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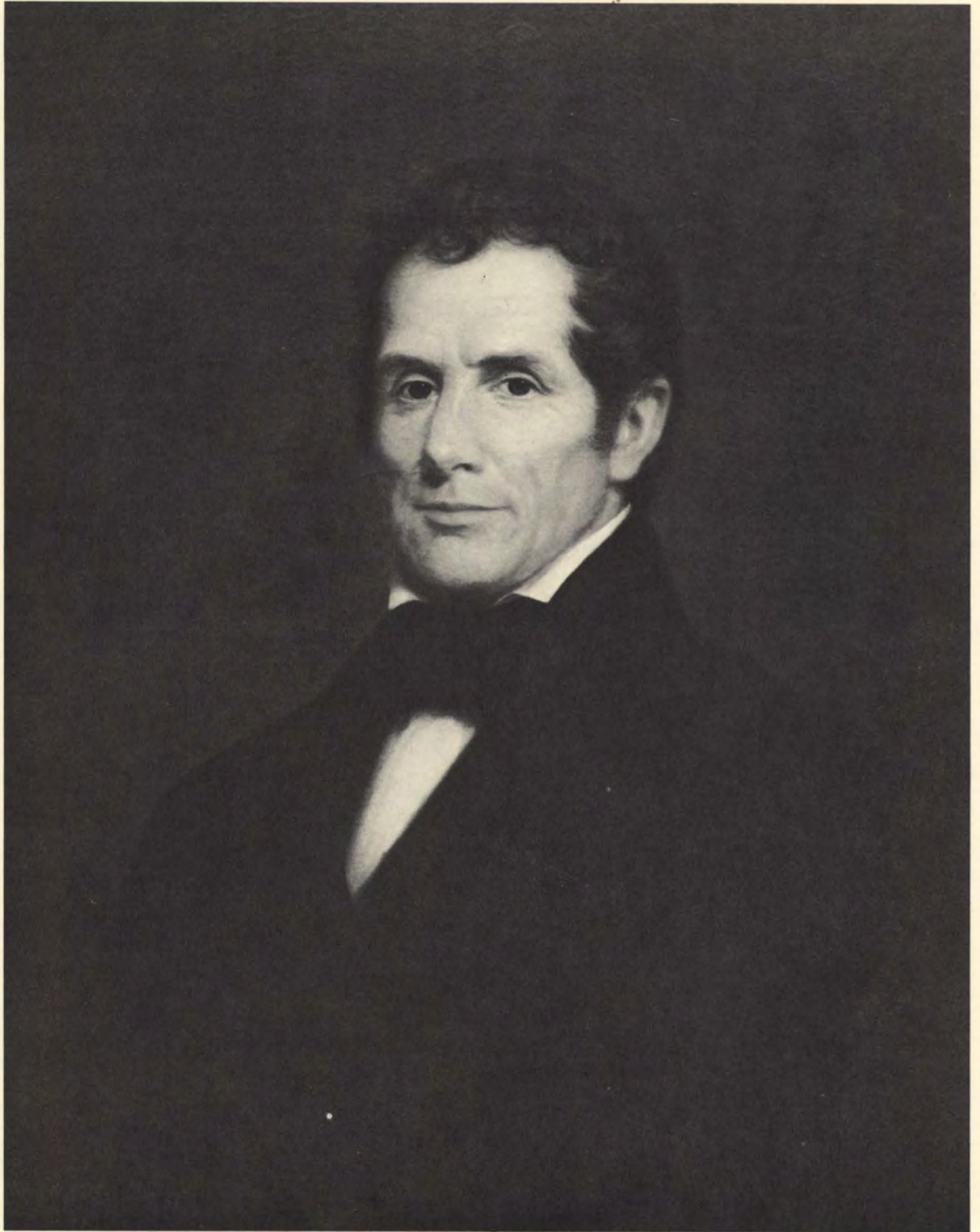


Fig. 1. David Watkinson. Oil, artist unknown.

David Watkinson's Library

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN HARTFORD • CONNECTICUT

1866 • 1966

By MARIAN G. M. CLARKE

Curator of The Watkinson Library

HARTFORD • CONNECTICUT

Trinity College Press

1966

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Foreword

It was decided not to identify quotations in footnotes. Many of them are from manuscript letters and records in the Watkinson Library collection and were considered sufficiently identified in the text.

Some of the quotations contain misspellings but the use of "sic," distracting to the reader, was thought unnecessary in such instances.

It will perhaps be noted that Center Church is also sometimes spelled Centre Church. In the early years of Hartford history the English usage was followed and the church records themselves did not show when the change to the Americanized spelling was made. The policy adopted for this book was to follow in each instance the form used in the source.

Acknowledgments

It is customary to thank all those who have given a writer assistance in compiling data and preparing a manuscript for publication. But only those who have been through the experience can know how loaded with heartfelt meaning are the words "without whom this book would not have been possible."

In this category are the members of the Watkinson Library staff starting with the librarian, Donald B. Engley, who gave the author time to write, and who read the manuscript to make welcome criticisms, and including especially Miss Jessie Kenny and Mrs. Ruth Bochnak who worked overtime typing, proofreading and helping to edit, and Peter Knapp who contributed in countless ways from assembling the bibliography to carefully editing the complete manuscript. Francis X. Daly, Richard F. Patteson, Jr., and Thomas L. Tonoli were invaluable also, particularly in preparing the index, as were Alvin F. Gamage, Trinity College reference librarian, and his

assistants who checked and verified many details of fact.

In a work of this sort, source materials are often a matter of chance, and a file of correspondence and a host of telephone conversations too numerous to list attest to the importance of following up elusive clues, particularly in obtaining early portraits and biographical material. The staff of local libraries gave much assistance, especially Miss Frances Hoxie of the Connecticut Historical Society and Mrs. Georgene L. Watt of the Connecticut State Library. Miss Marjorie Ellis of the Wadsworth Atheneum was especially helpful in reconstructing the various phases of the building developments.

Writing this book has been in part a detective adventure and I thank everyone who so willingly helped in every possible way, including Miss Ruth A. Kerr, Miss Mary W. Todd, Mr. G. Keith Funston, and all those to whom credit is given in the list of illustrations.

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David Watkinson's Idea

The Opening

At eight o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, August 28, 1866 a gala affair was staged at Allyn House on the corner of Asylum and Trumbull Streets in Hartford, Connecticut. The Watkinson Library was launched with festivities and extensive publicity.

Throughout the day, from ten in the morning to five in the afternoon, its "elegant rooms," recently completed as an addition to the Wadsworth Atheneum building, had been open for inspection by members of the city government and invited guests. In the evening a reception with the ladies in evening dress was held by the city authorities in honor of the trustees of the new library and its friends.

Alfred Smith, president of the Watkinson Library, formally presented the new institution to the city, and Mayor Charles R. Chapman accepted it "in a neat and handsome speech. . . . 'The Mayor and City officers have thought that

the opening of the Watkinson Library to the public was an occasion fit for some public demonstration,'" reported the *Daily Times*. Consequently the evening's program included tributes to David Watkinson by Mr. Smith and the Hon. Mr. Chapman, as well as a "fine collation to which the guests did ample justice . . . [and] after the inner man was fully satisfied," a series of "capital speeches" by such honored guests as Governor Joseph Hawley, Professor Calvin E. Stowe, the Hon. William Hamersley a former mayor, Dr. Robert Turnbull, and Calvin Day, Esq. Governor Hawley by virtue of his office and Mr. Day as president of the Wadsworth Atheneum were both ex officio trustees of the new library. The *Courant* concluded its report of the brilliant evening, "The party broke up at 11 o'clock, all highly pleased with the affair."

The library itself was described in lengthy newspaper reports. "The rooms are very tastefully fitted up, being divided into Gothic alcoves. All the woodwork and furniture . . . are of solid oak, finished in oil," reported the *Daily Post*. "The coup d'oeil on entering . . . is very pleasing. A cheerful light falls on the desk or table for readers, and is reflected from the bright rows of uniform bindings, of which many sets adorn the alcoves. . . . We believe that 'knowledgeable men' will pronounce this a gem of a library every way, and a most admirable execution of the founder's generous intent," noted the *Evening Press*.

Hartford's four local newspapers reported fully both in advance and after the event the grand



Fig. 2. Allyn House in 1866. Scene of the opening festivities of the Watkinson Library.

DAVID WATKINSON'S LIBRARY

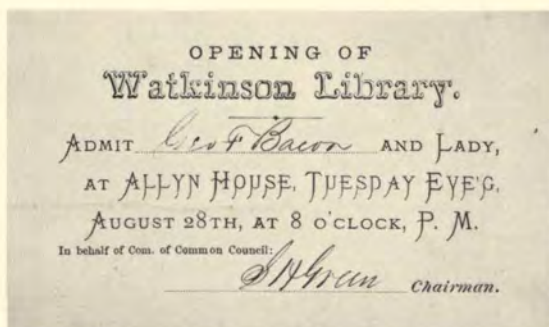


Fig. 3. Card of invitation to the festivities celebrating the opening of the Watkinson Library in 1866.

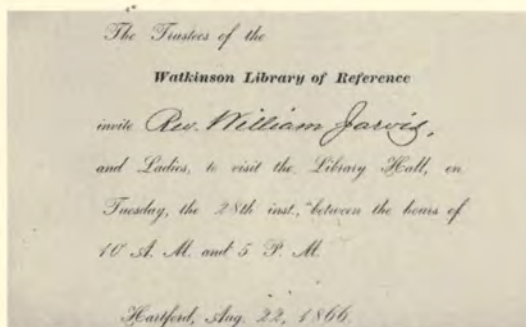


Fig. 4. Note of invitation to visit the Watkinson Library during its open house on August 28, 1866.

opening of the unique new institution in Hartford. It had been years in the making.

Its Founder

In 1795, David Watkinson, aged seventeen years, came to New England with his parents and

eleven brothers and sisters from the little village of Lavenham, Suffolk, England. His parents, Samuel and Sarah Blair Watkinson, were prosperous and cultivated people. Samuel was a master woolcomber in Lavenham, a center of the wool industry in eighteenth century England. His wife was from Dalry, Ayrshire, Scotland and



Fig. 5. Home of the Watkinson family in Lavenham, Suffolk.

she met Samuel when she came to visit her brother, Dr. William Blair, who practiced medicine in Lavenham. They were married on October 6, 1768.

In Lavenham where the Watkinsons occupied one of the best houses in town Samuel's fortune was estimated by his friends, the Taylors, at £30,000 (\$150,000), real wealth two hundred years ago. But they lived a quiet life. They were dissenters and Samuel was said by Henry Barnard to be a direct descendant of one of Cromwell's soldiers. He supported the small nonconformist congregation and its meeting house actively and financially. His son David in his name was later to contribute to the building fund when in 1827 he and his wife paid their second return visit to the old home and found a new chapel being built in Lavenham.

Universal ferment and fear had been produced in England by the French Revolution. Dissenters,

regarded as the friends of liberty, fell under the fury of Toryism. A system of oppression and espionage violated the free privacies of life. The safeguards of Habeas Corpus were removed and America was the land of safety to which all who could emigrate began to cast a longing eye.

Samuel Watkinson "to the inexpressible regret and loss of the circle with which he was connected, announced his intention of transporting his family to that land of liberty," wrote Ann Taylor Gilbert. He never regretted it. Letters written back home for the next twenty years until his death in 1816 reiterated his feeling that "I have no reason of regret here but the absence of my Friends." They had left a prosperous life in England and had come to an equally comfortable one in Middletown, Connecticut, then a gay and fashionable residential community.

Of Samuel's seven sons only one remained in business in Middletown, the eldest, John Revell.



Fig. 6. David Watkinson's store built on Front Street in 1801.

The next three, Samuel, Jr., Richard and David had joined mercantile firms in New York. William at seventeen was in Philadelphia in 1796.

Two years later their father wrote back to England, "I have now four Sons in York. . . . We have had an uncommon Hot Summer but the Climate appears as yet to agree very well with us. . . . The Yellow Fever rages in Philadelphia and most of the Inhabitants have left." A week later the fever broke out in New York and attacked all four Watkinson sons. Samuel died on September 6 and Richard on September 8. John came from Middletown with a doctor to help nurse his brothers and David and William recovered. But David's health was long precarious and he never cared to live in New York again, although William pursued most of his business career there.

David established a general wholesale business in Hartford and in 1801 built a brick store on Front Street. He traded in the West Indies, and supplied goods and groceries to the storekeepers up the Connecticut River. By 1805 his brothers William and Edward had become partners in the business and Robert, then nineteen, was a clerk in his brothers' store. In 1806 David extended his

business to stock naval stores, iron and steel, and in the next few years his brothers left one by one to set up businesses of their own.

In 1819 David took into partnership Ezra Clark, when the firm became David Watkinson & Co. In 1835 his nephew, Alfred Gill, and Ezra Clark, Jr. joined the business, and in 1841 David retired. But the firm continued under successive changes in partnership to become L. L. Ensworth & Son, Inc., and his brick store still stood at 350 Front Street until it was demolished in 1957 for the redevelopment of Constitution Plaza.

From the first, David was active in many other business organizations. Henry Barnard wrote that, "His name is found as original subscriber, and frequently as an office-bearer in almost every association incorporated to open new, or improve old avenues of travel, or increase the facilities of business—the Union Company chartered in 1800 to remove obstructions to the navigation of Connecticut River below Hartford—the Connecticut Steamboat Company in 1818—the Enfield Canal Improvement Company—the New Haven & Springfield, and the Providence, Hartford & Fish-kill Railroad Companies." Even after his retirement, and until his death in 1857 he continued as a director of the Hartford Bank, of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, and of the Connecticut River Banking Company. He was a petitioner and later a vice-president of the Society for Savings, a director of the New Haven and Hartford Railroad, and for a time its president, and he was owner with his brothers Edward and Robert of the Union Manufacturing Companies in Manchester and Marlborough.

In other fields, David Watkinson was an incorporator in 1823 and a charter trustee of Washington College, renamed Trinity College in 1845. He was one of seven charter members along with his brother-in-law Henry Hudson, of the Hartford Linnaean Botanic Association, incorporated in 1825. It was authorized to establish a botanic garden, nursery, green-houses and hot-houses to foster studies in botanic science. It may have had some connection with the Society of Natural History, but its accomplishments and length of active existence are uncertain. He was a founder

Iron, Steel, Nails, &c.
DAVID WATKINSON,
Offers for sale

6 Tons horse Nail Rods.
30 tons 3d to 40d hoops, plow plates and band Iron
12 tons nail, spike and deck nail Rods
2 tons treble rolled sheet Iron
300 tons Swedes, Russia and English Iron, a complete assortment of flat, square and round from 1-4 inch to 3 1-2 inches.
12000 lbs. English, German, Swedes and American Steel, warranted of superior quality
200 casks 2d & 40d cut Nails and Brads
Drawing and sheathing Nails
60 dozen steel plated Shovels and Spades
60 bags Juniper Berries
13 hhds Copperas
Sheet Lead, Axletree Drafts, Crow-Bars, Share Molds, Anvils, Vices, cart and waggon Boxes, Weights from 1-2 ounce to 56 lbs.

ALSO

300 bushels ground Plaster, at Hale's mill in Glastenbury.
Hartford, April 7, 1818. 6w76

Fig. 7. Early advertisement in The Courant of David Watkinson's store.

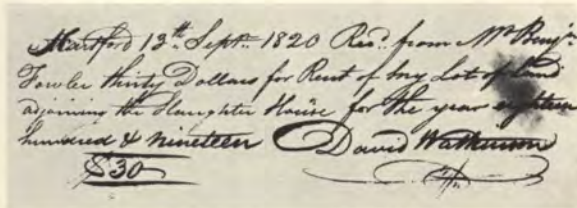
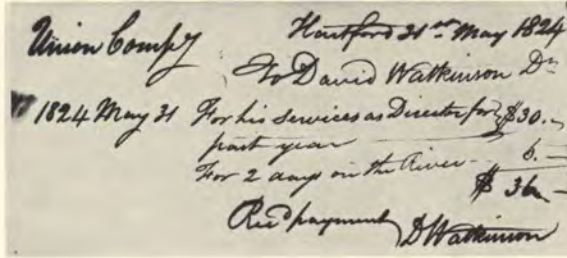


Fig. 8. Receipts representing business activities of David Watkinson.

and vice-president of the Wadsworth Atheneum, one of the early members of the Connecticut Historical Society, and one of the founders of the Young Men's Institute in 1839. He was an incorporator and financial benefactor of the Hartford Hospital, a vice-president and director of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and treasurer and director of the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane. He also contributed liberally to the Hartford Female Seminary and to the Hartford Orphan Asylum.

In 1803 David had married Olivia Hudson, daughter of Hannah and Barzillai Hudson. William Watkinson wrote on that occasion, "David is very happy, and indeed it would be his own fault if it were otherwise for she possesses every charm that could make Matrimony a state of felicity." Her father was a partner in the publishing firm of Hudson and Goodwin, proprietors of the *Hartford Courant*.

Olivia was as interested in welfare activities as her husband. She was a manager of the Beneficent Society for Orphan Girls from 1811 to 1849, and of the Widow's Society from 1833 to 1836. Of her it was said, in the *Memorial Sketches* published by the Widow's Society, "Mrs. Watkinson was equally kind in purpose, and as wise in executing the duties of her life. With a

judgment cool and accurate, what she designed for the benefit of others, whether in society, in charity, or the Church, was carefully planned and wisely and promptly executed. Her beautiful home, adorned with the accumulations of taste



Fig. 9. Olivia Hudson Watkinson, wife of David Watkinson.

and wealth, was always open to her friends and young relatives with a kindly hospitality long remembered, nor was the needy or orphan child or lonely widow ever forgotten in her aid and ministrations."

