

# GREEN PROPOSAL



## TRENTON, N.J.

21<sup>st</sup> February, 1871.

It is proposed to erect on the grounds of the College at Princeton, a building for a Public Library, especially designed for the safe keeping of the books secured by the fund of the Elizabeth Foundation, but intended also as a depository for all the books of the Institution. In order to insure the erection of an appropriate, commodious and secure place of deposit for the books and for their convenient use, it is designed to erect a building upon the most approved plan for securing light, ventilation, security against fire and convenience of using the books. To aid in promoting this design, it is deemed important to obtain the views of every member of the faculty, and of all the friends of the Institution who feel an interest in the subject upon the following points:

1. Of what materials and upon what general plan should the building be constructed.
2. Should the space appropriated to the deposit of books, consist of one or more apartments? In the same, or different stories?
3. Should rooms for other purposes, as reading rooms, rooms for the residence or use of the Librarian, be connected with the main building, or form part of it?
4. What is the best plan for securing ample light and thorough ventilation?
5. What is the best mode of guarding against the loss, unauthorized removal, or injury of books, not inconsistent with the free use of the Library?
6. What is the best plan for insuring ample warmth, pure atmosphere, and perfect security against fire?
7. Of what size or capacity should the building be, and how should the cases be arranged?

To answer this question intelligently, it should be remembered that the present Library contains 28,000 volumes; that the Elizabeth foundation will furnish, annually, \$6,000, which may be expended in the purchase of books, and there may be donations and contributions from other sources; that six octavo

volumes occupy one foot of linear space; that a case 15 feet long with 7 shelves, will contain 630 volumes octavo. Heavy octavos, folios and quartos, will require more space. All other books will require much less. In Law Libraries, six volumes to the linear foot will be a close approximation to the demand for space by books of all sizes. Upon this basis, a Library of 100,000 volumes will require for its accommodation, 16,680 feet of linear space, or 3 miles and 1-6 of a mile.

Information or suggestions in regard to all or any of the foregoing particulars, will be thankfully received.

An answer is solicited on or before the tenth of March next. Please direct to

HENRY W. GREEN,  
TRENTON, N.J.

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Princeton, N.J.  
Hon. H. W. Green

Dear Sir,

Some time since I communicated my views in reference to a Library Building to Dr. Atwater. As he made them known to you I need present only the main points in reply to your circular.

1. The building should be of stone and iron; the shelling being iron bronzed. The walls should have air passages or be double as to prevent the accumulation of moisture. The building should be capable of easy enlargement. The Radcliffe Library is circular but this form cannot be added to with ease and does not readily admit of adjoining rooms which
2. should be (a) A reading room for reviews, (b) A consulting room for any one who might desire to investigate a subject thoroughly, (c) A librarian's room, (d) A receiving and packing room. If a room for the Trustees could be included, it would be of great importance.
3. The building ought to be only one story with a gallery so as to give easy access to the upper shelves. It might be well to have the books for general

circulation in one apartment and those for research in another or at least the librarian's desk should separate these departments which ought to be distinct.

4. A sky light with end windows for ventilation is the best mode. Any side windows should be lancet shaped so as to illuminate only the separate alcoves, thus avoid "cross lights." Both our buildings (College and Seminary) are failures for the purpose of a library; the Gothic style and the huge windows are very inappropriate.
5. Wire gauze in front of the cases seems the best. Persons can thus examine the books cursorily by title[?] and then apply to the librarian for any works they may wish to consult.
6. "Steam heating" is the best if moisture can be thrown into the room; otherwise headaches are inevitable, and any other mode of heating is then preferable to it.
7. There are only 16000 vols in our library; 28000 includes the Whig and Clio libraries. The Astor Library has 137,000 vols and four miles of shelves. It would require about fifty years for us to collect a library of that size. A large collection requires a vast amount of attention and at least two persons would be necessary to take charge of a library of considerable size. In my visits to the Imperial Libraries of Paris and Vienna and that of the British Museum I observe that most of the books were useless just by reason of the great number. Books are made to be used and their "lives" ought to be limited and so should the size of a library or it may break down of its own weight. I am unable to answer the last question satisfactorily. I am much pleased to know that we are likely to have a library in all respects worthy of our Alma Mater and from the same magnificent hands that have conferred upon us the inestimable benefit of Dickinson Hall. Trusting that these general hints may throw some light upon the subject and with kind regard, I am

Yours Truly

H. C. Cameron

P.S.

I have obtained a few duplicates of Triennials and am anxious to get that of 1830 by exchange so as to complete my set from 1821. If in your researches you have

obtained duplicates I should be glad to exchange for 1830 or any year previous to 1821. If you have not been successful I might find some of the missing years for you, as I am always glad to do a kindred.

H.C.C

Princeton N.J.

March 1, 1871

My dear Sir,

I have received

Your [?] of this morning quite late at night, and have time only to say in reply that I am going to Philadelphia in the morning and I will make inquiries [ ? ? ] Architects and Libraries. I know something about [the process ?] and, should I learn [?]ing new[?], I will take pleasure in explaining it to you.

The President took will[?] with [? ?] a plan which I had intended to submit, ins compliance with your circular letter. It is the [?] of [?] own thinking. I am already [?] in it. It is agreed[?] upon an impression[?] which I had received here, that a Gothic building of side windows would not be allo[?] mod[?] that the problem was to secure light, heat, ventilation, and economical[?] within m[?]. The same arrangement of alcoves might be made in a rectangular hall, lighted from [?] as well as from above, but within a dome and [?] having an [?] different architecture explain as [?] from[?] the [?].

A little J[?] [?]other w[?], I think, in all that I can d[?] and there teaches in to difer to the opinion of him who had had opportunities[?] of examining[?] [? ? ?] however, [?] be done most [?]fully.

I am

Very [?] yours

Charles W Shields

The Hon. Henry W. Green

# THE PRINCETONIAN



## THE PRINCETONIAN.

Vol. I, No. 2. June 27, 1876. pp. [1]–2.

### *A Professorship of Books in College*

Mr. Emerson in his *Society and Solitude* has an article on “Books,” in which he says: “whilst our colleges provides us with libraries, they furnish no professorship of books.” The suggestion we deem a most excellent one and would advocate its adoption in this college.

A scholar is not one who has mastered the curriculum of any institution and is conversant with the details of a certain number of text books. It is only when the whole field of literature and science has been ragned over and the mind has gotten at least a glimpse of the realm of knowledge that one can rightly aspire to such a title. We speak not now of the *learning* of the specialist, but of that broad culture which constitutes the scholar. The difficulties of undertaking a work of such magnitude are, however, so varied and manifold that one is almost appalled and tempted to relinquish all hopes of ever successfully accomplishing it. So wide a range of subjects is presented and each is treated by many different authors in such different manners and from such different standpoints, that one is at a loss where and with whom to begin. Contact with great minds elevates and ennobles. Their thoughts refine and purify the heart and inspire to activity and renewed zeal the too oft slumbering powers of mind. But in our search for that which is pure and precious shall we be compelled to wander through the pages of uninteresting mediocrity? Should we not rather have some one to direct us to the rich vein of the solid thought of the great. It is impossible for every individual to search through the many and voluminous works of our age and separate the good from the bad. For this reason we have many “courses of reading,” some of them excellent, but all inadequate to meet the minuter details of disposition, temperament, and wants which we find in different men. The inclinations, tastes and bent of mind of each must be considered. It seems to us, therefore, that one of the prime necessities of a university is to have a Professor of Books. What we want is one who, in addition to a thorough knowledge of literature in general, shall add a sound

judgement and insight into human character. One who having examined the field of literature, as it is not possible for the generality of mankind, shall from his experience direct the seeker for truth to the place where he can most profitably read. Such a man is no mere ideal. While not in great number, we confess, still men who are competent in such professions can be found. It may be asked, why may not the Professor of English Literature do this? We answer, he has too much to do. Relieve him from the task of correcting essays and delivering lectures and he could well do it. Right here is another advantage suggested. Instead of merely learning about men, we could by this means make English Literature a practical study and learn from these same men. To say that much of the reading in college is aimless, is but stating a fact well known. Watch the listless way in which men eye the shelves in the library alcoves and pick the book with the best binding, if you doubt it. Or if a man imagines he knows his wants the chances are he will roam about lost in the labyrinth and entangled in the nets of diverse theory and controversy. What an incalculable benefit would it be to such an one if he could have the assistance of a ripe scholar's judgement to direct him. Indeed, the circumstances under which such a professorship would be advantageous are so many that we need only direct attention to it to make evident its great need. A single instance will suffice to show this. The subjects arraigned for essays by our Professor of Belles Lettres are such as to require considerable reading and research. The number of books in our library on any one subject is necessarily small, and the fortune few who obtain these are enabled to make a thorough study of the subject and write accordingly. Often, however, there are choice articles stored away in some volume of "miscellanies," to which "Poole's Index" makes no reference, which if known would greatly increase the number of available volumes, while to find these would require as much expenditure of time and labor as would be required to write the essay. At such a time a Professor of Books would fulfil a part without which a library loses much of its usefulness.

