

NEW YORK
Society Library

ANNUAL REPORT

1944

53 East Seventy-ninth Street

Founded 1754

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

Trustees 1944-1945

FREDERIC A. DE PEYSTER

E. COSTER WILMERDING

LEWIS S. MORRIS

EDWARD C. DELAFIELD

EDWARD C. PARISH

DONALD C. VAUGHAN

HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG

ARTHUR J. MORRIS

A. COSTER SCHERMERHORN

RODMAN GILDER

EDMUND P. ROGERS

FREDERIC R. KING

WALTER MILLIS

NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

Officers

- HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG *Chairman*
- FREDERIC ASHTON DE PEYSTER *Secretary*
- ARTHUR J. MORRIS *Treasurer*
- FULTON TRUST COMPANY *Assistant Treasurer*

Executive Committee

RODMAN GILDER, *Chairman*

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| FREDERIC R. KING | EDWARD P. ROGERS |
| WALTER MILLIS | DONALD C. VAUGHAN |

Finance Committee

HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG, *Chairman*

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| EDWARD C. DELAFIELD | LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS |
| ARTHUR J. MORRIS | EDWARD C. PARISH |

Librarian

EDITH HALL CROWELL

- MARION KING, *Assistant Librarian*
- FRANK B. BIGELOW, *Librarian Emeritus*

The Trustees of the New York Society Library present to the Shareholders this their report for the year ending March 31, 1944.

My first duty is a sad one — to report the death of a Trustee of the Library, Mr. Bertrand Cruger, who served on the Board from 1925 to 1943.

We are glad to report an increase in subscriptions amounting to \$2,095. Most of this increase, as far as we are able to determine, is due to word-of-mouth advertising. Some solicitation was made through personal letters. The majority of new subscribers, however, hear of the Library from friends. Students tell each other where they get their reference material; country dwellers extoll the satisfactions of the mail service; discussion club members learn from others that it is cheaper to borrow from the Library than to buy. Twenty-six subscriptions were given as Christmas presents. One was given as a wedding present.

Our correspondence has been enlivened lately by one of Chief Magistrate Curran's little sallies. He was moved to break a lance in the cause of protecting library books from readers who annotate them with their own comments and corrections. He thinks such offenders a "depraved form of quadruped" and urges that they be sent down to his court for a life sentence. Letters such as these add color to a collection that covers nearly two hundred years. We have one from Colonel Richard Varick written before 1800 apologizing for a delay in returning books; and a series of letters in 1838 from members criticizing library policy. We have letters from Horace Greeley, Charles A. Dana and William Cullen Bryan introducing friends; from many famous writers acknowledging help; from a long line of distinguished trustees accepting appointment; a letter from a prominent citizen in 1872 objecting that the books were not censored, for the protection of the morals of his grown daughter; one from a lady in 1890 on the same theme in behalf of her elderly sisters; and letters from indignant readers in 1926 and 1936 who suspected that the books *were* censored.

For many years loose book covers with early library bookplates have been saved. These have provided copies of the library's first bookplate, engraved by Elisha Gallaudet in 1758 and more of the second and third bookplate, engraved by Peter Maverick in 1789 and 1797. In soaking off the plates from the old book covers we found many personal bookplates under the library bookplates, indicating the original ownership of the volumes. These private bookplates have been preserved also. The names on them include many of New York's old families: Samuel P. Broome, Arnold Duncombe, Daniel Horsmanden, William S. Johnson, Brockholst Livingston, William Smith Livingston, Joseph Youle.

Those who are interested in the library's early history should read the chapter entitled "News and Reviews" in Frank Monaghan's "This Was New York," a fascinating story of every phase of life in this city in 1789. When it was published last summer Dr. Monaghan presented a copy to the library with the following flattering inscription on the fly leaf: "For the New York Society Library and to its staff . . . this modest but earnest little book . . . the best of which their cooperation and resources made possible."

