A study has recently been made of the earliest holdings of the University of North Carolina Library and a survey taken of the volumes surviving after at least 130 intervening years. Catalogs and other records dated before 1830 were the guides to hundreds of the originally listed copies and to replacements of hundreds more.

On December 5, 1792, the beginning of the University of North Carolina Library was recorded at a meeting of the Board of Trustees: "A book entitled 'the works of the right reverend father in God Thomas Wilson D.D. Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man' was presented to the board by the Honble. John Sitgreaves Esqr. agreeably to a resolution of the Congress of the United States passed March 22nd 1785 which was accepted."\(^1\)

The book had previously been deposited for safekeeping in the library of the New Bern Academy to await the opening of the university, and perhaps the trustees never reclaimed it, for no mention of it occurs in lists of university holdings a few years later, but almost 2,300 of the volumes to come to Chapel Hill during the next thirty-seven years have been identified in the library's present collection. A representative portion of them, in well preserved leather bindings and bearing the original bookplates, have been brought together to form a special unit in the North Carolina Collection of the University of North Carolina Library, carrying out a suggestion of Miss Mary L. Thornton, librarian of the North Carolina Collection until her retirement on June 30, 1958.

The volumes sought for this "Old Library" representation had belonged in the early days to three separate collections. Administrative officials of the university fostered the first of these, depending on appropriations from the trustees, fees collected from the students, and gifts, which by 1797 had accounted for 133 volumes. Two student organizations, formed in 1796, began at once to build their own libraries. The Dialectic and the Philanthropic Societies, "willing to cultivate lasting Friendship . . . and to promote useful Knowledge,"\(^2\) counted most of the student body among their members, dominated student life, and for many years supplied the chief extracurricular activities. Their weekly programs consisted of recitations of passages from literature, readings of original compositions, and debates on subjects ranging from the political and sociological to the moral and philosophical. Their books were both the source of their inspiration and the material expression of their intellectual pride. The societies thrived on competition with each other:

And what is told of one library may be told of the other, for they were as much alike as the teeth of the upper and the lower jaw, and as often came into collis-

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\(^1\) Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Dec. 5, 1792, in the University of North Carolina Archives, Southern Historical Collection.

\(^2\) Minutes of the Dialectic Society, 1798-1804, in the University of North Carolina Archives, Southern Historical Collection.
sion. When one library got a book the other must have the same book, only more handsomely bound, if possible. The societies' collections, financed by membership dues and augmented by gifts, soon surpassed the university library in quantity and quality as they made its needs less acutely felt. They belong, their independence notwithstanding, in the search for the origins of today's library because in 1886 they were absorbed by the university library, whose bookplates have ever since carried the phrase "Endowed by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies."

As bases of the search for the original volumes, The Catalogue of the Dialectic Society Library and The Catalogue of the Philanthropic Society Library, printed at Chapel Hill in 1829 and 1827, respectively, were chosen because they appeared in close succession at a relatively early date. Since no list of the same period exists for the university library, one appearing in the December 7, 1802 issue of the Raleigh Minerva has been used. Comparisons make it apparent that the society libraries largely paralleled the university collection, and it is unlikely that a catalog of university library books, had one been compiled in the 1820's, would have added many titles to the combined lists mentioned above. The Dialectic Society Catalogue includes 934 titles, or 2,680 volumes; The Philanthropic Society Catalogue, 753 titles, or 2,485 volumes; and the Minerva, 108 titles, or 340 volumes, as well as the collective entries: "174 volumes chiefly in the French language" and "Horace, Virgil, Sallust, Greek Testament, and other School Books." Allowing for titles occurring in more than one of these lists, there is a total of 1,112 separate works, consisting of more than 5,000 volumes.

The information about each book was entered in a card file in the brief form, usually the binder's title, in which it appeared in one or more of the three lists, the number of volumes, and, in the case of gifts, the donor's name. For books from the Dialectic Society, an additional clue lay in that catalog's arrangement of titles in classifications of history, biography, "epistolary," etc. The name of the library or libraries which held copies was indicated on each card. Checking the file against today's card catalog showed many of the titles still to be in the library. For these, full author and title entries were recorded, together with the call number if publication predated 1830. Sometimes more than one modern entry appeared to fit the original specifications as to title, date, and number of volumes, and in such cases all possibilities were noted. No effort was made to find more than one copy or one edition of any title.

