OPENING OF THE ORRINGTON LUNT LIBRARY BUILDING

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Exercises at the opening of the Orrington Lunt library building by Various

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VARIOUS

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Northwestern Unibersity

ORRINGTON LUNT LIBRARY BUILDING

EXERCISES AT THE OPENING



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

EXERCISES AT THE OPENING

ORRINGTON LUNT LIBRARY BUILDING

SEPTEMBER 26, 1894

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The university

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY.

THE ORRINGTON LUNT LIBRARY BUILDING.

The library building is named in honor of Mr. Orrington Lunt, President of the Board of Trustees of the University, a friend of the institution, identified with its counsels and policy from its foundation

At an early date in the history of the University, Mr. Lunt's generous interest placed the Library in permanent association with his name. In the year 1865, he gave to the Trustees a valuable property in Evanston as a library endowment; this fund, in the official records of the institution, is designated by the name of its donor. In 1891, he crowned this earlier gift by the offer of fifty thousand dollars to be applied to the erection of a library building.

Better library accommodation had long been one of the University's most urgent needs. The Trustees, accordingly, promptly accepted Mr. Lunt's munificent offer, and at once took steps to secure the additional amount deemed requisite for a new library building. It appeared that a building, adequate to the growing needs of the institution, could be erected at a cost of about one hundred thousand dollars, and plans were prepared on the basis of that estimate.

Generous subscriptions were received from friends in Evanston in aid of the proposed expenditure. Deserving of special acknowledgment, is a contribution of five thousand dollars received from Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hatfield, a gift to the University in memory of her husband, Rev. Robert M. Hatfield, D.D., for many years, until his death, a trustee of the institution, and a friend held in grateful remembrance for fruitful service of labor and of influence.

The remainder of the amount required was advanced from the University's own resources. The construction of the building was

begun in the summer of 1893; the work was completed in the summer following. A little later, the new cases and other equipments were put in place, the books were transferred from the old library rooms in University Hall, and the new building was made completely ready for use. The formal opening took place on the wenty-sixth of September, 1894, soon after the annual assembling of the University classes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING.

The following description of the building from the Library Journal is inserted, with revision in some details.

The Orrington Lunt Library is situated on the campus of Northwestern University, and covers an area of seventy by one hundred and sixty feet. The building is planned so as to admit of future additions without sacrifice of exterior effect or interior convenience. The outer walls are of buff Bedford limestone; the roof is of red tile. The construction is an employment of the system sometimes called "mill-construction;" it is believed to be practically fire-proof.

The style of architecture is an adaptation of the Italian Renaissance. The outlines are simple; there is little ornamentation, but the whole effect is pleasing and harmonious. A spacious semi-circular portico, covering the entrance, is supported by six Ionic columns; on the frieze, in raised lettering, is the inscription, "Orrington Lunt Library." On either side of the vestibule are cloak-rooms. A broad oak staircase leads to the second floor, where are an assembly room seating four hundred and eighty persons, an art-room, and seminary-rooms. The third story, extending over the central portion of the building, is given to offices and class-rooms. The basement, well lighted and thoroughly finished, contains a large document room, a journal room, toilet rooms, and other apartments not yet definitely assigned.

The main story is devoted to the larger library uses. Occupying the central section and the adjacent wing, is the book-room. Separated from this room by the delivery-desk and the cataloguecases, and occupying the remainder of the floor, is the reading-room, which has an accommodation of one hundred and fourteen sittings. The windows are all large, and placed above the reading-tables at favorable height for light and ventilation. Beneath the windows, around three sides of the reading-room, are wall-cases. In these cases are placed, directly accessible to students, periodicals—both the current numbers and the completed volumes most frequently consulted—cyclopædias, and other reference books, and also the works reserved from time to time for special service by different departments of instruction. The reading-tables are provided with slides or extension leaves. The chairs and tables, like the entire wood-work on this floor, are of oak in handsome finish. The wains-coting and the ceiling are elegantly panelled. The entire floor, through both the reading-room and book-room, is covered with Scotch cork carpet.

Card catalogue-cases, made by the Library Bureau, stand at each end of the delivery-desk, each case containing forty drawers. The space under these cases is utilized for locked cabinets for large illustrated works, and the like. The delivery-desk is provided with convenient drawers. The bookcases in the book-room are of such height that all books can be reached from the floor. A private stairway leads from the book-room to the basement. All the stories are connected with the book-room by a book-lift and speaking-tube. In a central extension of the building, are the librarian's room and the cataloguing-room. They are of ample dimensions, and are suitably furnished with desk, tables, cases, and a series of locked cabinets with plate-glass doors. Two safety vaults are also provided. The heating is by steam from a detached station. The lighting is by gas and electricity. A ventilating system extends throughout the building.

The capacity of the library on the main floor, including with the book-room the reference cases in the reading-room, is nearly 100,000 volumes. The document room in the basement will hold upwards of 25,000 volumes.

The wall decorations were planned and the special designs executed by Miss Ida J. Burgess, of Chicago. The frieze in the reading-room and the book-room delights the bibliophile. The design includes thirty-two panels of varying size; in each panel is a shield surrounded by a conventional design, and on the shield appears some famous printer's mark, in such colors as harmonize