

**CATALOGUE OF
THE DANA LIBRARY.
CAMBRIDGE**

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Catalogue of the Dana Library. Cambridge by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

**CATALOGUE OF
THE DANA LIBRARY.
CAMBRIDGE**

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CATALOGUE

OF THE

DANA LIBRARY,

CAMBRIDGE, *Mass.*



CAMBRIDGE

PRESS OF JOHN WILSON AND SON

1875

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1879. Feb. 24
Gift of
The Library

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*An Act for the Preservation of Books and other Property belonging
to Public Libraries.*

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:—

Whoever wilfully and maliciously or wantonly and without cause writes upon, injures, defaces, tears, or destroys any book, plate, picture, engraving, or statue, belonging to any law, town, city, or other public library, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars, nor more than fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail not exceeding six months, for every such offence.

Approved, Feb. 26, 1872.

DANA LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE:

ITS HISTORY.

THE Dana Library had its origin in the Cambridge Athenæum, which was incorporated in February, 1849, for the purpose, as is stated in its charter, "of establishing and maintaining in the City of Cambridge a lyceum, public library, reading-room, lectures on scientific and literary subjects, and for promoting such other kindred objects as the members of the corporation shall from time to time deem advisable and proper."

In October, 1850, a lot of land, containing ten thousand square feet, and situated on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, in Cambridgeport, was presented to the corporation by Mr. Edmund T. Dana, of Cambridge, and accepted at a legal meeting held on the twenty-fifth of that month. The deed of gift contained the following conditions: 1st. That the corporation should, within two years, erect upon the land, and complete, so as to be fit for occupation, a building suitable for the purposes of the Cambridge Athenæum, as set forth in the act whereby the same was incorporated. 2d. That the land and building (with the exception of the lower story and cellar of the building, which might be used for other purposes) should be used for ever for the purposes of a lyceum, public library, reading-room, lectures on scientific and literary subjects, and for promoting other kindred objects, as set forth in the Act of Incorporation.

In the following year an edifice, named the "Athenæum," was erected upon the land presented by Mr. Dana, at a cost of about \$18,000; it was dedicated and opened to the public

in November, 1851. It appears, then, that one of the chief objects of this corporation in obtaining a charter, and of Mr. Dana in his gift of land to the corporation, was the establishment and maintenance in the City of Cambridge of a Public Library. A reading-room, which was also contemplated, was abandoned, after trial, for want of support.

In April, 1855, the Directors received official notice that the late Mr. James Brown, of Watertown, had bequeathed books to the value of \$1000 to the Athenæum, and had directed his executors to purchase and deliver the same, agreeably to a list to be furnished by the Directors.

Immediate measures were taken to establish the contemplated Library. A commodious room was set apart and furnished in the Athenæum building; a code of Regulations was adopted; and a Catalogue was prepared and printed of the books received from the bequest of Mr. Brown, and of the few volumes contributed from other sources. The cost of printing the Catalogue, and the other incidental expenses, were defrayed by a timely donation of \$250, made for that purpose by the executors of the will of the late Mr. Thomas Dowse, of Cambridge. After various delays incident to such undertakings, the Library was opened for the delivery of books in November, 1857. Miss C. F. Orne was appointed Librarian. According to the Regulations, any person residing in Cambridge, known to the Librarian, or recommended by any citizen thus known, was entitled to the use of the Library, upon the payment of one dollar per annum,* and subscribing a promise to comply with the regulations adopted for its management.

In March, 1858, the Athenæum Corporation disposed of its real estate and personal property to the City of Cambridge. The Library was also transferred to the City, the City obligating itself to contribute not less than \$300 per annum, for the term of fifteen years, for its support and increase, and to maintain it for ever for the use of the inhabitants of Cambridge.

* This payment was dispensed with by vote of the Trustees in March, 1874, and the Library made entirely free.

In consideration of this obligation assumed by the City, Mr. Dana released the Athenæum Corporation from the conditions contained in his deed of gift. The "Athenæum" thenceforth became the "City Hall," and the "Athenæum Library," now the property of the City, received the name of the "Dana Library."

The intentions of Mr. Dana in relation to the Library, which bears his name, are evident from the following clause, being clause No. 23, of his last will and testament:—

"I give to Edmund T. Hastings and to William W. Wellington, and to the survivor of them, fifteen thousand dollars, in trust, to appropriate the same in such manner as I may by any instrument in writing under my hand appoint."

