

The Academy's John Shepard Wright Memorial Library

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The Academy's first constitution, December 29, 1885, provided for a librarian who should be an officer, a member of the Executive Committee, curator of the museum, and who should distribute, sell, and exchange the society's publications. By-laws set aside one-fourth of the Academy's income for the increase of the library. John N. Hurty was elected as this officer.

No argument for the action is recorded in the minutes but at the December, 1886, sessions, amendments struck out all references to a librarian and his duties, and to an income for a library. In 1887 a committee was appointed to urge the purchase of rare and valuable scientific books by the State Library, and shortly after the Academy unsuccessfully promoted legislation to place an Academy member on a State Library book selection board. In reporting this activity the committee noted that a request for certain information had been addressed to the state librarian, J. P. Dunn. What is the amount appropriated for books; who are members of the purchasing board; what amount has been expended to date; for what; give departments of knowledge; amount expended in each category; by whom were titles recommended; any other facts? (I submit that such gad-flies are good for institutions.) The librarian had replied that he himself had chosen most of the books and that most of them were histories. The Committee felt that if specific recommendations were made, up to five hundred dollars a year might be spent by the State Library for books in the various fields of sciences. The next year's State Library report listed such purchases as: Say, American conchology, \$12.00; American naturalist, 22 vols., \$50.00; Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, 11 vols., \$30.00; Fische der Süd See, pts. 1-6, \$83.29; Pownall, Topographical Description of North America, \$18.00.

In this year, 1890, a campaign was begun to permit publication of the Proceedings as a public document at state expense. A committee on the Academy's relation to the state reported in May, 1895, that the 1895 General Assembly had enacted such legislation, legislation which, with minor changes, is in effect today. Section 3 of the Act carried these provisions:

"All except three hundred copies of each volume of said reports shall be placed in the custody of the State Librarian, who shall furnish one copy thereof to each public library in the State, one copy to each university, college or normal school in the State, one copy to each high school in the State having a library, which shall make application therefor, and one copy to such other institutions, societies or persons as may be designated by the Academy through its editors or its council. The remaining three hundred copies shall be turned over to the Academy to be disposed of as it may determine. In order to provide for the preservation of the same it shall be the duty of the Custodian

of the State House to provide and place at the disposal of the Academy one of the unoccupied rooms of the State House to be designated as the office of the Indiana Academy of Science, wherein said copies of said reports belonging to the Academy, together with the original manuscripts, drawings, etc., thereof can be safely kept, and he shall also equip the same with the necessary shelving and furniture."

A list of foreign correspondents, i.e. an exchange list, was published in the 1896 Proceedings and such listing was continued through 1904. Thirty-two countries were represented in 1896.

A tentative agreement between the Academy and the State Library was presented in 1898 which would give custody of Academy materials to the State Library to be kept as a separate collection and to remain the Academy's property, an arrangement which could be terminated upon ninety days notice by either party.

The next year the Brookville Academy's library was acquired and the expediency of cataloging the books in the State Library was investigated.

In 1900 there was further discussion about the disposition of the library, whether it should be placed in the State Library or in a secure room in the State House. Fifty dollars was set aside for cataloging.

In 1905 a proposal from the State Librarian, W. E. Henry, that the State Library buy shelving for the Academy Library was presented but was not avidly received. It was voted to confer with Mr. Henry and report at the winter session. At this point it was suggested that a log cabin be built at Woollen's Gardens. The relation between these ideas is not clear. There had been some hope that a Carnegie building fund might be acquired. The Committee on State Library strongly recommended the acceptance of the Henry proposal saying that the State Library would provide shelving and safe storage for rare and irreplaceable material owned by the Academy, a collection rich in monographs and reports of learned societies from all lands; that no complete classification had been made nor any systematic effort toward completing files of serials, that these materials were unavailable for lack of binding, classification and proper library supervision. To provide these services independently would cost more than the Academy could hope to raise. The Library should be in custody of a permanent institution under skilled and impartial management. The Academy should retain ownership and reimburse the State Library for its outlay in cataloging and care. A Committee report in November, 1905, added to the earlier proposal a proviso that the State Librarian should report the annual outlay so that the Academy "might provide a sinking fund for the redemption of its property," and that the Academy should be entitled to the catalog cards as well as to the volumes in its collection. A slight revision of this 1905 arrangement was made in 1907 and the contract now in force agreed upon and signed by the State Librarian, Demarchus Brown, and John S. Wright, chairman, Academy Committee on the State Library. The agreement follows:

The State Librarian to accept the present collection of the Academy of Science as a deposit with the State Library, on the

following terms: The State Library shall classify, as fast as time and funds permit, make a separate card catalogue and organize the Academy collection into said library as a part of the same, and care for it in every way as it does books and pamphlets purchased by the State Library with the understanding that the books and pamphlets are to be taken from the library by the members of the Academy, but used as reference works by the public, provided, however, that the State Library shall not catalogue and shelve United States government publications belonging to the Academy that are duplicates of publications already catalogued and shelved, or that shall in future be received by the State Library from the United States government; but all such duplicates shall be stored separately in the store room of the State Library and shall be subject to the control of the Academy.

