serve to counter-

act the so-called drawbacks of fluorescent lighting: its antiseptic appearance and possible effect of coldness in a room of this size.

Fluorescent, cold cathode, and incandescent—to be blended together in a harmonious whole. Surely the electricians who rewired the building, the crew which installed the new fixtures, the roofers, carpenters, painters, and welders—all would agree that the job was a complicated one. The simplicity of the result is deceptive. But of its success there can be no doubt. No longer will the local student newspaper feature cartoons of students on their way to the Library armed with miners' lamps. No longer will we hear the cries: 'Give us more light!' Beyond the large number of favorable comments and the absence of complaints there is the tangible and decisive evidence of a much wider and more intensive use of the Reading Room than ever before. This success may well stand as a symbol of effective group action—the concerted action of architect, buildings superintendent, electrical engineer, business manager, finance officer, dean, and librarian—each contributing his own special talents and a willingness to benefit from the experience of others.

DONALD T. CLARK

## News of the Libraries

### THE DEDICATION OF THE LAMONT LIBRARY

**D**EDICATION ceremonies for the Lamont Library were held in the Forum Room of the Library at 2:30 p.m. on 10 Janu-

ary 1949. Present were the Fellows and Overseers of Harvard College, members of the Library Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of the Committee of the Overseers to Visit the Library, administrative officers of the University, mem-

bers of the family of the late Thomas W. Lamont, representatives of the undergraduate body and of the alumni, and members of the Library staff. Mr Metcalf, as Librarian of Harvard College, presided, introducing in turn the following speakers: Mr Thomas S. Lamont, Overseer and Chairman of the Committee of the Overseers to Visit the Library; Mr William D. Weeks, President of the Student Council; Provost Buck; and President Conant.

#### CONFERENCE ON THE PLACE OF THE LIBRARY IN A UNIVERSITY

**O**N the afternoon and evening of March 30 and on the morning of March 31 there was held in the Lamont Library a conference on 'The Place of the Library in a University.' This conference was sponsored by Harvard University, in celebration of the completion of the library building program which has included the Houghton, Deposit, and Lamont Libraries. Guests, numbering about one hundred and fifty, were drawn primarily from the presidents and librarians of universities throughout the country and of liberal arts colleges in the northeast.

The program was divided into three sessions, all in the Forum Room of Lamont. In addition, a dinner was held at the Harvard Faculty Club, on the evening of the 30th. At the first session, on the afternoon of the 30th, Dixon Wecter, Chairman of the Permanent Research Staff of the Huntington Library, discussed 'General

Reading in a University Library,' and was followed by John H. Finley, Jr, Eliot Professor of Greek Literature, Harvard University, and Master of Eliot House, whose topic was 'The Library and the Undergraduate.' At the evening session of the 30th there were three papers: 'The University Library and Scholarship,' by Ernest H. Wilkins, President Emeritus of Oberlin College; 'The Library and the Professional School,' by Zechariah Chafee, Langdell Professor of Law, Harvard University; and 'The Importance of Rare Books and Manuscripts in a University Library,' by William A. Jackson, Professor of Bibliography and Assistant Librarian of the College Library in charge of the Houghton Library, Harvard University. At the morning session on April 1 the first topic was 'Harvard Faces Its Library Problems,' presented by Keyes D. Metcalf, Director of the Harvard University Library. This was followed by a discussion of 'The Future of Libraries in Academic Institutions,' in which Newton F. McKeon, Jr, Director of the Amherst College Library, Donald Coney, Librarian of the University of California at Berkeley, and Harvie Branscomb, Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, participated. Mr Metcalf presided at the first session, Provost Buck at the second session, and President Conant at the third.

Mr Metcalf's paper, 'Harvard Faces Its Library Problems,' is published in this present issue of the BULLETIN. Other papers will appear in subsequent issues, and the possibility of an assemblage in book form is under consideration.

### OTHER MEETINGS IN THE LAMONT LIBRARY

**I**N ADDITION to the dedication ceremonies and the conference on 'The Place of the Library in a University,' a series of meetings was held in the Lamont Library during the winter and spring in further recognition of the establishment of this newest unit in the University Library system.

There was first the dinner of the Class Agents, held in the Forum Room on March 10. Dwight P. Robinson, Jr, Chairman of the Harvard Fund Council and Treasurer of the Associated Harvard Clubs, in presiding announced the successful completion of the Lamont Endowment Fund campaign for \$1,500,000 through the gift of \$200,000 from an anonymous donor. Speakers were Provost Buck and President Conant.

A meeting of the Boston Group of the Special Libraries Association took place on March 28, preceded by a dinner at the Faculty Club. After a talk by Miss Rose L. Vormelker, President of the Association, Mr McNiff presided over a discussion of various special features of the Lamont Library.

On March 31 there was a meeting of the Association of Research Libraries, with an informal program relating to various projects, actual or potential, of concern to the Association.

The New England College Librarians met on April 1 and 2, with a dinner at the Faculty Club on April 1. The first session, on the evening of April 1, was devoted to a discussion of Lamont paralleling that of March 28, while the second session, on April 2, was given over to a consideration of questions proposed by those attending,

in the traditional pattern of the meetings of this body.

