



The Berkeley Library of the University of California: Some Notes on Its Formation

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IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE BERKELEY collection of the University of California has developed in ways different from those observable at other universities except for date, person and subject. In the absence of the complete record, it appears that the substance of the Library began to take shape under the University's first professional librarian, Joseph Cummings Rowell, shortly after his appointment in 1875.

Rowell, a member of the second class to enroll at the University of California, graduated in July, 1874, and was appointed Recorder of the Faculty, Lecturer in English History, and Secretary to President Gilman. The next year he became Librarian succeeding Edward Rowland Sill, the last of the University's professor-librarians. It is possible that President Gilman, with his experience as a cataloger in Boston and New York and as Yale's Librarian, recognized in the young man the characteristics of success. Perhaps Sill, a member of the committee that recommended the appointment, made a friendly gesture toward a fellow poet. It is interesting to speculate on whether Rowell would have had this opportunity had Bret Harte accepted the Regents' offer in 1870 of the position of Professor of Recent Literature and Curator of the Library and Museum at \$300 a month with, as Rowell said in later years, "the guarantee of ample leisure for literary work."¹

It must have been one of Rowell's first duties to report on the library of the University to the editors of *Public Libraries of the United States of America*, the celebrated special report of the Bureau of

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Education for the centennial year of 1876. He reported 12,000 volumes and was able to mention only three special gifts, of which that of Michael Reese of San Francisco—the 3,000 volume social science library of Dr. Francis Lieber of Columbia—was thought by the editors worthy of notice in their summary of valuable donations to college libraries. This account earned the University library a place among the sketches of noteworthy collections which form part of Chapter 3 of the 1876 *Report*, where (by virtue of the alphabet) it led all the rest.²

California, however—or for that matter the entire West—did not enjoy much eminence in library affairs in 1875. San Francisco, the cultural center of the West Coast, supported twenty-eight libraries of all descriptions with a total of fewer than 175,000 volumes. The largest were two subscription libraries, the Mercantile Library of 41,000 volumes (where Rowell read as a schoolboy) and the Odd Fellows' Library of 26,883 volumes. All were the property of some group, e.g., La Ligue Nationale Française, the Eureka Turn-Verein, Madame Zeitska's Institute and the like; the only exception was the Bancroft Pacific Library, the property of H. H. Bancroft, but "freely consulted by scholars."³ Benefactions, such as had strengthened or created eastern libraries, like the Philadelphia Library Company, the Boston Public Library, or the Astor Library, were negligible. A. E. Whitaker complained that as for his library, the Mercantile, "gifts of money from the close grasp of millionaires have never fallen to its share," and reported that James Lick's bequest in 1874 of \$10,000 was the first to be received by a San Francisco library.⁴

There was no public library in the modern sense; that was to come in 1878 through the efforts of Andrew S. Hallidie, Regent of the University, inventor and promotor of the cable car, and for nine years president of the Mechanics Institute. The East had all the big libraries; there was none of 50,000 volumes or more west of Albany, except for the Public Library of Kentucky at Louisville.

The last twenty-five years of the nineteenth century were vintage years for librarianship. The two decades after the first national meetings of librarians in 1853 had been dominated by the panic of 1857 and the dislocations of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Thereafter, the natural energies of the people and the wealth of the country's resources combined to create an era of prosperity. In the field of higher education, the changes were fundamental. The university as a center of research replaced the college as the principal institution.

Scholarship as a career became associated with the universities. The lecture and the textbook gave way to the seminar and the library. Scholars ceased to depend upon their own libraries and looked to the universities for the books they required. The dispersed collections in natural science academies, historical societies, subscription libraries and private studies were no longer sufficient for the array of new scholars concentrated at the universities.