The Will

David Watkinson's will reflects his concern for almost every social welfare project of the day. With an estate of nearly half a million dollars at his death on December 13, 1857, he could afford to be generous. His wife Olivia had died eight years before on April 13, 1849 and his investments, subject to the characteristically wild fluctuations of the market at the time, had increased substantially between March 9, 1849, when his last will and testament was drawn up and Octo-

ber 27, 1857, when the sixteenth and final codicil was added.

In the seventh codicil of 1852 he recorded the "principles which in some particulars influenced my action.

"In commencing, I resolved to make a liberal gift to my nephews and nieces (having no children of my own) and to dispense freely to such public institutions and other objects as my feelings and judgment indicated. . . .

"The large accumulation of my property since, led me to add freely to my previous gifts to my nephews and nieces (about thirty in number) to the full extent even that my judgment would allow, were my estate much larger.

"My predilection, as well as sense of duty, which every citizen owes to the public, inclined me to dispense the rest of my property rather to



Fig. 10. David Watkinson's house on Prospect Street, Hartford.

public than private uses, and accordingly I limited expressly the legacies to my nephews and nieces," ten thousand dollars going to each of the thirty. In addition numerous small bequests were left to friends and societies in which he had always been interested.

As his property accumulated during those last eight years of his life, Watkinson spent much time and thought in planning its disposal, sometimes seeking the advice of his close friends Alfred Smith, James B. Hosmer and Henry Barnard. The sixteen codicils that he added periodically to his will reflected an affectionate concern not only for his family and friends but also for the welfare of the community where he had lived all of his adult life.

In Codicil No. 7 he spoke of the "regret with some of my best friends, that so much of my attention has been given in advanced age to business pursuits . . . but if greatly increased means of doing good have flowed from my persevering attention to business, I am slow to review my course with regret."

His numerous codicils also reflected the

changes that were taking place about him in the rapidly developing city. He had seen Hartford grow from a little country town with a population of about five thousand to a city of twenty-five thousand. In the mid-nineteenth century it was coming alive in new cultural ways. The wealth that had been accumulated in the initial economic and industrial organization of Connecticut had brought its owners not only taste and affluence but a sense of social responsibility. Several of the objects that David Watkinson had in view in 1849 had already been accomplished before his death in 1857.

He had originally planned to leave a piece of land to the City of Hartford to be used as a "public square, park, garden or pleasure ground," for the use and benefit of all its citizens, believing "that the time will arrive when such a public square or park will be regarded as invaluable." But in 1855 he revoked the bequest since the city was then contemplating an extensive plan for Bushnell Park, and Colonel Samuel Colt as well as other individuals were laying out such public grounds as he had had in mind. "I feel that my



Fig. 11. View of State Street, Hartford, 1850.

proposed humble gift . . . for a similar object is now uncalled for, and will not be duly appreciated," he wrote.

He first planned in 1851 to leave funds toward the endowment of "an Hospital or Dispensary for the sick poor," under a charter from the state, it "having been long a desideratum" in Hartford, "and the rapid growth of our City rendering its necessity more and more urgent." It was a challenge grant requiring, before the expiration of two years after his decease, the raising of additional funds from other sources. However, in early 1852 a Society for Providing a Home for the Sick was established which by 1854 had led to the incorporation by the General Assembly of the Hartford Hospital.

On October 10, 1855 in his eleventh codicil David Watkinson revoked his bequest to establish the Hospital and Dispensary for the sick poor and instead left forty thousand dollars to the newly established hospital of which he was one of the incorporators.

One of the "public objects" that had interested him in particular, early in his planning, was a state institution for orphan and indigent children. He wanted it to be incorporated, and specified that funds should be raised from other sources beside the twenty thousand dollar bequest named in his will in order to relieve "society from the evils of crime and corruption which involve in their consequences the heavier expense of maintenance in alms-houses and prisons." He left it to a named board of trustees to carry out his intent through the Hartford Orphan Asylum or the Hartford Female Beneficent Society, or through a union of the two under one board of managers. This was the forerunner of the Children's Village.

Then again in Codicil No. 11 he established two new institutions not heretofore mentioned, a Juvenile Asylum and Farm School, and the Watkinson Library. He left ten acres with buildings known as the Pavilion Property estimated to be worth forty thousand dollars, and in addition the sum of twenty thousand dollars for maintaining the Farm School. It was to be open to children from six to twenty-one years old, either

orphan or neglected, for industrial as well as intellectual, moral and religious training. It was to be modeled on such advanced principles as those recognized in the Ranen House near Hamburg, Germany and the Agricultural Colony at Mettray, France as described in Henry Barnard's *National Education in Europe*, as well as in the earlier Boston Asylum and Farm School and the recent New York Juvenile Asylum. Through the years it developed into Hartford's Watkinson School.

In the eleventh codicil also Watkinson provided for a refuge for discharged criminals to aid them in starting a new life free from crime, modeled on similar reformatories in London and Durham, England.

But of greatest importance to this history, and of greatest importance to David Watkinson himself judging by the amounts apportioned, were the specifications for a Library of Reference.

Conception of the Library

Whose idea it originally was to create a free library of reference in Hartford remains obscure. Although David Watkinson first drew up his will in March 1849, no mention was made of the library until the codicil written in October 1855.

Notes in the Henry Barnard papers suggest that he may well have planted the seed in David's mind. Barnard wrote in a memorandum, "I had occasion to call on a citizen whose name is now associated with one of the great libraries of the country, with reference to some educational enterprise in which I was interested and to which he had become a subscriber. That errand done, the conversation turned upon the disposition of property and the conditions of it for public service in Connecticut and out of that conversation came a request on his part that I would read the provisions of a will which he had drawn, disposing of pretty large sums of money for the benefit of the town of Hartford, with a desire that I should incorporate into it a provision for a library of reference, which I had endorsed as worthy of his consideration. The end of the whole matter was the drawing up of the eleventh

DAVID WATKINSON'S IDEA

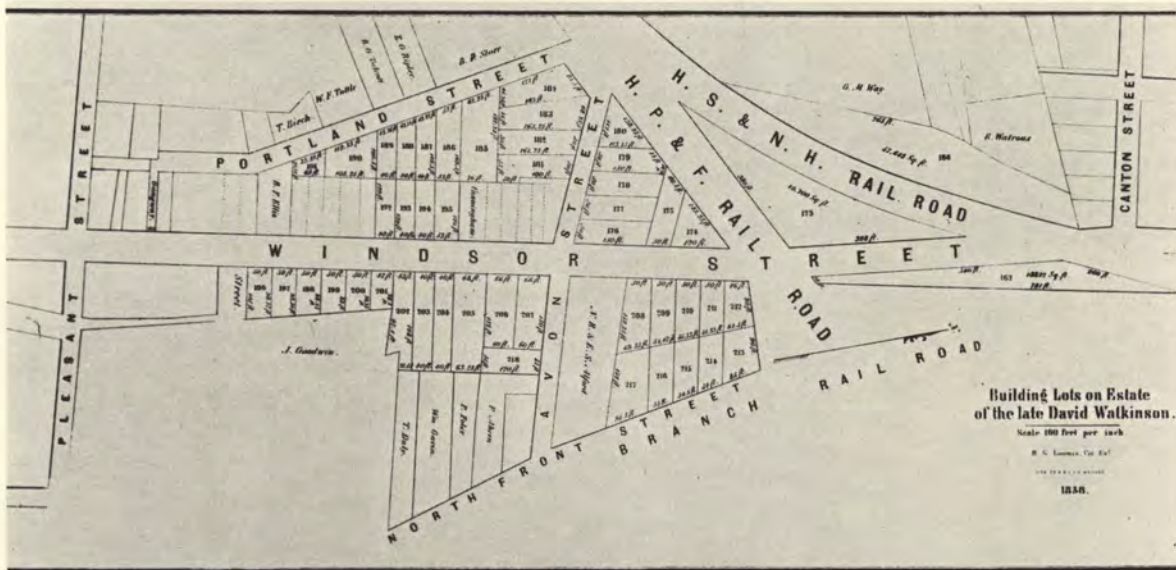


Fig. 12. Property owned by David Watkinson and sold at auction at his death.

codicil in Mr. Watkinson's will, by which the Watkinson Library of reference – now one of the best selected libraries in the country, – is in the possession of the city of Hartford." The memorandum is undated but was written late in Barnard's life.

Letters from David Watkinson to Henry Barnard dated August 22, 1855 through September 15, 1855 show that the "educational enterprise" in question was the founding of a Reformatory School which "Professor Camp had under consideration," and for which David Watkinson proposed to provide about twenty acres of his Pavilion Farm, if Henry Barnard regarded the plans favorably. "As I have other views about the employment of my charitable funds if this fails it is important for me to know Professor Camp's decision as early as practicable." David wrote again on September 10, "If this School is a practical thing, & a desirable institution for this community & ground is not already occupied by our ragged School or Orphan Asylum . . . I can furnish all that can be wished for in the sight and buildings now ready to be occupied with a good portion of the funds required to plan the institution on an eligible footing, but if it is of doubtful benefit and cannot be carried out at this time, I want to know it as I wish to embrace another object for my charity: my time being short, & I am liable to sickness."

The result of the consultation between the two friends on this matter was the drafting for David Watkinson by Henry Barnard of Codicil No. 11. David wrote again to Barnard on September 15, "Before I execute the document you prepared for me to sign," it would be well to revoke previous bequests to reconcile the additions to the will. He continued, "All of my Will I state is written in my own hand & I think before or as soon after as is convenient to you the addition should be written by me which might help to strengthen the belief that it is a voluntary act on my part & that this important change in my Will was a deliberate act on my part, & after having had time for reflection." He feared that the size of his estate might afford a strong temptation to

try to break the will although he wrote, "I have no suspicion of any one of my connections who would be guilty of so base an act."

Bearing on David Watkinson's intentions for the library and, incidentally, for the Hartford Hospital, a letter written April 16, 1863, from Alfred Smith to Dr. Ebenezer K. Hunt, who was shortly to become a Watkinson trustee, and was a founder of the hospital, reports an interview with Mr. Hubbard Hollister who had lived with and cared for David Watkinson during the last three years of his life.

Mr. Hollister was quoted as saying, "Mr. Watkinson, again and again, shewed and mentioned to me, his desire to know in his lifetime, where his proposed Library, and where the Hospital also were to be built – and that he wanted and meant to have them both on the places where the buildings for them have since been built." He had felt, however, that there was not enough room for the library on the Wadsworth Athenaeum property and had tried to buy a piece of William Imlay's adjoining garden for future expansion but the owner was unwilling to part with any of his land during his own lifetime.

For the proposed hospital David had sent Mr. Hollister out to look for suitable vacant lots around town. The Cogswell lot where the hospital was afterwards built seemed the best site, and David went in his carriage to see it. Helped out by Mr. Hollister, and looking from the high ground, he liked the place, bought it, and soon afterwards offered it to "some of the Doctors" for a hospital if they would build it there, which they agreed to do. The Cogswell lot was bought in the summer of 1855. A postscript in one of David's letters to Henry Barnard states, "I presume you are aware of the purchase of the Cogswell lot for the Hospital. Seven building lots had been sold previous to our purchase."

These letters and memoranda give no conclusive evidence about the origin of the library. Henry Barnard was interested all of his adult life in books and libraries as well as schools and played a part in the establishment not only of the Watkinson Library but of the Young Men's

Institute and the Connecticut Historical Society libraries. But David Watkinson was also intimately connected with each of these institutions, and his niece, Emily Rankin, later said that "they had a good many books at Aunt Olive's," and also "they had fine paintings at Uncle David's." What those letters do show conclusively is David Watkinson's intense interest in the projects to which he was to leave his estate.

Another, somewhat inconsistent, clue lies in the statement of William R. Cone, long an associate of Watkinson's and one of the charter trustees named in his will, on the occasion of the death on August 12, 1868 of Alfred Smith, the first president of the Watkinson Library, that "It was under his [Smith's] advice, as much if not more than any other man, that David Watkinson conceived and carried out the idea of

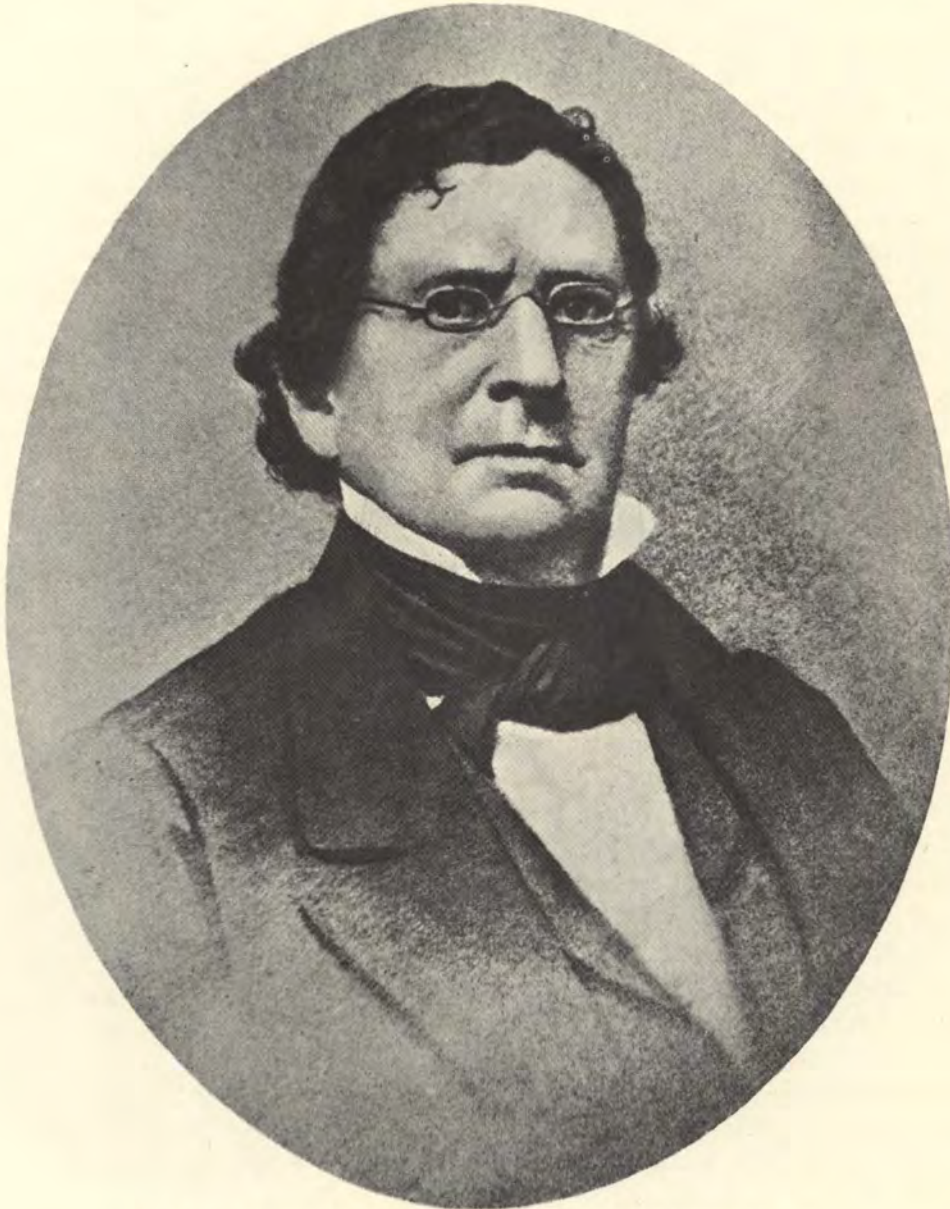


Fig. 13. Alfred Smith, first president of the Watkinson Library, 1858-1868.

founding and endowing this Library of Reference."

There is no question that Henry Barnard had a strong influence on that group of close associates. Elected to the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in 1837, where he served three years, he sponsored bills for the incorporation of public libraries, and was instrumental in placing on the statute books the first provision for the establishment of school libraries.

Organization of the Library

David Watkinson died on December 13, 1857, in his eightieth year. His will was probated on January 5, 1858, and the first meeting of the board of trustees named by him to establish the new library was held on March 16, 1858. It was called by and met at the residence of Alfred Smith at 56 Prospect Street, the first named trustee on the list.

The Watkinson Library board included David's only surviving brother, Robert; his only surviving brother-in-law James H. Wells who, however, died less than two months before David's own death in 1857; two nephews, Edward Blair Watkinson and Alfred Gill; his own former partner in the Watkinson iron and steel firm, Ezra Clark; Robert Watkinson's partner in a number of wholesale and manufacturing firms, George M. Bartholomew; a great planner of enterprises for the benefit of Hartford, Alfred Smith; one of Hartford's most prominent citizens, James B. Hosmer; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Errors, William L. Storrs; a former governor of Connecticut, Thomas H. Seymour; United States Senator James Dixon; a partner in the largest law firm in Connecticut, William R. Cone; the great educator of the nineteenth century, Henry Barnard; the bibliophile and collector of Americana and Daniel Wadsworth's nephew-in-law, George Brinley; and, ex officio: the governor of Connecticut, the president of the Connecticut Historical Society, the president of the Wadsworth Atheneum, the president of the Young Men's Institute, and the president of Trinity College.

Nineteen trustees were named in the will, but since James H. Wells died before it was probated his place was never filled, and since the Act of Incorporation reads, ". . . David Watkinson . . . created a board of trustees, consisting of . . . , or such of them as should be living at the time of his decease . . ." the number has ever since been fixed at eighteen.

The major provisions for the establishment of the library were contained in David Watkinson's will. One hundred thousand dollars was to be invested and managed by the board of trustees "for the purpose of establishing in connexion with the Connecticut Historical Society a library of Reference, to be accessible at all reasonable hours and times to all citizens and other residents and visitors in the State of Connecticut." The trustees were to be incorporated by Act of the General Assembly.