It might be thought that the Librarian should perform this office. But the Librarian is already fully occupied, and the subject of which we treat is of such importance as to require the undivided and constant attention of an able and diligent man, unencumbered by any other duties.

## THE PRINCETONIAN.

Vol. I, No. 4, 4 October 1875. page 2

The question as to who *owns* the library is not at all pertinent to this article. But for whose benefit the library was designed, there can be no reasonable doubt. Some light, in the reference to the manner of conducting to the interest of the students in this matter, can be had from the following notice on the library door: “*This* library (what other library it could be, we cannot imagine) will, *henceforth*, be open on Thursdays instead of Saturdays.” And now what does this startling, laconic piece of composition mean? To the casual observer it might seem that Thursday was just as good a day as any other on which to take books from the library. To another, whose soul burned with a desire for knowledge, it *might, possibly*, seem that the library could, with advantage, be opened both on Thursdays and Saturdays. But we would have to remind this gentleman, that the arduous duties of the librarian render this course entirely impossible. You know that *now* the library is open every day during the week – Saturday, and, we believe, Sunday, excepted – from the hour of, say twelve o’clock and two minutes, to one o’clock and three minutes P.M. In addition to this you can, on Thursday, obtain books between three and four in the afternoon. To add one hour a week to this labor would certainly be more than any sensible set of students could demand. But why not close the library on Thursday and open it on Saturday, as heretofore? Oh, well, you know, Saturday comes so near Sunday, and and gentlemen, no doubt, would obtain books which they would read on that day, and as a consequence, the tender binding on the books in the theological alcove would grow seedy and worn. Then, again, Saturday is just the day when students have most time to spend in the library, and heedless and unthinking freshmen would crowd the room and ply so many irritating questions, and show such a lack of the knowledge of a proper classification of books as would grate upon his nerves, and make the presiding divinity of that noble edifice throw back his head and pronounce his efforts for the college student a miserable *fasco*. No, until every student shall have mastered the minutest details of every alcove, and learned that “silence is golden,” that to ask the location of a book, or to go directly in front of the

“dealer,” means the evoking of a sarcasm as biting as the winter frost. The library must – we repeat it – must remain closed on Saturdays.

## THE PRINCETONIAN.

Vol. I, No. 6

### *The Library.*

The existing Library regulations were printed three years ago. The recent change in them was made, because, while Senior speaking on Saturdays continues, those who want books have to lose either them, or the speeches. Those regulations, accepted by the Faculty, name but three hours daily for the Librarian's attendance. In point of fact, however, he is in the building, daily, from ten o'clock till five. If the door is not open all that time, it is opened for every one who knocks.

If there were no sweeping to be done, and no books to be bought, or if there were any assistant, “the Library could, with advantage, be opened both on Thursdays and Saturdays.” The dashing writer who sneers at the “arduous duties of the Librarian,” and represents them as confined to six hours in the week is either uncandid or misinformed. Those labors are never finished after nightfall, and never intermitted, on week days, through the year.

A rapid discharge of the exchanges made at noon, is indispensable to avoid delay. Time cannot *then* be afforded for explanations. Till a catalogue is prepared, the printed words posted at the head of every alcove, and the diagram hung on the desk, are all the help in finding books which those can expect who never visit the building except at noon. If quick and sharp replies have been attributed to “the dealer,” the influence of three hours in a cold room might be remembered in his favor. Every possible compliance with the wishes of the students, is cheerfully promised. The Librarian freely lends his own books to supply the deficiencies in the College collection; while he thus identifies himself with us, it is strange to assume an attitude of hostility to him. He has convinced himself by a comparison of twenty Saturdays with twenty Fridays in 1876, that more books are borrowed on the last day of the week; and he therefore recedes from the regulation he had adopted.

## THE PRINCETONIAN.

Vol. 2, No. 8. October 18, 1877. pp. [85]–89

We have had our notice called to one or two facts in regard to the Library. Some savage readers will, upon the opening of each term, scalp the shelves of every book, in certain departments. After a renewal or two, they are left on the shelves for a day or so, and then are lugged off again. We have looked into the matter, and are willing to wager a reasonable amount that it is impossible to find a “trans.” or an “author” to any classic in use in College. (We don’t wish it understood that we have been looking for them for our use.) The latest case of such conduct occurred in the Junior class. The department of English literature is well supplied, in some respects. No alarming danger need be apprehended from a run on Shakespeares, nor is a famine to be anticipated in the line of Miltons. Ditto in some other departments. However, there are some in which it is thought best to have the number of duplicate copies limited. Anglo-Saxon and early English literature happens to be one of these. On several occasions, some Juniors have searched for “Layamon’s Brut,” and other such like tomes, but found them not. Now, we insist that that style of intellectual pabulum possesses no attraction that will entice the average under-graduate into more than an hour’s perusal. The misguided youth, whose intellectual bowels yearn that way, ought to have such abnormal cravings cured by a fifteen minutes’ acquaintance with the book. Such books should be classed, in our opinion, as reference books, and it should be made a criminal offence for any one to take them out. Any student who will thus deprive his suffering classmates of such works, is guilty of conduct that smacks not a little of meanness.

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We congratulate our readers and ourselves on the continued flow of the *Pactolus* at Trenton. With extraordinary liberality, the friends of the College there wait not for specific solicitation, but have lately placed a further fund of \$5000 at the disposal of the Green library, besides authorizing the Librarian to expend \$8000 for books which may be nominated by the Professors for their

several departments. Thus the aggregate of library funds disposable for books within the present calendar year, exceeds \$25,000.

It is the constant effort of the Librarian to buy such books as will meet the necessities of students and the wishes of Professors. Perhaps Dr Murray's professorship has been most favored in recent purchases. Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, and his illustrations of the same, in all 18 vols 8vo, is one of the chief acquisitions. This book is the delight of scholars, for its wealth of "curious information respecting hundreds of literary celebrities." A folio Chaucer, of 1602; a Drayton, of 1748; a Marlow, complete in three volumes; a folio Spenser, 1774; and Wood's *Athenae Oxoniensis*, 1721, form welcome additions to our stock of old and standard literature. The *Annual Register*, 1758 to 1831, 74 vols 8vo; the *Edinburgh Review*, uniform in half Russia, instead of the patched and piecemeal set we had before, complete from the beginning, instead of broken and imperfect as that was; the *Harlain Miscellany*, 12 vol, calf and large paper; Perring's great work on the Pyramids, imperial folio, and the *Jesuit Relations* respecting early exploration and missionary labors in America, may be mentioned as *spolia opima* of the recent raid on upon New York auction rooms and [p. 87] book stores. Handsome editions, moreover, of Goethe and Schiller, Prescott and Gibbon are for common use.

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### *That Fiction Alcove (Signed 'T.')*

No one conversant with the College Library, as it existed four years ago, can fail to mark the changes for the better, in its management and arrangement, or resist the conviction, forced upon him by the growing number of students who are taking advantage of the opportunities offered, that an increased interest in reading has been produced by its means. The admirable system of classification, the constantly arriving treasures placed upon the shelves, the indefatigable industry of its presiding officer, always ready to meet the wants of the students, when known to him, are and have been thoroughly appreciated by those who have felt their wants supplied, and their thirst for information slaked at this reservoir of knowledge. While many of the alcoves are admirably filled, notably those of poetry and theology; while others are rapidly being filled, still

others remain in almost the same lamentably incomplete state in which they were when the building opened.

To enumerate the deficiencies of the fiction alcove, would be to give a catalogue of standard fiction. ... [Lists by name authors lacking, such as Dickens, Scott, ...] ... That such should be the state of a College Library, is surely a matter of surprise, but when it is evident that the omissions are intentional, it is plain that this state of the case must arise either from a mistaken idea of the place of fiction in literature, or the wants of the students of the College.

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We do not propose to argue the first of these points, but as to the second, our library management may feel assured his deficiency is most seriously deplored ...

Three are now some two hundred members of the College who are denied the use of the Hall libraries, which hitherto have been supposed to supply the need. But even the halls themselves are unable to supply the demand for standard fiction. When such works as George Eliot and Thackeray are bespoken weeks in advance, and the newest works of fiction, with whose praises the journals are ringing, are not obtainable for months after their issue, even in the Hall libraries, it seems hard that the student, deprived of the use of the Halls, should, turning for relief to the College Library, be suddenly confronted with Maria Edgeworth, relic of a bygone age, or stared out of countenance by Jane Austin (*sic*).

