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## The Proposed New Library: University of Maine

University of Maine

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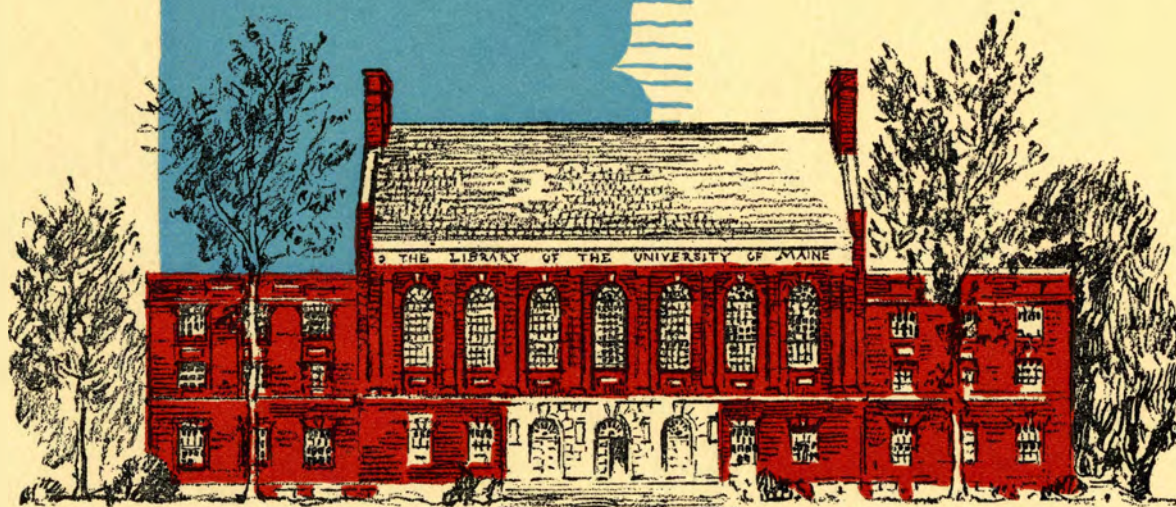
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# University of MAINE

## The Proposed New Library



Jack Frost



# Faith Richly Justified

**T**HE faith of the founders of the University of Maine—a small group of men whose foresight envisioned a college which would in large measure influence the “progress in all the arts of life”—has been richly justified. Three quarters of a century have passed since February 25, 1865, when Governor Samuel Cony signed the bill creating the Maine State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. For

nearly three decades the future of the institution was uncertain. Its life from year to year, and at times almost from day to day, depended upon the leadership and determination of a few courageous men. Out of this persistent faith has grown an institution which, starting with twelve students, now has more than 2,000 and has earned for itself a high place in the academic world through the achievements of its alumni, faculty, and students.



Starting with one brick building, Fernald Hall, which is still in use, the University campus has grown to twenty-eight halls, laboratories, and dormitories. Three important buildings on the campus are pictured below: At left, Colvin Hall, a dormitory for women, built in 1930; center, Alumni Hall, housing administrative offices of the University, constructed in 1900; right, Oak Hall, a modern dormitory for men, completed in 1937.







Stevens Hall, above, houses Arts and Sciences and Education; Winslow Hall, below, is the home of the College of Agriculture.



Below: Crosby Hall, a modern engineering laboratory, gift of Oliver Crosby of the Class of 1876.



## University Policies

**T**HROUGH its seventy-five years the University of Maine has not confused bigness with greatness. It has constantly appraised its curricula to fit new needs and new situations as they have arisen. It has no over-developed program, no over-expanded physical plant. It has limited its offerings, realizing that resources should not be used in trying to duplicate the diversity of courses offered in the universities of more populous states. Emphasis has been placed upon those subjects which relate particularly to Maine's natural resources. High achievement is preferred, in those fields where the University's service will count for most in the education of young men and women and in advancing the economic and cultural interests of the State and nation.

The University includes the Colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences and Technology, and School of Education. Other important divisions of the University are the Technology Experiment Station which has done much valuable engineering research; a Summer Session; an Agricultural Experiment Station which has achieved notable scientific and practical results of value to the State of Maine and to the entire United States; and the Agricultural Extension Service which through its effective organization has contributed to the economic and social life and happiness of the people of rural Maine. Graduate study is also offered in many departments of the University.



## Maine is Proud of its Student Body

THE twelve students who constituted the first class were typical of those who were to follow. They had to earn what they spent. They were sincere, earnest and ambitious. They came with faith that this new college would prove its worth. Today, students enrolled at the University come from modest homes. Nearly eighty per cent of them earn part or all of their college expenses. They are an outstanding group, and one of the most democratic that can be found on any campus in the country. While more than four-fifths of them come from Maine, the registration includes students from twenty-nine other states. The University is justly proud of its student body.