When the College of California turned into the University of California at Oakland in 1868, there were 1,036 books in its library, half of them of religious nature. This minuscule library was enriched in 1871 by its first notable or at least recorded gift of a considerable number of modern works of poetry, essays and novels, and the current edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, a lawyer's charitable return of a \$500 fee paid by the Board of Regents. Later the same donor laid the foundation for the Library's History of Art collection by a voluminous French work on Herculaneum and Pompeii, one volume of which became the first entrant to Berkeley's version of *l'enfer*. A later exotic gift, now preserved in the Bancroft Library, was the 163 water colors of Mexican and Californian birds drawn by Colonel Andrew J. Grayson and diverted from its original destination in Mexico by Emperor Maximilian's execution. On the death of Francis Lieber, the Columbia University political scientist, the University, still in Oakland, increased its library by nearly 50 percent with the acquisition of Lieber's 3,000-volume collection and his extensive collection of Civil War pamphlets. This was a true windfall, made possible by a gift of \$2,000 from an unexpected source, Michael Reese, a Bavarian immigrant, tanner, school master, peddler and eventually successful capitalist in San Francisco. Rowell's biographer says, "Someone complimented him on his generosity. 'But think of the lost interest!' he replied."⁵ The year 1873 was further made notable by the bequest of the 1,500-volume library of F. A. Pioche of San Francisco, dealing with linguistics and French literature. To make the year a memorable one, the State Legislature appropriated \$4,880 for modern books to be selected by W. E. Poole, then of the Chicago Public Library. Finally, in that same year, the Library with the University moved to Berkeley, and occupied a room in South Hall.

Two years later Rowell became the University's first full-time librarian and forthwith set about making himself a professional by committing all his energies and his future to the task. At that point in the University's development, its library comprised 12,000 volumes.

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In his early years as librarian, Rowell was much occupied as a one-man crew with the organizing, cataloging and arranging of the collection. Funds were scarce. Had it not been for an endowment bequeathed by Michael Reese in 1878, the little library would have been hard put to it to grow. Reese's posthumous gift was commemorated by a bronze plate ("To Michael Reese in commemoration of his liberality in donating to the Library fifty thousand dollars") in Bacon Hall, the first library building to which Rowell moved his collection in 1881. Short of cash, Rowell began in 1884 to solicit gifts from learned societies and academies at home and abroad. In 1894, with the development of University publications, he established the Library's flourishing exchange program. Testimony to his industry and enterprise is the evidence that up to 1911 nearly one-third of the Library came from gift and exchange. Thus, from the ingenuity of poverty, we have the foundation of one of the Library's outstanding characteristics, a global exchange program which has resulted in a solid foundation in the publications of universities and learned societies the world over.

Rowell's 1902 *Report* summarizes the quarter century: "The eventfulness of the past two years in the history of the University Library naturally suggests a brief retrospect."⁶ He cites the gift in 1878 of the Library-Museum Building by Henry Douglas Bacon of Oakland, matched by an appropriation of the State Legislature, and accompanied by the former's 1,400-volume library and his paintings and sculpture; the gift in 1884, through faculty solicitation, of \$2,000 for the purchase of German books; in 1895, the gift of two collections of Californiana, 1,400 volumes from Sarah P. Walsworth, and a group of books presented by the San Francisco Women's Literary Exhibit Committee; in 1897, the gift by Collis P. Huntington of the Cowan Library of 600 bound volumes, 3,300 pamphlets and 12,000 pages of manuscripts on California history; in 1897, the gifts of Alfred Greenbaum and Louis Sloss of San Francisco, a "large beginning of the Semitic Department of the Library," also gifts supported by contributions of money from the Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco; also in 1897, Mary A. Avery's gift of art books; in 1899, by bequest, the philological library of Professor George Morey Richardson and the first gifts of Mrs. Phoebe Apperson Hearst in art and architecture.⁶

Towards the conclusion of this *Report*, a brief note foreshadows a future which Rowell was not to see. He remarks that the "cumulative effect of the successive gifts of Mr. James K. Moffitt is appreciably

noticeable.”⁶ The most memorable of the gifts of this alumnus and Regent, whose name the Undergraduate Library will bear when it is completed in the centennial year 1968, was posthumous. Annually from 1897, his donations had met special needs and purchased rare books for the Library; at his death in 1955, the Library received by bequest Mr. Moffitt’s fine library, notable for its Horace collection and medieval manuscripts, as a memorial to his late wife, together with an endowment equal to increasing the Pauline Fore Moffitt Collection at a continuing level of excellence.