David Watkinson specified that out of the bequest the principal sum of five thousand dollars with accumulated interest was to be used to build an addition to the Connecticut Historical Society



Fig. 14. James H. Wells, brother-in-law of David Watkinson, named trustee but died before incorporation of Watkinson Library.

to house the new library "in convenient connexion" with the Society library's collections. Should the amount specified be greater than required for the extension, the balance was to constitute a fund for keeping the premises in repair.

A principal sum of fifteen thousand dollars should be set apart, the income of which was to be applied to the salary of the librarian to be appointed by the Connecticut Historical Society with approval of the Watkinson Library trustees, provided that the Historical Society matched the principal sum, or instead, appropriated one thousand dollars annually toward salaries of the librarian and his assistants. Any surplus in the fund might be expended on publications by the Watkinson Library or the Historical Society.

The accumulated interest from two thousand dollars was to be devoted to the purchase of statuary for the Wadsworth Atheneum.

The remaining seventy-eight thousand dollars constituted a Library Fund, with only the income to be spent. From this, a yearly sum of five hundred dollars was to be donated to the Hartford Young Men's Institute provided it was matched by the recipient, and the whole spent on books for circulation. Five hundred dollars, if matched by the Wadsworth Atheneum, was to be applied annually toward the purchase of works of art for the museum. The residue of the net annual income of the Library Fund was to be spent on books for the Library of Reference, not to be removed from the library rooms except on written permission of the trustees. In Codicil No. 12 David Watkinson further specified that, at the discretion of the trustees, part of the principal not exceeding ten thousand dollars, or any larger sum not exceeding twenty per cent of the total bequest, might be expended for books.

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, to be holden at New Haven in said State on the ~~second~~ ^{first} ~~Monday~~ ^{Wednesday} of May, A.D. 1858,

The Petition of Alfred Smith, James B. Horner, William L. Storrs, Robert Watkinson, Henry Barnard second, William R. Cone, James Dixon, George Brinley, Thomas H. Seymour, Ezra Clark senior, Alfred Will, Edward B. Watkinson and George M. Bartholomew, respectfully represents:

That David Watkinson, late of Hartford, deceased, made provision by his will for the gift to the petitioners, named in said will, together with the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the President of the Connecticut Historical Society, the President of the Wadsworth Atheneum, the President of the Hartford Young Men's Institute, and the President of Trinity College, all for the time being, and ex officio, as trustees, of a fund for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in said Hartford, a free public library of reference, for the benefit of all citizens, residents and visitors in Connecticut:

That said library will be of great public utility; that said Watkinson directed

the above named, his trustees for said library, to obtain as soon as possible the passage of an act by your honorable body, incorporating them for the purpose of carrying out the objects of said trust; and that such incorporation will greatly conduce to the accomplishment of such objects.

Your Petitioners do therefore request respectfully request your honorable body to pass an act constituting the persons so named as trustees in said will, a corporation for the purpose of carrying out the objects of said trust; and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Hartford April 23^d 1858

Alfred Smith
James B. Horner
William L. Storrs
Edw. B. Watkinson
R. B. Watkinson
Wm. R. Cone
Alfred Will
Ezra Clark
W. M. Will

Fig. 15. Petition for Incorporation by the trustees designated in David Watkinson's will.

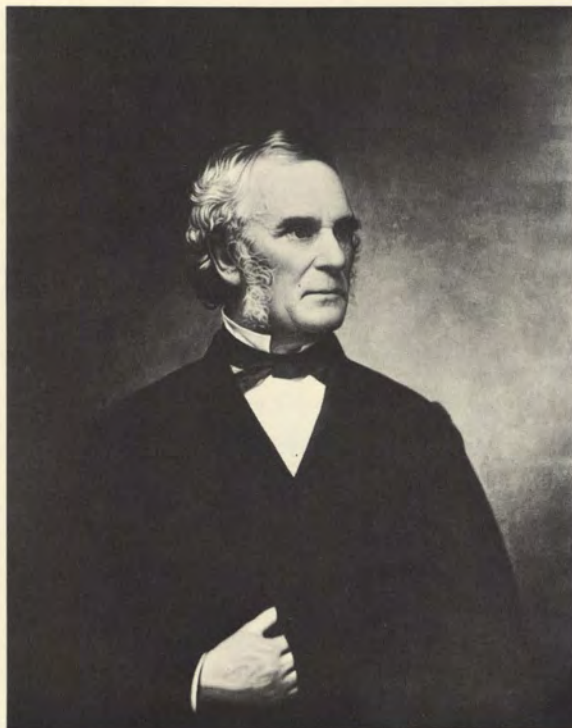


Fig. 16. William A. Buckingham, governor and ex officio trustee at the time of incorporation of the Watkinson Library. Painting by Alexander H. Emmons.



Fig. 17. Frank W. Cheney, president of the Young Men's Institute and ex officio trustee at the time of incorporation of the Watkinson Library.



Fig. 18. Joseph R. Hawley, governor and ex officio trustee at the time the Watkinson Library opened. Painting by Jared B. Flagg.

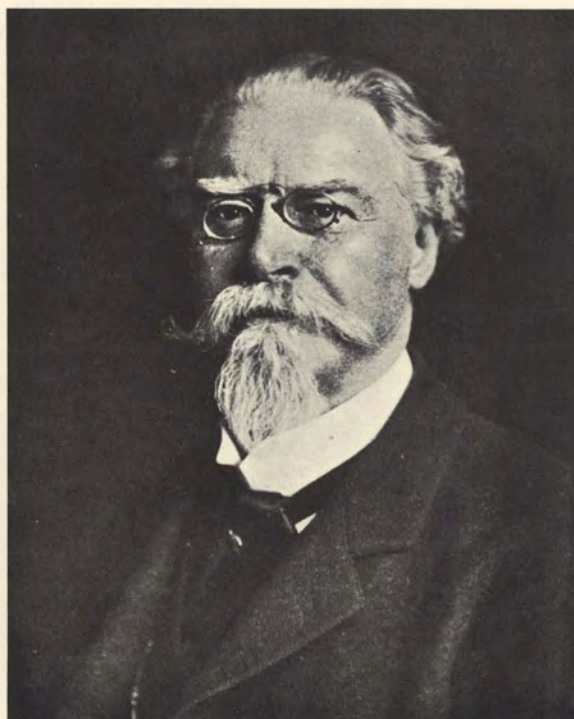


Fig. 19. William Hamersley, president of the Young Men's Institute and ex officio trustee at the time the Watkinson Library opened.

In the first year following his death, the trustees petitioned for and received an Act of Incorporation in May, elected their first officers and adopted by-laws, rules and regulations for the board. In October they appointed a committee of Henry Barnard, James Dixon and Austin Dunham to investigate the purchase of the land adjoining the Atheneum for a library building.

In December the committee reported the purchase by the "Executors of David Watkinson, Esqr." of the property on Prospect Street belonging to the late William H. Imlay, and including the former Daniel Wadsworth house, gardens and stables lying just east of the Wadsworth Atheneum. They paid \$24,600 for the property, several public spirited citizens helping to meet the expense.

By December 1860 the board was beginning to function in what became its normal course of action at annual meetings; electing officers, approving investments in real estate or securities, appropriating five hundred dollars annually to the Young Men's Institute for the purchase of books for its circulating library, and the same amount to the Wadsworth Atheneum for the purchase of works of art, providing those sums were matched each year by both institutions.

Starting in December 1859, the annual meetings were held at the Bank of Hartford County. Previous meetings had been held at the home of Alfred Smith. From April 1862 the meetings were held in the rooms of the Connecticut Historical Society in the Wadsworth Atheneum building where the office of the Watkinson Library trustees was thereafter located.

A New Building

At the annual meeting in December 1861 a committee was appointed to confer with the Connecticut Historical Society and the Wadsworth Atheneum on building an addition to accommodate the Watkinson Library. It included Alfred Smith, Henry Barnard and George M. Bartholomew.

The Connecticut Historical Society, at a meeting on April 3, 1862 appointed a committee

including Calvin Day, Erastus Smith and J. Hammond Trumbull. They were to procure a plan of addition to the Historical Society division of the Atheneum building, to determine in consultation with the Watkinson Library trustees the terms and manner of the connection between the two institutions, and obtain the consent of the Wadsworth Atheneum Corporation to an extension of the Historical Society's quarters.

The Atheneum had been established in 1842 by deed of trust of Daniel Wadsworth on land adjoining his own house and grounds. He provided for the erection of a building in which the central division was to be used for a Gallery of Fine Arts, the north wing for a circulating library of the Young Men's Institute, and the south wing for the Connecticut Historical Society.

By the terms of the Atheneum trust deed and of the Watkinson will the location of the Watkinson Library buildings was "irrevocably fixed." Since, under the terms of Daniel Wadsworth's deed, no independent society or corporation



Fig. 20. William L. Storrs, charter trustee. Painting by William R. Wheeler.

could acquire title in the land donated to the Atheneum, any building erected in conjunction with the Historical Society had to remain the property of the Atheneum Corporation held in perpetual trust for the Historical Society.

The Connecticut Historical Society presented its proposal for establishing the Watkinson Library of Reference to the Watkinson trustees on April 15, 1862. The latter met on April 25 to consider the report, and appointed a committee that included Henry Barnard, George Brinley and Roland Mather to study the plan and report to the next meeting. The report of the Connecticut Historical Society approved a proposed building for which plans and a proposed indenture were submitted along with votes of approval by the Wadsworth Atheneum and a request from the Historical Society for the concurrence and cooperation of the Watkinson Library trustees.

In the indenture each institution "covenants and agrees" to form "a perpetual union" in order to carry out the objects designed in the will of David Watkinson. It provided that the Society could at any future time take over the new wing when its own growth required expansion, upon repayment to the trustees of the Watkinson Library of the amount expended from the building fund of the Watkinson bequest, and upon two years prior notice of the need for expanded quarters. Two alternative architect's plans were presented for approval by the Historical Society and the Watkinson Library trustees, the role of the Historical Society being to procure the plans and erect the building and that of the Watkinson Library trustees to approve the plan before erection.

The committee recommended proceeding with the building immediately inasmuch as five years had elapsed since Watkinson's death. His estate had long been settled and the bequest was in the treasurer's hands. The new quarters would take another year to complete. More than two years' interest would by then have accrued toward the purchase of books, amounting to about eight thousand dollars. With the additional ten thousand dollars of principal authorized by the testator, a sum sufficient for the purchase of over ten thousand volumes was thus available.

On May 2 the trustees voted to approve the proposal and plans. An indenture was signed on May 14, 1862. However, the building committee evidently found later that the plans and specifications were somewhat too ambitious and costly. Another special meeting was called in July to approve amended plans, although the committee was empowered to restore as many of the changed or omitted details as the funds permitted.

Since the new building could not encroach on the central third of the Wadsworth Atheneum building, it was added at the southeast corner, back of the Connecticut Historical Society wing. The Watkinson Library wing had a front of the same stone used for the original building but its south side was of red brick. It had its own entrance but could also be entered from the Connecticut Historical Society.

The building progressed and by January 1863 was expected to be ready for use about the first of April. But delays of all sorts cropped up. Difficulties attended plans for "warming" the new building as well as the original Wadsworth Atheneum which was to share the new heating system. In the upper hall the alcoves and shelving were not completed until November 1864. The cost of furnishing the library exceeded expectations and even in late 1865 the librarian's annual report recorded that the library hall was not yet supplied with furniture such as tables, chairs, desks, book rests and alcove ladders. Delays in the purchase of books was a large factor also, partly occasioned by the high rate of exchange abroad. No doubt the War of the Rebellion was a prime cause, although the Trustees' *Minutes* never mentioned the Civil War.

The First Librarian

In December 1860 in accordance with the by-laws, Henry Barnard, just returned to Hartford from his one-year term as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, was chosen superintendent to direct and regulate the library subject to the order of the trustees. He was directed to prepare a purchasing list of not over fifty thousand books, and to

DAVID WATKINSON'S IDEA

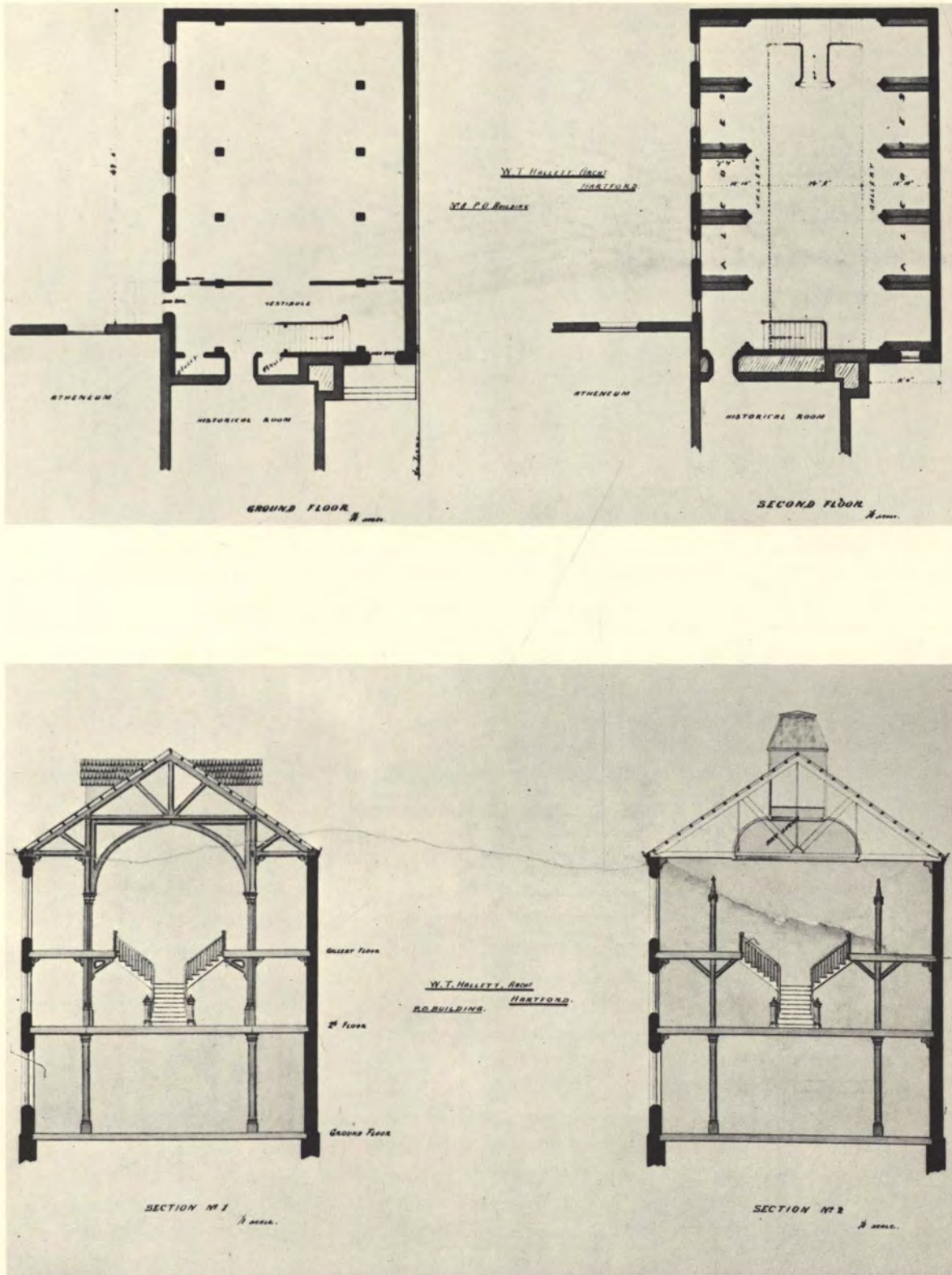


Fig. 21. Alternative plan and elevation for the Watkinson Library by W. T. Hallett, a recognized architect of Hartford at the time. The actual plan used was a modification of this one.



Fig. 22. Exterior view of the Watkinson Library addition to the Wadsworth Atheneum.

solicit and receive donations of books and manuscripts intended for the Watkinson Library.

Henry Barnard in the years 1855 to 1881 was immersed in his labors as editor of the *American Journal of Education* whose thirty-one volumes developed into a veritable encyclopedia of education. Other multitudinous activities must have been at best rivals for his attention and, in any case, the prospective Watkinson Library catalog was not prepared until the appointment of J. Hammond Trumbull as first librarian.

Henry Barnard's report to the trustees of his activities as superintendent for the year 1862 mentions merely the purchase of a few bibliographical manuals and book catalogs. The question thus arose of how best to proceed in forming, organizing and managing the new library. Consensus was reached on the necessity for immediate appointment of a librarian. Subsequently,

the provision in the by-laws for a superintendent was repealed.

The Connecticut Historical Society, as provided in David Watkinson's will, had the option of sharing a librarian with the Watkinson Library, but in 1863 the Society voted that it was financially impossible to comply with those provisions. Their right to name one in common with the Watkinson Library was therefore suspended although everyone concerned continued to hope that the Society could later share such joint services. As it turned out the first librarian to serve both institutions was William I. Fletcher who came to the Watkinson Library in 1874 as assistant librarian.

