

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS OF THE FREE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF  
NEW HAVEN, CONN., FOR THE  
YEAR 1908, 1905**

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Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library of the City of New Haven,  
Conn., for the year 1908, 1905 by Various

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NEW BUILDING. FROM THE ARCHITECT'S DRAWING.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF THE  
CITY OF NEW HAVEN, CONN.,  
FOR THE YEAR  
1908.



## DIRECTORS OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

1908.

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NAMES.	TERM EXPIRES.
HON. JAMES B. MARTIN, Mayor, <i>ex-officio</i> .	
PRESIDENT.	
SAMUEL R. AVIS,	January, 1911.
SECRETARY.	
THOMAS M. PRENTICE,	January, 1909.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY.	
ANDREW P. ALLEN,	January, 1909.
TREASURER.	
BENJAMIN R. ENGLISH,	January, 1911.
S. B. SHONINGER,	January, 1910.
REV. J. A. TIMM,	January, 1909.
REV. J. D. COYLE,	January, 1910.
REV. WATSON L. PHILLIPS, D.D.,	January, 1910.
T. H. LANAHAN,	January, 1911.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
For the Year 1908.

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*To His Honor, the Mayor of the City of New Haven:*

The Board of Directors of the Free Public Library have the honor to present the following report for the year 1908:

The number of volumes added to the Library during the year was 6,229. The total discarded, exchanged, "lost and paid for" was 1,596; making the total net additions 4,633, and the total in the Library at the end of the year 90,567 volumes (see Librarian's Report).

The total circulation for 1908, as shown by the report of the Librarian, was 411,412, as against 337,878 the previous year,—an increase of 73,534, or about 22%. This increased demand we have met as best we could with the means at our disposal.

Your attention is invited to the Librarian's report, especially under the heads of "Economy" and "Limited Resources." In fact, it may be noted that all through the report of the work done in this department of the City Government there is evidence of lack of means to do it as thoroughly as it should be done; and there is evidence also that the Library is moving backward rather than forward, as we would be glad to be able to report.

One instance of this is the suspension of the publication of the Bulletin, which furnished the only medium through which to inform the public of the new titles added to the Library.

Another instance is the falling off of the number of books added to the Library. The total number added from all sources the past year was 6,229—25% less than 1907, and 40% less than 1906.



Of course the income from the Marett and Bennett funds is constant and cannot be used for any other purpose than the purchase of books; but it is not sufficient to supply all the books that are needed. Any books in addition to this supply must come from the City appropriations.

The character of our population is cosmopolitan as in most cities, and there is an increasing demand for books in the various languages spoken by these adopted citizens. This is a demand we feel that we are bound to meet,—the books selected treating largely of our own government and institutions, of which our newly made citizens are eager to learn. We have very recently been obliged to delay the purchase of lists of books in the Lithuanian and Swedish languages for lack of funds. There are also mentioned in the Librarian's report "books for the schools, technical books," and others that we have been unable to supply, as well as replacement of those worn out; and as this item is suspiciously small for the past year, it is probable that for the coming year the number will be greatly increased, doubled probably.

In 1905 the City appropriation for the Library was \$20,000; in 1906 it was \$19,000; and in 1908, \$19,500. There has been practically no increase in the appropriation since 1905. During this time the number of volumes in the Library has increased from 74,563 to 90,569—about 16,000 volumes, or 22%, and the circulation in the same time has increased from 300,000 to 411,500—or 37%.

The average salaries paid the Library force, including Librarian, Assistant and Reference Librarian, and Janitor, the past year was \$495. With above named left out the average salaries are \$368, the lowest paid in the City. To bring this average up to the lowest paid department in the City other than this there would have to be added about 80%. Mention is made of this to show that the Library is managed with the closest possible economy.

We were only able to expend for books out of the City appropriation for the past year \$947, or \$2,000 less than the year previous and \$1,700 less than 1906. In other words we are getting practically nothing out of the appropriation to expend for books, and what we have used we were obliged to obtain by crippling the Library in some other direction.

It thus appears that unless the City comes to the relief of the Library its uses must be abridged and its value as a factor in the problem of public education, enlightenment and entertainment greatly impaired.

We earnestly urge attention to this vital matter.

We are pleased to report the adoption of the plans for the new Library building, and are therefore able to include in this report an account of the accommodations to be provided in the building, which follows:

There will be three floors in the main building and six floors in the stack building. On the main floor, which will be reached by an easy flight of steps and terraces, will be the Delivery room—45 feet square. On the east side of the Delivery room will be the Open Shelf room—99x24 feet; on the west side will be the Reference room, of the same dimensions. Above the Reference room will be the Periodical reading room, of the same dimensions; and on the other side of the second floor the Art and Exhibition room, also 99x24 feet. The Children's room is on the ground floor, the main part being 99x24 feet, with an extension on one side 45x18 feet; the principal entrance will be from Temple street. This will be one of the largest children's rooms in the country, which we regard as one of the finest features of this building. The newspaper reading room will be 27½x24 feet, located on the ground floor, with an entrance from the outside as well as from the inside. With the exception of two study rooms these are all the public rooms of the building except one room yet unassigned. For the administration are the following: Bindery, 44x44; Packing room, 44x27; Shipping room, 25x18; Staff locker rooms and Lunch room; Cataloguing room, 29x18; Librarian's room, 17x9½ (irregular in shape); Director's room, 18x12; several storerooms, etc. The boiler and engine rooms and ventilating fans are in a sub-basement.

The death of Mrs. Mary E. Ives occurred last winter; upon which the Board adopted the following resolutions:

We, the Board of Directors of the Free Public Library, do hereby resolve, that

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from this life Mrs. Mary E. Ives; and

WHEREAS, she has by her many gifts of love endeared herself to the citizens of New Haven; and

WHEREAS, she was not permitted to see the completion of the new library which was her dearest wish and which she made possible by her munificent gift;

*Be it resolved*, That we deeply regret her death as a great loss to our city. She will be held in grateful memory by the present and future generations through the gift which she has bestowed on her adopted city. In the new library she has erected a monument which will do honor to her memory and stimulate others to follow her example.

*Resolved*, That as a token of respect the Free Public Library be closed during the hours of the funeral services; and that, as a further mark of respect, we attend the obsequies in a body. And be it further

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be spread upon our minutes, and a copy of the same be sent to her family and a copy given to the Press.

By her will the Library was made residuary legatee.

The Board reserved \$15,000 for the purpose of furnishing the new building and authorized the expenditure of the remainder upon the new building.

For further details of the operation and expenditures of the Library we respectfully refer you to the reports of the Treasurer and the Librarian.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board.

SAMUEL R. AVIS,  
*President, and Chairman Finance Committee.*