The history of a library’s material growth is for the most part forgotten or never recorded, or imbedded, petty detail by petty detail, in a thousand dusty records. The interaction of scholarly need and the opportunities of the book market, the disposition to “build to strength,” the seizing upon a particular form of publication as a basis for collecting, the reproduction of a favorite library image, or sheer avarice, all shape the growing library. These are displayed in the following accounts of several of Berkeley’s collections for which information is more available than for others.

The Bancroft Library

The Bancroft Library provides an excellent point of departure for an illustrative tour of the Berkeley Library’s collecting history. Seeking scholars’ personal libraries, President Gilman was bound to notice the most significant one in the immediate area, the Western America Library brought together in San Francisco by H. H. Bancroft, publisher of “this never-ending series of books known as ‘Bancroft’s Histories.’”⁷ Gilman made overtures to the owner in the seventies, but the mutually desired alliance of Bancroft and the University was not celebrated until November, 1905. Both parties were eager for the transfer from San Francisco to Berkeley where the University was preparing special quarters on the third floor of a new building, California Hall. Before the move could occur, San Francisco suffered earthquake and fire on April 18, 1906. Although Adolph Sutro’s library was in the fire zone, Bancroft’s escaped.

The significance of the acquisition is apparent from the gross figures. Bancroft reckoned the size of his library at 60,000 volumes, at a time when the University Library only possessed 151,000 volumes. But this comparison is deceptive. In 1906, the main collections of the University Library, except for the Cowan manuscripts and the Teb-tunis papyri from Mrs. Hearst’s archaeological expeditions at the turn

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of the century, consisted mainly of print. The significance of Bancroft's library at the time of its acquisition was in the manuscripts and other primary or scarce sources not reflected in the volume count.

A less publicized development of the book collections was getting under way at the time of the Bancroft acquisition. In 1906, Juan C. Cebrian of San Francisco began to make the University Library at Berkeley a continuing annual gift of between 400 and 1,000 volumes on Spanish language, literature and history and on Hispanic culture generally. In 1928 and 1930, *Spain and Spanish America in the Libraries of the University of California*,⁸ published partly at his expense, displayed the holdings of both Bancroft and the General Library in these subjects, each in a separate volume. The Preface notes that about one-third of the 15,000 titles, including many sets and periodicals, represented his personal gifts. The equal bulk of the two volumes shows the interrelationship between the subject collections of an already complicated library system.

For the quarter century which began in 1911 with the appointment of Herbert Eugene Bolton as Professor of History and Curator—later Director—the Bancroft enjoyed a golden age. Mining the original sources of the Bancroft, Bolton set a pattern for his students. Together they exploited the resources of Mexican and Spanish libraries and archives, bringing back to Berkeley copies and extracts from foreign sources; a consequence of this vigorous research and collecting has been the reputation of the Bancroft Library as a collection on Latin America. In 1946, George P. Hammond of the University of New Mexico became a member of the History department and succeeded Bolton as Director. A "Bolton boy," he could be expected to continue a thriving tradition and to impress his own standards on it. Hammond's influence is displayed in two different results. Under his direction, the overwhelming collections of manuscripts and non-book materials began to assume the shape of an organized library. His own collecting instincts continued the Bolton tradition of acquiring archival source materials, but now with the aid of microfilm as well as by the procurement of original materials when available. In the twenty years of the Hammond incumbency, the Bancroft's book collection increased from 79,000 to 138,000 volumes and its hitherto uncounted manuscripts assumed the statistical reality of five million.

The technique of microfilm was applied to Spanish archives and to those of the British Public Record Office to procure a rich harvest of Latin American colonial sources. This technique was extended

into Mexico and the resulting facsimiles of manuscript sources were augmented by purchases of the real thing as opportunity offered. The outstanding acquisition of the Hammond era was the purchase in 1962 of the personal and public papers of Don Silvestre Terrazas of Chihuahua and El Paso, a leader of the Mexican Revolution. The papers of the veteran newspaperman comprised correspondence over a period of forty years, extensive files of newspapers, and a personal library containing a substantial volume of Revolutionary pamphlets and other ephemera. The manuscript portion of the Terrazas Papers amounts to approximately 100,000 pieces. The whole comprised the first major collection on the Mexican Revolution to be acquired by any university in the United States. The capstone to the Hammond collecting era was the acquisition, at the close of his administration in 1965, of the unique pictorial archive of Robert B. Honeyman, Jr. This is a collection of almost two thousand items: oil paintings, water-colors and drawings from almost every voyage of exploration to California for which pictorial material is known to exist. The Honeyman collection complements the Library's nearly unique holdings of manuscripts and printed materials bearing on California and the West and extends the already rich photographic record which the Bancroft has slowly accumulated over many years.

