

**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE STATE LIBRARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649367504

Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE STATE LIBRARY**



**STATE OF NEW YORK.**

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**No. 139.**

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**IN SENATE, FEB. 19, 1858.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Of the Trustees of the New-York State Library.**

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**TO THE HON. H. R. SELDEN,**

*Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Senate.*

SIR :

I HAVE the honor to transmit the Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library.

I remain, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

G. Y. LANSING, *Chancellor.*

ALBANY, FEBRUARY 18, 1858.

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Receipts of the democracy  
of the State of ...

The Regents of the University of the State of New-York are by law declared to be *ex officio* trustees of the State Library. The following are the members of the Board at the date of this report :

GERRIT Y. LANSING, LL.D., <i>Chancellor.</i>	ERASTUS CORNING.
JOHN GREIG, <i>Vice-Chancellor.</i>	PROSPER M. WETMORE.
JOHN A. KING, LL.D., <i>Governor.</i>	J. LORIMER GRAHAM.
HENRY R. SELDEN, <i>Lieutenant-Governor.</i>	JOHN M'LEAN.
GIDEON J. TUCKER, <i>Secretary of State.</i>	GIDEON HAWLEY, LL.D.
HENRY H. VAN DYCK, <i>Superintendent of Public Instruction.</i>	DAVID BURL.
GULIAN C. VERPLANCK, LL.D.	JAMES S. WADSWORTH.
	JOHN V. L. PRUYN, LL.D.
	ROBERT CAMPBELL.
	REV. SAMUEL LUCKEY, D.D.
	ROBERT G. RANKIN.
	REV. J. N. CAMPBELL, D.D.
	ERASTUS C. BENEDET.
	GEORGE W. CLINTON.
	REV. ISAAC PARKS, D.D.
	(One Vacancy.)

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STANDING COMMITTEE SPECIALLY CHARGED WITH THE CARE  
OF THE STATE LIBRARY DURING 1858.

MR. PRUYN,  
REV. DR. CAMPBELL,  
MR. VERPLANCK,  
MR. CLINTON,  
MR. RANKIN.

ALFRED B. STREET,  
*Librarian.*

ELISHA W. SKINNER,  
HENRY A. HOMES,  
JOHN H. HICKCOX,  
*Assistant Librarians.*





# REPORT.

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TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

The Trustees of the State Library

RESPECTFULLY REPORT :

THE number of volumes added to the Library during the year 1857 was five thousand five hundred and forty-two; of which, three thousand four hundred and forty-eight were acquired by purchase, and two thousand and ninety-four by donations and exchange. An enumeration of the latter is hereto annexed.

Included in the purchases, and with the sanction of the Joint Library Committee of the Senate and Assembly, was a bibliographical collection of eleven hundred and twenty-six volumes; the gathering of which had occupied many years of diligent research by Mr. JOEL MUNSELL of Albany, well known as a practical printer and an indefatigable antiquarian and collector. These works, with those of a similar character before in the Library, constitute a collection in Bibliography scarcely excelled in richness and variety by any in the country. A catalogue of the collection is herewith submitted.

The labor during the last year attending the completion of the general catalogue of the library recently published, and the other duties of the officers of the Library, have been such that they have not been able to prepare a list of the residue of the books purchased in proper form for this report. The omission will be supplied in the next annual report of the Trustees.

Annexed hereto will be found a detailed account of the receipts and disbursements of the Trustees for the fiscal year ending the thirtieth of September last.

Under arrangements made by the Chairman of the Library Committee when recently in Europe, a system of exchange has been established with most of the learned societies in Great Britain; and a large number of volumes of the transactions and journals of the following institutions have already been received, viz :

The Royal Society of London ;  
The Society of Antiquaries of London ;  
The Geological Society of London ;  
The Statistical Society of London ;  
The Royal Society of Edinburgh.

From the Royal Court and State Library at Munich, contributions have reached us, which render nearly complete our set of the publications of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. This series comprises in all one hundred and eighty-three volumes and one hundred and twenty pamphlets, and is of conceded value and interest to persons engaged in scientific pursuits.

The Parliament of Canada has liberally responded to proposals for an exchange of laws, documents and judicial reports. We have received during the past year a large number of volumes of the statutes, parliamentary papers and law reports of both provinces. These are of more than ordinary interest, as they bring us to a more intimate knowledge of a neighboring people, with whom we are connected by commerce, language and treaty.

From the distant Government of VICTORIA in Australia, acts, ordinances and journals from 1851 to 1855, numbering thirteen volumes folio, have been received.

A recent special examination of the Law and State-paper Department of the Library has shown that there are many deficiencies in the statute laws and legislative documents of the other States of the Union. The difficulty of supplying these will be appreciated, when it is stated that we have scarcely a duplicate set of the statutes of this State; and after many years of effort to complete it, the library copy of our own legislative journals is yet slightly imperfect. The Librarian several months since addressed letters to the Governors of most of the States, calling their attention to the deficiencies above referred to. Many favorable answers have been received, with large and valuable contributions

from several of the States, which are acknowledged in the list of donations. Others have been received since the commencement of the present year, which will be mentioned in the next annual report.,

We have continued to receive valuable works from several of the Governments of Europe, through the system of international exchange conducted at Paris for many years with great zeal by M. VATTEMARE.

In the last report it was stated that a copy of the magnificent work on Patents, in course of publication by the Government of Great Britain, had been presented to this State. The series extending from 1852 to 1856 has been received : it embraces one hundred and seventy-four folio volumes of plates, and the same number of imperial octavo volumes of specifications and indices.

It will be recollected that the work was presented in sheets. The arrangement and backing of the plates required great experience and care; and these, as well as the letter-press, have been substantially bound under the liberal appropriation made by the last Legislature. The first series of the work, being that preceding the year 1852, has yet to be provided for. A part of this will probably reach the Library during the present year. It is not contemplated, however, to bind the whole of these as soon as received, but to arrange them temporarily as may be found most desirable for convenient reference.

The magnitude and value of the work, as far as received, fully equal the expectations entertained in regard to it. It is a vast record of human thought and labor, and a monument to the civilization and wealth of the nation, the ingenuity and skill of whose citizens it illustrates. It cannot fail to be of great value to those who are studying improvements in arts and machinery, both in presenting to their view what has already been done, and in saving the unnecessary expenditures which ignorance of the labors of others often induces.

The Trustees only perform an act of justice in expressing their warmest obligations for this gift, to the Commissioners who so liberally presented it, and to Mr. WOODCROFT, the Commissioner of the Great Seal Patent Office, under whose very able and judi-