We feel that this want of the student need only be brought to the ear of the Librarian, in order to meet with serious consideration ...

If economy is necessary, we are perfectly willing that less theology be preserved; we would forego the pleasure of original and expensive editions; would smile through our tears at the announcement of the curtailment in the purchases of French and German works, and bravely bare the loss of a few volumes of voyages and travels, which have long since been superceded by more recent tourists. All these bereavements, painful though they will be, will we endure, can we see the fiction alcove of the College of New Jersey no longer a fiction, but worthy of its name, containing on its shelves, sets of those authors which authority places as standard works of English and American literature.

## PRINCETONIAN.

1885-86, Texts Re the Library, Volume 10

1885 June 13—"Astonishing as it may seem it is nevertheless a fact that there is not a complete set of the Lit. nor a single volume of The Princetonian or Bric-a-Brac on the shelves of the College library. The same is probably true of the Hall libraries. ... [describes what these are and then calls for an alumnus to donate, if he might have backfiles]

1885 Oct 9—Letter complaining about books being 'walled away' "The present plan may be a good one for a circulating library in a large city, but at Princeton it seems to give anything but satisfaction." Then follows letter from Vinton replying to earlier editorial complaining about the fence. Then follows editorial "We have suspended judgement on the new departure of the library until its utility could be more accurately measured. Today we publish in another column some figures from the librarian on the books circulated during twelve days of September and they only confirm our statement ... that the efficacy of the Library since the new change has been sadly diminished." The students say they are frustrated because "... under the revised curriculum the courses for junior and senior years especially demand a great deal more collateral reading than formerly." "Our Library should not narrow its utility into being little more than a circulating library. In an institution of leaning such as this a library should be far more efficacious from its advantages for consulting books than borrowing them. ... How our instructors who necessarily live more in companionship of books even than ourselves can suffer the present restrictions of the Library is a mystery! .... [Moreover] ... the consultor and borrower can make no use of the literature published in reviews since 1882 (the date of the last revision of Poole's Index.) And he has no means of knowing of the presences of any volumes ... added since the publication of the Library Catalogue. ... And, for the increasing the charge for the use of public buildings some 50 per cent. To the end of meeting the expense involved by compromising the priviledges that he customary payment has heretofore secured to us, we must suspend consideration for a lack of space only.

1885 Oct 14—Harvey Edward Fisk class of '77 write letter of complaint “I believe that half of college education comes from browsing among the books. The charm of my own college life would have been greatly diminished had there been any such restriction in the time of ‘good old ‘77’ ... When Columbia College is spending thousands of dollars to make its Library of more service to students, it seems inexplicable that our own alma mater should take this backward step. “Following Fisk’s letter is one signed A.M.H, and like Fisk from NYC – “There was a time, within our recollection, when a man could go into the Library and enjoy himself. The ‘Kind’s Treasuries’ were accessible. The books were not caged in ... Many volumes containing coveted information were in this way found and ready ... [This] not only fostered a taste for reading, but it encouraged men in making researches for themselves amid these stores of knowledge. ... Our idea of a Librar is to make it an attractive place – comfortable, cheerful, always inviting – where you can get at the books and see what you want, and not make it a tomb to bury books in, sepulchred in its glood, where you fish for volumes in the dark and finally get one you do not want. ...” Following on page 2 is editorial decrying the restrictions, especially at a time when advances had been made such as “increasing the opportunities to specialists for original investigation” ... “The alcoves are not locked in Columbia ...”

1885 Oct 21—reply from Vinton headed “From the Librarian” Vinton cites as causes book losses tantamount to “as many books proved to be lost as are sometimes bought in a year” He also cites “perpetual disorganization ... by many careless hands taking books down and leaving them in wrong places.” “... the library has now been restored to order and the purchase of lost books begun ...” “The catalogue profeses to show what the library contains on each topic. By going into the alcove, therefore, the student could find only what had been already found for him; with this disadvantage, that part of his time would be lost in useless search. ...” “I never say but one other library to which the public had free access, and that was an exhibition of ‘chaos come again”” On page 2, the editors reply to Vinton “To the student who aims at any depth of research ... free access t the alcoves of a well selected library is a vital need. The catalogue cannot take the place of personal inspection of the books ...” “As for those delightful hours in the alcoves which were occupied with a chapter in science, a glance at some strange fiction, or a reflection upon some beautiful class – those hours are of

the past. It does seem only fair to reply that the neatness which the Librarian says the present system will produce, is the neatness of disuse.”

1885 Oct 23—“Some Collegiate Voumes” Described are the following: 1) Hebrew Bible signed “Joseph Belcher 1687. Harvard 1690” It then descended to Ashbel Green, evidently; 2) Works of Horace, Phia 1771 contains a fairly well written account of the Battle of Princeton; 3) 1529 imprint and inscribed “William Boyd of Westoverin, Virginia Esq.” [must be William Byrd of Westover]. “Both ... volumes at one time belonged to Ashbel Green; 4) An old Anabasis published in London during 1648 and having a Latin translation in the read, contains the autography of ‘Johnathan Dickinson ex done D. Filley” Beneath this one reads “Jacobe Green 1763, Ashbel Green and Robert Green 1800”; 5) “A smaller volume acknowledges ‘A Green from his friend J Bass”

1885 Oct 26—article on cribbing

1885 Oct 28—“A Letter on the Library. Is the change in the Library necessary?” this is a letter signed ‘Alumnus’ beginning “With many memoies of pleasnant hours spent in the Princeton Library – a memory for almost each of its many alcoves –...” Variance with Columbia noted [again] ... suggests practical changes such as a warning bell before the closing bell is sounded ... also “to have the librarian’s desk near the door so that a student ... would be completed to pass out of the buiding at once from the librarian’s desk ...” Also, lead article on page one is Class Memorials ... It gives a record of such and the sources for the information ... “It was introduced by the class of ’65, which took the initiative in the mater by presenting books to the library; no man was to give less than two books. John Carrington pronounced the library oration. A number of classes, graduating prior to this time, at their graduation left no memorial, but at their decennial reunion remembered the college in a more substantial manner. The class of ’59 at their decennial gave the Senior Essay Prize ... [Class of] ’66, following the example of ’65, gave a complete set of Washington Irving’s works, S. T. Lewis being the Library Orator. ... ’67 gave 12 vols of White’s Shakespeare, 15 vols. of Bacon’s works and an album of vignettes of the class of ’67. ’68 gave no class day. ...’69 presented to the library 16 voles. Of the American Encyclopedia, William McKibbin delivering the Library Oration. W. B. Glen, in behalf of the class of ’70, presented 11 vols

of Knight's Encyclopedia. '71 donated 25 vols. of Sir Walter Scott's works; W. C. Chambers, Library Orator. ... '72 gave a complete set of Dicken's works, also placing an elaborately carved stone in the walls of the Library which was built in that year. '73, disregarded the action of previous classes, gave a bust of Dr McCosh, which at present stands in the library. ... [and so on but they the memorials after 73 are: spectroscope, paintings of Prof Guyot and Stephen Alexander, bust of Witherspoon "also in the library", "lions in front of North" .. "... '82 debated upon numerous memorial, chief among which were an alcove in the library, a communion set, and a colossal statue of Witherspoon then on exhibition in Philadelphia, but eventually came to no conclusion ..."]