The East Asiatic Library

The Far West looks toward the East and from time to time the vision of some of its citizens has not been myopic. Three years after an interest of the United States government in obtaining census information about China had resulted in acquisition by the Library of Congress of the first significant collection in Chinese, Regent Edward Tompkins addressed to his colleagues of the Board a letter of September 18, 1872, dated from Oakland. The opening statement anticipates reasoning which was not to be felt as nationally cogent until the close of World War II in 1945 had sharpened American perspectives:

The business between California and Asia is already very great. Its future is beyond an estimate that the most sanguine would now dare to make. The child is born that will see the commerce of the Pacific greater than that of the Atlantic. It is carried on with people of whose languages we are totally ignorant, and in all the vast transactions that it involves, we are dependent upon native interpreters, whose integrity will not become more reliable as the magnitude of their tempta-

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tions increase. It is, therefore, of the utmost consequence for California, that the means shall be provided to instruct our young men, preparing for lives of business activity, in the languages and literatures of Eastern Asia. It is the duty of the University to supply this want. It can only be done by a well-organized Department of Oriental Languages and Literature, and every day that it is delayed is an injury to the State.⁹

The letter concluded by offering the University the gift that was to endow, in 1895, the Agassiz Professorship of Oriental Languages and Literature, with John Fryer as the first appointment.

The Fryer appointment, distinguished by the level at which it was made—the earlier Harvard appointment in Chinese had been to an instructorship rather than to a chair—bore rapid fruit and established some main features of the overall collections. By 1897, the Secretary of the Board was reporting to the Regents that “first considerable accessions by purchase have been made this year towards building up a library of Chinese philology and literature.”¹⁰

The Oriental holdings received additional support from the Horace W. Carpentier endowment of 1916, and from the gift that same year of the first large block of Chinese works, 13,000 volumes received from Chiang K'ang-hu, then a member of the faculty. Fryer's personal collection, which the University was to receive by bequest in 1928, was a gift of between 30,000 and 40,000 volumes by an Eastern rather than a Western reckoning.

In the public mind, the decisive attention of academic administrators is not usually associated with the origins and growth of distinguished and highly-specialized research collections, but the development of those of the East Asiatic Library was again in 1949, as in the case of Regent Tompkins, to have the benefit of prompt firmness when President Robert Gordon Sproul supported and secured purchase of the Mitsui Bunko, and thus solidly established the largest and most significant Japanese collection in the United States outside that of the Library of Congress. This acquisition alone brought to Berkeley, where Japanese had previously lagged behind Chinese, 80,000 volumes, 8,000 manuscripts and the collections of Chinese rubbings and of maps that are a unique resource in this country. The 1963 grant from the Ford Foundation to the Center for Chinese Studies, and special University support of the East Asiatic collections, have broadened the range of coverage; and the staff of the Library under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Huff has built strong and pre-

viously neglected collections in art and archaeology generally, and in Japanese local history, considerably nourished by many gifts from cities in Japan.

The Slavic Collection

The general development of Slavic collections in the United States, and the size, significance and areas of strength of those in the Bay Area, in San Francisco, at Stanford and at Berkeley, are matters familiar from national surveys made between 1945 and 1960. These West Coast collections have made the Bay Area, with Washington and New York, continuously one of the national centers for Slavic studies. For the Berkeley development, three aspects have some interest. The early history of the Department of Slavic Languages illustrates a significant faculty role; in 1930 and again in 1945, acquisition of the libraries of Paul Miliukov and of Arne Laurin (discussed below) demonstrated the importance of international relationships among scholars and of prompt administrative action; the development of Slavic collections since 1945 also calls attention to the critical role an acquisition department can play.