A committee of which Alfred Smith was chairman, formed to consider the matter, noted in its report of January 10, 1863, "To perform well the duties proposed to be referred to our librarian,

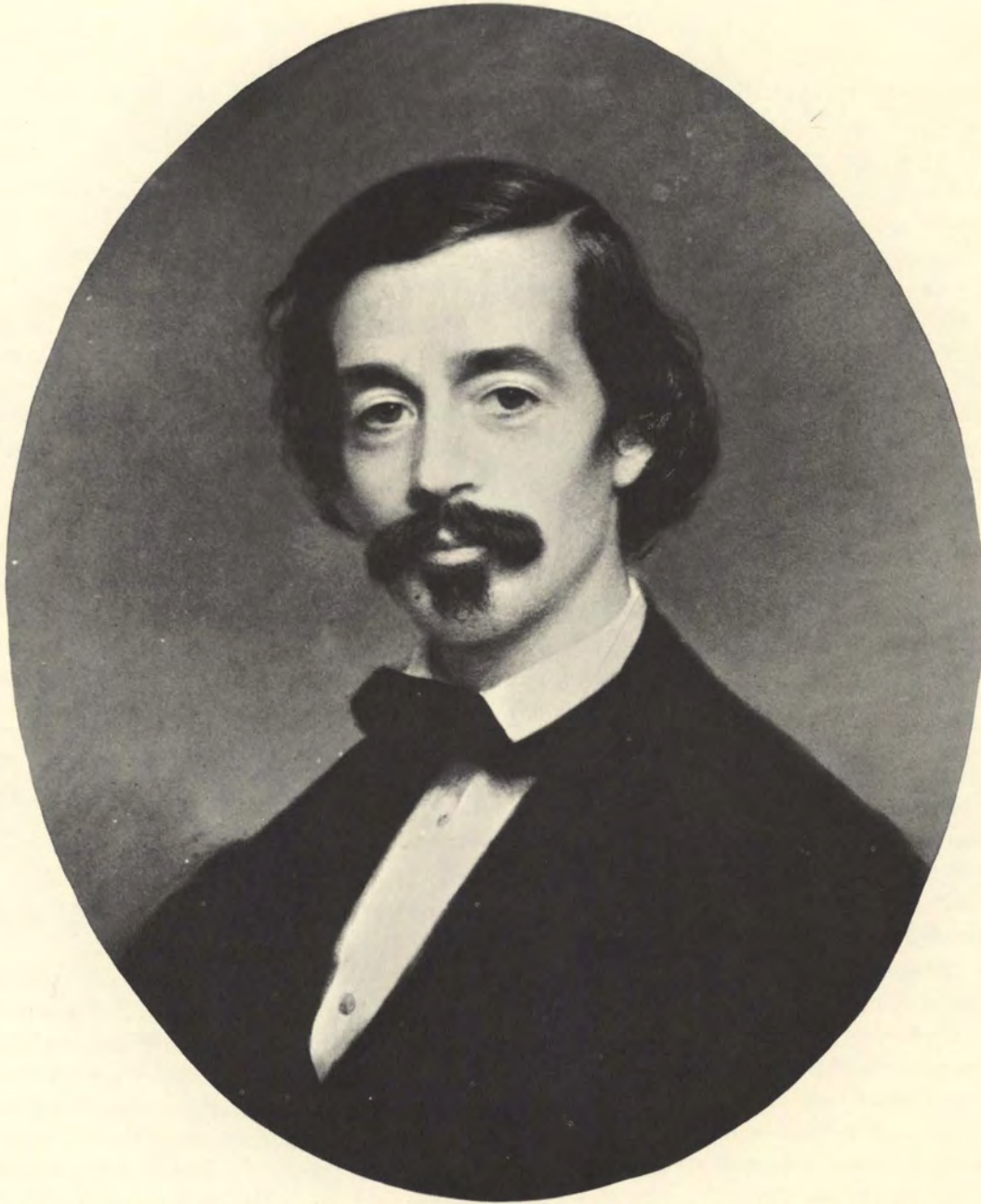


Fig. 23. J. Hammond Trumbull, Assistant Secretary of the State, 1847-1852, 1858-1861; Secretary of the State, 1861-1865; first librarian of the Connecticut State Library, 1854-1855; and first librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1863-1890. Pastel portrait by Charles Noël Flagg.

will require a rare assemblage of talents, large acquaintance with books and libraries, and a judicious, discriminating mind. Indeed it cannot be doubted that the future repute and usefulness of the library, through all time, will mainly be determined by the character, qualifications and labors of its successive librarians – and especially will they depend upon him who shall be first chosen to originate its plan. . . . For it should be borne in mind, that the Watkinson Library cannot, like College Libraries, claim the aid or services of a body of learned professors, to advise what is the best apportionment of the annual or other incomes, amongst books in the various departments of learning. . . .

"Our estimates of the importance of, and of the high qualifications requisite to perform the office of librarian, are based upon the experience and expressed opinions of scholars familiar with the best libraries in Europe or America. . . ."

One week later on January 17 James Hammond Trumbull was elected to the office and accepted it. He was the obvious choice and a more fortunate one could hardly have been made.

He was born in Stonington, Connecticut on December 20, 1821, the son of Gurdon Trumbull. He entered Yale in 1838 but ill health interrupted his college course, and he never finished. However in 1850 his name was entered on the roll of the class of 1842, and later he received LL.D. degrees from Yale and Harvard and an L.H.D. degree from Columbia.

He became one of the leading American scholars of his day with a vast and encyclopedic knowledge. He seemed to be familiar with every subject, so much so that his daughter wrote of him in *An Appreciation of James Hammond Trumbull*: "Recognized as an authority on the languages of North America and the colonial history of New England, as well as in the later paths of bibliography, a large part of the work to which he gave unstinted hours, has become, nevertheless, associated with the names of others rather than with his own, a natural enough consequence of the variety of interests which prevented his being content to till one field."

He came to Hartford in 1847 to fill an appoint-

ment as Assistant Secretary of the State, in which post he served for five years, and again for a term from 1858 to 1861. He was elected Secretary of the State for the Civil War years from 1861 to 1865. During the early years of his tenure he established the State Library. His daughter continued, "Finding the books owned by the State in a sort of loft 'over the Secretary's office' in the old City Hall, he says in some manuscript notes 'inconvenient of access and almost uncared for, I appropriated the east end of the lobby or upper hall; had it partitioned off, a comfortable room finished and furnished, ample for the accommodation of the library, then, [1853], but far too small now (1864), transferred the books thither, and next Spring, finding that my proceedings (which were without especial "warrant of law" so far as the building a room was concerned) met the cordial approval of the Legislature, I drew and procured the passage of a resolution which provided for the immediate and progressive increase of the library, by the completion of its

THE RELIGIOUS HERALD.

HARTFORD:

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1866.

THE free library in this city founded by the 100,000 legacy of David Watkinson Esq., will soon be opened to the public.— It is designed to be a library for reference rather than for circulation. For consulting the twelve thousand volumes that have been purchased, every facility will be afforded, but probably permission will rarely be given to remove any of them from the room.— Most of the volumes are too rare and valuable to be subjected to any risk of loss or damage. The Librarian elected is J. Hammond Trumbull Esq., late Secretary of State;—an admirable choice, whether regard is had to intelligence or courtesy.

Fig. 24. Press notice of the appointment of J. Hammond Trumbull as librarian.

series of American reports.' " He was the State's first librarian, in the year 1854-1855.

His fame in Connecticut in 1866 thus was already such that, when the Watkinson Library opened, the newspapers unanimously applauded his appointment as librarian. The *Evening Press* noted on June 16 that "under the personal supervision of Mr. J. Hammond Trumbull, one of the most accomplished scholars and bibliographers in the county, the collection is already of great value and interest." The *Norwich Courier* of June 21 reported that "J. Hammond Trumbull is to be superintendent of the Watkinson Library in Hartford. An excellent selection."

Formation of the Book Collection

His appointment as librarian of the Watkinson Library came while he was still Secretary of the State, and until the latter post was relinquished he was financially on a part-time basis as Watkinson librarian. But from the moment of assumption of his new position he began one of the great works of his life, selection of the books that now make the Watkinson Library "worth many times its cost and no less a monument to Dr. Trumbull who knew what to buy, than to David Watkinson, who furnished the wherewithal to buy with," as the *Hartford Daily Courant* noted later, in his obituary on August 6, 1897.

Among his prescribed duties were the preparation of a syllabus for the formation of the book collection and of purchasing lists, acquisition of books approved by a committee of the board, preparation of the books for use by the public, and formulation of rules and regulations subject to approval by the trustees.

In about two months Trumbull presented his syllabus to the board of trustees for the development of the new library's reference collection, as the first duty that they had assigned to him. His introductory statement is significant as his interpretation of the expressed intentions of David Watkinson in founding the "library of reference." The prominent features of the testator's plan, he noted, were:

1. Connection with the library of the Historical Society.
2. Restriction, more or less exclusive, to purposes of reference.
3. Accessibility to all readers.

The special aim of the Connecticut Historical Society to promote "the collection and preservation of the materials of State and National History," Trumbull felt, should have a prominent place in the plan of development to be adopted by the Watkinson Library trustees. The library of the Society was henceforth to be regarded as one with the Watkinson Library in all but name, and the purchases for the new library should supplement the collections already in existence and augment those that were deficient.

The restriction of the use of the library to purposes of reference authorized the exclusion of many types of books which were, on the other hand, indispensable to a library of circulation. Proximity to the Young Men's Institute library (which became the Hartford Public Library) justified the omission of prose fiction, modern poetry and drama, in his view.

"Accessibility to all" meant that areas of general interest and utility should be stressed in the purchase of books, rather than the requirements of professional readers or advanced scholars.

But Trumbull went on to stress two things, since the development of any plan of acquisition was limited by the available funds.

"In deciding what classes of books may be omitted or comparatively disregarded in the library plan, the character and extent of existing public libraries in our city must be taken into account." Besides the Connecticut Historical Society and the Young Men's Institute already referred to, he noted the State Library with its law and legislative archives, the Trinity College Library with its collections in the classics and liberal arts, and the various parish and pastoral libraries in Hartford.

The first care of the trustees should be to supply those basic and intrinsically valuable works which were not already accessible to the citizens of Hartford and whose cost forbade their purchase by men of limited means. Secondly, their

To the Trustees of the Watkinson Library.

Gentlemen:

The first duty which you have assigned to your Librarian is that of preparing, for your consideration, "a syllabus or scheme of such select departments of arts, sciences and literature, as he shall deem most useful and important, and best suited to the objects of the Watkinson Library."

In the discharge of this duty, in the absence of any suggestions or directions from your board, I have been guided only by the ^{expressed} intentions of the founder, subject of course to the limitation of the revenue of the fund.

Mr. Watkinson, by his munificent bequest, proposed to establish "in connection with the Connecticut Historical Society.... a library of reference... accessible to all citizens &c."

The prominent features of this plan, in the order in which they are thus briefly indicated by the testator, are

1. Connection with the Library of the Historical Society.
2. Restriction, more or less exclusive, to purposes of reference.
3. Accessibility to all readers.

In view of these fundamental requisites of the library plan, I respectfully suggest:

1. That the object for which the Historical Society was established and which it is the especial aim of that association to promote, - namely, the collection and preservation of the materials of State and National history, - should have a prominent place in any plan adopted by your

(above and opposite)

Fig. 25. Sample pages from J. Hammond Trumbull's Syllabus for the Watkinson Library collection drawn up in 1863 as a guide to purchases.

I. Books of Usual Reference.

Encyclopaedias.

Dictionaries. - of Languages: (1) English; (2) French, German; and (3) other languages of western Europe; (4) Greek and Latin.

Dictionaries. - of History, Biography, the Arts and Sciences.

Gazetteers, and Almanacs.

Chronological Tables, Hand books of Dates &c.

Bibliography, general and special: comprising Elementary Treatises; Books relating to the History of Printing; General Bibliographies, (English, French and German); Special Bibliographies, - of countries and languages, - of departments of literature, science and the arts, - of anonymous and pseudonymous works, &c.; Catalogues ~~and systems of classification~~ of the great Libraries of Europe and America; Catalogues of Private Libraries, distinguished by the number and excellence of their books; Periodical Bibliography, English and Continental, and Trade Catalogues. Such a collection, should be commenced with a liberal appropriation, should be enlarged from time to time, and as rapidly as the income of the fund will permit. Its importance can hardly be over-rated; for on its judicious selection and extent must depend in a great measure the general character of the library, and the efficiency of its librarians. There is perhaps no criterion by which the comparative excellence of a public library may be so reliably measured, as by its department of Bibliography, - with regard, of course, to the value rather than to the number of the volumes which it contains.

Paleography, or the science of ancient writings; explications of abbreviations, ancient and modern.

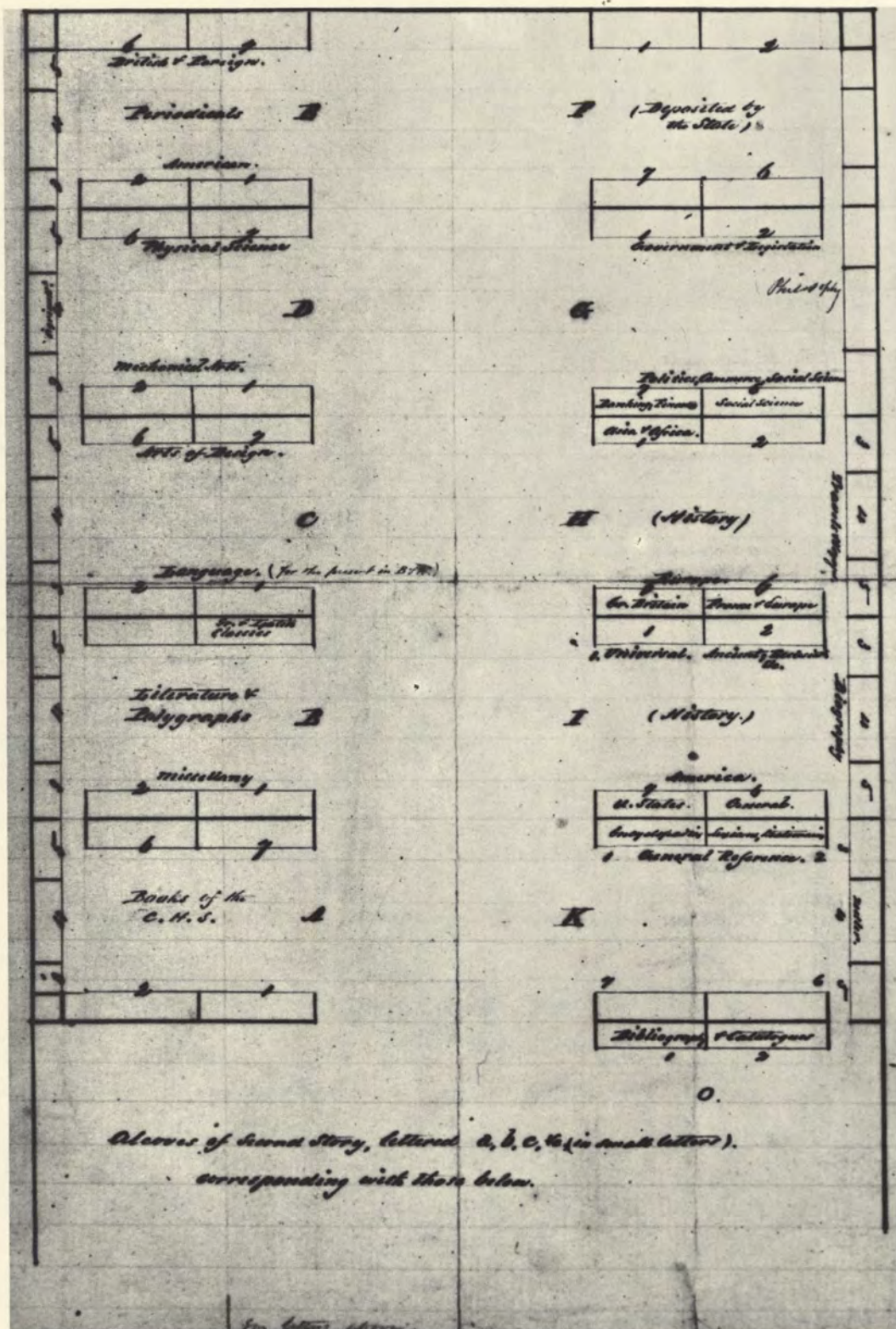


Fig. 26. Plan of new Watkinson Library arrangement of books in alcoves, drawn by J. Hammond Trumbull in 1866.

immediate object was the *beginning* of a good library, not the absolute limitations of its future growth.

Trumbull's syllabus stressed the importance of bibliography, the criterion by which the comparative excellence of a public library was most reliably to be measured. After the basic reference books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, gazetteers, etc., he listed history, then the useful arts, the fine arts, pure science, the social sciences, philology, philosophy, and belles lettres, in the order of their importance to the development of the new library in the light of the considerations he had specified.

In August 1863 the librarian had completed his purchasing lists. At a special meeting on August 22, fourteen thousand dollars was appropriated out of the income of the Watkinson Library Fund for the purchase of American and foreign books. The librarian was empowered to proceed without delay to procure the books he proposed to buy and the treasurer was authorized to place funds in London subject to the orders of the librarian as required.

But a very high rate of exchange abroad held up his planned purchases. In December 1864 the number of volumes procured was two thousand, and in December 1865 it was 6,650. But by August 1, 1866, with the Civil War over, it rose to 11,321 volumes. A few more were gifts. The State Library, under a system of international exchange promoted by the French bookman, M. Nicholas Vattermare, working in Boston from about 1825 to 1840, had deposited about one thousand volumes and the Connecticut Historical Society had shelved nearly one thousand volumes in the Watkinson Library.

Trumbull noted in his report just before the library was opened to the public that David Watkinson had authorized the trustees to expend

one-fifth of the principal as well as the annual income from the total fund on the purchase of books. However the long delay between his decease and the opening of the library, while occasioning dissatisfaction, had enabled the trustees to restrict their book expenditures to annual income plus accrued interest, thus maintaining the endowment, and the delay had also given them the advantage of lower rates of exchange, saving one-third of the amount they would otherwise have had to pay for books from abroad.