1885 Dec 9—about the English department curriculum ... page 2 -- "In the world at large, there is a growing tendency toward making literary work a speciality, which merits the attention of our colleges. The many good opportunities which now occur to young men for making literature a business, give to literary study at the present time great importance practically, as well as for the purpose of general culture" -- also has on front page account of 'Berlin Library Restrictions' 'from a letter written by one of our recent graduates' [SF Note - which side planted this text in the battle over the fence? Point is 'it's worse elsewhere']

1886 Jan 11—Here and There section has the snippet: "The library of Brown contains 172,000 volumes" And a short report on Prof Hunt reading a paper at Modern Language Association "The Place of English in the College Curriculum"

1886 Jan 27—"Some Historic Apparatus" - Henry's lab apparatuses AND in the E M Museum are "three sections of the Atlantic telegraph cable" Following this is letter to the editor on library fines

1886 Feb 1—"History of the College Library" [begins] "There is no record of a Princeton College library previous to May 8, 1755. ...." [does not seem to have any data not in the Vinton's 1879 history of the library] Also note "A curious relic" article on a Japanese sword "of superior workmanship" in one of the cases in the E M Museum with this letter: "Princeton, June 28, '73. This day I surrendered a barbarous custom of "the East" before the higher, nobler, and more enlightened manner of the Western civilization. With humble regards of Rioge Koe, Japan"

1886 March 31—"Library Suggestions" ... "Our suggestion is that a Bulletin Board be placed in the library, on which members of the College can write the names of the books desired" AND "... same Bulletin Board might be provided with a set of query slips, on which students can write questions for which they desire answers. ..." followed by a suggestion concerning atlases

1886 April 9—Stats on the Princetonian such as "Grand total of reading matter published ... 950 feet ..."

## PRINCETONIAN.

1889-1890, Texts Re the Library, Volume 14

1889 October 30—'Additions to the Library' "Since the commencement of the present college session 335 books have been added to the library, Of these many have been bought at auction and the bulk of the additions, while valuable, I of no immediate interest. Still there are some which are of very considerable importance. The Historical department has benefited most by the new books. The 'Stories of the Nations' which have excited so much favorable comment, have been added, entire. Kinglake's *Crimea* in eight volumes, and four volumes of Browning's *Tuscany* are among the other additions to this department. Biography has been enriched by Peigrot's *French Biography*; Politics, by Carson's fine work on the Centennial of the Constitution; Poetr, by Hartsome's edition of the 'Ancient Metrical Tales,' Falconer's *Shipwreck*, and a new edition of Wordsworth; Art, by the thre volumes of Jackson's *Dalmatic* and Fiction by another edition of Poe's works.

Owing to the shorter days the library close at 5 o'clock instead of 6, and opens at 9.25, not 9.55 as formerly.

[SF's NOTE: Jackson's *Dalmatic* is the following: Jackson, Thomas Graham, Sir, 1835-1924. Title: *Dalmatia, the Quarnero and Istria, with Cettigne in Montenegro and the Island of Grado*, by T. G. Jackson. Published/Created: Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1887.

1889 Nov 1—Editorial "...need of a handsome gift [to the library] is strongly felt. ... The librarian, Dr Vinton, has been for some time past, been carefully compiling a list of those books most needed, especially in the historical department, and finds that it would require about \$10,000 to purchase them. ... The rapid growth of the college also makes it apparent that very soon, longer library hours will be imperative, and therefore some means of lighting the building. ... The only way in which the building can be lighted, owing to the provision of the donors, is by electricity, and to introduce a system of electric lighting will be very expensive. ..."

1890 Jan 1—lead article on front page is obituary of Dr Vinton -- “The death of Dr Vinton at an early hour on the morning of January 1<sup>st</sup> has deprived the college of a devoted and efficient officer. ...” In the same issue is an article headed “The University of Penn’s New Library” -- description of the new building –

1890 – Jan 17—Editorial “Any change in the regulations of the College Library which tends to increase its usefulness and facilitate the removal of books by the students is eagerly welcomed ... and we ... insert ... a notice today of such a ruling whereby hereafter all books except novels may be removed. ...” [goes on to repeat, almost verbatim, the plea of 4 Feb 1889]

[in *Here and There*] Prof Marquand is preparing a finely illustrated article on Princeton for the *Cosmopolitan*

1890 Jan 20—Editorial “We learn with pleasure that the small apartment in the Eastern wing of the library, opposite the Art Room, has been thrown open for the use of the students. It is not, strictly speaking, intended for a reading-room, but rather for a study-room, after the pattern of the Columbia library, where those who are working up matter for essays or debate, can pursue their study and research without interruption or annoyance and without the inconvenience of carrying the books to their rooms. A man may draw all of the books he needs, and after making out a slip and placing it in one of the books, may leave them in the study room from day to day as long as he wishes, unless, of course they should be wanted in the library. When through with them he is expected to return them just as if he had taken them to his room, This study room will also contain the unbound numbers of all the magazines, with the exception of the current numbers. The current numbers can be found in the Faculty Reading Room but must not be taken away from there. We feel very grateful for these added privileges of the library.”

1890 Jan 24—“Additions to the Library” “A large number of valuable and interesting volumes have been added to the library during the past month. The increase is especially large in the department of poetry which has received 173 volumes. Other important additions are the complete set of the London *Quarterly Review* from its beginning to the year 1889; Erdman’s History of Philosophy and Mecanique Celesti by Tissearnd. Among the books noting recent researches in science are Wiedersheim’s Comparative

Anatomy, and the Anatomy of the Frog by Ecker. Another edition of George Eliot's novels is placed in the fiction alcove. The poetical works added are mainly those of modern poets, .....

1890 Feb 10—"Changes in the Library Regulations" -- theme here is more: longer hours for browsing on Saturday; Freshmen and Soph. can now take our three books, same as the Junior allowance, etc. "The alcoves on the first floor are in an over-crowded condition, which often has made it difficult to readily find the book desired. *This difficulty is being removed by the sorting out of the oldest duplicates, and very old authors and editions, and placing them in the corresponding alcoves in the second story.*

1890 March 10—Editorial "The needs of the library are clearly set forth in the last number of the Bulletin and we wish to re-iterate the statement there made, that Princeton needs for the immediate future at least a quarter of a million volumes. Compared with the average college Princeton may be handsomely endowed in this direction, but let us not forget that we desire no longer to return to our outgrown past, as we have long since entered upon our march towards the university ideal.

When we compare the contents of our libraries, college and seminary, with the collection of books at the great centers of learning in this and other countries we find that Princeton is poorly equipped for the progressive present and for the larger future to which we believe she is destined. If Princeton desires her students to read in order to think and know, and to find in thought and knowledge ever renewed incentives to fresh reading she must be furnished with all the necessary equipment to aid them in their research. And if we want our professors to represent us amid the learned discussions of the present day in manner befitting a university, we must supply them with a university library."

1890 March 14—"New Books for the College Library" -- "largest addition has been made to fiction" -- Wilkie Collins, Besant, George Eber, Marie Bashkirtseff's *Journal of a Young Artist* ... Van Dyke's Study of Tennyson, and Story of Muci, by Henderson "The last two authors named are graduates of the college, being members of the classes of '77 and '76 respectively." Also vol 46-81 and 127-131 of the Supreme Court reports



REVIEWED



## REVIEWED

1797-1802

### *A Student Borrows from The College Library*

Spencer H. Cone entered Princeton in 1797.

We copy the passage from his sermon to the young, from which we have already given an extract.

"In the month of November, 1813, after breakfast, I took up the newspaper, and saw, among other things, a large sale of books advertised at Wood's auction rooms, and said to myself, I will look in as I go to the office, and see what they are. I did so, and the first book I took up was a volume of the works of John Newton. In an instant, my whole life passed in review before me. I remembered taking that book out of the college library at Princeton, and reading Newton's life to my mother. His dream of the lost ring reminded me forcibly of my dream of the well, and I felt an ardent desire to own the book, and read the dream again. I left the rooms, having first requested Mr. Wood, who was a particular friend, to put it up for sale as soon as he saw me in the evening, as it was the only work I wanted. He promised to do so, and I immediately went out towards our office, which was nearly opposite: but I had scarcely reached the middle of the street, when a voice, 'like the sound of many waters,' said to me, 'THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!' I trembled like an

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Art. III.--The Rev. Spencer H. Cone, D. D. Spencer H Cone, *The Christian Review*, (Jan 1856), 21, 000083; APS Online, pg. 44.

Spencer H. Cone was born at Princeton, New Jersey, on the 30th of April, 1785. We are informed by Dr. Armistage, that his ancestry, on his father's side, can be traced to the first settlers of New England; and on his mother's side, to the first colonists of Virginia. His father was a stern republican, of polished manners, high-spirited and fearless, and fought with great bravery in the Revolutionary war. His mother was remarkable for great personal beauty, vigorous intellect, and indomitable moral energy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cone were members of the Baptist church at Hopewell, N. J., the latter uniting with it a few months after the birth of Spencer. Speaking of his mother, and of a narrative of

NOTES:

1802

*Rebuilding the Collections After Fire*

“When Nassau Hall was burned in 1802 ‘three thousand volumes of valuable books perished,’ this being in fact all but a hundred of the total number. But this second disaster proved a blessing in disguise. The sympathy was such that within two years it became far larger and stronger than before, and in 1804 the Library had become ‘a most valuable collection of nearly 4,000 volumes.’ At least 744 of these were gifts, but a large share had been freshly purchased by an appropriation on the part of the Trustees of \$3,000 out of the funds raised, a sum which was afterwards increased by 34 pounds.”

“In 1802, after the fire which almost destroyed the Library, Princeton’s previous experiences in gifts of books were quite surpassed. At this time the Rev. Dr. Erskine of Scotland, who had been a benefactor at the time of the visit of Tennent and Davies in 1754, himself sent thirty volumes and his friends sent more. On this side of the Atlantic the response was even more cordial still. The President of Harvard College (Dr. Willard) in particular greatly assisted by example and influence (not the first time, by the way, that Princeton had benefited by the spirit of comity on the part of Harvard); so that while the direct gifts of books to the Library at this time amounted to 744 volumes, almost one-half of these were contributed by Massachusetts; the distribution being as follows: Massachusetts, 356; New York, 123; Tennessee, 104; Great Britain, 83; New Jersey, 72.”