Our outstanding gift of the year is an Edgar Allen Poe letter presented by Mr. Christian A. Zabriskie. The letter is now on exhibit with several contemporary periodicals containing early appearances of Poe's literary work. Other notable gifts were the original manuscript of Scott's "Dome of Devorgoil," also presented by Mr. Zabriskie; six scrapbooks from Mrs. William Greenough containing clippings concerning her father, Mr. Whitney Warren, the architect; from Mrs. Charles H. Langmuir, a deed signed by DeWitt Clinton, then mayor of New York, for a plot of land formerly purchased by the city from Miller and Baker "for the use of Canal street" and resold by the city to the same firm; and a copy of "The Unfortified Boundary," a diary of the first survey of the Canadian boundary line from St. Regis to the Lake of the Woods by Major Joseph Delafield, presented by his grandson, Colonel Edward C. Delafield.

The library has continued to help the war effort by maintaining a collection center for books to be sent to the armed forces. A large reserve collection of books for nearby government hospitals was also stored here by the Red Cross. These books have now been distributed to those hospitals. The Librarian, Miss Crowell, has been serving one day a week in an advisory capacity to Hospital Librarians working as Red Cross Gray Ladies in local and nearby Government Hospitals.

We wish to commend the members of the Library staff for their faithful service during this busy year.

For the Trustees,

LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS,

Chairman.

REPORT OF
THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

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, 1944.

The securities were examined by the Auditing Committee on June 15, 1944 and were found to be in order.

EDWARD C. DELAFIELD

WALTER MILLIS

Auditing Committee

New York, N. Y.,

June 15, 1944.

STATEMENT OF
PRINCIPAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Year Ended March 31st, 1944

BALANCE — APRIL 1st, 1943:

General Fund	\$ 4,479.22	
Goodhue Fund	7,855.01	
Green Fund	1,422.68	
		\$13,756.91

RECEIPTS

Mortgage Principal Repaid	\$14,027.30	
On Allowed Mortgage Claims	1,009.94	
Transferred from Income to cover depreciation reserve	1,000.00	
Sales of Mortgages, Securities and Real Estate	21,314.29	
On Water Damage Claim	300.00	
		37,651.53
		\$51,408.44

DISBURSEMENTS

Securities Purchased	\$29,479.44	
Advanced for Operations	2,500.00	
Reduction of Mortgage Payable on Library Building	5,000.00	
Membership Certificates	210.00	
Re: Mortgage Sold in Previous Year	75.00	
		37,264.44

BALANCE—MARCH 31st, 1944:

General Fund	\$ 4,168.74	
Goodhue Fund	9,329.65	
Green Fund	645.61	
		\$14,144.00

STATEMENT OF
INCOME RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For Year Ended March 31st, 1944

BALANCE—APRIL 1st, 1943 \$ 2,347.09

RECEIPTS

INVESTMENT INCOME

General Fund	\$12,811.12	
Goodhue Fund	5,547.56	
Green Fund	1,897.03	
		\$20,255.71

INTERNAL INCOME

Dues	\$ 260.00	
Subscriptions	9,058.50	
Fines	391.51	
Books Sold	387.45	10,097.46

Advance from General Fund 2,500.00

Total Receipts	32,853.17	
		\$35,200.26

DISBURSEMENTS

OPERATING		
Books	\$	3,506.00
Binding and Repairs		249.72
Periodicals		602.65
Postage		89.63
Printing		468.44
Supplies		713.56
Salaries	24,637.76	
Building Repairs and Maintenance		880.52
Electricity and Gas	1,414.61	
Heat		725.34
Insurance	1,083.56	
Cleaning Supplies		71.35
Telephone		159.67
Water		43.05
Pension Fund Premiums		682.40
Legal and Professional		79.64
Miscellaneous		64.63
		<hr/>
	\$35,313.25	
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS		
Interest on Mortgage	\$	1,083.34
Provision for Depreciation Reserve	1,000.00	
Custody of Securities and Safekeeping	855.00	2,938.34
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Total Disbursements		38,251.59
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Excess Disbursements		3,051.33
NON-OPERATING CASH TRANSACTIONS		6,028.58
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BALANCE—MARCH 31st, 1944	\$	2,977.25
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INVESTMENT INCOME
For Year Ended March 31st, 1944

