

**STATE OF NEW YORK, NO. 56, IN
SENATE, MARCH 15, 1881: SIXTY-
THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK STATE
LIBRARY, FOR THE YEAR 1880**

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H. R. PIERSON

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SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY,

For the Year 1880.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE, MARCH 15, 1881.

ALBANY:

WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1881.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 56.

IN SENATE,

MARCH 15, 1881.

SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK STATE
LIBRARY, FOR THE YEAR 1880.

To the Hon. GEORGE G. HOSKINS,
President of the Senate :

SIR.— I have the honor herewith to transmit to the Legislature of the State of New York the Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library, as required by law.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. PIERSON,

Chancellor.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE LIBRARY.

1881.

Regents of the University.

HENRY R. PIERSON, LL. D., <i>Chancellor of the University,</i>	
GEORGE W. CLINTON, LL. D., <i>Vice-Chancellor,</i>	
ALONZO B. CORNELL, <i>Governor,</i>	
GEORGE G. HOSKINS, <i>Lieutenant-Governor,</i>	} <i>Ex-officio.</i>
JOSEPH B. CARR, <i>Secretary of State,</i>	
NEIL GILMOUR, <i>Superintendent of Public Instruction.</i>	

Other members in order of their appointment :

LORENZO BURROWS,	WILLIAM L. BOSTWICK,
ROBERT S. HALE, LL. D.,	CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,
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J. CARSON BREVOORT, LL. D.,	ORRIS H. WARREN, D. D.,
GEORGE W. CURTIS, LL. D.,	LESLIE W. RUSSELL,
FRANCIS KERNAN, LL. D.,	WHITELAW REID,
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MARTIN I. TOWNSEND, LL. D.,	HENRY E. TURNER.
ANSON J. UPSON, D. D., LL. D.,	

DAVID MURRAY, LL. D., *Secretary.*
DANIEL J. PRATT, Ph. D., *Assistant Secretary.*

Standing Committee on the State Library.

REV. DR. UPSON, <i>Chairman.</i>	
THE CHANCELLOR,	MR. HALE,
THE GOVERNOR,	MR. CURTIS,
MR. BREVOORT,	MR. FITCH.

Officers of the Library.

HENRY A. HOMES, LL. D., *Librarian of the General Library,*
STEPHEN B. GRISWOLD, *Librarian of the Law Library,*
GEORGE R. HOWELL, *Assistant Librarian,*
FRANKLIN OLCOTT, *Assistant Librarian.*

REPORT

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York :

The trustees of the State Library respectfully present their Sixty-third Annual Report.

At the close of the year 1879, the volumes contained in the library were as follows:

In the General Library	79, 627	
In the Law Library	31, 171	
	<u> </u>	110, 798

During the year 1880 there were added :

To the General Library.....	2, 076	
To the Law Library.....	1, 138	
	<u> </u>	3, 214

At the close of the year 1880:

In the General Library.....	81, 703	
In the Law Library.....	32, 309	
	<u> </u>	114, 012

Of the additions made to the Library there were:

Acquired by purchase	2, 116	
Acquired by donation or exchange	1, 098	
	<u> </u>	3, 214

With reference to the growth and condition of the Library, the trustees, in connection with the above tabular statement, refer to their report for the year 1878, where the policy to be pursued in the future development of the Library is laid down. In the additions made during the past year the policy there explained has been kept steadily in view. The annexed lists will give in detail these additions.

In the Law Library the trustees are able to report that by the purchase of a copy of Bradford's first edition of the laws of the colony of New York, printed in 1694, at the Brinley sale, the set of laws of the State is rendered complete. This work is exceedingly rare. Not more than five copies are known to be extant, and of these, probably but one copy is equal to the one purchased, in point of preservation and completeness.

With a view of promoting the utility of the Law Library, the trustees have directed the preparation of a subject-index catalogue, which has been made the subject of a special report, transmitted to the Legislature at its present session.