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E. C. Richardson, “The University Library,” *Princeton University Bulletin*, (May 1898) [no page given].

NOTES: [these passages were originally in separate files, but as they were listed as coming from the same document and are on the same subject I have combined them. Their repetitiousness is somewhat puzzling considering they have come from the same document?—cw]

1812–1826

*Lindsley Appraises the Library*

Philip Lindsley, Professor of Greek, served as librarian from 1812 to 1824. The following markings demonstrate his efforts to measure the Library against the evaluations made by leading bibliographers of his day, namely, the Rev. Thomas Frognall Dibdin and Gottlieb Christoph Harless. He annotated Homer, Virgil, Euclid, and three lexical works:

- 1) “One of the most sumptuous & best edited lexicographical works in the world’ Dibdin. P.L.” [=Philip Lindsley]

Inscribed in mss. on front free endpaper of first volume of Hesychius of Alexandria, *Hesychii Lexicon, cum notis doctorum virorum integris, vel editis antehac, nunc auctis & emendatis, Hadr. Junii, Henr. Stephani, Jos. Scaligeri ... etc., vel ineditis Henr. Valesii, Dan. Heinsii, Phil. Jac. Maussaci ... etc., in primis Ludolphi Kusteri, Tiber. Hemsterhusii ... etc., praeter selectas Jo. Jensii, Dan. Wilb. Trilleri ... etc., ex autographis partim recensuit, partim nunc primum edidit, suasque animadversiones perpetuas adjecit Joannes Alberti ... cum ejusdem prolegomenis, et adparatu hesychiano.* Lugduni Batavorum, apud Samuelem Luchtmans, et filium, 1746–1766. [(Ex)2676.1746f] Earliest shelfmark ‘Gr’ Cameron era shelf mark ‘DAr’ on front pastedown of vol 1. Also in pencil ‘\$30’.

- 2) “Editio princeps – rare and dear, P.L.”

First printed Euclid in Greek (1533) formerly owned by Henry Billingsley—

*Euykleidou Stoicheion bibl. ie. ek to n Theo nos synousio n. Eis tou autou to pro ton exe ge mato n Proklou bibl. di. Adiecta praefatiuncula in qua de disciplinis mathematicis nonnihil.* Basileae, Apud Ioan. Heruagium, 1533. Heavily annotated by Sir Henry Billingsley and may be treated, absent disproof, as the working copy from which he made his translation of Euclid into English. [(Ex) Oversize 2654.331.033q]

- 3) “Imported by Ph. Lindsley.”

Du Cange, Charles, *Glossarium ad scriptores mediae et infimae Latinitatis.* Ex copy 2 annotated in ms. at foot of Epistola. *Glossarium ad scriptores mediae et infimae Latinitatis*, auctore Carolo Dufresne, Domino Du Cange, regi a consiliis, & Franciae apud Ambianos quaestore. Editio nova locupletior et auctior. Opera et studio monachorum ordinis S. Benedicti e

congregatione S. Mauri. Parisiis, Sub oliva C. Osmont, via San-Jacobæa, 1733-1736. [(Ex)2534.311q]

Note: Richardson says in his 1898 history of the Library “in 1818 a special appropriation for certain scientific journals, Stephens’ Thesaurus, Duncange’s Glossary, etc.”

4) “‘An excellent work, & now rare’ / Dibdin”

On the front pastedown of Valckenaer’s edition of Ammonius’s *De adfinitium vocabulorum differentia* [25702.1739]. Earliest shelfmark ‘G5’ Cameron era shelf mark ‘DB4’.

5) “This edition not noticed by Dibdin”

Marked on the front free endpaper the Venice 1507 edition of the works of Vergil, [Ex 2945.1507]. Earliest shelfmarks ‘T. 1[?]’ ‘H7’ Cameron era shelf mark ‘DC6’.

6) “This rare edition of Homer appears to have escaped the notice of Bibliographers. Harles & Dibdin had no positive information about it” [Harles = Harless, Gottlieb Christoph, 1738-1815]

On front pastedown of Ex 2681.1583 (Homer, ... Ilias, Odyssea, ..., Basle, 1583) Earliest shelfmarks ‘B2’ ‘H2’ Cameron era shelf mark ‘DB2’.

7) “Editio optima Very rare & very dear. P.L.”

Marked on front pastedown of Diodorus, *Bibliotheca historica* (Greek + Latin) Amsterdam, 1746. Earliest shelfmarks ‘Y1’ Cameron era shelf mark ‘DA1’.

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NOTES:

1849

*Antoine Odelli sulphurets*

A collection of about 8,000 sulphurets of Greek and Roman coins made by Antoine Odelli, active in Rome in the mid-19th century. The collection is in its original wooden boxes. The boxes interlock so as to make a single unit [31cm × 22cm × 2cm] with a lid. Each box holds between 35 and 100 casts. There are ca. 106 total. Inside the lid is an engraved label:

Antoine Odelli

Artiste Graveur

Grave sur toutes sortes des Pierres Précieuses,  
les Armoiries, Sujets, Emblèmes.

Chiffres, Noms, Lettres et en Camée.

On trouve encore une grande collection en Souffre de tout les Musés  
d'Europe.

ROME Rue delle Quattro Fontane No. 11 e 12

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NOTE: Alternate printed label in Box LVII: Antoine Odelli, Incisore di Camei ed Intagli presso il quale e ancora una copiosa collezione in scaiola di megaglie, e picture incise si antiche, che moderne. Rome, Via Felice, No. 143.

FURTHER NOTE: In the first printed national general survey of libraries in the US, published in 1851, Princeton is the only library holding a set of sulfurets. This fact is verifiable by doing a word search on the complete text of the 1851 survey available at <<http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=a30a0965c56e6fe21c6247054e33177b&c=moa&idno=AEY8526.0001.001&view=toc>>

1855

*Library Moves To Refurbished Nassau Hall*

“When it was rebuilt in 1855–6, a new Chapel having been built meantime, the old Chapel was fitted up as a Library Room, and is described as follows: “The Library Room is large, beautifully proportioned, and chastely finished. It is seventy-four feet in length, thirty-six feet wide, and thirty feet high. It has fourteen alcoves and the shelves are of slate, the parts exposed to view being enameled in imitation of Egyptian marble. The floor is also of slate, supported by iron beams and arches of brick.” The Library having been once more restored to Nassau Hall remained there until the building of the Chancellor Green Library in 1872.”

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Vinton, “The College Library,” in *The Princeton Book* (Boston, 1879).

NOTES: When McCosh arrived in 1868, this is the facility that he found open only one hour per week. Classification scheme of the books therein based on SF’s examination of the shelfmarkings dating from that time

*Cameron’s Classification Scheme for the Library, 1865 to 1873*

There were 14 alcoves in the repurposed ‘old Chapel,’ likely for each class to have an alcove.

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<i>Alcove</i>	<i>Mark</i>		<i>Alcove</i>	<i>Mark</i>
1	A	Theology / Church History	8	H
2	B	WIT pamphlet vol / Universal History	9	I or J
3	C	Politics / History	10	K      Natural History/
4	D	Classics	11	L
5	E	Science	12	M
6	F		13	N      Chronology book in WIT
7	G	? in WIT	14	O or P

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1879

*Princeton Purchases 'Anglo-Saxon' Books at  
Medlicott Sale*

“Princeton at 240 lots was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest purchaser of the 52 purchasers from Medlicott. Princeton was only bested by Harvard who purchased 252. Other institutional purchasers were: Yale, 223; Wellesley, 203; Boston Public Library, 161; Springfield Public Library, 112; San Francisco Public Library, 81; Amherst College, 44.”

“17 June 1879: 233 lots to PC, Princeton College. Nearly 90 percent of the lots fall under six subject headings: Dictionaries, 6; Languages, 6; French, 10 (all medieval French or French philology); Gothic, 13; Dialects, English and Scottish, 66;<sup>1</sup> and Anglo-Saxon, 105. Under the last three heading Princeton purchased 50, 89 and 59 percent, respectively, of the catalog’s main entries.”

“8 September and 26 December 1879: 5 and 3 lots respectively, to Princeton. In contrast to the purchase on 17 June, that on 8 September had no philological orientation. The books sent Princeton in December were an adjustment to an earlier transaction, the exchange of a lot (which Princeton may have discovered it already had) for three others. One of the three lots, lot 273, is a set of the Aelfric Society Publications, bringing Princeton’s final Anglo-Saxon total to 106 lots, the highest number acquired by any purchaser under a single subject heading.”

