

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
STATE LIBRARIAN OF THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
FOR THE YEAR 1891**

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Annual Report of the State Librarian of the State of New Jersey, for the year 1891 by Various

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TRENTON, N. J.:
PRINTED BY THE JOHN L. MURPHY PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1891.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LIBRARY.

GOVERNOR LEON ABBETT.
CHANCELLOR ALEXANDER T. MCGILL, JR.
CHIEF JUSTICE MERCER BEASLEY.
SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY C. KELSEY.
TREASURER GEORGE R. GRAY.
COMPTROLLER WM. C. HEPPENHEIMER.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL JOHN P. STOCKTON.

LIBRARIAN, MORRIS R. HAMILTON.

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REPORT.

OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN,
TRENTON, N. J., NOV. 1st, 1891. }

To His Excellency Leon Abbett, Governor of New Jersey :

SIR—Permit me to submit the following report of the condition of the State Library, for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1891.

At the time of my last annual report, the number of books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers in the Library was 37,146. During the past year, the following additions have been made by exchange, donation and purchase, as particularly specified in the appendix :

By exchange from other States and Canada.....	356
By exchange from the United States.....	172
By individual donations, books, pamphlets, &c.....	105
By individual donations, newspapers.....	65
By subscription, papers and magazines.....	65
By purchase, miscellaneous books.....	147
By purchase, law books.....	350
From the State, bound volumes.....	180
Total additions.....	1,440

Making the whole number of books, pamphlets, magazines, &c., now in the Library, 38,586.

Included in the number of law books are 62 volumes of the pamphlet laws of other States, which could not be obtained on exchange account and were purchased to perfect our set of State laws. Also, included in our miscellaneous purchases are the first 16 volumes and indices of the Patent Office Gazette, making 24 volumes, and entirely completing our set, to the great satisfaction of our numerous patent-right patrons.

During the year 226 books and pamphlets and 10 newspaper files have been bound and 38 volumes have been repaired.

I have the pleasure of stating, that since my last annual report, the Library has been removed to the third story of the new front of the State Capitol, at an expense of \$4,256.36, including the cost of new shelving and necessary alterations of the structure of the rooms. As I promised you in my last report, the removal was effected before the first of January last, so that the change did not interfere with the Legislature or the courts, although the necessity of the temporary closing of the Library caused much inconvenience to members of the bar and general readers.

After being occupied during the winter and spring in re-arranging the Library, and just when it was thought to be in complete working order, a raid was made upon it by the Edison Electric Light Company, and the whole summer was devoted to the removal of cases, taking up of matting, cutting holes in the floors and walls and generally undoing all that had been done to render the Library available for public use. Of course I had to declare the Library "closed," although it had to be more constantly watched than ever, to secure it against mere inquisitive inspection, and permit its regular patrons to enjoy its advantages. The Edison Company, fortunately, succeeded in locating its wire and switch "plant," repairing the floors and walls and replacing the matting and cases, before the meeting of the courts in October, and it now only remains to have the duplex chandeliers put in place, to complete the lighting of the Library with gas and electricity. This, it is expected, will be done in a few days, when the State Library of New Jersey will favorably compare with any other State Library in the country. Meanwhile, it is gratifying to know that workmen are engaged in constructing an elevator, which will greatly facilitate access to the Library. All that now remains to perfect the appointments of the Library is, that the five document-rooms over the main office should be floored and shelved, so that the 7,500 volumes of duplicates, documents, reports, &c., now in the attic of the old State House building, can be placed in a more safe and convenient position. I presume this will be done after the new Assembly Chamber is completed, as the work can be easily accomplished by the State carpenter, at a comparatively nominal expense, in view of its importance. However, this is a matter for the consideration of the Library and State House Commissions, and I merely refer to it as an essential to the completion of the new arrangement of the Library.

As I predicted in my last report, the alcove in the Miscellaneous

Department, set apart for our complete set of Patent Office Reports, meets the approval of the public so completely that it is the constant resort of the numerous people of the State interested in patents.

At the same time, the pupils of the Normal and Model Schools daily crowd the other alcoves of our Miscellaneous Department, in examining our files of papers and books of reference; while our private office, which is known as the "Art Room," is the headquarters of pottery decorators and other artisans who delight in studying our unexcelled works on English, French, German and Japanese ceramic and ornamental arts.

As to the Law Department of the Library, it is only necessary to say that the convenient arrangement, rendered available by its new location, is a matter of daily congratulation by the leading members of the bar of the State and has been highly approved by distinguished lawyers of New York and Philadelphia. In fact, it is admitted to be, by those competent to judge, the best "working" State Library in the country.

Although the Library was partly closed, as stated above, from June to October, the number of registered visitors during the year, exclusive of members of the bar, State officials and other regular attendants, amounted to 1,440. Of these, there were 240 that registered during the month of October, immediately after the re-opening of the Library to the public.

The accompanying appendix presents an itemized statement of the additions to the Library since my last report.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS R. HAMILTON,
State Librarian.