In a separate instrument, bearing the same date as the will, the testator did direct as follows:—

"To Edmund T. Hastings and William W. Wellington, or whosoever else may execute the trust created by the twenty-third clause of my will:

"The sum of fifteen thousand dollars, bequeathed by the said twenty-third clause, is to be paid over, if and whenever my trustees or trustee shall deem it expedient to do so, to the City of Cambridge, to be held by the said City in trust, as an entire fund, the income thereof to be appropriated annually, for ever, to the increase and support of the Library of the Cambridge Athenæum: provided, however, that if and whenever my said trustees or trustee shall be of opinion that it is not expedient that the said sum of fifteen thousand dollars should be so appropriated, the same to be paid over to my heirs at law; and provided, further, that the said capital sum be paid over, either to said City of Cambridge, or to my heirs at law, within three years from my decease.

EDM. T. DANA."

The Trustees appointed by the will, in an instrument signed by them and transmitted to the City Council, signified their intention to pay this sum of fifteen thousand dollars to the City of Cambridge, whenever they should receive it from Mr. Dana's executor.

It unfortunately happened that the instrument referred to in Mr. Dana's will and copied above, though signed by Mr. Dana, was not duly attested. It was therefore contended by the residuary legatees, "that, by the twenty-third clause in the will, nothing passed to the City of Cambridge, the same not being named as legatee; and it not being competent for a testator, by a duly executed will, to create for himself a power to dispose of his estate to legatees by another instrument not duly executed as a will or codicil." The case was brought, by the administrator with the will annexed, before the Supreme Court of this State, which, after a full hearing, decided that the twenty-third clause in the will, with the unattested instrument signed by Mr. Dana, did not "create a valid bequest to the City of Cambridge."

Thus were the generous intentions of Mr. Dana frustrated; and the munificent donation, which he designed for the Library, passed into the hands of his residuary legatees.

The Library contains, at present, eight thousand one hundred and twenty-seven volumes. It is dependent, for its future support and increase, on the annual appropriations of the City Council, and the continued liberality of the citizens.

From the establishment of this Library in 1857 to the present time the books were counted by continuous numbers, from one upward to thousands, and placed promiscuously upon the shelves. Of course this arrangement allowed of no classification by subjects; for a book that was added to the Library at any time was placed by the side of the book previously added, although the subjects of the two might be wholly unlike: in the best libraries this system is now generally discarded. The Dana Library has been entirely rearranged, and classified according to the plan now so highly approved and adopted by the leading public libraries of our country. And, although the plan is not here carried so fully into detail as in many libraries, yet it is believed to be sufficiently so, to meet the requirements of the average reader.

SEPTEMBER, 1875.

ORDINANCE

OF THE

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE IN RELATION TO THE DANA LIBRARY.

ADOPTED JUNE 20, 1866, AND AMENDED NOVEMBER 9, 1869.

SECR. 1. The Library received of the "Cambridge Athenæum" shall be called the Dana Library.

SECR. 2. The care, superintendence, and management of said Library shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, to consist of one member of the Board of Aldermen, one member of the Common Council, and three citizens at large, to be chosen as hereinafter provided, of which the Mayor of the City of Cambridge shall be a member, and Chairman *ex officio*.

SECR. 3. There shall be elected forthwith, in convention of the City Council, one member of the Board of Aldermen and one member of the Common Council, to hold office for the current municipal year; and three citizens at large, one of whom shall hold office for one year, one for two years, and one for three years from the third Monday of January last, their several terms of office to be determined by lot. And annually thereafter, in the month of January, there shall be chosen one member of the Board of Aldermen and one member of the Common Council, to serve for the current municipal year; and one citizen at large, whose term of office shall be three years from the third Monday of said January; and in case of a vacancy in said Board of Trustees, by death, resignation, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled forthwith in the manner aforesaid.

SECR. 4. Said Board of Trustees shall meet and organize as soon as may be; may choose one of their number Secretary; and three members of said Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; they shall choose forthwith, and thereafter annually in the month of January, a suitable person to be Librarian, who shall be removable at the pleasure of the Board, and shall receive such compensation as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

SECR. 5. The Trustees shall expend all moneys presented to the Library, or appropriated by the City Council, for the purchase of books, or the improvement of the Library; they may establish such fees for the use of said Library, and shall make and publish such needful By-Laws and Regulations, as shall extend the benefits of the institution as widely as practicable throughout the community; and all moneys received for the use of the Library shall be paid quarterly into the City Treasury.

SECR. 6. The Trustees of the Dana Library shall present to the City Council annually, in the month of December, a report of all their acts, doings, and proceedings, and a statement of the condition of the Library, the number of books added during the year, with an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures, together with any other information or suggestions they may deem desirable.

SECR. 7. No money shall be paid from the City Treasury on account of the Library, except by order of the Trustees, and in pursuance of an order signed by the Mayor; and in no case shall the amount drawn exceed the amount appropriated for the Library.