

**PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE SIXTH GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION, HELD AT
BUFFALO, AUGUST 14 TO 17, 1883**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649480074

Papers and Proceedings of the Sixth General Meeting of the American Library Association,
Held at Buffalo, August 14 to 17, 1883 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF
THE SIXTH GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION, HELD AT
BUFFALO, AUGUST 14 TO 17, 1883**

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SIXTH GENERAL MEETING

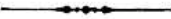
OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

BUFFALO, AUGUST 14 TO 17,

1883.



BOSTON:

PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, 39 ARCH STREET.

1883.

CONTENTS.

Article.	Author.	Page
Address of the President	<i>J. Winsor</i>	1-3
Report on cataloging	<i>S. B. Noyes</i>	4-10
A modern Proteus	<i>J. L. Whitney</i>	10-13
List of books with changed titles	<i>J. L. Whitney</i>	13-31
Supplements to Poole's Index	<i>W. F. Poole</i>	32-36
Libraries in Washington	<i>J. S. Billings</i>	37-38
Report on library architecture	<i>J. Edmonds</i>	39-41
The shelving arrangement of books in the New York State library	<i>Homes</i>	41-43
The arrangement of the parts of the United States in a historical and geographical system of classification	<i>C. A. Cutter</i>	43-46
Report on fiction in public libraries	<i>M. Chamberlain</i>	46-48
The Buffalo Public Library in 1951	<i>C. A. Cutter</i>	49-55
Report on the reading of the young	<i>Miss M. A. Bean</i>	55-65
The usefulness of libraries in small towns	<i>Miss T. H. West</i>	65-67
Report on libraries and schools	<i>S. S. Green</i>	67-71
Report on aids and guides to readers	<i>W. E. Foster</i>	71-81
State Libraries: their management and support	<i>Guy A. Brown</i>	83-85
Work of the nineteenth-century librarian	<i>R. R. Bowker</i>	85-88
Plan for numbering congressional documents	<i>J. Edmonds</i>	88-90
Condensed rules for an author and title catalog	<i>Cooperation Committee</i>	89-92
Proceedings		93
First Session		93-102
Address of President Smith		93
Secretary's report		93
Finance		94
Treasurer's report		94
Public documents		95
A. L. A. catalog		95
Coöperation		101
Catalog rules		101
Second Session		102-106
Changed titles		103
Index of essays		103
Changed titles		106
Finance		106
Third Session		107-114
Monthly periodical index		107
Washington library		107
Library architecture		107
Duty on books		113
Recreation		113
Fourth Session		114-117
The library of the future		114
The reading of the present		114
Officers of the association		142
Small libraries		114
Essay index		114
Library assistants		115
Library architecture		116
Duty on books		116
Fifth Session		117-123
Letters		117
Fiction		118
Libraries and schools		119
Sixth Session		123-129
School of library economy		123
Seventh Session		129-134
Public documents		129
Library assistants		129
The next meeting		129
Votes of thanks		129
Miscellaneous		130
Rules for cataloging		130
School of library economy		131
Officers		132
Swedish libraries		133
State libraries		133
Final papers		134
List of persons present		141

CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS.

BUFFALO, AUGUST, 1883.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,

INCLUDING A REPORT, FOR THE YEAR, ON GENERAL LIBRARY INTERESTS, BY JUSTIN WINSOR, LIBRARIAN OF HARVARD COLLEGE.

OUR sixth annual meeting finds us for the first time on the frontiers of our country, whence we can easily extend a hand of welcome to our neighbors of the Dominion. We are glad to find that later in the session some of our Canadian brothers will accept it. However tariffs and fealty may separate us, there is nothing alien in libraries; and why may not *American*, in a bibliothecal sense at least, include the whole brotherhood of the New World? We need attrition. Nothing has so much improved the standard of library management as this very commingling of librarians every year. Those who are familiar with the history of libraries in this country know that the advance in all that makes our work a system, and gives our calling an influence, has been vastly greater since librarians have acquired a neighborly habit.

The inquiry is sometimes made, "What do you find to do and say at these meetings of librarians? Don't you get talked out?"—"Yes," we reply, "but we can go home and recuperate for another bout; and we take home with us, too, a kindly interest in one another; a tincture of other ideas than our own, wider sympathies, broader views, and deeper meanings than are deducible from the experiences of our little autonomies. Such are the uses, such the fruits of these annual gatherings."