On the opening day, August 28, 1866, over twelve thousand volumes owned by the Watkinson Library were on its shelves in the upper hall whose capacity was estimated at twenty-five thousand volumes. The lower hall, not yet fitted with alcoves or shelving, equalled it in dimensions so that ultimately fifty thousand volumes could be accommodated in the new building. Trumbull's inspection of other libraries in New York, Boston and elsewhere, convinced him that the Watkinson provided economy of space, good distribution of light, durability of materials, and moderate cost. The architectural effect was good, without sacrificing utility or convenience.

This then was the library that opened with such ambitious hopes in 1866. Among the remarks made by Alfred Smith at the formal presentation ceremonies was, "It is now expected that the library fund will annually amount to \$5,000 or \$6,000. The expenses will necessarily increase with the enlargement of the library. Further donations will add to its value and usefulness. The wealthy and liberal citizens of Hartford will, doubtless, in due time, bestow of their abundance to enlarge the library, and make it still more the pride and honor and ornament of our city."

Related Hartford Institutions

Hartford's First Library

Libraries were already in existence in Hartford at the time the Watkinson Library opened and it was to be closely allied with two of them throughout most of its first century of existence. In 1774 the *Connecticut Courant* of February 22 ran a notice to subscribers advertising a meeting at the Grammar School House the next Thursday evening at six o'clock, to choose a committee, librarian, and regulations for the establishment of a public library. They formed a society to purchase a collection of useful and religious books for the benefit of themselves and their families, to promote virtue and useful knowledge, as they phrased it, and invited anyone to join according to the rules and terms of admission. The Librarian's Company, alternatively called the Library Company, still held meetings in 1790 as indicated by a notice in the *Connecticut Courant* on March 15. In 1799 the Hartford Library Company was incorporated and is assumed to be the same institution. The General Assembly a year later in October 1800 passed an Act spelling out in greater detail its regulations and management.

It was still in existence in 1838 when a group of young Hartfordites, including Henry Barnard, formed the Hartford Young Men's Institute, incorporated under that name in 1839. The American Lyceum system started by Josiah Holbrook in Milbury, Massachusetts in 1826, as a forerunner to university extension courses, stimulated

the establishment and rapid development of Mechanic, Mercantile and Young Men's Associations for self-education. Lectures in Hartford on natural philosophy and other subjects were being given by professors from Yale in 1830, the year Henry Barnard graduated from that college. The idea of forming a permanent organization for study which should include a library grew out of these developments. Henry Barnard was elected president, Junius S. Morgan was second vice-president and Alfred Gill, nephew of David Watkinson, was recording secretary, all three among the charter members named in the Act of Incorporation.

The Hartford Library Company, perhaps on the way to becoming defunct, and "owing to my own personal exertions," wrote Henry Barnard in a memorandum, agreed to transfer its some three thousand volumes to the new institute, and subscriptions in funds and books increased the size of the collection to 5,600 volumes. Daniel Wadsworth was a life member through a subscription of three hundred dollars, and David Watkinson contributed the life membership fee of twenty-five dollars plus forty-five books. Other life members who were later to be Watkinson Library charter trustees included Robert Watkinson, Alfred Gill, Alfred Smith, Ezra Clark, and of course Henry Barnard.

At the outset, the Young Men's Institute formed debating classes and arranged lectures on



Fig. 27. Henry Barnard in Paris in 1836. Engraving by P. C. Van Geel.

literary and scientific subjects requiring a small admission fee. Among the outstanding speakers thus brought to Hartford from 1838 to 1874 were Richard Henry Dana, John Quincy Adams, Horace Mann, George Bancroft, Ralph Waldo Emerson (six times), Mark Hopkins, Lewis Cass, Oliver Wendell Holmes, General Sam Houston, Henry Ward Beecher (on twelve different occasions), William C. Prime, Wendell Phillips (eleven times), James Russell Lowell, Horace Greeley, Samuel L. Clemens, Bret Harte and Thomas Nast. Concerts, operas and other entertainments were arranged during the later years of the lecture series.

The library was housed until 1844 in Gilman's Hall, a little north of the First Church on Main Street. When it moved into the new Wadsworth Athenaeum building, the \$1,150 cost of fitting up its rooms in the north wing was defrayed through contributions by friends.

At David Watkinson's death in 1857 the Institute received from him a bequest of one thousand dollars, and an annual appropriation of five

hundred dollars for books to be paid by the Watkinson Library board of trustees if matched by an equivalent sum by the Institute. Its income was too small at that time to make up the specified amount but a permanent fund of ten thousand dollars was sought and meanwhile gifts from individuals enabled it to meet the necessary requirement.

On March 26, 1878 a Special Act of legislature changed the name of the Hartford Young Men's Institute to the Hartford Library Association, and on March 14, 1883 a Special Act authorized and empowered the City of Hartford to appropriate and expend annually a sum not exceeding one fifth of one mill upon the grand list in support of a free public library and art gallery.

Connecticut Historical Society

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the nation was beginning to give thought to the preservation of its records. The United States had become a country with a past. The Massachusetts Historical Society was established in 1791, the New York Historical Society in 1804, the American Antiquarian Society in 1812, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in 1824. A group of Hartford citizens led by John Trumbull, author of the poem *M'Fingal*, petitioned the General Assembly for an Act incorporating the Connecticut Historical Society which was passed in May 1825. John Trumbull was elected president of the new Society and Bishop George Washington Doane, then a professor at Washington College, was secretary of the standing committee. Within a year they both moved out of the state and no further meetings of the Society were held until the spring of 1839. Its complete cessation of activity was feared to have forfeited the Society's legal existence, for in May of that year an Act renewing the charter was obtained from the General Assembly.

With the revival of the charter, Thomas Day, Secretary of the State, became its president, Henry Barnard corresponding secretary and James B. Hosmer treasurer, at a meeting held in the rooms of the Young Men's Institute in Gil-



Fig. 28. James B. Hosmer, charter trustee. Painting by Matthew Wilson.

man's Hall on June 1, 1839. Among the charter members of 1825 reappearing on the charter list of 1839 were the Reverend Thomas C. Brownell, Thomas Day, Thomas Robbins, the first librarian of the society from 1844 to his death in 1856, Thomas H. Gallaudet and Samuel H. Huntington whose wife was Sarah Blair Watkinson, daughter of Robert Watkinson, youngest brother of David.

Daniel Wadsworth was shortly thereafter elected to membership and in 1840 David Watkinson, Alfred Smith, David's brother-in-law James H. Wells, George Brinley and Calvin Day all became members. In 1842 donations were reported from David Watkinson, Esq., his brother-in-law Barzillai Hudson, Jr., and Henry Barnard.

Between the time of its revival in 1839 and its installation in the south wing of the Wadsworth Atheneum in December 1843, before the rest of the building was completed, the Society contin-

ued to meet for a time in the Gilman Building, then at the home of J. B. Hosmer, and in September 1839 rented a room over 124 Main Street, where it invited the Hartford Natural History Society to share its quarters. Its expanding collections, as well as those of the Young Men's Institute, no doubt were a factor in Daniel Wadsworth's decision to provide quarters for the two cultural and literary institutions when he decided to build a museum to house his own art collection.

But Henry Barnard wrote that when the building was completed the number of books in the Connecticut Historical Society hardly exceeded one hundred, and in filling the shelves and the alcoves of that library "it was my privilege to be useful." Early in the course of Barnard's connection with the schools of Rhode Island, in 1844, the committee on education in that state was considering the purchase of the library of Thomas Robbins then living in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, as the foundation for a new state library. Barnard, familiar with the



Fig. 29. George Brinley, Jr.

Robbins library when it was in Windsor, Connecticut, and knowing that it was exceedingly rich in early New England history, advised prompt action. Williamstown College, where Dr. Robbins had received his first degree, and Harvard College where he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity were both looking at it with longing eyes. But Barnard added that he felt it ought to go to Connecticut where nearly all the volumes had been gathered from the garrets and libraries of the older families of the state. "The Committee smiled at my suggestion, thinking there was but very little danger that any state would be likely to act immediately in the matter, and they almost unanimously declined to take any step for its purchase." So within a few hours after adjournment of the legislature he was on his way to Dr. Robbins, made him an offer, which he accepted, to secure him an annuity larger than he then received as a clergyman if he would move to Hartford with his library and become librarian of the Connecticut Historical Society. Within twenty-four hours Barnard reported that he had secured from Daniel Wadsworth, David Watkinson, Judge Thomas S. Williams and others the full guarantee of the sum required and in less than a month Dr. Robbins' library was on its way to the Connecticut Historical Society.

The records of the Historical Society of Connecticut show that on June 18, 1844 it was voted to ask the Reverend Thomas Robbins, D.D. to become librarian of the Society, and on November 17, 1846 members of the Society agreed to subscribe annually until his death the sum of six hundred dollars to Dr. Robbins in return for his library and his services as librarian. Daniel Wadsworth subscribed one hundred dollars, and David Watkinson, James B. Hosmer and Alfred Smith each fifty dollars.

Dr. Robbins' will leaving his library, a collection of gold and silver coins, and various bank stocks to the Historical Society was executed in May 1852. He died in 1856. At David Watkinson's death in 1857 he left to the Connecticut Historical Society one thousand dollars for investment and use of the income.

Wadsworth Atheneum

"Atheneum," the temple of Athene in ancient Athens where professors taught their students and orators and poets rehearsed their compositions, was used in modern times, according to Murray's "Oxford" *Dictionary* of 1888, as a term for "a literary or scientific club," or "a building or institution in which books, periodicals and newspapers are provided for use; a literary club-room, reading-room library." Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1847, defined it as "in the U.S. a public reading room." It is perhaps significant that the organization which had its genesis in Daniel Wadsworth's desire to permanently house his own art collection was given a name which so eminently suited the other three institutions which shared the Atheneum's quarters for over one hundred years, and which for the first half century were the most active corporations of the four.

Daniel Wadsworth's grandfather, the Reverend Daniel Wadsworth, had built the historic family dwelling house on Main Street in 1730. It was occupied in turn by his father, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth of Revolutionary War fame, and was where Daniel himself was reared. He later moved to the house on the corner of Prospect Street and Wadsworth Alley.

In the summer of 1841 he offered the old lot which lay just west of his own house and grounds as a site for the proposed Wadsworth Atheneum which was incorporated in 1842. The land was bounded on the north by the Alley, on the west by Main Street and on the south by the house and garden of Charles Brainard. The eastern boundary was a twelve foot wide right of way through the gateway or cart-way which passed through and under the brick out-building, a wing connected with his dwelling-house, and which ran south to Brainard's land, granting free and common passage both to Daniel Wadsworth himself and his heirs, and to the Atheneum.

In response to his offer of the property, a meeting at which David Watkinson was chosen

chairman was held on September 24, 1841 to plan a fund raising campaign. A total of almost \$32,000 was subscribed and paid to David F. Robinson, David Watkinson and James B. Hosmer in trust for the association. The cost of the building was over \$34,000 and further subscriptions raised the total to over \$39,000, more than making up the difference.

Daniel Wadsworth, not counting his gift of land evaluated at \$16,200, subscribed \$6,500. Later gifts for a skylight and portico and a contribution towards painting the interior by the newly invented and handsome technique of kal-somine, combined to a total of \$9,076. David Watkinson subscribed the next largest sum of \$1,250 and gave at least \$600 in later subscriptions to help make up the deficit.

Construction of the building started as early as March 1842. It was designed by the New York architects Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis, but was based on a plan devised originally by Daniel Wadsworth himself, advised by Henry Barnard.

"I have always supposed I had something to do with the building itself," wrote Henry Barnard in a memorandum on *Books & Libraries*. "It so happened that I was fortunate in receiving the early and kind attention of Mr. Wadsworth, the great benefactor of all measures of charitable and public spirit in his day. He was kind enough to show me the plan of a building, which he had drawn himself, for a gallery primarily to receive and preserve his pictures and engravings. . . . This building was substantially a copy of Trumbull gallery at New Haven and was planned with special reference to a gallery of the fine arts. I ventured to suggest whether a little more height to the basement story would not make it the repository of his own father's historical papers of interest, and of other papers and documents connected with the history of the state, which was at that time enlisting the thoughts and efforts of several of his friends and neighbors, and which would harmonize with the special object he had in view in the construction of the gallery, viz: the preservation of its contents from fire. To his objection that the hazards of fire to

the gallery" – which, of course, there would be but one copy of any article in it and its destruction would be total – would be increased by the papers in the room below, and which might, in the then method of warming and lighting be exposed to fire, I suggested that the objection could be met by modifying the plan of the building, by having a division wall in the center, carried from foundation to roof, which would make either side practically fire-proof. These suggestions were talked about and were finally embodied in a sketch of a building having two departments, with two distinct entrances. . . ."

"Subsequently, under the growth of the library of the Young Men's Institute, his [Wadsworth's] plan was embraced in three divisions so as to include a popular circulating library, a library of reference in the Historical Society and the gallery of pictures and of the fine arts."

The building was completed on July 31, 1844, when according to the *Courant* it was open in time "for the gratification of those attending Commencement" exercises at Washington College. James B. Hosmer had been the superintendent of construction, and he, David Watkinson and Alfred Smith had all been members of the committee in charge of building operations.

The new structure was one hundred feet long, the central portion devoted to the art gallery was eighty feet deep, and the wings on either side were seventy feet deep. The exterior walls were faced with gneiss granite from the quarry of Elijah Sparks in Eastbury, near Glastonbury, Connecticut and lined with brick twelve inches thick, while the vertical interior division walls were of brick sixteen inches thick.

Although museums had been established earlier in America they included natural history specimens and other objects of curiosity. The art gallery of the Wadsworth Atheneum was the first public institution founded purely for the display of paintings and sculpture. But the new gallery had no funds to buy works of art.

Early in 1844, however, paintings and other art objects were purchased of the late New York Academy of Fine Arts by Daniel Wadsworth, David Watkinson, James B. Hosmer and others.

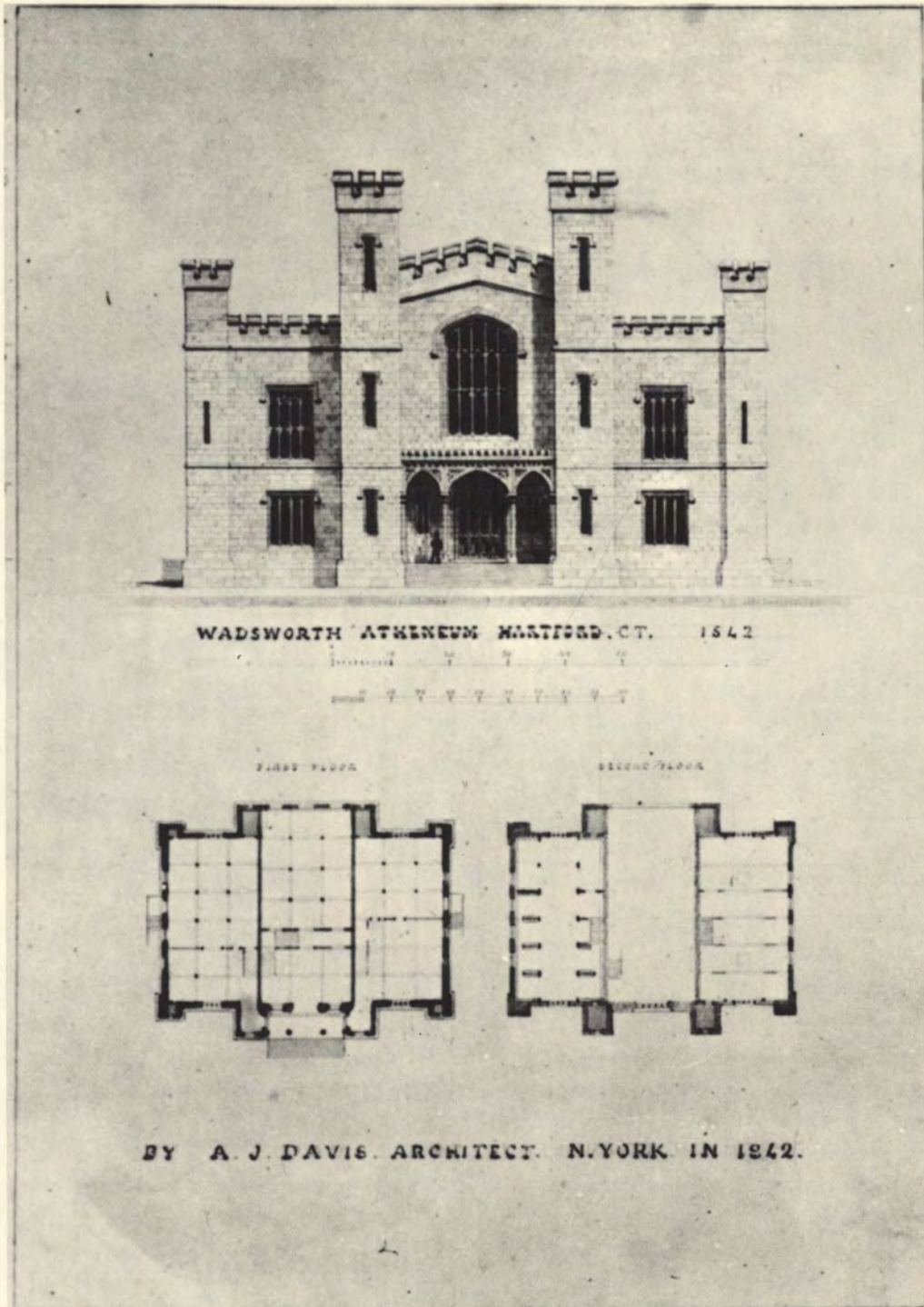


Fig. 30. Plan and elevation of the Wadsworth Atheneum built in 1842.