Alumni of the University are located in every state in the Union. One-half of the graduates reside outside of the State of Maine. They occupy positions of responsibility in the nation's enterprises, and through their activity in community affairs are contributing valuable leadership of the kind most needed in this country today.

To the young men and women who come to it for training the University has a deep sense of obligation. If they are to take their places in life successfully, they must be well trained. This demands that the University keep pace with educational developments, constantly improving its equipment, and steadily advancing its standards of instruction. The University must keep faith with its students.



In Holmes Hall, above, is the Agricultural Experiment Station; Merrill Hall, below, a new Home Economics Building.



Below: The Alumni Memorial Gymnasium and Field House, the gift of Alumni, Faculty, and Friends.







Above: Fernald Hall in which the first University Library was located.  
Below: Coburn Hall to which the library was removed in 1888.



## The Need for a New Library

**T**OWARD the accomplishment of these purposes, one of the most important and urgent needs is a new library building. More than ever before the library has become the intellectual center, the very heart of the academic life of the entire institution. Good teaching today requires good library facilities. A large percentage of all the courses offered at the University require reference reading or study.

The present library building was erected, as a gift of Andrew Carnegie, in 1906. In the third of a century which has elapsed since then, rapid growth has developed in three directions: first, in student enrollment; second, in the amount of required reference reading; and third, in the number of scientific publications and other volumes resulting from research. In view of these developments, many reasons might be cited as evidence of the urgent need of a new building to meet student needs. Of these the ten which follow are the most important:

**ONE** The student enrollment in 1906 was 576. This year it is 2,063, an increase of 350 per cent. To accommodate this number, according to college library standards of today, the University library should have a seating capacity in general reading rooms of at least 500. It seats, however, only 189. The standards further specify a minimum requirement of twenty-five square feet per reader. The present reading rooms allow but six square feet per reader.

**TWO** In 1906 the library contained 29,535 volumes. Today the inventory shows 136,000, an increase of 450 per cent. Thousands of these volumes are stored in the basements of other college halls. The annual accession rate is nearly 5,000 books.

**THREE** Since 1923, when the first circulation figures were kept, the calls for books have increased from 18,047 to 107,022 or 650 per cent in but fifteen years. With adequate facilities, it is likely that the increase would have been even greater.

**FOUR** The present library building is not fireproof. It can be made so only at excessive cost. The value of the books—\$250,000 not including many gift collections and rare volumes—is five times the value of the building. Hundreds of valuable books, if they were lost by fire, could not be replaced.

**FIVE** A good college library is expected to provide facilities for research and for faculty and graduate study. With the tremendous increase in scientific journals, bulletins, and books, it is impossible for each teacher to maintain a complete and up-to-date personal library. It is important, therefore, that the University provide the members of its teaching and research staff with opportunities for keeping in touch with the developments in their respective fields. Facilities of this type are woefully inadequate in the present structure.





Above: A reading room in the present library; such inadequate space and overcrowded rooms make quiet, concentrated study extremely difficult.

Below: The circulation room in the present Library now crowds the entire floor area of what was originally a spacious and attractive lobby.



**SIX** The library should have space for special gift collections, many of which would probably come to the University if they could be cared for properly. Donors of collections often specify that all the books must be kept together as a unit. A State of Maine Room and a University of Maine Room for historical materials relating to the State and the University are highly desirable for the University's growing collections of valuable items.

**SEVEN** Efficient library operation requires adequate facilities for such necessary services as receiving, cataloguing, and indexing. With the growth in demands for space it has been impossible to maintain the degree of efficiency in the present Library to which both students and faculty are entitled. The expansion of Library services and the greatly increased requirements for space have reduced to nearly one half the area originally designed for Library operating departments.

**EIGHT** Modern college libraries as a regular part of their educational programs feature displays of works of art, special book collections, models, historical materials, and other interesting items. The University urgently needs one or more specially equipped rooms where such exhibits may be displayed. Neither space nor suitable facilities for such valuable educational materials is now available.

**NINE** Library specialists, architects, and engineers who have studied the situation all have reported that it would be unwise to enlarge the present library building. The cost of adequate additions and of making the present structure fireproof would be as great as the cost of a new library building. Moreover, such additions would provide small stack rooms and reading rooms which would add greatly to the cost of supervision and operation, with a corresponding decrease in operating efficiency.