The early development of Slavic studies at Berkeley is a tribute to the personal efforts of a maverick scholar, George R. Noyes, seconded by the wave of history, the Russian Revolution. Unlike Fryer, who came to an endowed chair and the encouragements of a regential vision, Noyes joined the Berkeley faculty in 1902 as assistant professor of English and Slavic Languages and began by offering English composition, Old English, Chaucer and four courses of Russian. By the following year, the formal connection with English had been severed.

In 1906, the President's *Report*, listing exchanges maintained with Russia and Serbia, specified institutions in Yuriev, Helsingfors, Kasan, Moscow, Odessa, St. Petersburg and Belgrade.¹¹ In 1908, Rowell reported that "from Mrs. Gertrude Atherton was received the valuable Russian encyclopedia in 85 volumes."¹² In spite of such support, however, promotion came slowly and not until 1916, when Noyes became associate professor of an enlarged department with three assistants in Russian, Bohemian and Serbo-Croatian.

By 1920, the revolution in Russia had begun to support Noyes' interest and the Department of Slavic Languages, augmented by Alexander S. Kaun, whose collection the Library received as a gift in 1945, and by Milutin Krunich, was offering a full range of programs including the doctorate, undergraduate honors work, summer session and

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extension courses. In 1921-22, Noyes was serving the Library and the development of collections in more difficult ways. The Department's report to the President indicates that Noyes "was absent on Sabbatical leave, spending nearly all of his time in the new Slavic states of Central and Southeastern Europe," while the Librarian's report comments, "George R. Noyes . . . rendered invaluable assistance during his sojourn in Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Poland where personal contact produced results impossible to attain by correspondence."¹³ The record of Noyes' publications, in both his chosen field, Slavic, and in English literature, must suffice for the summary of the rest of a career which death closed in 1952.

Another scholar in another department, Professor Robert J. Kerner of the History department, is a reminder of the drama that occasionally accompanies the acquisition of notable collections. Kerner was instrumental in obtaining both the personal library of Paul Miliukov, the Russian exile who had been professor of history and the law at the University of Moscow before becoming briefly Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Government, and the Arne Laurin collection of the libraries, papers and scrapbooks of Tomas Masaryk and his family and of Eduard Benes.

In 1929, Kerner learned from Frank Alfred Golder, an acquaintance of Miliukov's, that the collection was available for purchase. Taken secretly from Russia, it had been in a Stanford basement, where it had arrived in 1921 from Helsinki. Totalling about four thousand volumes, the Miliukov library was estimated by Professor Kerner to be one of the best private collections of Russian history and civilization outside of Slavic Europe. At the time, its value was enhanced by the Soviet government's embargo on the export of such material.

The Masaryk-Benes acquisition had a similar history. Arne Laurin, to whom this collection belonged, was editor-in-chief of *Prager Presse* and an acquaintance of Hans Kohn, who had been a visiting professor at Berkeley in 1938. Kohn apprised Kerner of the whereabouts and availability of this collection and negotiations began at once. In 1939, a price was settled, but the national situation in Europe made it impossible to arrange for shipment, in spite of support from our State Department through the consulate in Prague. In 1940, the Library learned that the collection had been stored in the consulate for safe-keeping, where it survived the war and from which it was moved to Berkeley.

The scholarly impetus typified by Noyes and Kerner lent force and

direction to the technique of exchange initiated by Rowell and brought to a higher degree of development by Miss Ivander MacIver, long-time head of the Library's exchange department, under whom the growing array of University Press publications was applied skillfully to Russian sources of exchange. This involvement put the University in a favorable position to take advantage of the wave of Slavic interest that swept over U.S. universities at the close of World War II. The Library joined with other libraries under the leadership of the Library of Congress in a successful attempt to reopen the Russian market. This effort led eventually to the formation of the Coordinating Committee for Slavic and East European Library Resources, better known under its early acronym COCOSEERS, with which Mrs. Dorothy B. Keller, head of the Acquisition Department, has been associated from its beginning. The Slavic but non-Russian interests of younger members of the faculty are reflected in the Library's assumption under the Farmington Plan of the entire scholarly output of Yugoslavia. A recent acquisition worthy of special notice was the purchase in 1962 of the papers of Roger Boscovich, the eighteenth-century Yugoslav scientist, an extension of the already notable history of science collection.