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J. R. Hall, “William G. Medlicott (1816–1883): An American Book Collector and His Collection,” *Harvard Library Bulletin*, 1990.

NOTES: These purchases are recorded in the Medlicott family copy of the 1878 catalogue. However, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and perhaps others have extant copies of the catalogue, marked with the prices for items purchased by them. Obviously most of the lots were selected toward building Princeton’s philological collection, and the Princeton copy of the Medlicott catalogue (note 10) shows that most of the labor went into choosing the Anglo-Saxon titles. Virtually all the lots in the area are annotated as to price (probably supplied

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1. Hall’s footnote 49 “In the priced Harvard catalog, written in a large hand above the heading Dialects, is the note “[lots] 1462-1535. much as we lack.” The note may be Child’s hand. If so, he decided not to purchase any of the titles.

upon request by Medicott) or are marked “Have.” The guiding hand behind the purchases is likely to have been Theodore W. Hunt, who introduced the study of Anglo-Saxon and Middle English to graduate students at Princeton in 1878–1879 and who expressed the hope that “the day is not far distant when in each of our leading colleges there will be a Chair of English Philology exclusively devoted to the interests of our own language.”<sup>2</sup> (See also 8 September and 26 December 1879) [p. 27].

Analysis of the Princeton purchase. Preliminary. Princeton’s copy of the Medicott catalogue was retrieved from the open stacks of Firestone on Monday March 8 and I compiled the spreadsheet “Medlicott.xls” in order to sort and count the lots.

*Statistics:*

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9 pre-1601 imprints	}	Total cost = 984.50 or about 1/8 of the Library’s purchasing budget for the year.
22 imprints 1601–1700		
36 imprints 1701–1800		
176 imprints 1801–1876		

*Table of Earliest Books, Including the Most Expensive Single Purchase:*

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<i>Lot</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1950	1515	\$5.00	Jordanus // Ex 2868.41.015q // Marked ‘sewed’ in Med. cat. NjP had it bound with lot 1952
1551	1565	\$5.00	Cooper // Ex copy likely but impossible to tell since it was rebound in buckram
430	1567	\$10.00	Does not seem to be at NjP // STC 159
285	1568	\$5.00	Sammelband incl. 1602, 1602, 1607
343	1571	\$30.00	Gospels of the Fower Euangelistes
1552	1573	\$4.00	
445	1574	\$0.00	? why did NjP not purchase; <i>However, see Ex 1426.133</i>
1951	1597	\$2.00	De Getarum // at AnnexA
1966	1597	\$0.00	

*Also Notable:*

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315	1655	\$10.00	Marked ‘NB’ in margin // This is Junius’s 1655 edition of Caedmon – see Hall’s article footnote 82 and 83 for much detail on this book.
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2. Hall footnote 50: “On Hunt see C. R. Thompson, “The Study of Anglo-Saxon in America” *English Studies*, 18 (1836), 252.” [JSTOR]

The question of why these purchases were made can perhaps be explained by the following two quotes:

Francis March, "Recollections of Language Teaching," 1892. March taught Anglo-Saxon at Lafayette and held the first US chair in "English Language and comparative philology."

In 1875 the United States Commissioner of Education sent out a circular to our colleges inquiring about their study of Anglo-Saxon. Twenty-three colleges then claimed to be reading some of it; the University of Virginia (1825), Harvard (1851), Lafayette (1856), Haverford (1867), St. John's College (1868), Cornell University (1871), Columbia College, the University of Wisconsin, Yale, in the Sheffield School and post-graduate course. Most of the others were just beginning. The University of Michigan was "sorry to say that the study is not pursued at all;" so was Dartmouth. Princeton said it might be introduced hereafter; so did the Central University at Richmond, Kentucky, and Vanderbilt University. Eight claimed to study it incidentally. Only sixteen were content with simply stating that they did not study Anglo-Saxon. Slight as this showing seems now, there was at that time, probably, nowhere else so much of this study as in

America. Professor Child says, in his answer to the circular of the bureau, that "Anglo-Saxon is *utterly* neglected in England—at present there is but one man in England that is known to know anything of it—and not *extensively* pursued anywhere in America." The Germans, he adds, "cannot do their best for want of properly edited texts. Two or three American scholars, devoted to Anglo-Saxon, would have a great field to distinguish themselves in, undisputed by Englishmen."

- b) "Robert F. Yeager observes, 'Anglo-Saxon did not, in fact, become standard fare at the University of Virginia, anywhere, until the middle of the 19th century. As the turning point, we may cite 1848, when Louis F. Klipstein issued his Grammar of the Anglo-Saxon Language...' Klipstein's grammar seems rather early to designate as 'the' turning point. A decade after the grammar was published only four colleges – the Univ of Virginia, Harvard, Lafayette, and the Univ. of Mississippi – offered Anglo-Saxon ...; in the late 1860s Anglo-Saxon was available at only half a dozen schools ...; by 1875, however, it was taught in about two dozen schools..." Hall, "Nineteenth-Century America" p. 59
- c) "Anglo-Saxonism ran so strong in nineteenth-century America that the period might with reason be called the Anglo-Saxon Century. Anglo-Saxonism encompasses much more than the study of Anglo-Saxon. 'As the background for the markedly increased attention paid to Anglo-Saxon literature in the decade before 1855.' John E. Bernbrock remarks, 'it is necessary to realize that it was part of a widespread intellectual trend in America and England whose scope far exceeded philology and literature. and whose

numerous divergent manifestations can only be grouped under some such tag as “Gothicism” or the interchangeable term “Anglo-Saxonism.” The motive forces behind this movement are a strange mixture of patriotism, blatant racial pride, romantic antiquarianism, militant Protestantism, and some purely scientific interest in ethnology, history, and linguistics, as well as law. The totality of these interests (and no doubt many others) acted and reacted upon each other with a cumulative effect to produce a concerted and discernible trend called at that time ‘Anglo-Saxonism’ and recognized as a popular and widespread phenomenon.” Hall, “Nineteenth-Century America,” p. 37, quoting John E. Bernbrock, “‘Anglo-Saxonism’ in Mid-Nineteenth Century America,” ch. 2 of “Walt Whitman and Anglo-Saxonism” Diss. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1961, p. 57.

1879

*Vinton on Medlicott Purchases*

“I have the satisfaction of thinking that our library, though small, already possesses in most departments some books of the highest character. English literature is represented in a mass and variety somewhat corresponding to its real richness and with the wants of the students. A dozen editions of Milton as many copies of Dryden and a score of Shakespeares are sometimes out at once. A late opportunity [the Medlicott sale] has enabled me to buy as good an apparatus for the study of Anglo-Saxon as exists in America, or perhaps the world. Works of truly monumental character exhibit the condition of ancient Egypt. Engineering and natural history may now be studied here in books well suited to guide the ablest constructor or reveal to the student the splendor and variety of creation. By continuing to accumulate such books, we shall enable professors to show and not only to tell, what science can do and elevate young men above the plebian ideas of their birth.”

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Frederic Vinton, Annual Report of June 16<sup>th</sup> 1879, Memorandum and Annual report book (1873-1890), p.36.

NOTES:

TRANSCRIBED



## A RARE COLLECTION

### *Dr. DeWitt Presents Fifty-Three Historic Volumes to the Library*

During the vacation, the University Library has received from Dr. John DeWitt '61, a unique and remarkably interesting collection of books, consisting of fifty-three volumes. They belonged at one time to the library of the younger Jonathan Edwards, who graduated in 1765. A large part of the collection was previously property of President Edwards, whose autograph appears on nine of the books. A number of the volumes can be identified as having also been the property of Timothy Edwards, the father of the first Johnathan, and others as the property of his wife's father, James Pierpont, one of the founders of Yale University. Several had also belonged to President Davies. The books passed down through several generations of the Edwards family, and were about to be dispensed of separately, when the bookseller into whose possession they had come (Armor of Harrisburg), offered them all together to the University, giving it the refusal as being the most suitable depository for them, and through the liberality of Professor DeWitt, they were secured for Princeton.

## GIFT TO THE LIBRARY

The Library recently received another valuable contribution in the shape of a manuscript copy of an old unpublished manuscript map, which shows the course of the Millstone River of New Jersey, as far as Kingston and also the various bridges and neighboring roads as they were in 1776-7.

This map was made for and presented to General Green at Morristown in February, 1777, and gives in the most minute detail the topography of this section of New Jersey as it appeared at the time of the Battle of Princeton.