**TEN** Most important of all is the desire of the University to offer facilities for the proper training of its students. With no other college library near by and no other agricultural or engineering library in the State, it is important that the University expand its library facilities. Entirely apart from the classroom, it is expected that through a better library students will develop a love for fine books which will stimulate them to greater achievement and happiness. Experience has proved that better libraries induce greater use, both for academic work and for leisure reading.

A committee composed of trustees, faculty, and alumni has carefully studied the situation to determine what should be done. This committee was unanimous in its decision that there is but one solution to this serious problem—the construction of a new library building.

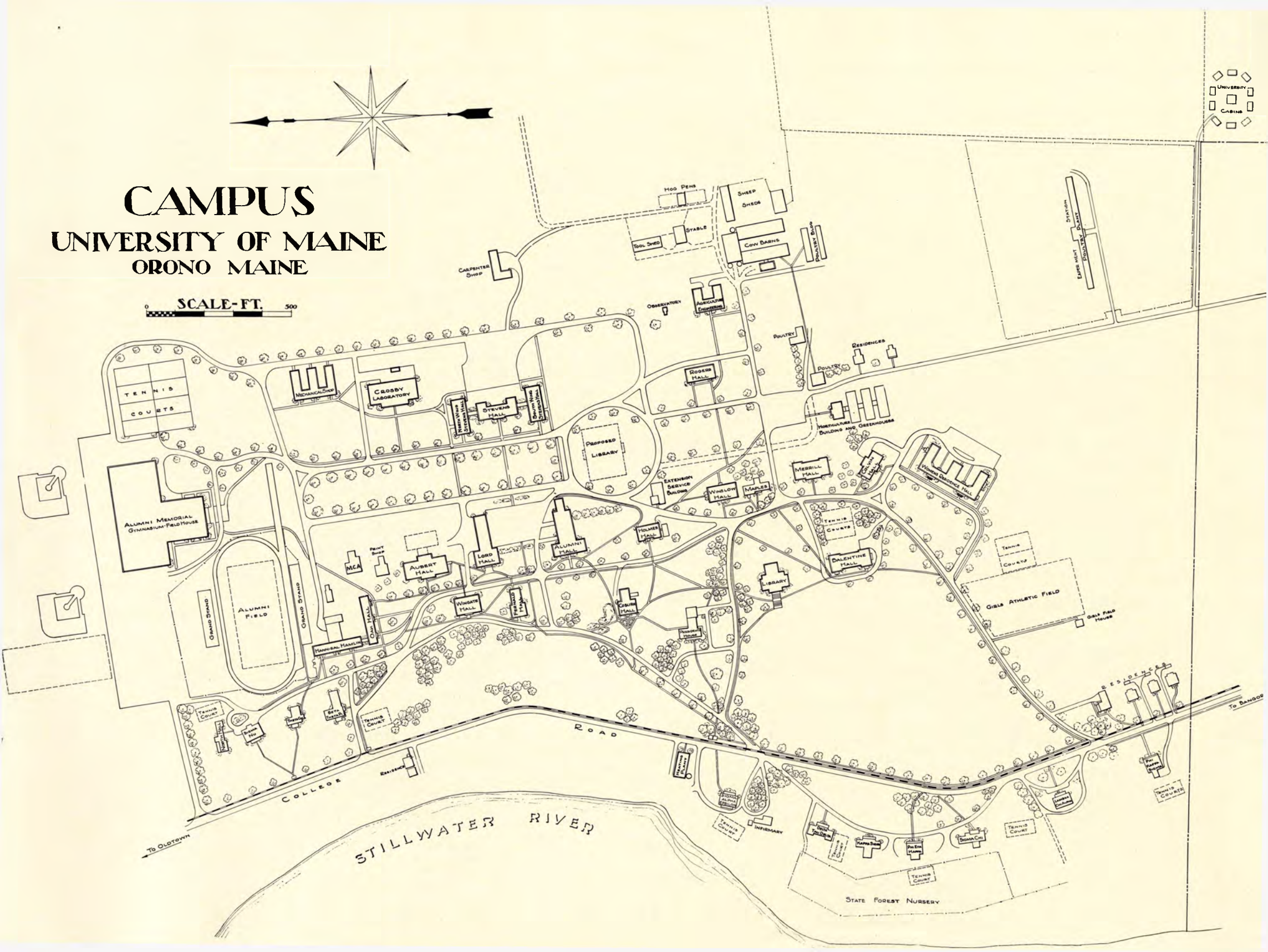
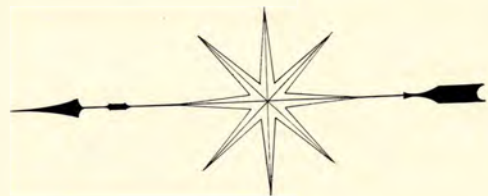


# CAMPUS

## UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

### ORONO MAINE

0 SCALE-FT. 500





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THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY

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THE PROPOSED LIBRARY BUILDING—NORTH ELEVATION

W. H. LEE, ARCHITECT



# The Proposed New Library



LIBRARY building is different from all other campus structures. Its function is different; it is associated with the practical, yet touches on the spiritual. For this reason it should be distinctive and have a sufficient touch of beauty to make it inspiring and inviting. Yet withal, it must be efficient and utilitarian. These thoughts have been expressed in the design and plans for the proposed building.