Often the brevity and content of the original listing made identification through the card catalog difficult or impossible. The relationship between early and modern entries may be deeply concealed. The title listed as "Amherst's Embassy," for example, was found to be Journal of the Proceedings of the Late Embassy to China . . . , by Sir Henry Ellis. "Nature and Art" is the old entry for Wonders of Nature and Art, by Thomas Smith. A work of fiction is sometimes listed under its subtitle. Many entries are too vague ever to be identified, such as "Anecdotes, 1 vol." or "French Revolution, 1 vol." "Orsna's Expedition" (The Expedition of Or sua, by Robert Southey) is an example of either misspelling or typographical error, while Adam for Adams and Sullivan for Sullivan are misleading inaccuracies. Fortunately, a little experience in the stacks soon made it possible to spot the leather

126 COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
bindings of about the proper age, and
the lettering on the spine was an imme-
diate clue to identification; but it is im-
possible to know how many rebound
volumes could not be found in this man-
ner.

More than 900 of the volumes (repre-
senting 380 titles), in good condition and
in their original bindings, with book-
plates or inscriptions indicating the col-
lections with which they had been listed,
were withdrawn from the stacks to form
the special Old Library collection. Call
numbers, date-due slips, and other marks
of modern processing were removed. All
but the earliest bookplates were taken
out—and sometimes five or six had been
pasted on top of one another. Loose
bindings and pages were made secure
and the leather was oiled. After the cat-
aloging had been revised, small gummed
labels with new call numbers were
placed on the front covers where they
would be out of sight when the books
were shelved, and bookplates of the
North Carolina Collection were pasted
inside the back covers. This was consid-
ered sufficient marking for volumes to
be used only in the building. The books
were placed on open shelves in rooms
furnished in eighteenth-century style
adjoining the reading room of the North
Carolina Collection. They are available
for use there or in carrels. A separate
shelf list records, in addition to full cat-
alogue data, the entries used in the pre-
1830 lists, the name of the libraries
which held copies, and all information
given on the first bookplates.

The books chosen to be shelved to-
gether in this special collection present
a picture of the physical nature of the
1830 library resources available in Chap-
el Hill. The original bindings are in-
variably leather, mostly in shades of
brown, but occasionally black, and often
with attractive yellow, green, red, or
black labels. A few marbled lining-
papers appear. Most of the imprints are
of contemporary dates and are predom-
nantly American and English (and
there are somewhat more of the Amer-
ican than of the English). A few of the
American imprints, usually on theologi-
cal subjects, carry subscription lists.
Novels are, almost without exception,
less than nineteen centimeters in height
and in two or three volumes. Paper and
typography are generally of good qual-
ity.

More than 1,400 other volumes (280
titles), named in the early lists and iden-
tified by their bookplates as pre-1830
holdings, remain in the main stacks, the
rare book room, and the departmental
libraries. Call numbers, complete en-
tries, and bookplate evidence were re-
corded in the card file used for the
search, but the books were not added
to the Old Library collection because
they are needed in their present location
or because they lack their original bind-
ings. In addition to these, about 2,000
volumes (82 titles), named in the early
lists and published before 1830, are in
the library today but came from sources
other than the pre-1830 collections, or
show no evidence of having been in the
library at that time. Undoubtedly some
are the original copies with bindings
and bookplates replaced.

There are 370 titles in the early lists,
representing 847 volumes, which cannot
now be found in the library in any edi-
tion dated before 1830, but an effort
was made to supply complete author and
title data for these. In most cases this
could be done with the aid of the Li-
brary of Congress catalog, the British
Museum catalog, and The English Cat-
alogue of Books, although the comple-
tion of some of the sketchy original en-
tries is questionable. It has been as-
sumed, for example, that “Wonders of
the World” is an entry for Book of
Curiosities, or, Wonders of the Great
World, by John Platts, published in
London in 1822; and that “Guion and
"Cowper" is probably *Poems*, by Jeanne Marie Guyon, translated by William Cowper and including some of his poetry.

A bibliography has been compiled of the books known to have been in the library before 1830. It includes the volumes which may be replacements, as well as those known to be the original copies, the latter differentiated by adding the call number for the present location. A supplementary list contains the titles not found in today's library, completing, if possible, the old-style binder's titles. Both lists show the wording of the old entries, the libraries originally holding them, and the number of volumes of each work. Together, these compilations record the literary content of library resources at the university before 1850 and suggest some comparisons and tentative conclusions.