The donor is William B. Weeks, Esq. A prominent lawyer of Newark and an enthusiastic friend of Princeton. He has contributed several other important and interesting works to the library. Mr. Weeks is now engaged in the preparation of a history of the early life of the college; and he is known as one



MISC.



*Plan of the Literary Rooms, Instituted by Eastburn, Kirk & Co. at the Corner of Wall and Nassau Streets, New York. [3-line quote from Plato and 3-line quote from Pursuits of Literature: Literature, well or ill conducted, is the great engine by which all civilized states must ultimately be supported or overthrown.] New-York. 1813. There was a second edition: Plan of the literary rooms instituted by James Eastburn & Co. at the corner of Broadway and Pine-Street, New-York, second edition, corrected and enlarged (New-York: Printed by Abraham Paul, 1817), 15p. OCLC records copies in DE and DLM.*

## PLAN OF THE LITERARY ROOMS.

The Reading Room of the late E. Sargeant was, the subscribers believe, the first on the same plan established in the United States. It was suggested to one of the present proprietors, by a recollection of those which he had seen in various parts of Great Britain, and he had often wished, from a conviction of their utility to see similar establishments in the union. The late Edward Miller. M.D. was the first gentleman to whom he communicated his views on the subject, and who, with that zeal which must always distinguish the genuine disciple of letters, at once entered into a plan for setting such an establishment on foot. A meeting was called for the purpose at the Tontine Coffee House, where a number of friends of literature met. The plan was proposed, but it appeared to most of those then present, to be on too extensive a scale to be at that time carried into operation. It is needless to enter into the reasons on which such an opinion was founded; but by general consent the plan was reduced, and agreed to be confined to a collection of foreign periodical publications, to be obtained by a Bookseller, and for the expences of which the gentlemen referred to were responsible. A committee was appointed to carry the plan into execution; but they were disappointed in the Bookseller, on whom they had fixed, as he could not undertake its management consistently with his other arrangements. On applying to Mr. Sargeant, however, he undertook it with alacrity, and also extended the plan. For a considerable time it went on with great spirit, until the increasing difficulty of procuring the periodical publications from Europe, and the declining health of Mr. Sargeant, brought a decay into the establishment

under which it has long languished. The object is now to revive and still more to extend it.--To enable them to do this, the proprietors must look to men of letters, of fortune, and of taste, for their support. To such their plan is submitted.

The effort which has already been made on a small scale, commencing with the first of November 1812, the proprietors only introduce here for the purpose of expressing their gratitude to their early patrons. To them they look as to the corner stones on which their Literary edifice is to be erected. The defects which they have overlooked, the encouragement which they have given, and the zeal which they have uniformly manifested for the extension of the establishment, are so many pledges of their future support, and are received by the proprietors as obligations on their part not to disappoint their expectations.

One of the first objects, in the judgment of the proprietors, is a collection of the most valuable PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, whether foreign or domestic. These, as they give the history of the passing times, record faithfully the state and progress of arts, science, and general learning, present to the man of leisure all the variety he can desire, and are at the same time standards of reference to the politician and man of letters, as to the state of public opinion in all affairs which agitate and interest general feeling on the one hand, or which tend to promote intellectual improvement on the other. Under this head the proprietors are determined to make their collection as extensive as possible. They intend their plan to embrace every subject either of general, or of particular interest; and to present, as far as such a collection can present, a panoramic view of the progress of LITERATURE through all its branches, and among all nations, wherever the mind of man is suffered to range, in this delightful field, free and uncontrolled.

To carry this plan into effect measures have been taken to procure the following from Britain.

### *Of Reviews.*

The Edinburgh	Monthly	Scottish
Quarterly	Eclectic	Critical
British	Antijacobin	British Critic.
New	Authors	

## *Of Magazines.*

Monthly	Evangelical	Lover's
Gentleman's	Orthodox Churchman's	Scott's
Farmer's	Gospel	Philosophical
Universal	Baptist's	Botanical
European	Entertaining	Naturalist's.
Sportsman's	Lady's	

## *Of Other Periodical Works.*

Cobbett's Register	Christian Observer
Weekly Examiner	Religious Monitor
Military Panorama	Christian Guardian
Military Chronicle	The Philanthropist
Naval do.	Repertory of Arts
Steel's List of the Navy	Nicholson's Journal
Egerton's do of the Armenia	Thompson's Annals of Philosophy
Literary Panorama	Monthly Mirror
Museum Criticum; or the Cambridge Classical Researches	La Belle Assemblée
Classical Journal, by the learned Valpys	Ackerman's Repository
Censura Literaris	Monthly Visitor.

## *Of American Periodical Publications.*

The Port Folio	Monthly Recorder
Niles's Weekly Register	Literary Visitor, and
Stranger	every other work of merit as they
Analetic Magazine	appear.

Steps have been taken to procure one or two Journals from FRANCE. These are much to be desired, but the present state of intercourse with that

country promises but little prospect of receiving them with regularity. "Annales Sciences et des Arts, années 1808, 1809, par M. Dubois Maisonneuve et Jacquelin Dubuisson," are already procured, and hopes are entertained of their being completed up to the present year.

The principal ANNUAL REGISTERS will also come under this head. These are few in number, but will certainly comprise--Dodsley's, the Asiatic, the Annual historical sketches of politics and public men, and above all the Edinburgh Annual Register. The historical part of this last is attributed to the masterly pen of ROBERT SOUTHEY; and indeed for splendor of talent, and extent of information, is not equalled by any similar production in the British empire.

The second object is the collection of NEWS-PAPERS.--On this head it may be sufficient to say that every important one from the principal towns in the union, without regard to the peculiar politics of any, shall be had. Arrangements have been made to procure a greater variety from Britain, and steps shall be immediately taken for obtaining regular files of the Moniteur from France, and any other valuable paper from that country which the subscribers may suggest.

The third object of this establishment is GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS. Under this head will be included an extensive collection of MAPS, CHARTS, AND GENERAL ATLASES, from the most approved Geographers, as well as maps of particular countries, which on account of the interest excited from their being the theatres of great actions, or of extraordinary revolutions, are necessary for constant reference. To aid these inquiries still further, it is proposed to obtain every important statistical work of EUROPE and AMERICA in particular: and as ASIA unrolls [sic] its importance in the great scale of being, every valuable production respecting this interesting and greatly populated part of the globe shall be added as they appear. Nor will AFRICA, emerging at length from her darkness and her chains, be forgotten. Aspiring already to the dignity of MAN, she invites the traveller to delineate her surface, and to mark the residence of her sons: and we trust that some one, intrepid as PARKE, intelligent as LEDYARD, but more successful than either, is now bending his course to explore these unknown regions, and will soon burst upon us with intelligence concerning that quarter of our globe, as welcome as it is almost unlooked for.

To make this department as complete as possible, the aid of such gentle-

men as have paid more particular attention to geographical science is requested. With the principal systems, as Pinkerton's, Playfair's, Büsching's, [sic], D'Anville's, Joley's, Thompson's and Morse's the proprietors are acquainted; they also know something of the productions of the very distinguished MAJOR RENNEL. They will endeavour, also, to procure very soon the intelligent work of Mr. Wakefield respecting IRELAND. But in so extensive a field they are conscious of being very limited in their knowledge. They will therefore receive with thankfulness, information respecting the best maps, charts, &c. and will consider it as a benefit equally rendered to this institution, and to the public.

As the establishment proceeds, charts of Coasts, Harbors, Bays, &c. shall be collected and arranged; nor shall any thing be omitted under this head, which can give information as to particular portions of, or extend our acquaintance with, the globe itself.

The fourth object is a collection of PAMPHLETS. The want of this is felt in almost every community; but in a great city where conflicting opinions are for ever raising our curiosity, or interesting our passions, such a collection is indispensable. The design is not merely to gather up such pamphlets as the passing times afford, nor to be confined to such as local circumstances call forth. It is contemplated to collect from every quarter, to include every period, and to embrace every subject. In making this collection, for which much time will be required, the proprietors of the Literary Rooms will not presume to judge of the quality of the pamphlets which they may bring together. Selection does not comport either with their duty, or their plan. They hardly need to remark, that many tracts may be barbarously written, or composed in a style of unwarrantable virulence and acrimony, yet notwithstanding may contain facts which at some future period may be of considerable importance. Pamphlets also, which in their day excited but little notice, have by some uncommon circumstances been called from their oblivion, long after their authors had descended to the grave. The only caution, therefore, which the proprietors deem it their duty to take in this collection is--that nothing immoral, or bearing against the great interests of religious and social order, shall, to the best of their knowledge, ever stain their shelves. To facilitate inquiry, attention shall be paid to the arrangement of the pamphlets, and a Catalogue Raisonné be kept in manuscript for daily reference. Those which shall be collected in future, shall be classed under distinct heads, as, Political, Scientific, Religious, &c. Collections of the

past must be taken as they can be found, but from the help of a catalogue it is hoped that no great inconvenience will arise.