Four tests have been applied to these plans:

- 1—Will the new building meet all the immediate needs?
- 2—Does it provide for growth and expansion?
- 3—Will it be efficient to operate and inexpensive to maintain?
- 4—Is the proposed location the best?

A study of the sketches will show that the new building meets the needs discussed in the preceding pages. Its stack capacity is over 279,000, with space for 26,700 volumes in the reading rooms; its seating capacity is 618; it will be fireproof throughout; it provides opportunities for research and quiet study and it includes rooms for special collections.

Both the design and the location of the proposed

building will permit expansion of stack rooms and reading rooms. Stack space for 112,000 additional volumes is provided in the plans without an addition to the building.

Efficiency of operation is one of the important features in the design of this structure. While planned to meet the particular needs of the University, the best general library practice has been followed. Through the selection of proper materials and by insisting upon a high quality construction, it is expected that the cost of maintaining the building will be low.

The location selected is ideal. Its central position will make it easily accessible to all departments of the University. This location emphasizes the place which the library occupies in the life of a university today. The architecture will be Georgian Colonial in keeping with that of the newer campus buildings and of such distinctive character and beauty that it will appeal to the pride of those who make its construction possible, as well as to those who will use it in later years.

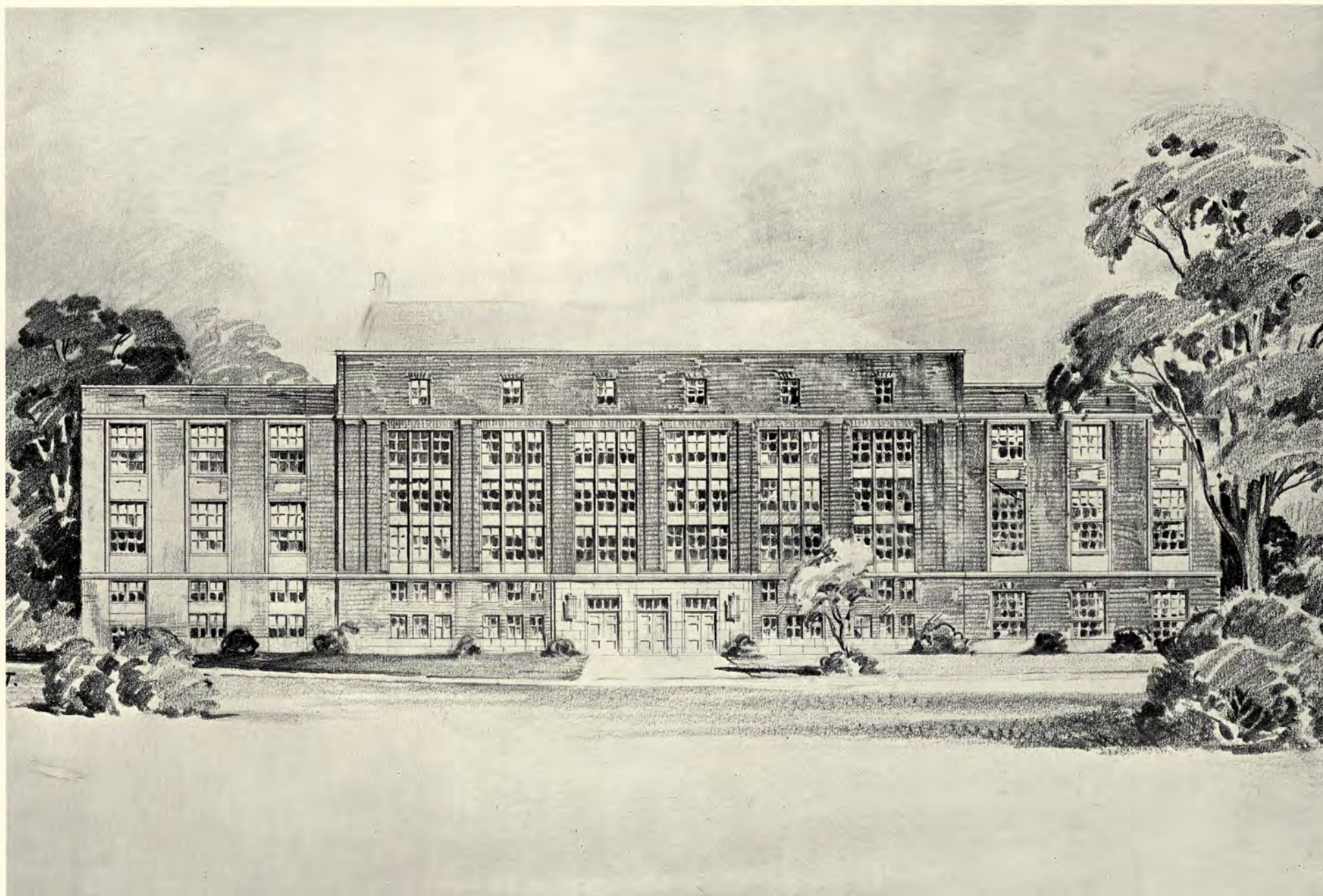
According to estimates, the library illustrated in this brochure can be constructed for \$385,000. Necessary equipment will cost \$40,000.