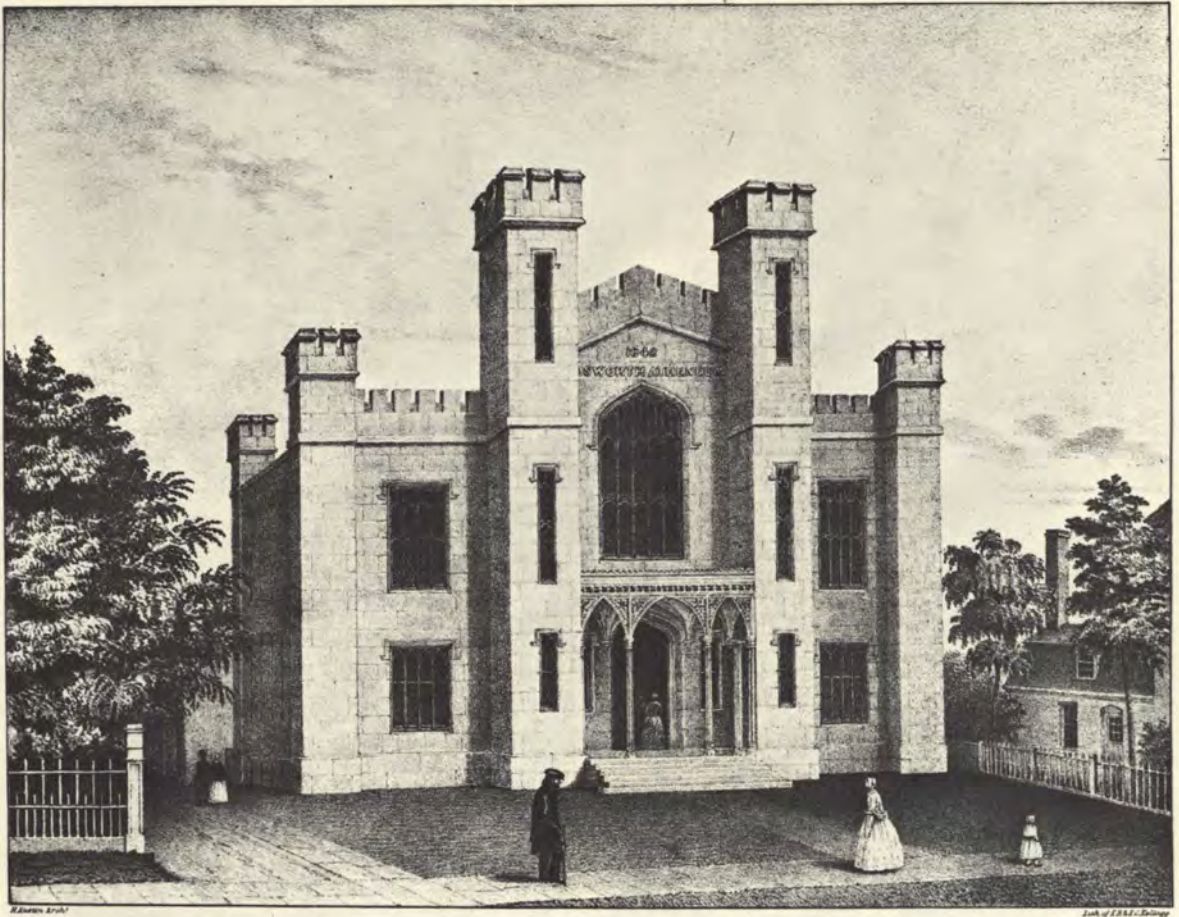


Fig. 31. Exterior view of the Wadsworth Atheneum built in 1842.

At that time a lot containing fifty-three paintings, two pieces of statuary, ten books and seventeen engravings was purchased at auction by Alfred Smith for fifteen hundred dollars. It must have been those paintings which were on view in July when the *Courant* noted that they "have not all been arranged, but the most important ones are in place, and they present an attraction probably unsurpassed by any similar collection in the country. . . ." They were on loan to the Atheneum by the above named subscribers, but the net proceeds of the exhibition, less six per cent which went to the owners, was to be applied toward their purchase.

At his death in 1848 Daniel Wadsworth left to the art gallery thirty-one items enumerated in his will, part of them already in the Atheneum. In 1855 another subscription of \$4,250 was raised

for art works for the gallery to which David Watkinson contributed one thousand dollars. James B. Hosmer and Alfred Smith contributed similar sums and in July the latter two conveyed their interests in their paintings to the corporation.

David Watkinson in his will left to the Wadsworth Atheneum, upon his death in 1857, one thousand dollars to be used to buy the pictures then on loan including, in particular, the "Trumbull Pictures," those now in the gallery "being, for the most part, the property of individuals and subject to their disposal, and the permanent interests of the institution being incompatible with such a tenure."

Alfred Smith at his death left three more paintings to the Atheneum including the portrait of Daniel Wadsworth by Ingham and a landscape painting by Thomas Cole.



Fig. 32. Daniel Wadsworth. Painting by C. C. Ingham, presented to the Wadsworth Atheneum by Alfred Smith at his death in 1868.

Other Libraries in Hartford

Besides these institutions which were to play an intimate role in the history of the Watkinson Library, Hartford had others including Trinity College Library, the Connecticut State Library founded in 1854 by James Hammond Trumbull, and parish and pastoral libraries including that of the Theological Institute of Connecticut, later the Hartford Seminary Foundation.

The first central medical library in the city was made available in 1848 by the Hartford Medical Society which, as successor to the Hopkins Medical Society in existence from 1824 to 1844, inherited its books upon its own founding in 1846. The Medical Society successfully negotiated with the Natural History Society for library space in its Atheneum quarters in 1848 and the collection remained there until 1857 when it was presented to the Hartford Hospital to form the nucleus of the hospital library.

The Hartford County Law Library Association was formed in 1854, although it was not incorporated until 1880. It had no listed address in Hartford in those early years.

The American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb founded in 1817 had its own collection of books for the use of the school, as did the Woodburn School for Boys founded in 1848 and the Hartford Public High School established in 1847.

There were also such private libraries as Daniel Wadsworth's open to young men like Henry Barnard, who wrote, "It was during my connection with the Hartford Grammar school that I had access, through the kindness of Mr. Daniel Wadsworth, not only to the books in his own library, but to the Hartford Library Company's books . . . in connection with some of my preparatory studies for college."

But none of the libraries was free to the public. Barnard graphically describes in the same memorandum the administration of college libraries when he was at Yale. "The college library was not accessible to students until they reached their

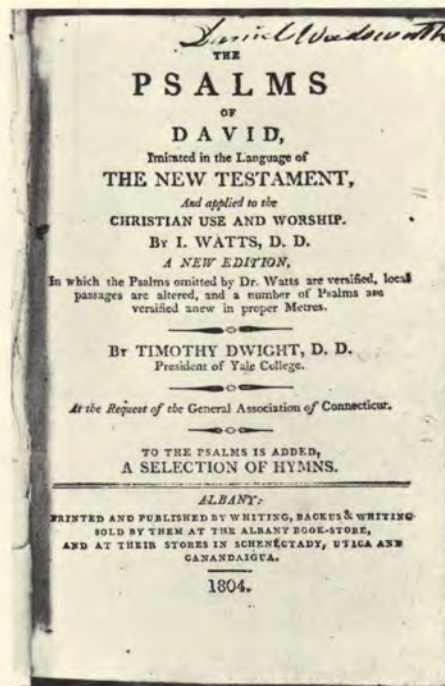


Fig. 33. A book from the library of Daniel Wadsworth, part of the Watkinson collection of psalms and hymns.

junior year, but I have a recollection of going up to the floor over the College Chapel, on the day on which the library was open, across which was a table to prevent any intruders from getting into the library; but I was permitted to look into the silent alcoves. The whole library, even by the senior students and graduates, was very little used, & not much even by the professors." Elsewhere he noted, "Librarians considered themselves conservators and keepers of books – protectors of the book in its material form of unsoiled paper and unworn binding . . . which was too often understood to mean to prevent their being handled by anybody or even opened and looked into by curious eyes. . . ."

At Washington College in its first year in 1824 the library owned 462 volumes and was open for taking out books at such times as the president might direct, and the students came in such order as the librarian might prescribe. No studying was allowed in those sacred precincts. Students had to study in their rooms. Fifty years later in 1874 when the collection had grown to 15,000 volumes the library was open only every Saturday morning from ten to twelve, still merely for the withdrawal of books.

In contrast, David Watkinson reflected the most advanced thinking of his day in providing that his new library be freely open to all citizens of Greater Hartford and to scholars from anywhere in the world. The three institutions with which the Watkinson was from the start closely related maintained restricted access for another generation. The books of the Young Men's Institute, whose charter was amended in 1878 to change its name to the Hartford Library Association, were available only to subscribers. The books in the Connecticut Historical Society were accessible to members but to visitors only at the discretion of the executive committee. The Wadsworth Atheneum art gallery charged a fee for admission.

Movement Toward Free Libraries

A few libraries freely open to the public had already been established in New England: the



Fig. 34. Calvin Day, president of the Wadsworth Atheneum and ex officio trustee at the time the Watkinson Library opened.

Bingham Library for Youth in Salisbury, Connecticut, established in his native town in 1803 by the Boston bookman Caleb Bingham, and subsequently financially sustained by funds voted by the town; a similar venture in Lexington, Massachusetts of short duration from 1827 to 1839; and the Peterborough Town Library in New Hampshire established in 1833 by "Literary" funds distributed by the state, and later financed by town appropriations authorized by the State Legislature. The Boston Public Library opened in 1854 in consequence of a proposal to merge several libraries controlled by private associations. It was also competitively stimulated by the gift of \$400,000 from John Jacob Astor to New York City in 1848 for the establishment and maintenance of a public library "accessible at all reasonable hours [and] times for general use, free of all expense to persons resorting thereto." Not until 1895 was the New York Public Library

RELATED HARTFORD INSTITUTIONS

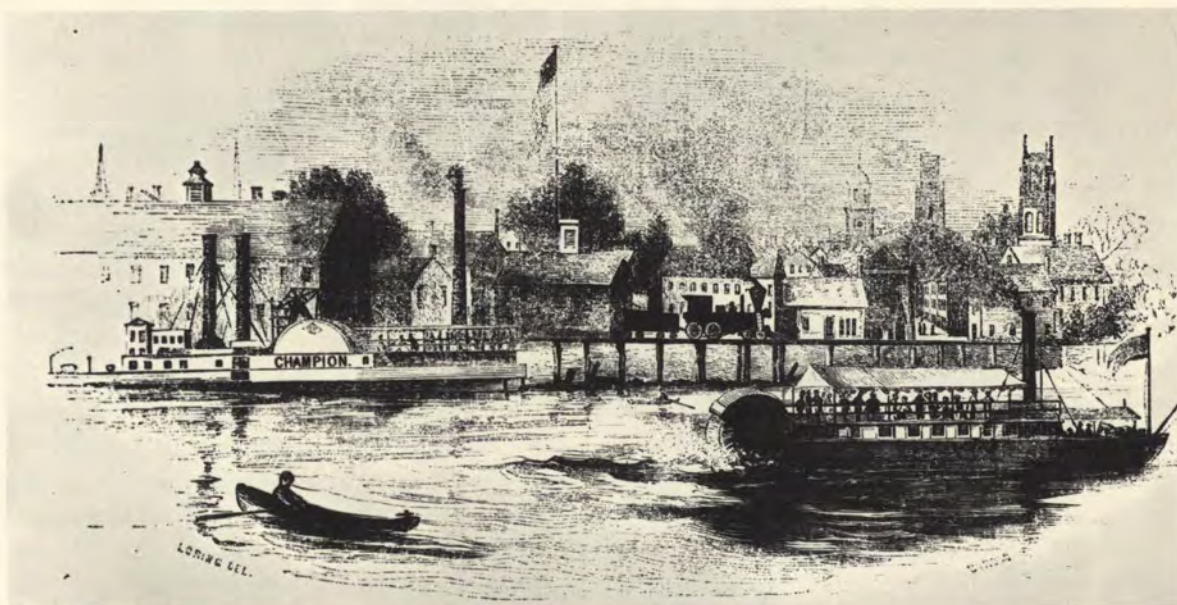


Fig. 35. View of Hartford's river front in 1853.



Fig. 36. View of Main Street, Hartford, 1866, the year the Watkinson Library opened.

established through the merger of the Astor, Lenox and Tilden Libraries. The Watkinson Library like the Astor was a public reference library privately endowed.

Hartford in Mid-century

In 1842 when the Athenaeum was established, Hartford was a busy overgrown village of about ten thousand population. It had grown fifty per cent in the past ten years. It lay between the South Green overlooked by Henry Barnard's house to Needham's Corners on the north, and the crowded wharves and warehouses on the river to the thinning suburbs around Asylum Hill. It was one mile long, north to south and three quarters of a mile wide east to west.

Beyond the city limits farms, gardens and cow pastures furnished produce for the public markets. The turnpikes were unpaved, and stage coaches carried passengers in every direction, relays of horses waiting at the taverns that dotted the roadside. More passengers were brought by a new railroad from New Haven, opened as far as Hartford in 1839, and by river steamers from New York and Springfield. Nineteen hotels served visitors.

In the late eighteenth century Hartford had only Congregational churches. Since then, increasing religious and cultural diversity had brought a Universalist Society with its meeting house on Central Row, a Roman Catholic Church on Talcott Street, a Methodist Church on Chapel Street (giving the street its name), and a few Jewish families had settled in town. With the establishment of an Episcopal diocese by Bishop Seabury in 1785 the growth of his church was phenomenal, and Washington College had been established in 1823 by Anglican churchmen to counteract the influence in Connecticut of the Congregationalist Yale College.

Washington College overlooked what shortly after became Bushnell Park and was so much a part of the city that both students and professors graced its social life. The college buildings were surrounded by elms, maples and tulip trees and

in their shade, in the unmown grass, grew blue, long stemmed violets. At commencement time, in late July, the student procession headed by the president, faculty and trustees walked across the park to Christ Church for the ceremony.

Hartford had for some time been a business center. In 1842 there were four insurance offices, six banks, and sixty-four manufacturing firms doing almost one million dollars worth of business a year, including printing firms and book publishing houses.

When David Watkinson died, fifteen years later, the population was almost twenty-five thousand. A great many more lines of schooner packet boats were running to Boston, Philadelphia, Providence and Albany bringing freight and travelers. Most of the New York steamers left every other day. Piers lined the river front. Horse drawn omnibuses plied up Main Street from the South Green to the North Burying Ground every hour.

When in 1866 David Watkinson's library opened nine years after his death, the population was nearly forty thousand. Railway tracks had been laid down Main Street and the horse drawn cars passed any given point in the city every ten minutes. The city had stretched out to three and a half miles long north to south and two miles wide east to west. From four insurance offices and six banks in 1842, there were twenty-three life and fire insurance companies, and fifteen banks in 1866.

The town that became a city during David Watkinson's lifetime was in his youth almost completely homogeneous. The men of affairs who served on the boards of the newly developing commercial and industrial concerns were a small nucleus forming interlocking directorates. Many of them had wide interests and were concerned not only with their own expanding fortunes but with artistic, literary, educational and social welfare institutions as well. They continued to serve as trustees of the same business, charitable and cultural organizations. And it was inevitable that the trustees named by David Watkinson to form his new library were part of the roster of the men of affairs in early Hartford.

J. Hammond Trumbull's Tenure

Growth of the Library

For the first few years the librarian, J. Hammond Trumbull, was principally concerned with building the book collections. Voluminous correspondence with Henry Stevens, E. G. Allen, and Bernard Quaritch in London, K. F. Köhler in Leipzig, Charles Porquet in Paris, and book publishers and agents in Boston, New York and throughout the eastern United States attest to his necessary preoccupation with book buying.

Upon Trumbull's appointment as librarian Henry Stevens, the famed London book dealer from Vermont, wrote him, "Let me congratulate you & the Watkinson Library on your appointment. . . . If you do not fully appreciate your responsibilities, you will, by the time you have half learned how difficult, in the wide range of Literature, Art and Science, it is, to cull and secure what is best. . . ."

"First however let me say, that I am yours to command . . . let me execute your orders until you can find some body also in Europe who will do them better. . . ."

Trumbull bought much at auction, as did his successor a generation later. Administrative and technical details such as developing classified indexes, designing book plates, and the inevitable cataloging were less important considerations that had to wait upon the assemblage of the books themselves.

J. Hammond Trumbull himself had said, in referring to his appointment, that he was new to his business with much to learn of the theory and

everything of the practical part of a librarian's responsibilities. The technical development of the card catalog was largely to await the coming of William I. Fletcher as assistant librarian on April 1, 1874.

In Trumbull's annual report of December 12, 1865 he described his plan for the intended double card catalog which had advantages over every other, though it demanded much time and labor. He commented that, "It is substantially the same as that proposed and adopted in the Library of Harvard College, by Mr. Abbot, the accomplished librarian there. But his system has been modified by combining in one alphabetical arrangement the two catalogs of *authors* and *subjects*. This will require the entry of every title on at least two, (and often on four or five) separate cards . . . allowing five minutes for entering each title, and for the necessary preliminary inspection of the volume to determine its classification, a library of 25,000 volumes may, on this plan, be cataloged by one person, whose whole time is given to the work, in a single year."

Trumbull evidently had assistants working under him in the early years but the record shows neither who they were nor what their duties. In a memo written by him on December 1, 1868 he noted that a total of \$684.92 was paid during the year for salaries of assistants, heating, furniture and fixtures, stationery and postage, and other miscellaneous items.

