

NEW YORK
Society Library

ANNUAL REPORT

1939



FREDERIC FOSTER DE RHAM

*

Trustees 1938-1939

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| FREDERIC A. DE PEYSTER | EDMUND P. ROGERS |
| *FREDERIC F. DE RHAM | SAMUEL VERPLANCK HOFFMAN |
| LEWIS S. MORRIS | E. COSTER WILMERDING |
| EDWARD C. PARISH | EDWARD C. DELAFIELD |
| HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG | DONALD C. VAUGHAN |
| BERTRAM CRUGER | ARTHUR J. MORRIS |
| A. COSTER SCHERMERHORN | PHILIP J. ROOSEVELT |

RODMAN GILDER

* Died September 21, 1938.

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Officers

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LEWIS S. MORRIS | <i>Chairman</i> |
| FREDERIC A. DE PEYSTER | <i>Secretary</i> |
| ARTHUR J. MORRIS | <i>Treasurer</i> |
| FULTON TRUST COMPANY | <i>Assistant Treasurer</i> |

Executive Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| HAMILTON F. ARMSTRONG | A. COSTER SCHERMERHORN |
| RODMAN GILDER | DONALD C. VAUGHAN |

Finance Committee

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS, <i>Chairman</i> | |
| FREDERIC F. DE RHAM | EDMUND P. ROGERS |
| A. COSTER SCHERMERHORN | ARTHUR J. MORRIS |

Librarian

EDITH HALL CROWELL

MARION KING, *Assistant Librarian*

FRANK B. BIGELOW, *Librarian Emeritus*

ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE TRUSTEES OF THE
NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

*

THE TRUSTEES of the New York Society Library present to the shareholders its 185th annual report for the year ending March 31, 1939.

It is my sad duty to report the death on September 21st, 1938, of Frederic F. de Rham, who was a most valuable and active Trustee of this Library from 1919 to the date of his death.

The development of the Library during the past year has been notable for the extension of its usefulness to the members and to the outside world of scholarship.

The first obligation of a library toward its material is to see to its care, and with that in mind, the books are being cleaned by the latest library methods, although it must be said that dust proof stacks have not been invented as yet. Books in beautiful leather bindings are being treated with stimulating oils and many have been placed on the shelves in the Members' Reading Room, adding color and character to this beautiful room.

The next obligation is to make the library material quickly available and so the recataloging and reclassifying of the book collection has been progressing; the books are now being arranged in close subject grouping, rather than shelved by author arrangement.

The number of volumes issued for home reading was 55,846, or an increase of 7,736 volumes. When analyzed, this is an interesting figure in the light of the new system of charging for the delivery of books. It is evident that when two books were delivered regularly to all, many books must have lain unread. Paying for the privilege of delivery insures a greater probability of perusal. Where books are called for in person, fewer books are carried home, but those few are more likely to be read — which is, after all, the criterion of a library's effectiveness.

Delivery charges brought in \$1,263, which still only partially pays for this service. The majority of readers prefer delivery but many also use

the Library in person during the weekly interval between book delivery days.

The Parcel Post Act reducing the amount of postage on books sent through the mails, had an immediate effect on the shipping of books to out-of-town readers; 8,209 books were sent by parcel post, an increase of 925 volumes.

No records had been kept in previous years of those using the Library for reading or reference, until we moved into the present building. Not counting the groups or organizations officially visiting the Library, 3,013 people used the Reading Rooms.

In order to broaden the usefulness of the Library, an experimental series of book talks was given by Dr. William H. Lamont of Rutgers University. The lectures were such an evident success that we hope to carry out such a program in the future.

The exhibit cases throughout the Library have held many interesting displays during the year, notably the exhibit of Old Silver from the Goodhue collection, Early New York Laws printed before 1700, Herman Melville first editions, Prayer Books of Yesterday and Today, as well as records and documents of the very early history of the New York Society Library.

Important gifts were made to the Library in the way of books, but space permits only a few to be mentioned, such as the large collection of books presented by Mr. F. Ashton de Peyster. Among unusual items was a scrap book made by William H. Harison, who was a Trustee of this Library from 1837 to 1842. This scrap book, which was a gift of Miss Elizabeth Harison, contains an interesting collection of playbills, visiting cards, hotel bills and letters, one of which was from Alexander Hamilton.

During the recataloging of the foreign books in the Green Art collection, the German translation of the Nürnberg Chronicle was uncovered. It was printed by Anton Koberger at Nürnberg in 1493 and has over two thousand crude woodcuts as illustrations. This valuable piece of incunabula was transferred to the Rare Book stack.

We wish to record our appreciation to the Librarian and the Staff for their cooperation and loyalty during the past year.

For the Trustees,

LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS,

Chairman

April 25, 1939.

