

**THE STORY OF
LIBRARIES AND
BOOK-COLLECTING**

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The story of libraries and book-collecting by Ernest A. Savage

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ERNEST A. SAVAGE

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THE ENGLISH LIBRARY

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Lib. Sci.
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THE STORY OF LIBRARIES AND BOOK- COLLECTING

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LIBRARIAN, WALLASEY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

*Author of "Manual of Descriptive Annotation for
Library Catalogues"*

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PREFACE

READERS, especially if they be librarians, will look for an apology from a writer who dares to follow in the footsteps of Edward Edwards. But there is some justification. *Memoirs of Libraries* is out of print, and expensive to buy second-hand ; while in some parts it is not up to date. A summary history, published at a popular price, seemed necessary for the elementary student and the general reader, and I have attempted to provide it.

In comparison with other books on the same subject this essay will appear to cover the ground somewhat disproportionately. But the first period has been treated with some fulness, because, owing to the small number of libraries then existing, and their grouping into centres whence their influence could be clearly traced, it seemed possible to show more clearly the connexion between libraries and the progress of scholarship than in the modern period, when libraries were common, and books more varied in character and much more numerous. On the other hand, as it seemed essential and more interesting to show how books were preserved in the Middle Ages, to describe the part they played at the Renaissance, and the

part they now play in popular education, no attempt has been made to deal with all the great libraries of the world, founded for like purposes, and with similar stories of growth.

A list of the principal books consulted is given at the end. Lack of space forbade the quotation of chapter and verse for every statement, but care has been taken to secure accuracy, not only of fact, but in emphasis. To make up for the writer's deficiencies, and to afford some relief to the tediousness of a summary narrative, references appear here and there to interesting and easily accessible articles and books which may be read with profit and pleasure.

Although a good deal has been omitted necessarily in so small a book, quite enough ground has been covered to enable library assistants to prepare for Section V (*a*) of the Library Association professional examination.

I have to thank Mr. James Hutt, M.A., for casting an eye over the manuscript and proof; Mr. T. E. Maw for revising the parts relating to German libraries; and Mr. A. W. Pollard, M.A., and Dr. Jenkinson, for correcting the accounts of the British Museum and Cambridge University libraries respectively. The responsibility for all mistakes is mine.

ERNEST A. SAVAGE.

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