

**STATE OF NEW YORK, NO. 40, IN
SENATE, FEBRUARY 5, 1875. FIFTY-
SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK
STATE LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR 1874**

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State of New York, No. 40, in Senate, February 5, 1875. Fifty-Seventh Annual Report of the Trustees of the New York State Library for the Year 1874 by John V. L. Pruyn

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JOHN V. L. PRUYN

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OF THE

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR 1874.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE FEBRUARY 5, 1875.

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STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 40.

IN SENATE,

February 5, 1875.

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK STATE
LIBRARY.

To the Hon. WILLIAM DOBSHEIMER, *President of the Senate:*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the fifty-seventh annual report
of the trustees of the New York State Library.

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN V. L. PRUYN,

Chancellor of the University.

STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY, *February 5, 1875.*

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE LIBRARY.

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 names of the members of the board at the date of this report:

JOHN V. L. PRUYN, LL. D., *Chancellor.*
ERASTUS C. BENEDICT, LL. D., *Vice-Chancellor.*
SAMUEL J. TILDEN, *Governor (ex officio).*
WILLIAM DORSHEIMER, *Lieutenant-Governor (ex officio).*
DIEDRICH WILLERS, Jr., *Secretary of State (ex officio).*
NEIL GILMOUR, *Superintendent of Public Instruction (ex officio).*
PROSPER M. WETMORE, GEORGE W. CURTIS, LL. D.,
ROBERT G. RANKIN, WM. H. GOODWIN, D. D., LL. D.,
GEORGE W. CLINTON, LL. D., FRANCIS KERNAN, LL. D.,
LORENZO BURROWS, JOHN L. LEWIS,
ROBERT S. HALE, LL. D., HORATIO G. WARNER, LL. D.,
ELIAS W. LEAVENWORTH, LL. D., HENRY R. PIERSON,
J. CARSON BREVOORT, MARTIN I. TOWNSEND,
GEORGE R. PERKINS, LL. D., JAMES W. BOOTH,
 ANSON J. UPSON, D. D.
 SAMUEL B. WOOLWORTH, LL. D., *Secretary.*
 DANIEL J. PRATT, Ph. D., *Assistant Secretary.*

Standing Committee of the Regents, specially charged with the care of the State Library, for the year 1875.

THE CHANCELLOR,	MR. HALE,
THE GOVERNOR,	MR. WARNER,
THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR,	REV. DR. UPSON.
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,	

[This committee meets each Monday, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the office of the Secretary.]

Officers of the State Library.

HENRY A. HOMES, LL. D., *Librarian of the General Library.*
STEPHEN B. GRISWOLD, *Librarian of the Law Library.*
GEORGE R. HOWELL, *Assistant Librarian.*

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York :

The trustees of the state library respectfully present this their fifty-seventh annual report :

At the close of the year 1873 the number of volumes in the library was.....	90, 887
Of which there were in the general library	66, 253
In the law library	<u>24, 634</u>

At the close of the year 1874, the number was.....	93, 809
In the general library	67, 935
In the law library	<u>25, 874</u>

The additions in the year 1874 were:

To the general library.....	1, 682
To the law library	<u>1, 240</u>

Total additions in 1874.....	2, 922
Of these were acquired by purchase.....	1, 357
By donation and exchange.....	<u>1, 565</u>

The number of books added to the library during the year is greater than that of any of the three years preceding, but the proportion obtained by purchase does not reach the average number of those years. This is accounted for by the fact that so large a part of the purchases were for the law library, the prices of law treatises and reports being larger than of works on general literature and science which are purchased for the general library; and by the additional fact that fewer opportunities than usual occurred during the year to make purchases at any considerable discount.

The most noteworthy addition by donation to the library, has been from the Rev. Wm. B. Sprague, D. D., of about eight thousand pamphlets and periodicals. Dr. Sprague has previously given largely

of the pamphlets, of which he had during many years been an assiduous collector, to literary institutions, and all that remained he has generously and kindly bestowed on the state library in this city, in which he had passed forty years of his life. In one of the letters containing the offer of his pamphlets to the state, he remarks: "I have been casting about for some institution where they may be deposited with the best prospect of being useful. My attachment to Albany, I believe, has led me to think of the state library."

The periodicals in this collection have contributed largely toward perfecting sets. Many of the pamphlets are on subjects of American history and biography, and are valuable for their rarity or antiquity. The twenty eulogies of Washington which Dr. Sprague has presented have been bound with others in a collection of three volumes, and make the whole number in the library one hundred.

Such of these pamphlets as duplicate what we already had, will bring valuable returns in exchange.

Four or five hundred have been received from the collection of the late Rev. Dr. H. N. Pohlman, the gift of one of his daughters. In this are twenty eulogies on President Lincoln. These eulogies now in the library are about one hundred.

Valuable contributions of pamphlets have also been made by Governor Dix and Vice-Chancellor Benedict.

The number of volumes added to the law library exceeds the average of several preceding years.

The special appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars, made by the last legislature for the department, has enabled the trustees to supply some deficiencies, and measures are in progress for supplying others.

Valuable additions have been made of American and foreign law periodicals, law reports and American statute law.

The series of publications from the office of the commission of patents of Great Britain, in bound volumes, and arranged in card boxes, amounts to about twenty-five hundred volumes, the largest work in one series that exists. It is a gift of the British government, one of the conditions of which is, that special care be used for its proper preservation.

To provide the necessary cases for the annual additions of the present and the coming year, the trustees find it necessary to ask for an appropriation of two hundred dollars.

The crowded state of the library makes necessary some additional provision for shelving and for the safety of the books, at a cost of about two hundred and fifty dollars.

The growth and management of the library during the past year are satisfactory to the trustees; and they confidently look to the legislature for liberal provision for its continued increase.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the trustees,

JOHN V. L. PRUYN,
Chancellor of the University.

S. B. WOOLWORTH,
Secretary.