REPORT OF
THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

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To the Trustees of the New York Society Library:

The Committee appointed "To audit the accounts of this Corporation and to make an inventory of its real and personal property, excepting the books," respectfully submits and reports:

THAT

They have employed W. S. Salway, Certified Public Accountant, to examine the accounts of the Treasurer for the year ended March 31, 1939.

E. C. DELAFIELD
BERTRAM CRUGER
F. ASHTON DE PEYSTER
Auditing Committee.

New York, N. Y.
April 25, 1939.

The securities were examined, and on April 25, 1939 were as set forth on the succeeding pages.

E. C. DELAFIELD
BERTRAM CRUGER
F. ASHTON DE PEYSTER
Auditing Committee.

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

EXHIBIT A

Financial Statement as at March 31st, 1939

Assets

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|----------------|
| CASH | | | |
| Principal—Uninvested—Per Exhibit B | \$ | 6,737.41 | |
| Income—Unexpended—Per Exhibit C. | | 12,093.04 | |
| | | 18,830.45 | \$ 18,830.45 |
| SECURITIES | | | |
| General Fund | \$253,347.50 | | |
| Goodhue Fund | 547,140.37 | | |
| Green Fund | 46,950.00 | | |
| | | 847,437.87 | 847,437.87 |
| OUTSIDE REAL ESTATE | | | |
| General Fund (Old Library Building) | \$150,000.00 | | |
| Goodhue Fund | 55,065.24 | | |
| Green Fund | — | | |
| | | 205,065.24 | 205,065.24 |
| LIBRARY BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT | | | |
| Total Cost (Less Reserve for Depreciation) | \$332,099.35 | | |
| Less Mortgage Payable thereon | 105,000.00 | | |
| | | 227,099.35 | 227,099.35 |
| | | | \$1,298,432.91 |

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

SCHEDULE I

| INTEREST | <i>General Fund</i> | <i>Goodhue Fund</i> | <i>Green Fund</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Mortgage | \$5,127.50 | \$19,724.29 | \$1,645.49 | \$26,497.28 |
| Bond | 3,825.00 | 1,275.00 | — | 5,100.00 |
| DIVIDENDS | 750.00 | 935.50 | — | 1,685.50 |
| REAL ESTATE RENTS | — | 8,534.56 | 3,013.92 | 11,548.48 |
| | | 30,469.35 | 4,659.41 | 44,831.26 |
| Gross Investment Income | 9,702.50 | | | |
| Less Real Estate Expenses | — | 9,760.22 | 3,177.64 | 12,937.86 |
| | | 20,709.13 | 1,481.77 | \$31,893.40 |
| Net Investment Income | \$9,702.50 | | | |

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

EXHIBIT B

Statement of Principal Receipts and Disbursements for the
Year Ended March 31st, 1939

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| BALANCE—April 1st, 1938 | | |
| General Fund | \$ 1,012.67 | |
| Goodhue Fund | 506.17 | |
| Green Fund | 80.00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$ 1,598.84 |
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Mortgage Principal Repaid | \$ 3,778.28 | |
| Fixtures Sold | 596.11 | |
| Real Estate Sold | 15,157.04 | |
| Transferred from Income to cover depreciation reserve | 3,000.00 | |
| From Agency Account for Real Estate | 74.22 | |
| | <hr/> | 22,605.65 |
| Total Receipts | | <hr/> |
| | | \$24,204.49 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | |
| Securities Purchased | \$10,921.75 | |
| Investment in Outside Real Estate | 4,525.17 | |
| Purchase of Equipment, Fixtures, etc. | 1,364.59 | |
| Purchase of Membership Certificates for Cancellation | 140.00 | |
| Reimbursement of Income Account for Advances | 515.57 | |
| | <hr/> | 17,467.08 |
| Total Disbursements | | <hr/> |
| BALANCE—March 31st, 1939 | | |
| General Fund | \$ 911.78 | |
| Goodhue Fund | 3,097.95 | |
| Green Fund | 2,727.68 | |
| | <hr/> | \$ 6,737.41 |

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

EXHIBIT C

Statement of Income Receipts and Disbursements for the
Year Ended March 31st, 1939

| | |
|---|-------------|
| BALANCE—April 1st, 1938 | \$24,913.87 |
| Less Transfer of prepaid postage to Special Account | 1,526.18 |
| | <hr/> |
| Adjusted Balance—April 1st, 1938 | \$23,387.69 |
| RECEIPTS | |
| INVESTMENT INCOME—PER SCHEDULE I | |
| General Fund | \$ 9,702.50 |
| Goodhue Fund | 20,709.13 |
| Green Fund | 1,481.77 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$31,893.40 |
| INTERNAL INCOME | |
| Dues | 322.00 |
| Subscription | 8,529.00 |
| Delivery | 1,263.00 |
| Fines | 444.86 |
| Books sold | 2,856.70 |
| Miscellaneous | 2.40 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 13,417.96 |
| Reimbursement from Principal for Advances | 515.57 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total Receipts | 45,826.93 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$69,214.62 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | |
| OPERATING | |
| Books | \$ 4,605.87 |
| Binding and Repairs | 73.87 |
| Periodicals | 441.95 |
| Postage | 193.54 |
| Printing | 447.45 |
| Supplies | 766.22 |