As I look over the topics of reports and papers in the programme before us, and recall the discussions which these topics have elicited

at previous meetings, I am sensible of the varied points of view which our isolation from one another at home and the circle of our separate experiences have given us. It is an argument in itself for an occasional segregation. Nor must we expect that this social and mental contact is going to unify all our ways. It would be a pity if it did. Our national motto touches us as deeply as librarians as it does as patriots, for we are one in our diversities,—none the less united because each finds his own way the best. We need to be taught that there is a multiplicity of bests. The ideal rule or system does not imply bondage to an idea. As long as mental action is various and experience is different, that system is best which we best assimilate. Time and locality, and more particularly that element which it is the fashion to term our personal equation, establish variety in our ideals. The folly of dogmatism is one that these meetings make us the better to understand.

Custom has defined the scope of your president's address to be the recognition of what is important in the shaping of the general library interests of the year gone by. First in that respect is the established fact of your coöperative labor brought to a definite result. It was a favorite thought of the elder Agassiz that what our civilization most needed was a reserve of money, to be applied with wise discrimination to paying the cost of publication of contributions to knowledge which could not be expected to

pay for themselves. The sum of human knowledge is but as the transit of a minor planet across the illimitable disk of light; no one knows that better than a librarian; and, with the true scientific instinct, Agassiz recognized the duty of preserving, as well as studying, the knowledge which does not stand for money in the world's traffic. From the inability of the investigators to put in the costly shape of type the result of their observations, Agassiz reckoned that the loss to mankind was incalculable; and in the first instance as pure science, or what can be known, and secondly as applied science, or what embellishes or elevates our living,—a loss which is incalculable in not only not preserving what has absolutely been found, but which also diminishes effort because of the absence of that incentive which makes us work the better under the promises of a permanent record.

At our very first meeting in Philadelphia we were possessed of a similar thought. We had all felt the want which Mr. Poole thirty years ago had shown could be supplied by labor. Since that time the burden—I use the word advisedly—of periodical literature in a library had become well-nigh intolerable, as all wastes without finger-posts are. Years before, I had urged on the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution the undertaking of this work as pre-eminently one of the diffusion of knowledge. I got excuses of preoccupation. I had suggested to the librarian of Congress to take the lead in some movement; but he was always overburdened, as I was in my own definite province.

But at Philadelphia the work was done, and community of labor established the fund that Agassiz had dreamed of.

Its first fruits is the great index, which properly associates with it the name of our brother of Chicago; and of the value of that first fruit I need not tell you. (Applause.) Important as it is, the principle which it has made manifest is more important still,—namely, that it is with-in our power as a body of librarians to create, in our combined efforts, just such a fund as Agassiz longed for. Further consideration of other schemes of a like import are, I perceive, set down for us on the programme.

We must still regret the failure of Congress to

cancel the debt which it owes to good scholarship and the largest learning. The national library is still without adequate housing, and the prospect of Congressional attention is not encouraging. What Congress fails to do in its sphere, individuals and municipalities are not backward in accomplishing elsewhere. The Pratt library in Baltimore approaches completion; and a new building for the public library of Boston is assured by ample appropriations. These are conspicuous examples of the needs of our great municipal libraries being handsomely met. Chicago, too, I believe, is in a commotion that we may hope "presages some joyful news at hand."

The new building of Columbia College, and of the library of the University of Michigan, almost ready for its dedication, and the planning of a new building to be erected by private munificence, fitly to hold the library of the University of Vermont, with its recent accession of the collection of the late George P. Marsh,—that accomplished scholar in more than one department,—are instances of the watchful interest bestowed upon what is more and more recognized as the central force of our college life, the college library.

There is no phase of our recent library management more striking and more suggestive than the growth of what may be called a practical bibliography. This science, long the sign of recondite scholarship, is shown to be adaptable to the wants of the less erudite. It is becoming more and more recognized as an indispensable help in every department of intellectual activity. There are many reasons for this change. It arises in part from a clearing of the perception that it is a waste of time for one to attempt to thrid a subject by the first way which opens, when a full survey of the literature of it will point him out the better avenue. The student is otherwise in much the same position with the inventor who attempts the combination of mechanical movements to a given end, before he has examined the records of the patent office. The past year has seen some admirable helps in this respect in the little manuals which Mr. Leyboldt has published, and which indicate effectively the devoted labors of our brothers,

Green, of Worcester, and Foster, of Providence.

Men now living may remember the beginning of what may be called the missionary career of libraries. It may be said to have begun in this country in the foundation of social, apprentices', and mercantile libraries. There was indeed a start as long ago as Benjamin Franklin founded the Philadelphia library, still doing its good work to-day; but nothing like general interest was taken in the movement till the second quarter of the present century.

Thereupon followed, in due time, what we now understand by the free library system, which, without any concert of action, also began in England about the same time; but with us it moved more rapidly, and even here it is confined for the most part to narrow geographical limits.

