

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

FOR THE

CALENDAR YEAR 1892.

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ANNUAL REPORT
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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
Washington, October 28, 1893.

The undersigned herewith submits his annual statement, setting forth the progress of the Library and the statistics of the copyright business for the calendar year 1892, closing December 31.

The obstacles stated in last year's report to any complete enumeration of the books and other publications in the vast collections of the Library, now scattered in sixteen separate halls and storage rooms in the Capitol, have been largely increased. An approximate estimate, in view of the fact that the Library has continued for years without space for shelving the books, and is filled and blocked in every department with ever-increasing piles of copyrights and other publications, is all that can be attempted. This estimate aggregates 677,286 volumes, exclusive of about 220,000 pamphlets. The law department (included in above aggregate) embraces 84,977 volumes. The increase of the year in all departments has been 17,443 volumes.

The copyright department continues to exhibit a gratifying increase, both in the number of entries and in the copies deposited. There were entered during the year 1892, 54,735 separate publications of all kinds, being an increase of 5,827 entries over those of 1891. The aggregate amount of copyright fees received and paid into the Treasury was \$44,718.84 for the year, exceeding the fees of 1891 by the sum of \$5,873.61.

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The different classes of publications entered for copyright are specified in the following table:

Number of articles entered in 1892.

Books	17,633
Periodicals	10,327
Musical compositions.....	14,619
Dramatic compositions	813
Photographs.....	3,361
Engravings.....	1,620
Lithographs	727
Chromos	2,131
Prints and cuts.....	305
Designs	701
Drawings	95
Paintings	110
Maps and charts.....	2,230
Total.....	54,735

The aggregate number of copyright publications deposited under each designation is shown in the following:

Number of copyright articles received in 1892.

Books (including all printed matter so designated).....	24,281
Periodicals	9,360
Musical compositions	12,140
Dramatic compositions.....	280
Photographs.....	6,385
Engravings.....	1,410
Lithographs.....	993
Chromos.....	2,750
Prints and cuts	652
Designs	899
Drawings	81
Maps and charts.....	2,481
Total.....	61,720

Two copies of each copyright publication being required to be deposited, the actual net additions to the collections during the year from this source were approximately 30,858 separate articles. The deficiency in deposits as compared with entries is owing partly to negligence of authors and publishers, but also, in large part, to nonfulfillment of purposes of publication, to nondeposit of dramatic compositions (very few of which are printed), to entries of titles by many claimants to hold the renewal term of copyright without immediate republication, and to many entries of titles by claimants who seek thus to establish a foundation for legal rights to titles or variations of titles, although such claims, under judicial decisions, are of doubtful validity.

The preparation of the weekly catalogue of all publications received under the law of copyright, required to be printed by the Treasury

Department for subscribers and the use of customs officers in arresting the importation of foreign publications protected by copyright in the United States, entails much additional labor upon the office, for which Congress has made no provision. And the large increase in copyright entries growing out of the enactment of international Copyright in 1891, and its extension to Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Denmark, and Switzerland, together with the steady normal growth of the publishing activities of the country, renders imperative a considerable addition to the clerical force of the copyright office. Already arrears of work cause serious delays in the furnishing of certificates of copyright to applicants, whereas were an adequate force of assistants provided, the business of the office would be kept constantly up to date.

THE TONER COLLECTION.

The library presented to the Government by Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, has been still further enriched, not only by the deposit of new accessions of books and pamphlets, but by extensive biographical material. There have also been added, through the constant and zealous historical researches of the donor, extensive copies of the unpublished letters and papers of George Washington. It is the aim of Dr. Toner to assemble, for preservation in this collection, literal and exact transcripts from the originals of every letter or paper ever written by our first President.

The gratifying progress made during the year in the new and commodious Library building, now far advanced toward completion, is set forth in a special annual report of the Chief of Engineers made to Congress in December, 1892.

AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

HON. ROGER Q. MILLS,
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.