The catalog of the university library printed in the *Minerva* of 1802 indicated a small but valuable collection. More than half the books were gifts, including "the American edition of the Encyclopaedia, elegantly bound, 18 vols.," large works in history by Hume, Smollett, Gibbon, and Rollin, and a set of maps. The collection is overbalanced in theology, however, by a gift of 174 volumes of religious tracts. The remainder of purchases and gifts reaches into every field of knowledge: strong in philosophy, political science, history, and the Greek and Latin classics, but weak in belles-lettres with only *Tom Jones, Don Quixote*, and "a volume of plays."

On the other hand, the society libraries a quarter of a century later showed their special functions of supplying resources for their programs and for light reading. The classification of literature is their largest, ranging from Shakespeare and Milton to the contemporary novelists. Scott, Cooper, Goldsmith, and Fielding are among the most plentifully represented, but—surprising in the man's world of this young college—the "romances" of a number of female writers appear: seven titles by Anna Maria Porter, *Paired—Not Matched*, by Mrs. Ross, *Fashionable Involvements*, by Susannah Gunning, and others. The societies had strong collections also in history and biography, and in voyages and travels to all parts of the world. Their works on elocution and collections of oratory must have been useful to the weekly speakers, with such current periodicals as *Annual Register*, *North American Review*, and *Edinburgh Review* to supply timely topics. The lively interest in world affairs is conspicuous in treatises on politics, economics, and law, and in the biography and memoirs of statesmen and military figures. Special attention is devoted to France from the Revolution through the Napoleonic period.

A rough estimate can be made of the distribution by Dewey subject classification of the books investigated by this study. Allowance must be made, of course, for the lack of information about the university collection between 1802 and 1830. About 8 per cent would fall in Religion and in Social Science (300-class); 36 per cent are in Literature, 26 per cent in History, and 12 per cent in Biography. There is very little in Fine Arts and Technology, only about 3 per cent in Natural Science, and slightly more in Philosophy.

It is a temptation to speculate as to the books for which no original copies were found. Those of a textbook nature, particularly Greek and Latin, were undoubtedly worn out, as were dictionaries and encyclopedias. Original copies of ephemeral fiction survived in greater number than the works of Scott and Cooper. Collections such as *Flowers of Wit* and *Elegant Extracts* may have been...
overworked for society readings. No fire took its toll, although for many years the books were housed on the third floor of a building heated by thirty-two open fireplaces. The largest single disaster occurred in the depredations by occupation troops and vagrants following the Civil War. "The Halls & Libraries are broken into at all times," wrote Cornelia Phillips Spencer in 1871, "& I am told the Phi Lib . . . has its books scattered & torn all over the building." Whether those deeds were simple vandalism or purposeful thievery is not indicated. The less dramatic processes of weeding and discarding, as new writings and new editions crowded out the old, have left no record.

These piecemeal analyses and observations are far from adequate to illustrate the beginnings of a great academic library. In terms of the hopes and hardships of the young nation of the early nineteenth century, it was a great library then, drawing largely on the literary wealth of the Old World from Aristotle to Adam Smith, from Xenophon to Voltaire, from Dante to Byron—but listening to the New World's John Adams, Washington Irving, and James Fenimore Cooper.

The New Book Rate and Policy on Interlibrary Loan of Dissertations

The Committee on Microfilmed Dissertations of the Association of Research Libraries has urged the librarians of the country, as a matter of policy, to purchase microfilm copies of doctoral dissertations accepted by American universities when they are available from University Microfilms in lieu of requesting the interlibrary loan of typewritten copies of these dissertations. Several inquiries have been received recently regarding the effect of the new postal book rate on this recommended policy. It seems to be the assumption that hitherto the cost of shipping a dissertation by express to and from the borrowing library had been sufficiently close to the cost of a positive film copy to warrant relieving the university libraries of this interlibrary loan burden. Now that typed dissertations may be mailed at a low book rate, this argument apparently has lost its validity.

It is the view of the Committee that the existing system should be continued despite the fact that the dissertations may now be mailed at a low postage rate. There still remains the high cost of charging the dissertation to the borrowing library, wrapping it, receiving it when it is returned, and discharging it. At the borrowing end there is the additional cost of record keeping and of wrapping the dissertation for return. It is the view of this Committee that although these costs are concealed in some institutions, they are sufficiently high to justify continuation of the present more convenient system which centralizes the interlibrary loan work on doctoral dissertations included in the ARL program through the purchase of positive microfilm copies from University Microfilms.—Ralph E. Ellsworth, Ralph A. Sawyer, and Frederick H. Wagman.