The Music Library

The Music Library, established as a branch in 1947, is remarkable for a rapid development of special collections analogous in most aspects to the more gradual growth of those in the Bancroft and East Asiatic libraries. The dominant influence was that of Manford F. Bukofzer, the historian and bibliographer of medieval and Renaissance music, who guided the fortunes of the Department of Music until his death in 1955. Music Librarian Vincent Duckles' comment on the significance of Bukofzer's personal collection, which the Library acquired, summarizes the tradition and forecasts its continuance:

Without the aid of microfilm the Music Library would never be able to develop a first-class research collection. Most of the important sources in medieval and Renaissance music exist in unique copies in widely scattered libraries. Film makes it possible for a library to secure a greater concentration of sources than was possible a few years ago. It is certain that our acquisitions in this field will continue at an increasing rate. In 1954 a special appropriation of \$1,000 was utilized

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to build up our film holdings of the sources of early English music. . . . The death of Manfred Bukofzer brought the library an outstanding collection of the sources of early polyphonic music, 13th through 15th centuries, on film and record print. During the coming year the Head of Music Branch will be expanding this collection by the acquisition of film from German libraries.¹⁴

In 1957, the Library had purchased the collection of Aldo Olschki in Florence, except for the manuscripts. From his 1958 expedition, Professor Duckles brought back the Olschki manuscripts of more than 1,000 chamber works and film of fifteenth and sixteenth century sacred music from German libraries. In 1963, the results of a second purchasing expedition ranging from Scandinavia to Italy added acquisitions in twenty-three special fields, including early Danish opera, eighteenth century instruction books for brasses and strings (supporting the Ansley K. Salz collection of early stringed instruments received by bequest in 1957), Czech eighteenth century music, and sixteenth century liturgical music books. By 1963, the Library had purchased the personal collection of another eminent musicologist, Alfred Einstein, and subsequently received as a gift from the family his personal papers, transcriptions and research notes. Perhaps the most astonishing collection of the past twenty years is a thousand items of eighteenth-century manuscript Italian instrumental music. This collection is described in a thematic catalog prepared by Professor Duckles and Miss Minnie Elmer.¹⁵

Interest in opera, underwritten by a Bay Area devotion to this musical form, is reflected in major purchases. In 1950, the Regents made a special appropriation for the purchase of 4,600 opera scores from H. D. H. Connick of Berkeley, and in 1951 the Library purchased an additional hundred scores from him. In 1954, purchases of the opera collection of Sigmund Romberg added more than four thousand scores. In 1965, the opera segment of the late Alfred Cortot's collection added two hundred and fifty rare scores of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and as many libretti. In 1966, the Library acquired a collection of 4,400 libretti of North Italian provenance containing more than eight hundred pre-nineteenth century ones. To these efforts and the special support provided by the Regents, one important gift made its special contribution. Mrs. Irving Morrow gave her late husband's library of more than five thousand books and scores; this private collection contained fifteen hundred scores of operas.

The Documents Department

The Documents Department as it exists today is a realization of planning presented in a June 30, 1936, unpublished report to President Sproul by University Librarian Harold Leupp and his assistant librarian Jerome Wilcox. Originally the department was an outgrowth of the Reference Division with the immediate purpose of providing service to the consolidated collections of current and largely unbound government publications.

The original creation reflected library interest in economies of acquisition and processing, and growing public interest in the publications of the national and state governments. Before the turn of the century, Congressman James H. Budd, subsequently Governor, had secured for the University Library its comprehensive depository of publications by the Superintendent of Documents. The Library's receipt through exchange had always included foreign documents and the report of 1915, for example, notes that government publications were being received from India and the Union of South Africa. When the outbreak of the Second World War aroused interest in the publications of governments at home and abroad, the Library was already equipped to serve both interests. The intake of foreign documents was stimulated in 1945 by an act of the State Legislature which placed at the Library's disposal twenty-five sets of California documents for exchange use. Currently, sixteen foreign countries, globally dispersed, send us their official publications on exchange.