At about even date with this development in its earlier stages, a question of library purpose was brought to an issue in New York. Mr. Astor had left what was, in those days, a very large endowment for a library. He had not himself been disposed to that form of munificence, and had rather preferred to signify his regard for his adopted country in a huge monument to Washington; but Dr. Cogswell, who was his adviser, prevailed upon him to endow a library. The question to be decided was, whether that library should assist in the education of the people directly or indirectly, and this was a proposition on the decision of which there was no doubt in Dr. Cogswell's mind. He held some views regarding the public relations of libraries which were proper, and some which time has not justified. He argued that for the diffusion of knowledge the initiative might well be left to the people, who knew how to take care of themselves. In that he was right. He also expressed his confidence that a free public library could not be maintained and protected in a large city. In this he was wrong; as the experiment tried in Boston and elsewhere has shown. With such views there was of course but one scheme for a library which he could accept, and so he made his argument thus: "There is no way so effectual to diffuse knowledge through a community as by elevating the standard and creating the greatest possible

number of highly educated men. They become (he says) the living teachers, diffusing and disseminating knowledge much more widely and judiciously than is ever done by books."

One hardly wishes to quarrel with such a conclusion, for, in some respects, it is a prudent one; but in other respects it is a survival of a feeling which has its tap-root in the cloudy past.

The truth is, no exclusive or vicarious system of library nourishment is sufficient. The student certainly needs the incitement of the personal contact of the teacher. The librarian in his office sees the effect he can have upon those who seek his counsel. Mr. Poole, in his occasional and friendly talks to his constituents at Chicago, and the same sort of work which has been done at the public library at Melbourne for some years, and which, under many different phases, is the mission of many other librarians, is certainly giving a new power to librarianship. But for all this the reader needs the personal contact of the books themselves quite as much. The two schemes are fitly reciprocal, as we are every day showing at Cambridge, and are by no means alone in doing so.

The issue which Dr. Cogswell sought to make (and as he seemed to think in the interests of scholarship) was an Old-World issue, which had always, among old civilization, been decided one way.

The argument was simply an excuse—the traditional excuse—of a habit which had been accustomed to regard libraries simply as book-piles whence writers and scholars could replenish their intellectual fires, and not as agencies for the making of books useful to the many. The idea of the missionary character of a library has a certain repulsiveness in the minds of those who have had charge of the great libraries of Europe up to a very recent period, for the break of a dawn has hardly yet mellowed into a universal light. In this venerable estimate libraries are institutions to be sought by those who have a definite search, and they do not stand, as they ought, for allurements and invitations. It is something that American librarians may well take a pride in, that they have signalized themselves as leaders in this new and healthy cause.

CATALOGUING.

YEARLY REPORT BY S. B. NOYES, LIBRARIAN OF THE BROOKLYN LIBRARY,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

A LIBRARY without a catalogue," says Thomas Carlyle, "is the most strange conceivable object; the worst catalogue that was ever drawn up by the hand of man is preferable to no catalogue at all." If we are not all of us prepared to go quite so far as this, we can, at least, admit that a library is comparatively useless without a proper equipment of good catalogues; and I think that we are all glad to know that Carlyle's other dictum—that the British Museum ought to print catalogues that the literary man can take home with him—is now in process of realization. It is authoritatively stated that the growing physical difficulties attendant on the use of two or three thousand elephant folio volumes of the catalogue led to the final decision to print it. This may have been a sufficient reason, but it may well be doubted if it was the sole or even the controlling motive, when we recollect that even as late as the International Library Conference in London, in 1877, Mr. John Winter Jones, then the principal librarian, summed up the objections to printing a catalogue—apart from the question of expense, and the small probability that the outlay would ever be repaid—as resting upon the impossibility of keeping the catalogue on a level with the actual state of the library, adding that this objection did not apply to printing catalogues of special classes of books where the collection in the library may be nearly complete, or the additions few and slow of acquisition, as in the case of Hebrew, Chinese, and Sanscrit books, and collections of mss. Nevertheless, numerous detached sections of the main alphabet of authors, each embracing from one to two hundred pages, have already been printed; among the most recently issued being those devoted to Byron and to Virgil. The section devoted to Swedenborg literature is, I am informed, already out of print as an extra issue. It is to be regretted that in the cross-

references to the main alphabet the place of publication (or its initial), as well as the date and size, is not given, thus giving such entries a certain completeness. The accessions of new books are also being printed. Mr. Axon states that it is hoped that in the course of forty years the printed will have entirely superseded the written entries, and proposes that the present generation of scholars and readers apply a gentle pressure to the Treasury, and try to persuade the authorities that a catalogue of the national library is worth as much as an iron-clad, and should be printed at once, even if it does involve an expenditure of £100,000. If the Treasury can give the Trustees of the Library £80,000 in one sum for the purchase of *one* private collection of materials for history, surely a catalogue of the library in its existing state has at least as pressing claims for recognition. The accession lists, it is reported, are being stereotyped, and will thus be of use in any future issue of the general or of special catalogues. Special catalogues of mss. with photographic fac-similes of papyri and volumes of a date earlier than the close of the 9th century are promised.