	General Fund	Goodhue Fund	Green Fund	Total
Interest on Mortgages	\$10,386.20	\$ 8,620.34	\$1,772.03	\$20,778.57
Interest on Bonds	1,592.92	675.00	125.00	2,392.92
Dividends	832.00	3,340.50	—	4,172.50
Real Estate Income	—	1,803.66	—	1,803.66
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$12,811.12	\$10,832.18	\$1,897.03	\$25,540.33
Less Real Estate Expenses	—	5,284.62	—	5,284.62
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	\$12,811.12	\$ 5,547.56	\$1,897.03	\$20,255.71
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT MARCH 31st, 1944
ASSETS

CASH	
Principal—Uninvested	\$ 14,144.00
Income—Unexpended	2,977.25
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	\$ 17,121.25
General Fund	\$240,228.90
Goodhue Fund	356,403.19
Green Fund	49,155.00
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	645,787.09
OUTSIDE REAL ESTATE	
Goodhue Fund	25,222.76
LIBRARY BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT	
Total Cost, less Reserve for Depreciation	\$323,325.35
Less Mortgage Payable	25,000.00
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	298,325.35
DEFERRED CHARGES	1,013.80
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	\$987,470.25
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ACCESSIONS TO THE
GREEN ART COLLECTION

AYARS	Contributions to the art of music
BARBOUR	How to teach children to know music
BURRIS-MEYER	This is fashion
CRAVEN	Cartoon cavalcade
CRAVEN	Story of painting
FARSON	Going fishing
FLANAGAN	Dynamo
GOFFIN	Jazz
GOYA	Complete etchings of Goya
HENDELSON	Music lovers' almanac
HENDERSON	How to sing for money
IVINS	How prints look
MOREY	Mediaeval art
MULHOLLAND	Art of illusion
NEWMAN	More stories of famous operas
PALMER	More than shadows
ROBS JOHN-GIBBINGS	Good bye, Mr. Chippendale
ROTHSCHILD	Sculpture through the ages
SIEGMEISTER	Music lover's handbook
SIMONSON	Part of a lifetime
SLOANE	Revive your old furniture
STILES	Pottery in the United States
STOKOWSKI	Music for all of us
SWEENEY	Alexander Calder
TAUBMAN	Music on my beat
TAYLOR	Pictorial history of the movies
THURBER	Men, women and dogs
	Great Georgian houses of America

DONORS

For Year Ending March 31, 1944

Charles C. Burlingham	Mrs. Walton Martin
Mrs. George W. Cane	Mrs. William R. Mercer
Carnegie Endowment	Miss Josephine Morrison
Miss Fanny M. Cottenet	New York Public Library
Malcolm Cowley	Mrs. Lionella Perera
Miss Elizabeth Daly	Propellor Club of New York
Edward C. Delafield	Dr. David Randall-MacIver
Mrs. F. Ashton dePeyster	Mme. Louza Riane
Miss Josephine deRonge	Roberts Book Company
George E. Folk	Miss Elizabeth A. Rose
Mrs. Alan L. Grant	Miss Sistare
Mrs. William Greenough	Mrs. Morris Stokes
Miss Hildegard Hawthorne	Mrs. Theron G. Strong
Miss Sylvia Holt	Miss Joanne Thomson
Hundred Year Association	Union Club
Mrs. Hamlin Hunt	Mrs. Samuel A. Welldon
Mrs. H. T. Hyman	Miss Whitham
Miss Fannie Irwin	Mrs. Arnold Whitridge
Albert Ralph Korn	Christian A. Zabriskie
Mrs. Charles H. Langmuir	