The first recorded assistant librarian was Wil-



Fig. 37. *Cérémonies et Coutumes Religieuses* by B. Picart, the first book bought for the Watkinson Library general collection.

liam I. Fletcher. After a "common school" education at Winchester, Massachusetts, at the age of seventeen he began a career in bibliography and librarianship under W. F. Poole at the Boston Athenaeum. He took time out to serve with the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment during its term of one hundred days in the War of the Rebellion. After five years at the Boston Athenaeum, in 1866 he became librarian of the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury, Connecticut, having the previous year been married in Hartford. He later became librarian of the Public Library in Lawrence, Massachusetts whence he was lured by Trumbull to the Watkinson Library by a difference in working hours and desirableness of work of the "high character" of the Watkinson Library. He remained until November 1, 1883 when he went to Amherst College as librarian. In 1911 he became librarian emeritus until his death in 1917.

As an indexer he was famous, having collaborated with Poole on the nineteenth century *Index to Periodical Literature*, and he edited the *Index to General Literature*. In 1891 he served as president of the American Library Association.

At the Watkinson Library, with his "thorough acquaintance with library economics," Fletcher first prepared classified catalogs and check-lists of books in all the special fields in which the library was interested. They were to serve both as guides to future purchases and for use by readers since he also recorded the library's holdings. Later, between 1877 and 1880, an author and subject card catalog was completed, as were alcove catalogs and shelf lists for both the upper and lower halls.

Fletcher also indexed the pamphlets in the Mary Trumbull Prime Collection of Civil War material, a gift to the Watkinson Library in 1872,



Fig. 38. William I. Fletcher, first assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1874-1883.

articles in society transactions and in those periodicals in the Watkinson Library published after the 1882 edition of Poole's *Index to Periodical Literature*. He also completed before his departure in 1883 a union catalog of all periodicals in the Watkinson Library and other libraries in Hartford.

In addition to his duties in the Watkinson Library he became in 1879 the librarian of the Connecticut Historical Society which had been unable to fill the position since 1861. Upon Fletcher's departure Frank Gay took over that position as well as the Watkinson Library assistantship.

Standardized library practices had not then been developed and the catalog cards used in the Watkinson Library were 2" x 5" instead of the modern 3" x 5". Not until 1940 did the library purchase catalog cases large enough to hold the now standard size cards. Many of the books in the Watkinson Library after one hundred years were still represented by the original narrow

hand written cards which provided often unorthodox but extraordinarily helpful information to the curator. And not until the employment of one of the assistant librarians, Forrest Morgan in 1908, was typewriting introduced in cataloging.

Book funds were comparatively lavish in those early years. J. Hammond Trumbull reported to Alfred Smith, president of the Watkinson Library board of trustees on September 22, 1866, that \$25,418.30 had been expended to date on the collection of approximately twelve thousand books, including contingent expenses such as binding and freight charges. With such resources Trumbull could buy the first edition, first issue of the King James Bible of 1611 and the Bishop's Bible of 1602.

For the years 1867 and 1868, \$4,500 each was appropriated for book purchases. In 1869, 1870 and 1872 \$3,000, and in 1871 \$3,500 was authorized. At that time the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 was reflected in the suspension of book orders from France.

From 1873 to 1876 \$5,000 was voted each year, in 1877 \$4,000, in 1878 \$3,000, and in 1879 and 1880 \$5,000 again. In 1881 \$3,000, in 1882 through 1885 \$2,000, and thereafter approximately \$1,000 per year until the move into the new library in late 1892. The amounts appropriated varied according to the size of the unexpended balance at the end of each year. However, at the start of 1886 when the book fund more or less settled at \$1,000, it was in large part due to the crowded conditions in the library and the desperate need for more shelving.

Need for Space

Four years after the library opened in 1866 with only one quarter of its estimated book capacity in use, the librarian reported that the shelves of the library hall were nearly filled and that early provision must be made for space for future acquisitions. With a total number of 21,185 volumes in 1870, the next year's expected purchase of 1,200 books would fill the existing shelves. There was still the lower hall available, but no provision had been made to provide per-

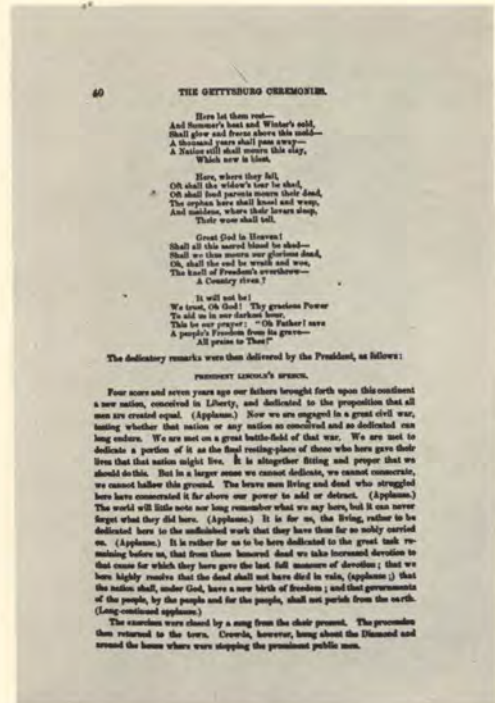
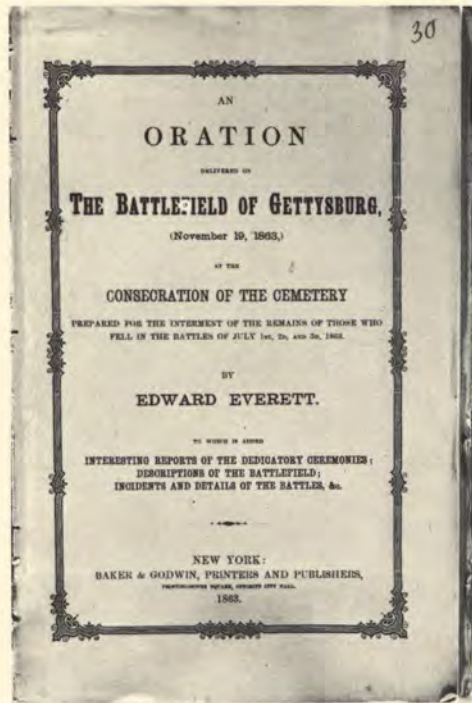


Fig. 39. Dedication ceremonies of the cemetery at Gettysburg, at which Edward Everett was the principal orator and Abraham Lincoln's famed Gettysburg address was only a minor part of the program. One of its first appearances in print. Collection of Civil War material.

manent shelving there and for some unrecorded reason only the most makeshift arrangements were made from year to year throughout the seventies when large expenditures were being authorized for books.

A year later in 1871 Trumbull voiced a still more urgent plea at the annual meeting of the trustees for additional shelf space if the Watkinson Library was to remain an honor to the city and the state.

"Is it too much to expect — it certainly is not too much to ask, — that before the growth of the Watkinson Library is arrested for the want of an income adequate to meet its increasing expenses, the city of Hartford to which it has been so generously given should do for it what the city of Boston and other cities have done, in acknowledgment of less considerable donations than this of Mr. Watkinson's, — by assuming all the expenses of management, providing it with a suitable building, and furnishing the means of opening it to the public in the *evening* as well as in the business hours of the day."

Trumbull compared the income and expenditures of the Watkinson Library with the Boston Public Library which in 1871 expended \$65,785, one quarter of which went for books, and \$29,000 for salaries. The excellence of a library depended not on the number of volumes or the intrinsic merits of the books themselves but on the completeness with which it met the wants of the community of readers, he noted.

But "before the Watkinson can become a *great* library, as well as a good one, it must have larger accommodations and an increased revenue. Its expenses must necessarily increase from year to year . . . and long before it can take its place among the half dozen great libraries of this country, the annual expenses will far exceed the entire income of the original fund. . . ."

The trustees at that meeting in 1871 appointed a committee consisting of the president, Calvin Day and Abner Jackson to look into needs and costs. But the only recorded action taken through most of the next decade was temporary shelving in the lower hall which, if fitted out with alcoves

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL'S TENURE

Stanley Fund
315 *
Ind. & N.A.
U.S. Hist.
Fr. I. War
* Follows
Tr. Indian
Coll. 18. 19
15, 442

Johnson, Mrs. Susanna (Willard),
Narrative of [her] captivity...
during four years, with the Indians
and French.
N. Y., 1841.
188
1st ed. Wind. 8v. 1807. Her nar-
rative was first written in 1796; this
version is dated 1798.

V
D
Warren, G. J. +
114221

Dante Alighieri. Divina Commedia.
Le prime quattro edizioni della
Divina Commedia letteralmente
ristampate per cura di G. G. Warren
ed. Vernon.
Lond., 1858. 6. 41
Note: Sir Chas Eastlake's copy. 2-1562

Paris. Description, etc.
- Scott, J. Visit to Paris in 1814.
- — G. periainted in 1815.
- Sigourney, L. H. Pleasant memories & pleasant lands.
- Tenot, E. Paris et ses fortifications, 1840-80

Off
East
3.3
D2486

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834
Rime of the ancient mariner. illus. by G.
Doré. N. Y., 1876.
12p. illus., plates. fol.
.... Same, 1877.

Lee, co. Kent. Engl.
LEWISHAM Antiquarian Society. The Register of the
Church of S. Margaret, Lee, County of Kent, 1579 to
1754. Edited for the Society by Leland Lewis Dun-
can and Arthur Oswald Barron. Royal 8° cloth.
Lee, 1888

Dante Alighieri, 1265-1321.
Le prime quattro edizioni della Divina commedia letteral-
mente ristampate, per cura di G. G. Warren, lord Vernon.
Londra, T. e G. Boone, 1858.
xxvi p., 1 l., 748 p. 5 facsim. 394".
Introduction by A. Panizzi.
Reprint of the editions: Foligno 1472, Jesi 1472, Mantua 1472 and
Naples 1474. The four texts are printed in the four quarters of each
page.
Facsimiles: 1. Foligno. Two of the first page, from the copies in the
British museum (formerly in the possession of Thos. Grenville and King
George III) 2. Jesi. Inf. i. 1-6 and colophon. 3. Mantua. First page
and the end of the last, including colophon. 4. Naples. Last page, includ-
ing colophon.
I. Vernon, George John Warren, 5th baron, 1808-1866, comp.
II. Panizzi, Sir Anthony, 1797-1870, ed. III. Title.
Library of Congress PQ4302.A1 1858 2-1562
12r20g1

Fig. 40. Catalog cards showing changes through Watkinson history: handwritten, typewritten, and printed Library of Congress cards. Unorthodox notes on early manuscript cards; use of printed booksellers' entries; and multiple entries to save space in the card catalog.

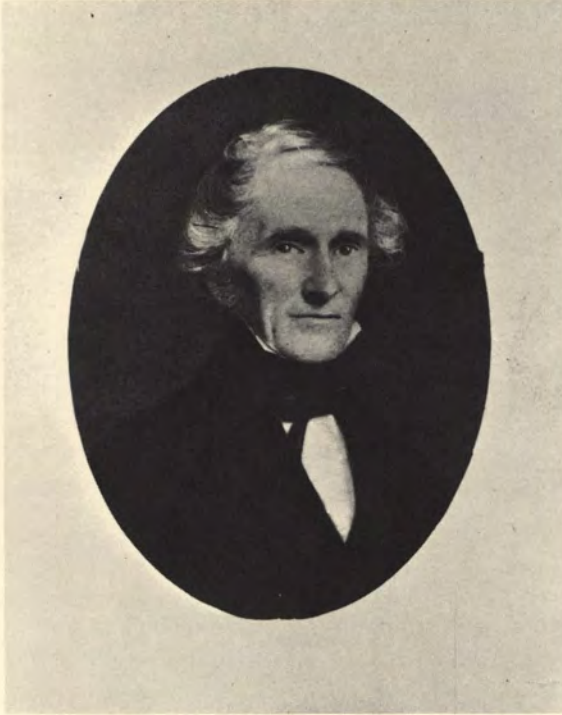


Fig. 41. Robert Watkinson, brother of David Watkinson and charter trustee.

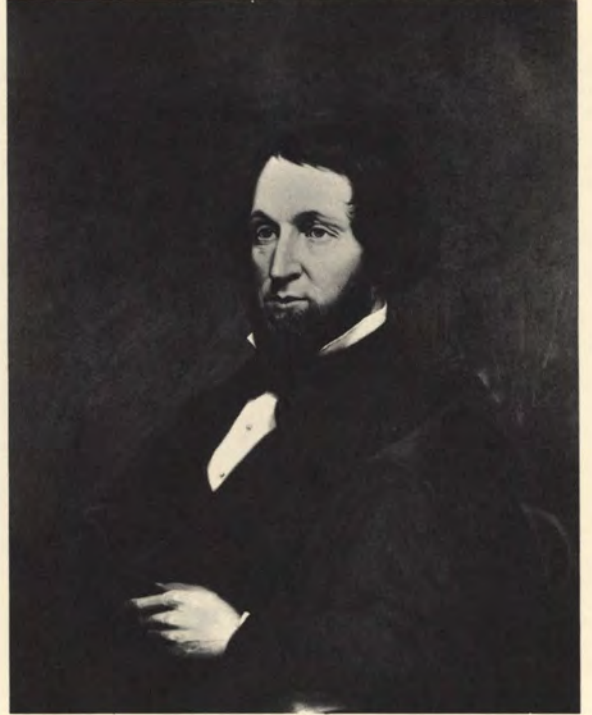


Fig. 42. Thomas H. Seymour, charter trustee. Painting by George Frederick Wright.

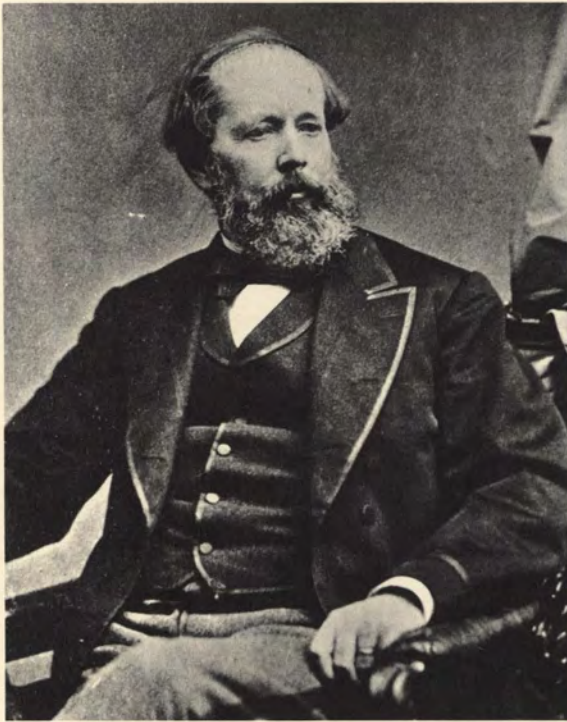


Fig. 43. James Dixon, charter trustee.

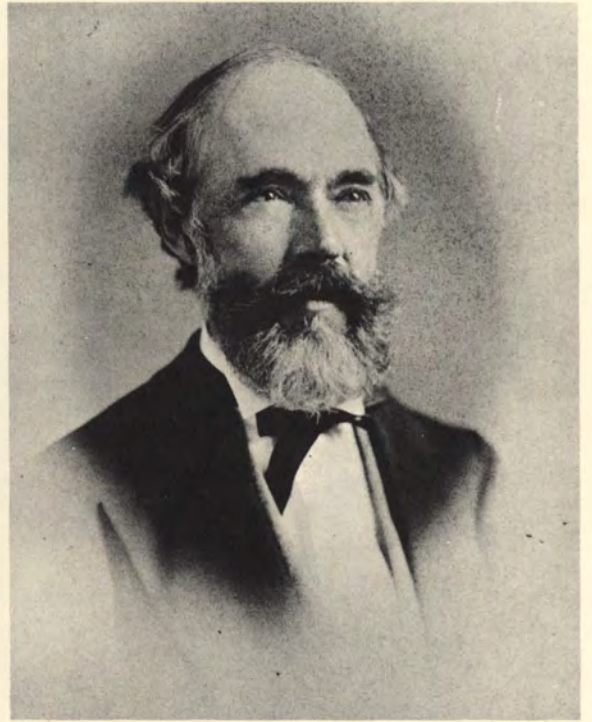


Fig. 44. Edward B. Watkinson, nephew of David Watkinson and charter trustee.



Fig. 45. Interior view of original Watkinson Library, showing the carved book stack ends, and the full shelves.

as in the hall above, would have doubled the library's capacity.

The librarian also reported at the 1871 meeting that the Connecticut Historical Society now contained fifteen thousand volumes and the Young Men's Institute more than twenty-three thousand volumes. With the Watkinson Library books they added up to over sixty thousand volumes under one roof. The other collections complemented the Watkinson for purposes of reference and relieved it of the need to purchase many books otherwise required.

The following year, with a note of despair, Trumbull wrote, "The necessity of speedy action for the enlargement of the library building is so apparent that it is not necessary to repeat what was said on this subject in the Librarian's last annual report."

The same note was sounded again in 1873, when the librarian reported that in view of the crowded shelves it seemed advisable to expend his annual appropriation with more regard to the permanent value of the library than to number

of volumes and he consequently made fewer but more costly purchases particularly in the fields of science and art.

It is strange that the trustees' *Minutes* record so little response to his pleas for better accommodations for a full decade after he first warned of the need for more room. With monotonous regularity the *Minutes* read, "The report of the Librarian was read accepted and ordered on file." By 1881 the shelves were so crowded that the taking of inventory was deferred until adequate accommodations could be provided.

At long last, at a special meeting on February 16, 1880 a committee was appointed to start action and to request the other corporations in the Wadsworth Atheneum to join in planning a major solution. But a full decade passed again until the signing of a contract in 1890 between the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Watkinson Library for a new building which would be completed in 1892 and opened to the public on January 2, 1893.