The law requires that the following law libraries make annual reports to the Board of Regents. An abstract of these reports is here given :

1. Court of Appeals Library at Rochester. L. R. Satterlee,
Librarian.
At the close of 1879 the library contained about..... 10,208
Added during 1880..... 480

Volumes at close of 1880..... 10,688
2. Court of Appeals Library at Syracuse. Hon. R. Wool-
worth, Librarian.
Volumes added during 1880..... 298

3. Law Library of the Second Judicial District, Brooklyn.
S. C. Betts, Librarian.
Volumes at close of 1879..... 6,798
Added by purchase..... 193
Added by donation..... 63

256

Volumes at the close of 1880..... 7,054
4. Law Library of the Eighth Judicial District, Buffalo.
(No report sent.)

The following documents are annexed to this report, to which attention is respectfully solicited :

- Appendix A. Statement of the librarian of the Law Library.
- Appendix B. List of books and pamphlets received by donation or exchange during 1880.
- Appendix C. Catalogue of books added to the General Library during 1880.
- Appendix D. Catalogue of books added to the Law Library during 1880.

Respectfully submitted,
H. R. PIERSON,
Chancellor.

DAVID MURRAY,
Secretary.

STATE LIBRARY, *March 12, 1881.*

APPENDIX A.

To the Honorable the Regents of the University of the State of New York:

GENTLEMEN — The law department of the library has been increased, during the year 1880, by the addition of 1,138 volumes. Of these, about three hundred volumes were received under the system of inter-State and foreign exchange. The character of the books added has not varied materially from that of former years, a large part having been continuations of the American and British reports, statutes, law periodicals and standard elementary works.

Valuable additions have been made to the collection of statute law and State papers; among these, are the session laws of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, for the years 1861 to 1865, and the parliamentary papers of Great Britain for the sessions of 1876, 1877 and 1878, bound in one hundred and twenty-five volumes, folio.

A copy of Bradford's first edition of the laws of the colony of New York, printed in 1694, was purchased at the sale of the Brinley library. Not more than five copies of this edition of the colonial laws are known to be extant. Of these, it is understood that one copy is in the Lenox library; another, known as the Van Schaack copy, is the property of Mr. A. J. Vanderpoel, of New York, and is the only copy which is equal to the Brinley copy in point of preservation and completeness; another, is in the New York Society library, and an imperfect copy is in the office of the Secretary of State. The copy purchased contains not only the 1694 edition of the laws, but also the acts passed at subsequent sessions down to October, 1708, bound together in one volume.

The importance of securing this volume is seen in the fact that before its purchase the State of New York did not possess a complete series of the various editions of its own laws. Several of the most important acts passed during the colonial period are contained therein, among which are the acts relating to the judicial organization of the province, which the courts and the legal profession, not infrequently, have need to consult.

The rarity of the volume, and the improbability of another copy being offered for sale within any reasonable period, together with the fact that it was the first book printed in New York,* excited an

* "William Bradford, who has been mentioned as the first who printed in Pennsylvania, introduced the art into New York. He continued his printing in Philadelphia until some time in the year 1693, when he set up a press in New York and was appointed printer to the government. The first work from his press was a small folio volume of the laws of the colony." [Thomas' hist. of printing in Am., vol. 2, p. 91.]

earnest competition among several bidders for its possession and carried the price to \$1,600, at which sum it was secured for the State library. Although this is a large sum to pay for a single work, it is believed that the nature of the volume, and its importance to the legal history of the State, abundantly justifies the action of your honorable board in authorizing its purchase.

The use of the works in this department of the library, by judges of the courts, State officers, members of the legislature and of the bar, has been more extensive during the past year than that of any preceding year. The need of a subject-index catalogue of the books in this department, increases with the increase of volumes and of use, and I am happy to state that the action of your honorable board in July last, in directing the preparation of such a catalogue, has met with the most cordial appreciation from the bench and the bar of the State. With an assistant to attend to the routine work in the library, I have been able to give, thus far, about three months of labor to the preparation of the catalogue.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN B. GRISWOLD,

Librarian of the Law Library.

STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY, *January 1, 1881.*