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THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY

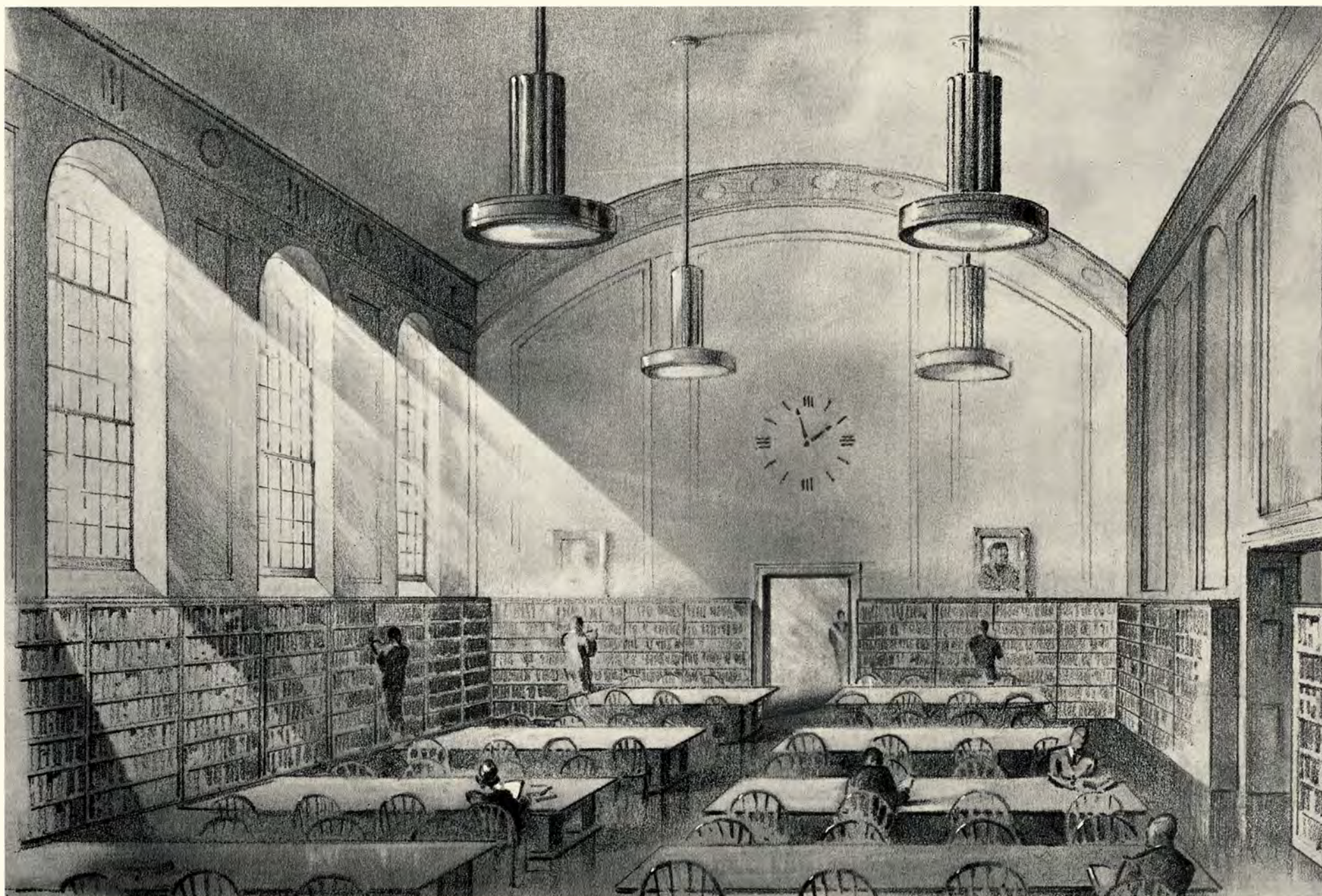
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THE PROPOSED LIBRARY BUILDING—SOUTH ELEVATION