It is reported that the 723 volumes of the catalogue of the Bodleian Library are being paged, and an officer will be employed for some years to come in revising all headings and titles, and indexing all extensive articles.

In the Monthly notes of the Association of the United Kingdom there is a notice of vol. 2 of the "Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Institution, with indexes of authors and subjects. By Benjamin Vincent, librarian." To quote from the "Monthly notes," it is compiled upon the plan of the former volume, with the same loose transcription of titles, and the same elaborately unscientific classification. It includes additions to the library between 1857 and 1882, and numbers about 400 pages.

Part 2, M-Z, of the supplement to the Cata-

logue of the Society of writers to H. M. Signet in Scotland makes a volume of more than 600 pages.

The *Library Journal* briefly notices the elaborate catalogue of the Aargauische Kantonsbibliothek, vol. 1 — Archæology, Art, History, Geography, and Ethnography. Aarau, 1881; 1,000 pages, 1. 89.

Volume 3, Chol-Dz, of Dr. Billings' monumental catalogue of the Library of the U.S. Surgeon-General's office has appeared during the year. It embraces about 46,000 entries, inclusive of articles in periodicals. About 4,335 portraits are also indexed.

In this country the catalogue work of the past year has been signalized by the completion of the first volume of the admirable catalogue of the valuable library of the Peabody Institute, of Baltimore, as was the work of last year by the completion of the last volume of the equally admirable and valuable catalogue of the Boston Athenæum. The Peabody Institute catalogue promises to be of equal extent with that of its elder brother. The library, as catalogued, numbers 80,000 volumes; the number of references in vol. 1, as given in the preface, is 61,184, which would give over 300,000 for the completed work; varying not much, I believe, from the number recorded in the Athenæum catalogue. It is likewise a fine example of beautiful and correct typography. The page is about the size of that of the Athenæum catalogue. *Par nobile fratrum!* — the two should stand on the same shelf in every library that shall be fortunate enough to possess them.

Periodicals, the publications of the learned societies (except their scientific divisions), and historical, antiquarian, and other miscellaneous collections are all indexed, and the references distributed under their respective heads; the number of pages in each article being given, the volume and the page, with author's name when known, and, if a periodical, the year in which it was printed.

The contents of collective works are alphabetized under the most distinct word of their specific parts, and, to use a printer's term, are *run in*, thus saving much room; though the practice is open to the objection of interfering with the bibliographical description of the work,

volume by volume. As respects analysis, I notice under the head *Burial*, references to articles contained in *Archæologia*; *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Bombay*; *Gronovius, Thesaurus Gr. Antiq.*; *Institute de France, Acad. inscript. Mémoires*; *Brussels Acad., Nouvelles mém.*; and numerous other periodicals. Under *Calendar* we find 6 principal entries occupying 13 lines, while 70 analytical entries, each of from 1 to 200 pages in length, occupy 147 lines. In respect to *title* entries, one may perhaps justly complain that there are too many of them. Under *Chemical analysis* I find 4 *title-entries* of books, which are given again under *Chemistry*, along with others upon the same subject. A one-line cross-reference to *Chemistry* would have been better. Such *title* entries as "Classified mercantile directory for New York and Brooklyn. Disturnell (J.)." "Celebration by the Pilgrim Society at Plymouth, Dec. 21, 1870," are not infrequently met with, entered under the first word of the title. The fault is simply one of surplusage; but when such titles as I have instanced are numerous they are very much in the way, besides continually educating the public to most inaccurate and careless habits of inquiry. To parody Spenser's lines we may say to the cataloguer: —

"Be full, be full, and everywhere be full, — be not too full."

One feature of this catalogue, and of Dr. Billings' Medical "Index Catalogue," seems to be well deserving of imitation in similar works. I mean the repetition in the same bold-faced type of the words indicating the class-heading before each subordinate heading, the latter being printed in *Italic*, so that the eye by running down the column can quickly take in the extent of subdivision, and strike the one wanted, *e.g.*, **Architecture**: *Brick, Stone, etc.*; **Architecture**: *Building*; **Architecture**: *Cottages*; **Architecture**: *Decoration*; **Architecture**: *Dictionaries, etc.*, the subordinate subdivisions being arranged in alphabetical order.

Mr. Morison, provost and chief librarian, states in his preface that the catalogue is constructed on the idea — in my opinion the correct one — that the best possible catalogue is that which makes known to the average reader the