DISBURSEMENTS (Continued)

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Delivery | 2,892.34 | |
| Salaries | 27,803.80 | |
| Building Repair and Maintenance | 552.63 | |
| Electricity and Gas | 2,190.57 | |
| Heat | 637.13 | |
| Insurance | 982.20 | |
| Cleaning Supplies | 663.48 | |
| Telephone | 241.73 | |
| Water | 121.19 | |
| Pension Fund Premiums | 832.80 | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 686.41 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Total Operating Disbursements | \$44,133.18 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Forwarded | \$44,133.18 | \$69,214.62 |
| <i>Other Disbursements</i> | | |
| Interest on Mortgage | \$ 5,250.00 | |
| Provision for Depreciation Reserve | 3,000.00 | |
| Custody of Securities and Bookkeeping | 856.25 | |
| Expenses at No. 109 Univer- sity Place | 3,372.39 | |
| Prior period expenses | 366.32 | |
| Water Charges advanced for Real Estate | 143.44 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| | \$12,988.40 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Total Disbursements | | 57,121.58 |
| | | <hr/> |
| BALANCE—March 31st, 1939 | | \$12,093.04 |

ACCESSIONS TO THE
GREEN ART COLLECTION

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| | |
|--------------------|--|
| ANDERSON, J. | American theatre |
| BOTTICELLI, S. | Works |
| CESCINSKY, H. | Old English Master clockmakers |
| EL GRECO | Works |
| HAMBIDGE, J. | Dynamic symmetry of the Greek vase |
| HERTER, C. | Defense of art |
| HOWELLS, J. M. | Lost examples of Colonial architecture |
| MURRELL, W. | History of American graphic humor (1865-1938) |
| PACH, W. | Queer thing, painting |
| REISS, W. | You can design |
| SHACKELTON, R. | Book of antiques |
| STEIN, G. | Picasso |
| SZUKALSKI, S. | Sculpture and architecture; projects in design |
| TAFT, R. | Photography and the American scene |
| THEVIN, A. | New York sketches |
| VINCI, LEONARDO DA | Notebooks. 2 vol. |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| American Petroleum Institute | Library Company of Phila. |
| Miss Helen Anderton | Mrs. Walton Martin |
| Boston Athenaeum | Miss Fanny P. Mason |
| Miss Anne Hoe Burlingham | Mrs. R. G. Mead |
| Carnegie Endowment for Int. Peace | Mercantile Library of N. Y. |
| Century Association | Metropolitan Museum of Art |
| Mrs. C. M. Connfelt | Mrs. S. C. Millett, Jr. |
| Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting | Mrs. F. H. Mills |
| F. Ashton de Peyster | Museum of the City of N. Y. |
| Miss Augusta de Peyster | New York Historical Society |
| Miss Mary Drisler | New York Public Library |
| Miss Edith Ellis | P. M. Graphic Arts Journal |
| Mrs. Arthur Fowler | Edward C. Parish |
| Frick Art Reference Library | W. G. Pilgram |
| Rodman Gilder | Princeton Club of New York |
| Dwight Goddard | Providence Athenaeum |
| Grolier Club | Mrs. L. D. Ray |
| Mrs. J. J. Gunther | Redwood Library |
| Miss Elizabeth Harison | Rockefeller Foundation |
| Miss Sarah Hill | Wallace Reid |
| Miss Sylvia Holt | Paul Reynolds |
| Mrs. S. C. W. Hoppin | St. Louis Mercantile Library |
| Henry E. Huntington Library | Mrs. A. E. Schermerhorn |
| Japanese Chamber of Commerce | Mrs. Walter Stern |
| Mrs. A. H. Kent | Mrs. A. T. Sutcliffe |
| Mrs. F. G. King | Sweden-Royal Consulate General |
| Dr. S. A. Knopf | Mrs. Charles Tatham |
| Miss H. L. Latting | G. H. Tower |
| League of Nations | Mrs. William D. Tracy |
| Mrs. F. S. Lee | Mrs. L. M. Treadwell |
| Irving Levy | |

FORM OF BEQUEST

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*I hereby give and bequeath to "THE TRUSTEES
OF THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY" the sum
of Dollars.*