W. H. LEE, ARCHITECT





THE MAIN READING ROOM





THE MAIN LOBBY PROVIDES AN ATTRACTIVE AND INVITING ENTRANCE



## Alumni and Friends are Invited to Assist

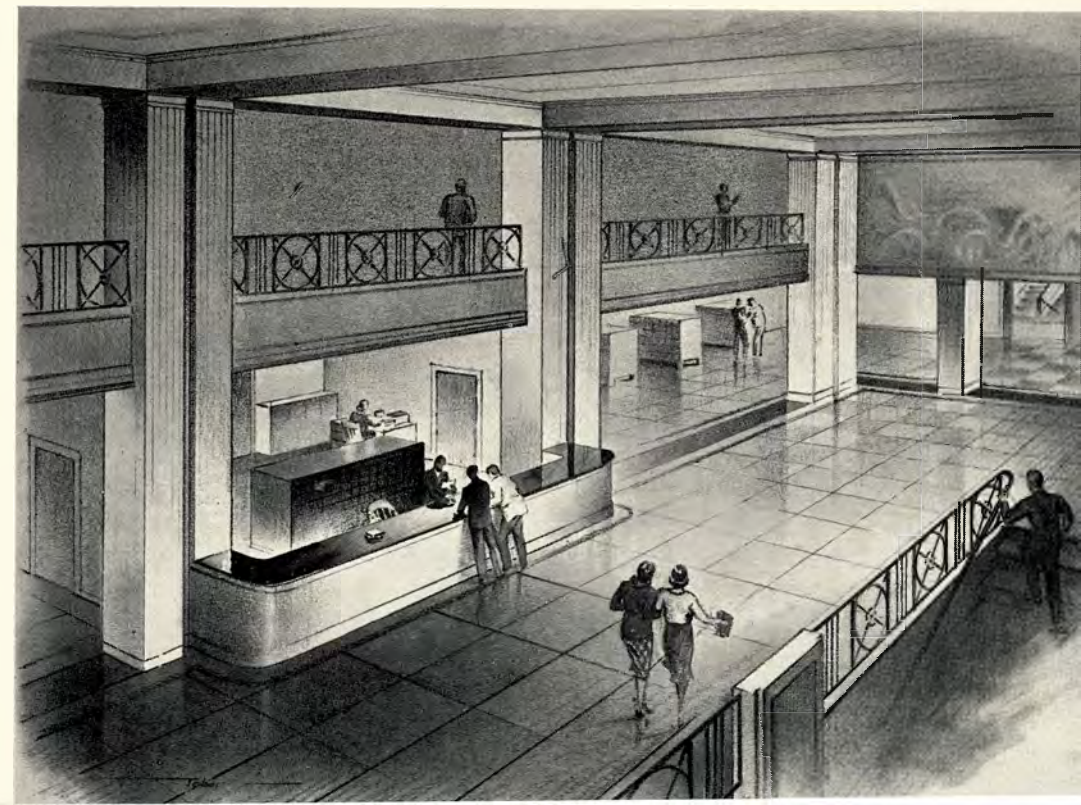
THE income of the University is inadequate to construct a new library building and at the same time meet other pressing needs. This much-needed building, therefore, can be made possible in the near future only through the generosity of friends and alumni. The General Alumni Association of the University has expressed its interest by voting to contribute one-half of the construction cost. Twenty-seven per cent of the inventory value of all University buildings has been contributed by alumni and friends. In this respect the institution ranks high among other Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities of the United States. While it is expected that alumni will participate generously, the fact cannot be overlooked that forty per cent of the entire alumni list are members of the last ten classes. Many of these young graduates have had during the last decade little opportunity to make substantial financial progress.

In undertaking to raise funds for a new library building, the University and her alumni are embarking on another adventure of faith, fundamentally the same as that of the Founders of the University. It is based upon faith in the future of the institution with its record of three quarters of a century of sound leadership and service; faith in tomorrow, that more and greater things yet

remain to be achieved by intelligent and well-trained minds; and faith in the young men and women who, by their own earnest endeavors and by the helpfulness of alumni and friends, may receive the benefits of facilities which will help them to achieve success and to contribute their part to the progress of the State and the nation.