Complete volumes, either books or periodicals, shall be bound in cloth at the expense of the State Library, as fast as funds are available without neglecting the work of the State Library in lines already established.

The State Library will make all reasonable effort to complete by exchange for the Academy of Science all incomplete sets of publications, being free to use for exchange purposes all publications of the Indiana Academy of Science except the three hundred reserve, which shall not be used except with the consent of the President and Secretary of the Academy of Science.

In classifying and cataloguing this collection, there shall be kept a separate card catalogue or shelf list and each volume or pamphlet belonging to the Academy of Science shall be so marked on its title page with an embossed stamp furnished by the Academy of Science.

In consideration of the expense of this collection to the State Library, it shall not be removed from the State Library by the Academy of Science until said Academy shall have reimbursed the State Library for all cash outlay in binding, from the date of this contract until the date of removal. The Academy may, however, have the right to remove this collection on demand, accompanied by such payment, and upon such removal, shall be entitled to the catalogue cards belonging to such collection. The copies of the reports of the Academy shall be distributed to members at the Academy's expense but the library shall pay for all other expenses of distribution to libraries and state institutions and individuals other than members. This agreement shall terminate upon twelve months notice by either party.

At a later date permission to loan material to the general public was granted.

Cataloging by the State Library staff seems to have been carried on consistently and in great detail, up to 1930 the listing by author and subject of articles in specific journals amounting to indexing, making

the material extraordinarily accessible. A good deal of binding was done by the State Library but lack of funds and lack of space hampered that institution. Academy committees were asked to advocate legislative action for a State Library building, for which an appropriation was made in 1929. The building was occupied in December, 1932. Space was assigned the Academy Library in the stack area with some small allowance for growth.

Early in 1935 the exchange lists of the Academy were assigned to the Catalog Division of the State Library where records of serial receipts were kept, and the head of the Division assumed the title of Academy Librarian. At the time of transfer the Academy Library contained 1,030 bound volumes and some 10,000 unbound serial items. So much checking was needed that a grant was made by the Academy to employ a trained librarian temporarily to bring the mailing lists up to date, to coordinate distribution with receipts, to complete serial files so far as possible by appeal to issuing agencies. Six hundred issues were received and much bibliographical information supplied which aided greatly in recording material correctly. Reply cards were adopted to keep mailing lists up to date.

In 1936, the funds of the State Library proving inadequate, the Academy began an annual allotment for binding.

The Academy editor in 1937 asked that the State Library be considered Academy headquarters and a permanent address for the officers. The Proceedings have carried a note to that effect since.

Growth was slow during the war years but with the restoration of European and Asiatic exchanges the Academy Library was again in need of space. In 1950, with the removal of certain state offices, the State Library found it possible to set aside as special quarters an area, for which the State Library purchased five hundred sixty linear feet of steel shelving, and an adjoining office, furnished from a John S. Wright fund, assigned the Academy. In 1952 in recognition of long standing interest and substantial support the library was designated The John Shepard Wright Memorial Library of the Indiana Academy of Science.

Throughout, the Academy has shown an interest in expanding the subject and geographic range of its library and in making the holdings more available and better known. Probably one of the first union bibliographies in Indiana was the Catalog of scientific periodical literature on file in the various libraries of the state published in the 1911 Proceedings, revised, enlarged, and issued in the 1913 Proceedings. Twenty-seven hundred titles in nineteen libraries were recorded. A list of the Academy's current titles and holdings of these was distributed to members and to Indiana's interested libraries in 1935. The latest list to be processed for this group was issued in 1949.

All serials held by the Academy were listed in the Union List of Serials in Indiana Libraries in 1939, and repeated in the Union List of Serials in Libraries of the United States and Canada in 1940. Added holdings were checked for the 1941-43 and the 1944-49 supplements to this national list. Current exchanges are now reported regularly to the Library of Congress for its monthly New Serial Titles, a union list.

Eight hundred two serial titles are currently received and there are four thousand six hundred forty bound volumes, chiefly serials, in the library.

At the present time the State Library supplies office and stack space, shelving, processing equipment, and janitor service. It receives and distributes the Proceedings to members, to Indiana libraries and to institutions on the exchange list. Such special publications as the Academy's Index, vols. 1-50 and Visher, Indiana Scientists are also mailed by the State Library.

New national and international listings of serials issued by scientific and technical institutions or societies are scanned and offers to exchange publications are forwarded. Mailing lists are kept up to date. Serials received are cataloged, classified, recorded, and prepared for binding. The reference and loan use of the library is supervised. Participation of the library in national bibliographic projects is assured and much painstaking checking done in this field. Exhibits of interesting and important new publications are at times prepared for annual meetings of the Academy. The Academy library is represented at sessions of the national and local associations of special libraries.

For the last several years the member of the State Library staff who serves as Academy Librarian has been appointed chairman of the Library Committee, an appointment which carries with it membership on the Budget and Executive Committees, an arrangement which permits a greater and more useful knowledge of the Academy's policies on the part of a headquarters staff and approximates the intent of the first constitution of the society.

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