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Dedication of the New Library, University of Maine

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UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

DEDICATION
of the
NEW LIBRARY
University of Maine

Historical Exhibits

Exhibits of University historical material have been placed in the several display areas throughout the Library Building and in the display cases in the Lecture Room. These materials were chosen to represent different phases in the development of University life and activities. Notable among them are the manuscripts of several of Mary Ellen Chase's books dealing with the State of Maine, recently received by the University.

Dedication Program

Eleven O'clock, November 8, 1947

Louis Oakes Room

Presiding, PRESIDENT ARTHUR A. HAUCK

Invocation—The Reverend Charles E. O'Connor

What the New Library Means

To the Students—June H. Swanton '48

To the Faculty—Louis T. Ibbotson, Librarian

To the Alumni—Raymond H. Fogler, Chairman,
Library Fund Committee

Introduction of Architects

W. H. Lee, Architect

C. Parker Crowell,

Crowell and Lancaster

Supervising Architects

Greetings from other Maine Colleges

President Kenneth C. M. Sills,

Bowdoin College

Greetings from the State

The Honorable Horace A. Hildreth,

Governor of Maine

Address . . . The Honorable Edward E. Chase

President, Board of Trustees

Growth of the Library

FROM a few books in 1868, when the Maine State College opened, the Library has grown to 215,000 volumes.

Although the number of books is significant, the real test of a library is the use which is made of it. The book circulation for the past year is estimated to have been about 75,000.

The first library was located in a small room in Fernald Hall. In 1888 lack of adequate space in the original location made it necessary to change to Coburn Hall. The library was moved in 1906 to the building given by Andrew Carnegie. Between 1906 and 1941, student enrollment increased 350 percent and the number of volumes increased 450 percent. This growth made the need for a new library particularly urgent.

The New Library

Ground was formally broken for the New Library during Commencement, 1941. The

shell of the building was constructed during 1941-1942, but war conditions made it impossible to proceed with the construction of the interior. At the close of hostilities, work on the building was resumed.

The stack capacity provided at present is estimated to be 250,000 volumes, with space available for an additional 200,000 volumes as needed. The Library is fireproof throughout. The seating capacity of the building when fully utilized for library purposes will be 600.

In addition to the facilities now being used for library purposes, the following rooms are included in the plans and will be constructed as soon as it is possible to release the areas now being used for class purposes.

1. A main Reading Room.
2. A University of Maine Room for historical materials and books by University graduates.

3. A State of Maine Room for books by Maine authors, town histories, etc.
4. A Periodicals Room for current magazines and papers.
5. A Special Collection Room for gifts made to the University.
6. Seminar Rooms.

Temporary Uses

The great influx of veterans combined with the sincere desire of the University to make educational opportunities available to them, required many additional class rooms and offices. While the New Library offered the only immediate solution to the problem, the decision to use parts of it for classrooms and offices was made reluctantly. The structural plan of the building has not been changed. As rapidly as space becomes available in other buildings, the temporary uses will be discontinued and the entire building will be used for library purposes.

Gifts

The men and women of Maine will be eternally grateful to the 5,936 alumni, students, faculty, and friends who subscribed a total of \$251,553 toward the New Library Building. The campaign opened on February 25, 1940, the seventy-fifth anniversary of Founders Day, and was concluded in 1941. The late Norman H. Mayo, Class of 1909, served as general chairman of the campaign. His inspiring and constructive leadership was invaluable to the success of the campaign. In 1943 Raymond H. Fogler, Class of 1915, who had served with conspicuous success as chairman of the Special Gifts Committee, became chairman of the Library Fund Committee. To these men, to all alumni and faculty who served as workers, and to every person whose gift helped to make this beautiful New Library Building possible, the University expresses its grateful appreciation.

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