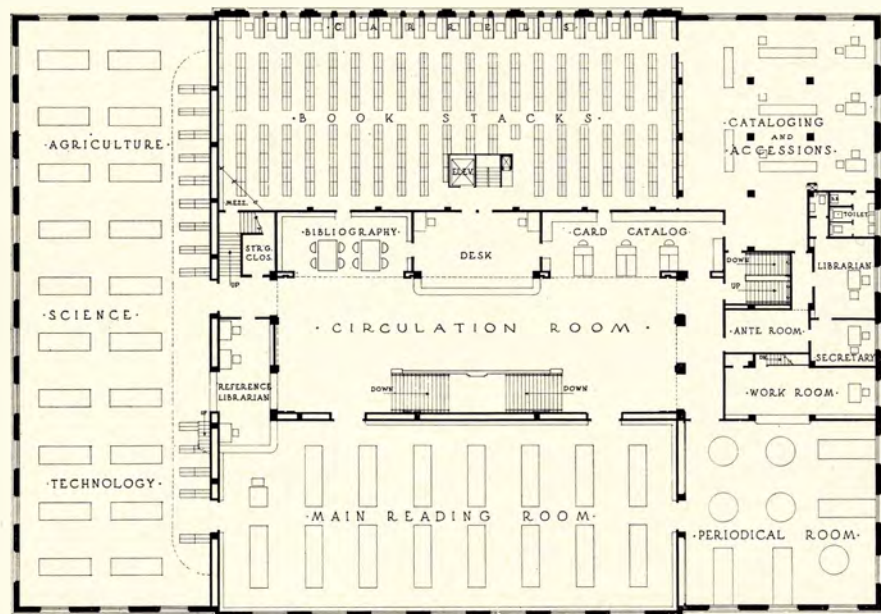
In this Adventure of Faith, alumni and friends of the University are invited to join.

THE CIRCULATION ROOM

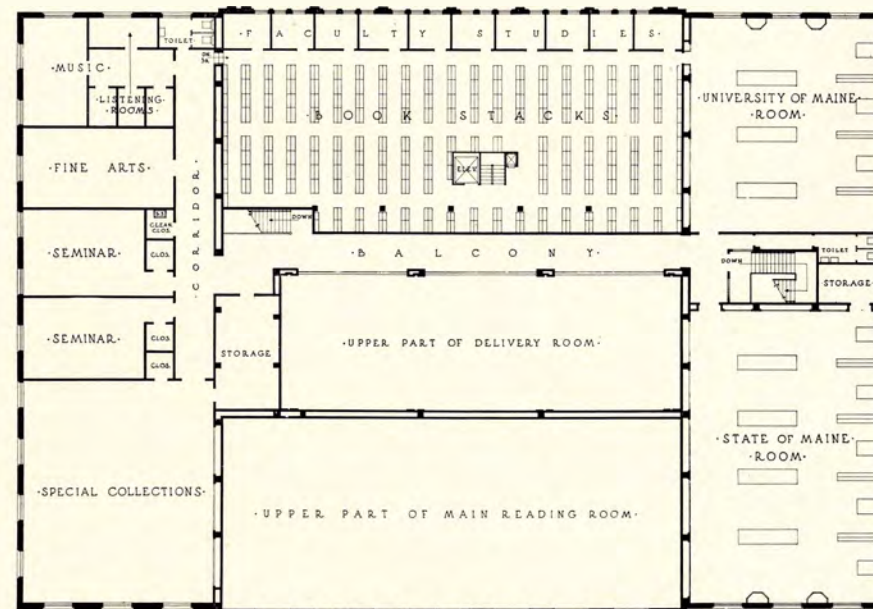




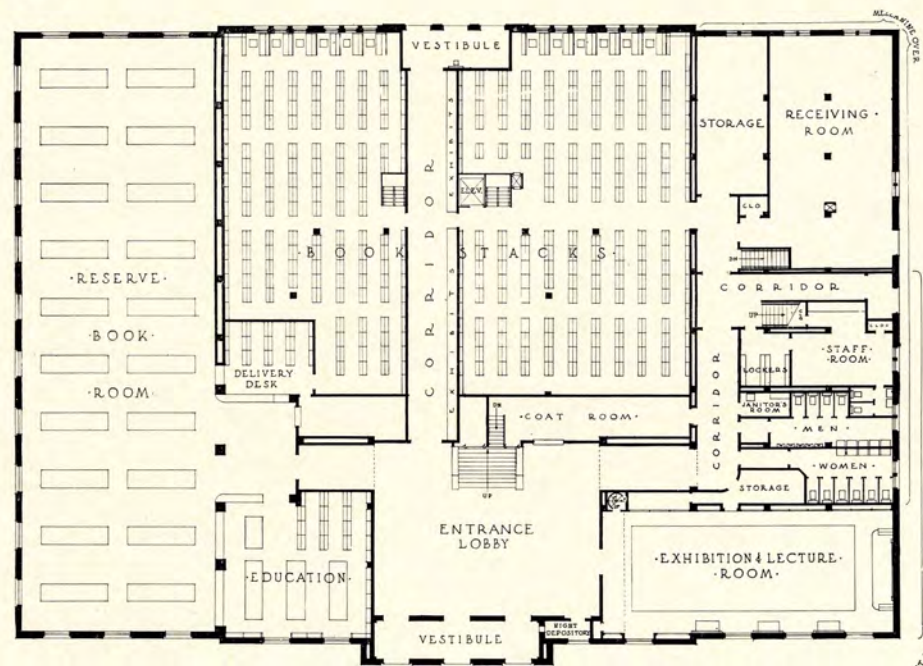
# THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