PHILOLOGY is the fifth object. The collections under this head will embrace: the principal Grammars and Dictionaries of the European languages. Of the latter JOHNSON's, BAILEY's BARRETTI's BOYER's, the ACAD-EMY's and NEWMAN's, of the English, French, Italian, and Spanish languages, will form a part. To these will in course be added, the best Lexicons and Grammars of the Learned languages. And the proprietors are sanguine enough to hope, that the institution will not long be deprived of the great works in PHILOLOGY, which the extended empire of the British power in the East has demanded and produced.

To many, BIBLIOGRAPHY and TYPOGRAPHY will not form one of the least objects. To procure books of reference to the scholar, as well as to furnish gratification to the curious, the learned works of DIBDEN, ADAM CLARKE, BELOE, and SAVAGE, but particularly the great work of AMES, lately re-edited by DIBDEN, and that of M. DESSARTS, entitled Les Siècles Littéraires de la France, ou Nouveau Dictionnaire, historique, critique et bibliographique, de tous les Ecrivains françois, mort et vivant, jusqu'à la fin du xviii. siècle, shall be lodged in the rooms. To these shall be added a regular collection of catalogues, whether public or private, whenever they can be procured. By the kindness of a friend, the very novel and curious catalogue entitled Annuaire de la Librairie par Guillaume Fleischer, An. X. (1802) is already in the rooms, and they hope before long to add the succeeding volumes.

The next object will embrace every PUBLIC DOCUMENT not included under the above heads. All that relates to National policy and finance. The declared acts of the general government, so far as they are embodied in regular tracts; the laws of the United States; all that relates to societies, whenever instituted for promoting national and benevolent objects, for bettering the condition of the lower classes, or for arresting the progress of vice and immorality; for extending and improving national education, and for encouraging literature in all its branches. The reports of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as also those of its numerous branches and auxiliaries in different parts of the world, and also of the societies for extending the blessings of the Gospel, and of civilization, shall be procured. These together will form a mass of information, of the highest importance and interest to those who are accustomed to look into the world with an eye of benevolence and good will; and who, as they see the

condition of man meliorated, and his original powers unfolded, feel a luxury which at once ennobles their nature and gladdens their heart.

The proceedings of the LEARNED SOCIETIES, whether foreign or domestic, will form another object of this establishment. At first, only their Reports, Lectures, and Transactions for the current year, can be taken; but as the funds will enable them, the proprietors will add to the collection the complete series of each principal society. Above all, they will be anxious to place in the rooms, “the Transactions of the Royal Society of London; the Memoirs of the Academy of Medals and of Inscriptions and the Royal Academy of Sciences (now the INSTITUTE) of Paris; the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, and the transactions of the society instituted at Bengal for inquiring into the History and Antiquities, the Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia, published under the title of “Asiatic Researches;” as these being the principal Institutions, and the fountains from whence so many smaller ones have sprung, necessarily become the objects of the greatest interest and utility.

It is intended as fast as possible to complete the series from the commencement of all the great periodical works. Several of the largest are already nearly complete. To further this design the proprietors have availed themselves of the kindness of a learned friend in London to look after these objects, the fruits of which will appear in due course.

The last object of the proprietors is to make “the Literary Rooms,” a Gallery and Depository of ENGRAVED PORTRAITS of illustrious characters. Men of genius or renown are not exclusively the property of any one nation, and whatever may be the relative proportions which belong to each, their characters, actions, and literary productions, alike claim the study and the admiration of all. Hence the collection shall be made as various as possible. Steps have already been taken to procure a few, and should encouragement be given by a sufficient number of subscribers, the collection shall be extended to the Rafael’s heads by Fidanga, the Portraits des Hommes illustres François, the Portraits of illustrious persons of Scotland, from authentic paintings, up to the great work of SANDRAARTS, containing near one thousand heads, and also of those now publishing under the first masters both in Britain and France. As GRAINGER and NOBLE have given the best accounts of British heads, their works will not only be consulted in the selection, but placed in the Rooms for reference.

For the purpose of carrying these objects into effect, and of giving publicity

and form, combined with greater convenience to the establishment, ROOMS at a considerable expence have been erected. The largest, where the daily papers and maps and charts are deposited, is the first. In the rear is the Room, where the periodical and other works will be placed--and as no conversation can be allowed in this Room, it is believed that it will become alike the resort of the literary lounge, and of the man of more definite research, neither of which will be disturbed in his pursuits. And should the subscribers increase beyond present calculation, the buildings to which the Rooms are attached, are so constructed by arches, as that communications can be opened and additions made, whenever such increase shall require it.

It may not be deemed necessary to remark--that this establishment does not embrace any general collection of books. Such collections belong to public Libraries. The "Literary Rooms," are rather intended to form a body of reference, for the Statesman, the Scholar, and the man of Science; to be as an Encyclopedia and Index to general knowledge, and to exhibit, in an abridged form, the history of the progress of mind, at the various periods of its depression and elevation, among different nations, as it appears on their official and popular records.

In looking back upon their plan, the proprietors are conscious that it may be considered as too extensive for Individuals to undertake, and by some perhaps as embracing objects which general utility does not require. The plan itself may also be the subject of just criticism, and many defects in its arrangement may be pointed out. On the first part they beg leave only to remark,--that to enable them to carry their plans into operation, great patronage will be required. That while they submit their plan to the public as a whole, they are not so sanguine as to believe that they can accomplish it at once. Willing to take its parts, they will begin with the most useful, and proceed by gradual steps until their ultimate object be attained.--In doing this they rest confident, that when their plan has in some degree been developed, the growing taste for literature in this great city will furnish all the aid and patronage the proprietors can desire. Until that period arrives, they will be content to proceed silently in the discharge of those obligations to the public, and to literature, under which they have most cheerfully bound themselves.

To the plan itself they invite public attention. Improvements of an essential nature will always be readily adopted. They only beg to be judged by the present state of literature on the one hand, and on the other by the means

required to carry it on. Of the utility of their whole plan it does not become the proprietors to say much. On one part only of its utility will they venture a remark. Its advantages to STRANGERS who visit our city, of passing the hours of leisure in a manner which is so generally agreeable, and the opportunity which it affords the subscribers of introducing their friends to the society of intelligent men, will not, it is believed, be overlooked in the calculation of any of those, who have felt the want of such places of resort, whenever they have been placed in similar situations, and who are accustomed to put a proper value upon whatever enlarges the boundaries of intellectual pleasure, or widens the field of useful information.

Having said thus much--they now commit their plan, though not without some anxiety, for the approval or rejection of the public. Should they be flattered with the former, and subscribers in sufficient numbers come forward to encourage them to proceed, they shall at least find the zeal of the proprietors in completing the undertaking to correspond with the promptitude of the patronage. In the words of their motto, therefore, they conclude this appeal. "Yea who by nature as well as by education, are in all things well affectioned, prudent, liberal, and worthy of the commonwealth, be favorable to this undertaking."

EASTBURN, KIRK & CO.

New-York, October 20th, 1813.

## TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

- I. The subscription to residents shall be 12 dollars per annum, payable in advance; and no one shall be allowed to subscribe for a less time than one year, unless he has fixed for a removal within six months.
- II. Transient residents shall pay for six months 7 dollars, for three months 3 dollars 50 cents, and for one month 1 dollar 25 cents.
- III. Strangers shall be admitted one week gratis, if introduced by subscribers, or if they bring an introduction from the proprietor of a similar establishment any where in the union. The Hon. the Judges of the Supreme and District Courts, and Lawyers attending these courts, who are not resident in this city, shall have free access to the rooms during the terms and sit-

tings, and also the Rev. the Clergy, during their occasional visits, without any charge.

- IV. The rooms shall be open in winter from 9 A.M. and in summer from 8 A.M. until 9 P.M.
- V. No subscriber shall be considered as having withdrawn his name from the subscription list, unless he gives one month's notice.
- VI. No Magazine, Pamphlet, Review, or other work, shall be taken out of the Rooms, during the first month of their being placed there; nor shall any one of them be taken from the Rooms at any time, without its being entered into a book provided for the purpose, under the penalty of paying for the whole volume.
- VII. It is requested that the conversation in the news room should be conducted in as low a tone of voice as possible.--In the second room, no conversation can be allowed, and it is hoped that each of the subscribers will strictly observe this rule, as one in which the benefit of all is concerned.
- VIII. When books are taken from the shelves for consultation in the Rooms, the subscribers are requested to return them to their proper place, or else to leave them on the table. Great confusion in the arrangement may be prevented by attention to this request.

