

The Lloyd Library and Museum— A Brief History of Its Founders and Its Resources

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MANY YEARS AGO Curtis Gates Lloyd wrote on the flyleaf of Wood's *Classbook of Botany* this inscription: "This volume is worthy of a prominent place in the Lloyd Library. It is the original volume that was sent to me when I was a boy at Crittenden, Kentucky, by my brother, John Uri Lloyd, and was the means of interesting me in the study of botany. As a boy, I was always fond of natural history and used to spend my time chasing through the woods and I remember now my delight when I first began to study plants by means of this book."

The period from this modest beginning until the founding and establishment of a great scientific library, known throughout the world, embraces a fascinating history which is typically American. It is in reality the story of three brothers, John Uri Lloyd, the eldest, Nelson Ashley Lloyd, and Curtis Gates Lloyd, scions of an old New England stock, but reared in Kentucky where their parents had settled in pioneer days.

Equipped only with the general rudimentary education typical of the "little red school house" received from his par-

ents, John Uri began his pharmaceutical career at the age of fourteen as an apprentice to a pharmacist in Cincinnati and by taking courses at the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy and the Miami Medical College. Later his brother Nelson Ashley joined him and both had at first a meager existence. Fortunately John Uri soon made the acquaintance of Dr. John King, then the leading authority on eclectic medicine, who introduced him to *Eclectic Materia Medica*. John Uri succeeded in developing various pharmaceutical preparations and in improving old formulae and processes in the *American Dispensatory* which led to his appointment as chief chemist of the H. M. Merrell Company in Cincinnati. Finally Curtis Gates, too, arrived in Cincinnati and joined his brothers in their work, but his personal interests were mainly botanical. As a result he collected a large herbarium of his own, the nucleus of the Lloyd Museum, which contained not only specimens collected by him but also material received from botanists throughout the world. Early, however, Curtis Gates was introduced to mycology, a field of botanical endeavor which captivated him for the rest of his life. Following these years of training and hardship the Lloyd brothers emerged as professional pharmacists and purchased eventually the Merrill, Thorpe and Lloyd

Pharmacy, known since 1886 as Lloyd Brothers Pharmacy, Manufacturing Chemists of "Specific Medicines." Nelson Ashley (1852-1925) took on more and more of the business responsibilities and concerned himself with numerous civic affairs whereas his brothers concentrated their respective interests on research in pharmacy and botany.

Books Secured as Need Arose

In the beginning books were secured only as need arose. But as time went on gifts were received and careful buying of large periodical sets was begun. With the growth and success of the firm the library developed under the watchful eyes of John Uri and Curtis Gates and the financial support given it by all three brothers.

John Uri Lloyd (1849-1936) was a versatile and prolific author. Apart from the valuable contributions to the literature of his profession, which number over four thousand titles of journal articles and books, he wrote eight novels, six of them on the local history and folklore of Kentucky. Perhaps he is best remembered for his *Stringtown on the Pike* and his esoteric novel *Etidorpha*. Like his brother Curtis Gates, he was elected to offices in various scientific societies and received many honors for his scientific achievements.

Curtis Gates Lloyd (1859-1926) became widely known in botanical circles for his extensive and penetrating *Mycological Writings* and the development of his important mycological herbarium now deposited in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. He travelled widely in Europe, Africa, Asia, and America in search of either fungi or rare books for the library. As a citizen, he is recognized for his numerous philanthropic activities in Kentucky and elsewhere.

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At present the library contains over one hundred thousand books and sixty thousand pamphlets, among them many valuable sets of scientific periodicals, first editions, and rarities. A few of these may deserve mention in this connection: the Juettner collection used in Dr. Juettner's writing of the history of *Daniel Drake and His Followers*; the collection of pharmacopoeias and commentaries on them from the vest-pocket edition of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1799* and the tiny vellum bound and brass clasped *Pharmacopoeia of London* of 1680 to the huge volumes of today; Johannes Zwelfer's commentary of 1693; a Latin translation of a Persian pharmacopoeia of 1681; a German one printed in Augsburg in 1581; and a Dutch one of 1636. The oldest volume in the Library is Meseu's *Vulgare della Consolazione de la Medicina Simplici Solutive*, 1493, the first important work in pharmacy. Numerous herbals record early botanical knowledge and methods of illustration. A unique book is Dr. Josselyn's *New England Rarities*. The works of John Clayton and John Frederick Gronovius are representative of early American botany. *The Indian Doctor's Dispensatory* by Peter Smith is extremely rare. A Japanese flora of twenty volumes, bound in yellow silk and hand-painted on silk paper is a treasure of Asiatic art. An interesting history is associated with Dr. Schoepf's *Materia Medica*. A copy of it was borrowed from Erlangen, Germany, and copied in long-hand. Years later Dr. Charles Rice found an original in an old bookstore in Italy and sent the volume to Dr. John Uri Lloyd. The works of Jonathan Carver of the provincial troops of America and of Manassah Cutler as well as Barton's

Collections towards a Materia Medica (1798) are also on the shelves. The library has the first colored botanical plates ever brought to Ohio, originally given to Daniel Gano, an early settler of the Northwest Territory, by his gardner who had brought them from Germany in 1820. The original herbarium of John Riddell, the first botanist of the Cincinnati region, is part of the original museum. A letter of Thomas Jefferson and letters of John Burroughs, Daniel Gano, Rafinesque, and other famous personalities appear bound in the volumes presented to the library.

New Classification Scheme

Since the available systems of classification such as that of the Library of Congress and the Dewey Decimal System did not provide all the subdivisions needed, a special system was devised by Curtis Gates Lloyd in collaboration with William Holden and Edith Wycoff, former librarians, which is now known as the Lloyd System of Classification. It is based on two alphabets, a black one of twenty-six divisions and additional subdivisions for

botany, and a red one with similar divisions for chemistry and pharmacy.

Over two hundred and fifty separate titles have so far been published by the Lloyd Library. The list begins in 1884 with the *Drugs and Medicines of North America* by John Uri and Curtis Gates Lloyd. Later bulletins were issued regularly for the publication of scientific contributions. They included the fields of botany, entomology, mycology, and pharmacy whereas certain ones were used for the reproduction of rare works in pharmacy and materia medica. The remaining titles are largely bibliographical in character, but as yet incomplete.

As early as 1907 the Lloyd Library and Museum was incorporated by Curtis Gates Lloyd who later endowed it and left it almost his entire fortune. Through his foresight the present staff is enabled to carry on the traditions by continued physical improvements and extended purchases as well as the publication of its new quarterly journal of biological science. This journal is dedicated to the memory of the founders whose scientific legacy warrants the name *Lloydia*.