From the point of view of collections, the significant history of the department can be summarized by the contributing agencies mentioned in annual reports: in 1955, International Labor Office and the Parliament of North Ireland; in 1957, U.S. Selective Service System and Civilian Public Service, California Legislative Committee, War Relocation Authority, German Foreign Office, and Organization for European Economic Cooperation; in 1959, Atomic Energy Commission, International Conference on Atomic Energy, European Atomic Energy Commission, European Economic Community, and European Parliamentary Assembly; in 1960, Queen's Printer of Canada, and Joint Publication Research Service; in 1962, Organization of American States; in 1963, Regional Technical Report Center; and in 1965, Defense Documentation Center, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Most of these agencies provide depository collections. Several notable depositories since 1959, have been to the autonomous Law Library, through Chief Justice Earl Warren for the U.S. Supreme

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Court records and briefs, through Governor Edmund G. Brown for California legal documents, and through Congressman Jeffrey Colahan for U.S. legal documents. The reports include some counts that give an idea of volumes involved: in 1958, a first accurate count of current document serials was 15,093, in 1964 the count was 20,768, with 2,277 new current titles added during the report year; the Wheat Loan receipts from India during the first eighteen months of the program comprised 708 packages or 38,435 pieces; receipts during the first half year of deposit were 6,615 microfiches from the Atomic Energy Commission and 6,242 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The experience of handling this exceedingly diverse flow of publications in many special formats and in many more languages makes a staff highly versatile in devising expedients. When the Public Law 480 avalanche reached Berkeley, the Documents Department staff was not stunned.

Collecting Policy and The Library Committee

Library committees of the Berkeley Academic Senate have been influential in sharpening the collections, and two collecting policy statements—in November 1931 and again in 1946—presented to the Senate specific recommendations that have had a continuing effect. The 1946 recommendation provided a practical definition of aspects of the Pacific Basin which might desirably be covered by the Library. (The subsequent history of actual collection development suggests that it may have reflected history more than forecast the future, since India is noted as an area of lowest responsibility.)

The 1931 policy appears to have had the most desirable influence. It began by stating three main goals: to build collections systematically, to avoid duplication of special collections, and to reduce fundraising competition among libraries of the West by promoting agreement on mutually exclusive aims. The doctrine of systematic development had an immediate and lasting effect: it presented a program for what has since come to be known locally as the “sets” policy. The avoidance of expensive duplication (reflected in the other two goals) anticipates solutions now associated with University-wide policy on campus specialization and the sharing of the University’s total resources.

The “sets” policy of 1931 was animated by a recent survey of the collections. It proposed that a recurring annual sum of significant size (for the year of the report the suggested figure was \$10,000) be

set aside to fill gaps and acquire sets of "publications of academies and learned societies, of periodicals, of documents, newspapers, pamphlets and maps."¹⁶ Of government documents the statement noted that such materials were of particular importance for research in the social sciences. As a result of its survey, the Committee presented a list of titles, which with subsequent additions has since provided a buying guide for the development of collections of retrospective serials and sets.

This "sets" policy was elaborated by the 1946 statement. Specifically, it proposed a division of fields of collecting responsibility between Northern and Southern California, and, with restrained comment about the real value of adding so-called prestige collections, it also proposed that such materials be acquired in microfilm when required for current research. Both these recommendations guided the development of a newspaper collecting policy, formally adopted in 1953.

As a general principle, the 1931 statement gave absolute priority to current real needs of instruction and research, and the 1946 statement reaffirmed this in an aphorism, "A library can be strong only by being weak." Both the idea and the language commend themselves. The idea seems to be common, in less trenchant language, to the various statements of University policy about collection development that have followed on the California Master Plan, as it is also basic to the national planning represented in Farmington and the Public Law 480 programs and to the regional planning that supported the Mid-West Interlibrary Center. Rowell forecast the policy at the Portland meeting of the American Library Association in 1905: "Frankly abandon the idea of building up a 'well-balanced standard' collection; I have heard of such libraries, but have never seen one. Indeed, disproportion of books tends toward distinctiveness, and later to distinction."¹⁷

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