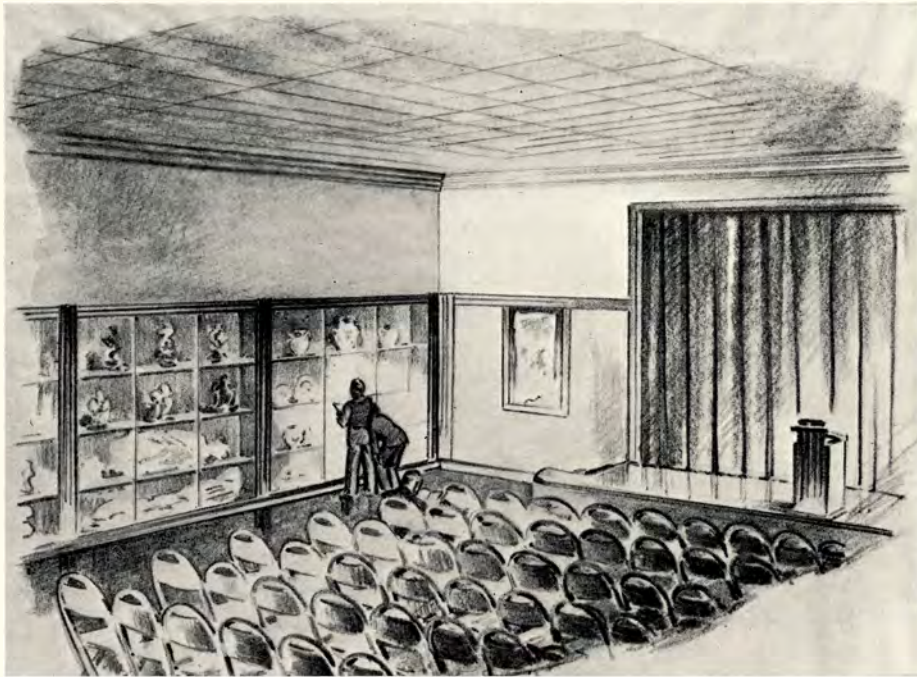


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

W. H. LEE, ARCHITECT

BASEMENT UNDER





This Lecture and Exhibition Room with a seating capacity of 200 and a liberal space for displaying models or works of art will be a valuable educational addition to the University.

## Memorials May be Established

**T**HIS proposed Library Building offers many fine opportunities to establish memorials. The wide use of a library, its central location, its quality, its significance in the life of the University, its attractiveness and practicability all recommend it to those who are considering some appropriate way of memorializ-

ing a close friend or relative or who would like to have their name permanently associated with the institution. Any of the rooms as shown on the floor plans are available for Memorials. Members of the University Library Committee, the Alumni Special Gifts Committee, or University Administration will be pleased to furnish detailed information.

The State of Maine Room will be a center of much interest. Here will be gathered hundreds of items of history, biography, literature, and other material of interest to the State, and of vital importance for research study.









## Present Building to be Used for a Union

**I**N 1918 a few undergraduates, feeling the need for a Student Union to provide for a social activities center and rooms for student organizations, gave the University a small fund which they hoped might be a start towards a Union Building. With the passing of years and the increase in enrollment, the need for such a Union has become urgent.

A study of the existing building has shown that for a relatively small expenditure the structure can be remodelled to serve the needs of the University adequately. The Trustees have therefore voted to remodel the library building as soon as it has been vacated for use as a Student Union. This plan has the approval of those who are chiefly interested in the change of purpose for which the building has been used. Thus the hopes and needs of two decades may soon become a reality. By this plan, too, a gift for the new Library will be serving a twofold purpose.

The Present Library Building erected in 1906 was made possible through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie.



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