

**BOSTON'S  
SPECIAL LIBRARIES**

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Boston's Special Libraries by Ralph L. Power

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**RALPH L. POWER**

**BOSTON'S  
SPECIAL LIBRARIES**



# Boston's Special Libraries

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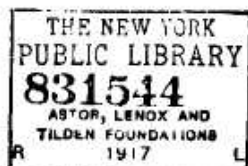
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To

DEAN EVERETT W. LORD

*Whose inspiration will  
be the making of  
many books*



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## FOREWORD

A librarian plying his trade in the heart of Boston has opportunities to dip into many lines of research closed to workers in a city where literary tradition has less part in the directing of public life.

During the collegiate year of 1916-17 the advisability occurred to me of visiting and tabulating the various special libraries in and about Boston, partly to satisfy my professional curiosity, partly to compile a guide book for the students of the college, who, I felt, might conveniently use greater specialized resources than the library under my own charge could at that time offer.

The result of several months of study and note-taking was a set of twenty-two articles printed originally in the *Boston University News*. Later the whole series was summarized and published serially in the *Library Journal*, while several of the articles appeared separately in various trade periodicals.

Many issues of the *News* were quickly exhausted and the continued heavy demand for complete files which could not be supplied demonstrated the advisability of reproducing the matter in more available and permanent form.

In order to form a more complete guide the number of libraries was increased to cover the en-



tire field in the city of Boston. Practically all special and business libraries listed in the *Library Annual* and other sources were included.

In general the articles are descriptive only of business and of the more unusual types of specialized collections, but one law, one medical and one theological library have been included for purposes of reference. No attempt has been made to include institutional, public or private libraries of general nature.

Two-thirds of the libraries listed here have been visited by me personally. When the pressure of additional duties became too great, members of the library staff visited the remainder. It is from the notes taken from these personal visits that the data has been written. Practically without exception the manuscript describing each library has been submitted to its librarian for correction.

Special thanks are due Professor Harry B. Center, editor of the *Boston University News*, for permission to reprint the material which originally appeared in that publication, and to Alfred E. Longueil, at that time editor of the *Boston University Beacon*, for his valued services in connection with copy editing.

RALPH L. POWER.

Boston University, September, 1917.

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