On April 7 came a meeting of the Harvard University Library Club, with inspection of the Lamont building by the Club and commentary on special features by Mr Metcalf.

On April 24 the annual dinner of the Committee of the Overseers to Visit the Library was held in the Forum Room, with Thomas S. Lamont, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Finally, on April 30, there was a meeting of the Professional Staff of the Boston Public Library, with a discussion of special features of Lamont once again forming the basis for the program.

### EXTENSION OF THE FARMINGTON PLAN

**A**S stated in the article by Mr Metcalf on the Farmington Plan which appeared in the Autumn 1948 issue of the *HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN*, the scope of the Plan, during at least the first year of its operation, was to be limited to three countries: France, Sweden, and Switzerland. For the second year, 1949, decisions taken at meetings of the Association of Research Libraries have added six new countries: Belgium, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and Mexico. This means that one copy of each publication of research value issued in these countries, beginning with 1949, will be distributed in the United States in accordance with the scheme of participation already in effect for the first three countries. As far as possible, books are classified abroad and shipped

directly to the fifty-two participating libraries. A list of the fields for which Harvard is responsible was given in Mr Metcalf's article on the Plan.<sup>1</sup>

### TWO NEW PORTRAITS AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

**F**OR a number of years the Library of the Schools of Medicine and Public Health has been making a collection of oil portraits of men who took part in the establishment or administration of the two Schools. These portraits hang in the Porter Hall reading room and legends on the wall underneath describe briefly the part each man has taken, over a period from about 1770 down through the years to the present. Thus, a brief historical record for the Schools is presented through this collection of portraits.

Two new portraits have recently been hung and add greatly to the beauty and dignity of the room.

The first is a most lifelike presentation of Harvey Cushing, M.D. 1895 (Harvard), painted by his friend Mr William James. The fairly small canvas is beautifully executed and the artist has caught the spirit of Dr Cushing to a remarkable degree. This portrait was a gift from the three daughters of Dr Cushing.

The second is a life-size portrait of George Richards Minot, M.D. 1908 (Harvard), done by Mr Charles Hopkinson. The pose is pleasingly relaxed as Dr Minot sits in his chair listening with evident interest to someone talk-

<sup>1</sup>HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN, II (1948), 306. A correction in this article (p. 307) may be made here. The Swiss agent for the Plan has been Herbert Lang & Cie., of Berne, not A. Francke.

ing. This fine portrait was a gift from friends and former students of Dr Minot.

As yet these two portraits have not had the legends painted on the wall beneath.

Other portraits in the collection include those of Ezekiel Hersey, donor of a sum of money to establish the Hersey Professorships, John Warren, one of the principal founders of the Medical School, Benjamin Waterhouse, first Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Parkman Professor of Anatomy and Physiology for many years and also Dean, John Collins Warren, who performed the first surgical operation under ether anesthesia at the Massachusetts General Hospital and likewise was Hersey Professor of Anatomy and Surgery at the Medical School over a long span of years (this portrait is on loan by the Warren family), Frederick Cheever Shattuck, Jackson Professor of Clinical Medicine and one of the men much concerned with the founding of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Ward Nicholas Boylston, the only non-medical man in the group, who gave a library of selected books and also 'a generous annuity' for the continuing purchase of medical books for the Library.

### ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

**T**HE Winter 1949 issue of the BULLETIN carried the announcement (p. 157) of the new standing Committee on the Library of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Since this announcement there

have been added to the Committee W. C. Greene (Greek and Latin) and G. W. Sherburn (English).

manuscripts in the Dyce and Forster bequests.

#### GRAPHIC ARTS LECTURE

**T**HE manuscript collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, were the subject of an illustrated lecture by James Wardrop, Deputy Keeper of the Museum Library, given in the Exhibition Room of the Houghton Library on March 17. The lecture, sponsored by the Department of Printing and Graphic Arts of the College Library, presented representatives and outstanding examples in both the illuminated and the calligraphic categories, and included also some of the literary

#### HARVARD LIBRARY STAFF NEWS

**I**N DECEMBER 1948 the *Harvard Library Staff News* was established to bring to members of the Library staff current information of official announcements, group activities, changes in personnel, notable additions to the collections, exhibitions, visitors, and professional outside activities of staff members. Issued by the Office of the Director, it is designed to represent all units of the University Library, and has been appearing, in mimeographed form, at intervals of a few weeks.

## List of Contributors

ERWIN PANOFSKY, Professor, Institute for Advanced Study

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

WALTER E. KNOTTS, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

ROBERT B. SHAFFER, Washington, D. C.

MABEL A. E. STEELE, Custodian of the Keats Memorial Collection, Harvard College Library

HARRY LEVIN, Professor of English, Harvard University

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

FREDSON BOWERS, Associate Professor of English Literature, University of Virginia

ROBERT W. LOVETT, Head of the Manuscript Division, Baker Library, Harvard University

EDGAR WIND, Professor of Philosophy and of Art, Smith College

MORRISON C. HAVILAND, Assistant in Charge of Reference Work in the Lamont Library, Harvard University

LESLIE MAHIN OLIVER, Assistant to the Librarian in the Houghton Library, Harvard University

DONALD T. CLARK, Associate Librarian of the Baker Library, Harvard University