Major Gifts

Meanwhile, to accommodate the ever increasing collections which were being augmented by gifts, more temporary shelves were built in the lower hall. In 1872 the collection of books and pamphlets on the Civil War made by Mary Trumbull Prime, sister of J. Hammond Trumbull, was presented by her husband William C. Prime. During the Civil War, Dr. Prime was editor and owner of the *New York Journal of Commerce*, and into his office came all sorts of material reflecting the pros and cons of the issues of the day. His wife kept a copy of each along "with a mass of other matter . . . it contains much that can be found nowhere else," Gay was to write later.

Then from George F. Bacon, a friend of J. Hammond Trumbull, came the approximately one hundred handsome volumes per year sent annually from Paris from 1871 until 1881 when he returned to Hartford. George Bacon had been the donor of the very first book to be given to the new library in 1864.

One of the first major gifts of books to the

*Presented to the Watkinson Library
by George F. Bacon.*

ORIENTAL FIELD SPORTS;
BEING A COMPLETE, DETAILED, AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE
WILD SPORTS OF THE EAST;
AND EXHIBITING, IN A NOVEL AND INTERESTING MANNER, THE
NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE ELEPHANT, THE RHINOCEROS, THE TIGER, THE LEOPARD, THE BEAR, THE DEER, THE BUFFALO, THE WOLF, THE WILD HOG, THE JACKALL, THE
WILD DOG, THE CIVET, AND OTHER UNDOMESTICATED ANIMALS; AS LIKEWISE THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF FEATHERED GAME, FISHES, AND SERPENTS,
THE WHOLE INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY OF

ORIGINAL, AUTHENTIC, AND CURIOUS ANECDOTES,

WHICH RENDER THE WORK REplete WITH INFORMATION AND AMUSEMENT. THE SCENERY GIVES A FAITHFUL REPRESENTATION OF THAT PICTUREQUE
COUNTRY, TOGETHER WITH THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF BOTH THE NATIVE AND EUROPEAN INHABITANTS. THE NARRATIVE IS DIVIDED INTO
FORTY HEADS, FORMING COLLECTIVELY A COMPLETE WORK, BUT SO ARRANGED THAT EACH PART IS A DETAIL OF ONE OF THE

FORTY COLOURED ENGRAVINGS

WITH WHICH THE PUBLICATION IS EMBELLISHED.

THE WHOLE TAKEN FROM THE MANUSCRIPT AND DESIGNS OF

CAPTAIN THOMAS WILLIAMSON,

Who served upwards of Twenty Years in Bengal;

THE DRAWINGS BY SAMUEL HOWETT,

MADE UNIFORM IN SIZE, AND ENGRAVED BY THE FIRST ARTISTS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF EDWARD ORME.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM BULMER AND CO. SHAKESPEARE PRINTING-OFFICE,

FOR EDWARD ORME, PRINTSELLER TO HIS MAJESTY, ENGRAVER AND PUBLISHER,
BOND-STREET, THE CORNER OF BROOK-STREET.

1807.



Fig. 46. Thomas Williamson's Wild Sports of the East, the first gift to the Watkinson Library, received from George F. Bacon in 1864.

Watkinson Library came from George Brinley after his death in 1875. He had expressed an unwritten wish that when his famous library of Americana came to be sold at auction five institutions be allowed to bid up to certain designated amounts and receive the books free. Yale College was allowed ten thousand dollars, the American Antiquarian Society and the Watkinson Library five thousand dollars each, and the New York Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Historical Society twenty-five hundred each.

The book collection was left to his wife, and when she died intestate one year later, although his wish lacked legal force it was "honorably ratified" by his heirs. His son George P. Brinley and his close friend J. Hammond Trumbull were the executors in charge of dispersing his library.

Trumbull, in one of the outstanding bibliographical achievements of his career, edited the sale catalogs of the Brinley Collection, and they remain an important source of information on early Americana.

The books were sold in five lots at auction. Four were held in New York: in March 1879 when Trumbull spent half of the Watkinson Library allowance on 264 volumes and 320 pamphlets, in March 1880 when half the remainder was spent on 188 volumes and 25 pamphlets, in April 1881 at which \$398.85 was spent on 138 volumes and 38 pamphlets, and in November 1886 when \$366.40 was spent. The final sale was held in Boston in April 1893 when Frank Butler Gay used the remaining \$484.75 on 85 volumes, 434 pamphlets and 13 maps and "miscellaneous



Fig. 47. George M. Bartholomew, charter trustee, and long treasurer of the Watkinson board.

Fig. 48. George Brinley, Jr., second president of the Watkinson Library, 1868-1875.

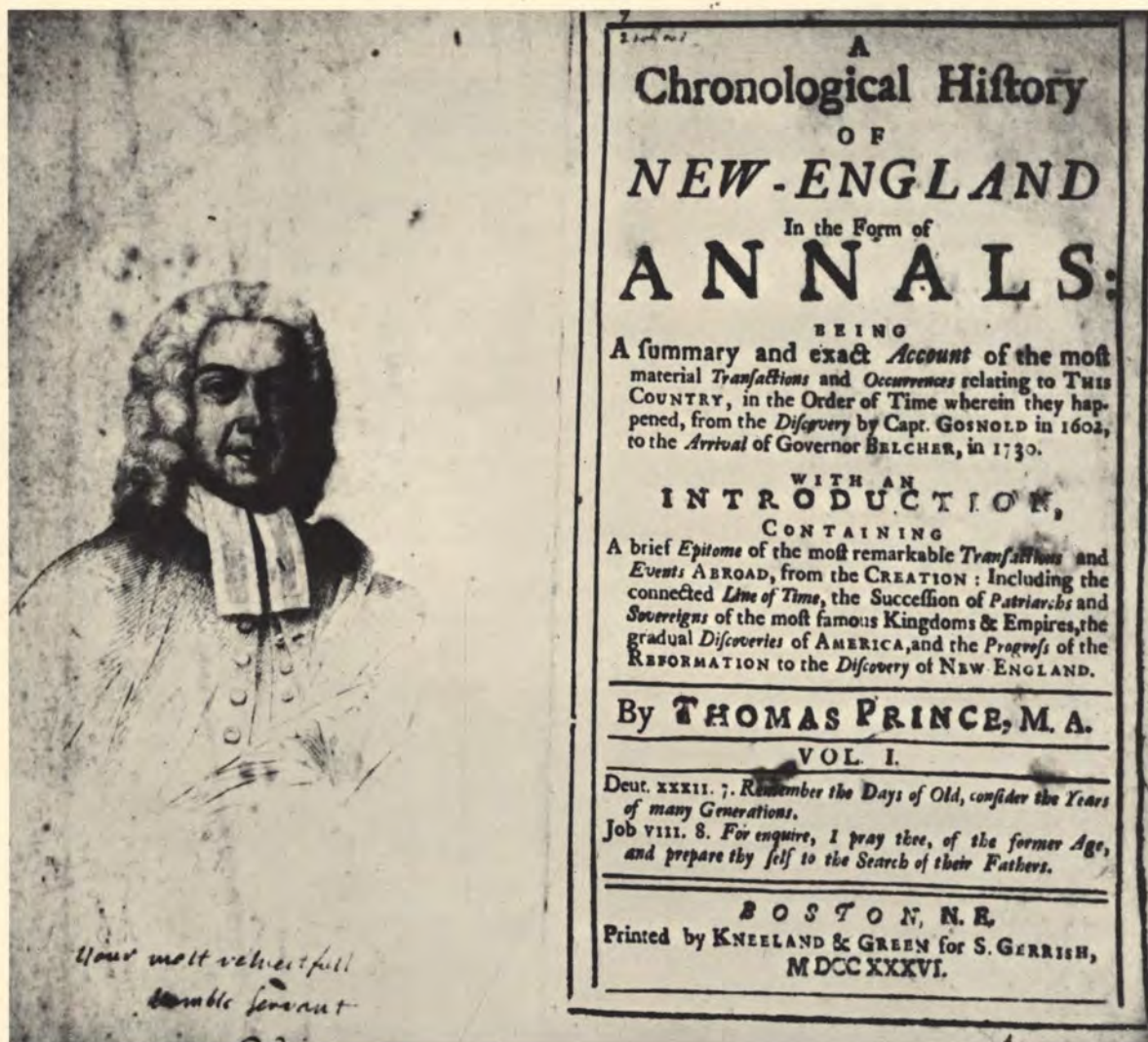


Fig. 49. This copy of a rare book contains numerous notes and corrections made by the author. Henry Stevens wrote inside the cover, "This book came to me with Drake's Library in 1858." From the Brinley Collection.

articles." His most important acquisition in that sale was Sabin's *Dictionary of Books Relating to America* in ninety parts.

The first addition by bequest to David Watkinson's original fund was made in 1878 in Sydney Stanley's will which left all his books and pamphlets to the Watkinson Library along with all real and personal property amounting to about six thousand dollars. The legacy was subject only to the provision that the income from his estate was to go to his sister during her life time. She died the next year.

Trumbull suggested that as a precedent to fol-

low in future bequests the income from the Stanley Fund be allocated to one particular field of knowledge, the books be kept together, and be marked with the name of the donor. He suggested Connecticut history for the Stanley Fund, but the field was later broadened to include all Americana on which it has generally been expended ever since. In 1881 he began the practice, which Frank Gay continued, of transferring all books previously purchased in that field to the Stanley Collection and crediting the amount already spent to the Watkinson Fund.

For a number of years the trustees allowed

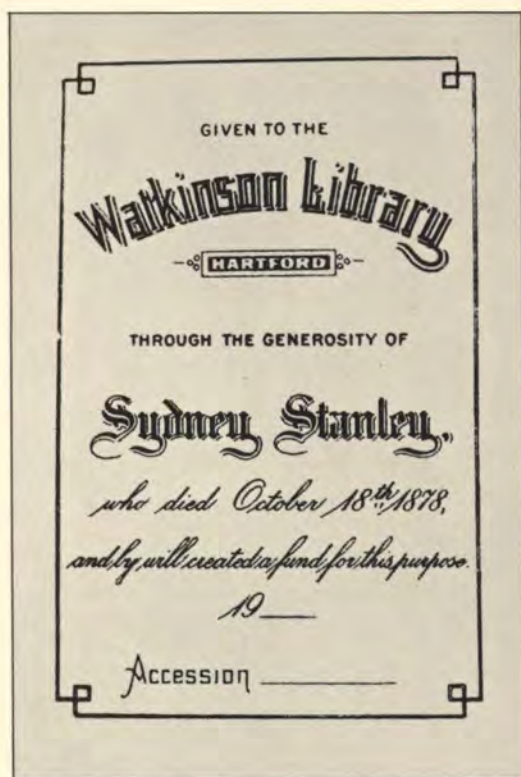


Fig. 50. The Stanley bookplate.

most of the interest from the Stanley Fund to accumulate unexpended, adding it to the principal so that by 1893 it amounted to ten thousand dollars which was permanently invested and the income was then authorized to be spent. In lean years ahead that Fund was sometimes to provide the only money available for book purchases. In 1923 Gay wrote in his annual report, "We grow more deeply indebted as the years pass, to the kindly forethought of that modestly retiring quiet man and book lover Mr. Sydney Stanley; the little fund he bequeathed to you, which was so carefully conserved by your direction, now yields about \$650 per year. This allows the library to get a number of interesting titles. . . ."

The benefactor of so much consequence to the Watkinson Library, wrote J. Hammond Trumbull, was "a man of quiet and unpretentious life, its simplicity such as to give him a reputation for eccentricity; while to the few who knew him he was remarkable for the kindness and excellence

of his character, coupled with a genuine love of books and a retentive memory, which gave to his conversation a quaint flavor of bookishness. Early in life he came to Hartford from the neighboring town [of Tolland] where he was born, and was for many years clerk in the office of the Secretary of State. In later life he spent his time in reading, in hunting for books and pamphlets at the junk-shops and book-stalls, and in visiting the public libraries, where he felt more at home than anywhere else. He was not married. He died October 18, 1878, aged seventy-three." Gay spoke of Stanley in a manuscript article on the Watkinson Library written in 1930 as "a little old-fashioned gentleman who just had to buy books with every cent he could get."

In his lifetime he had been a good friend also to the Connecticut Historical Society of which he was a member, and at the annual meeting of the Society in May 1857 they voted to convey to him their thanks for the numerous and valuable donations he had made to the library, and for his zeal and industry in promoting the object of the association, rescuing works of American history.

Another gift of books of some magnitude during Trumbull's tenure came from George D. Sargeant, a well known retired lawyer who at his death in 1886 left to the Watkinson Library his entire library of about fifteen hundred volumes. It was characterized as a "gentleman's library" composed not so much of rare books as of fine histories and excellent texts, all beautifully bound. Among them, reported Gay, was a large number of scurrilous tracts relating to Queen Caroline and George IV.

End of an Era

In spite of Trumbull's frustrations during those twenty years he was building a library that keeps its place today among the rare special collections of the country. Under J. Hammond Trumbull the character of the library collection was firmly grounded. It was a place of unique appeal for many.

J. B. Orcutt, in a newspaper column in the *Courant* of November 26, 1870, wrote: "There

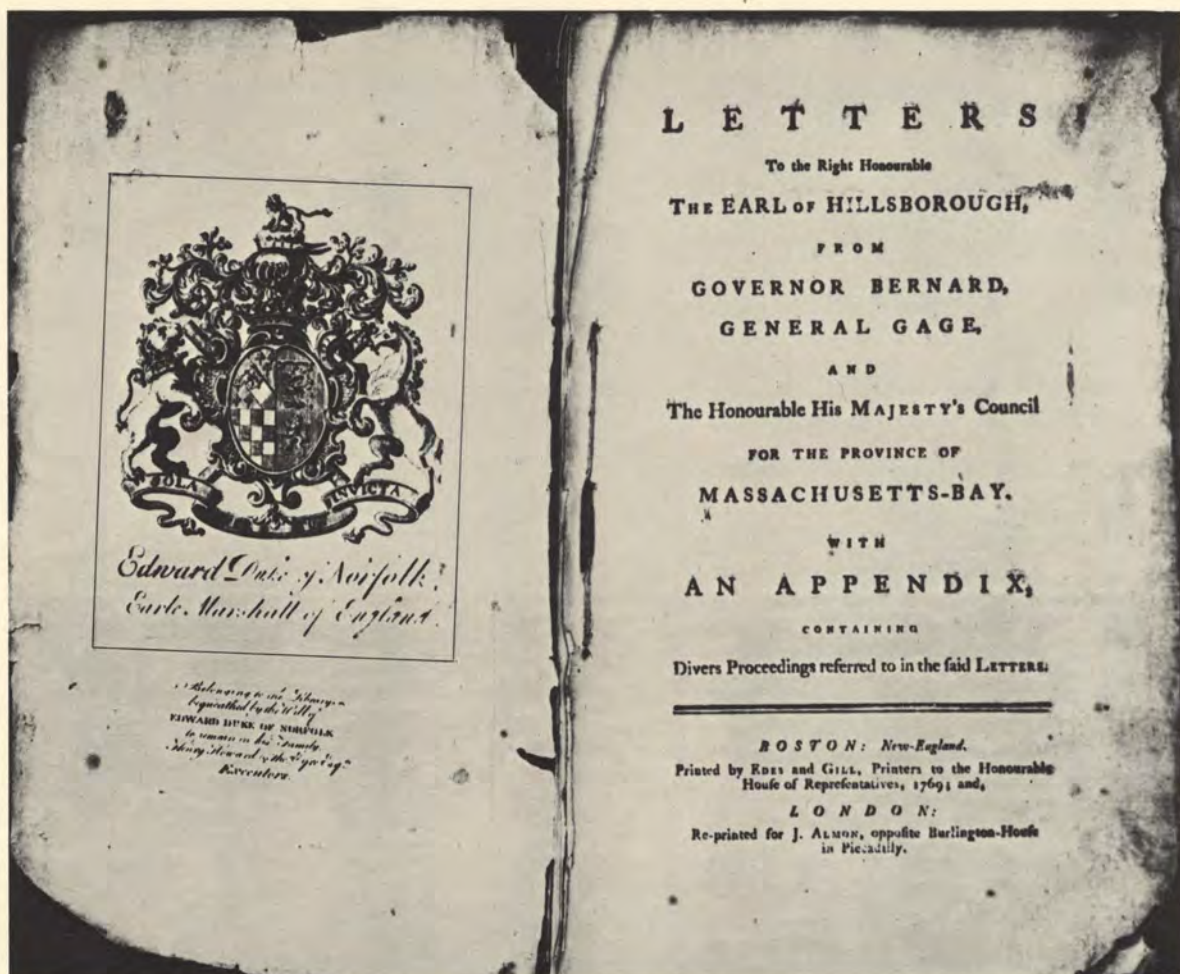


Fig. 51. A book from the Stanley Collection showing former ownership by the Earle Marshall of England, the Duke of Norfolk.

is a capital collection of books at the Watkinson Library. I visit it whenever I am in the city and have a moment to spare, but I am surprised to notice, now I come to think of it, that I never look at the books, but refresh myself rather with the company of the librarian. I suppose this was not the design of the founder of the library, but I am all the more grateful to him. Indeed, as I am entirely ignorant of the shape his thoughts took, it may have been precisely the state of things he proposed to bring about. At any rate, whoever lays down a pile of books in city or village, is sure of attracting people about it, the pith of whose back-bone is capped with knobs of brain that can do some thinking aside from their own business.

And this is a cheap way of settling a live man in a community . . . this one-man power is not sufficiently recognized. I think any average country district could well afford to hire an Agassiz to run its school, for if tied down with a salary of five or ten thousand dollars to a barren rural neighborhood, he would still attract a city about him and so raise the value of real estate as to make the investment pay."

Francis Parsons, a later president of the Watkinson Library board of trustees, writing long afterwards in *The Friendly Club and Other Portraits*, about his college years at Yale in the nineties, characterized both the original library and the larger quarters into which it was to move:

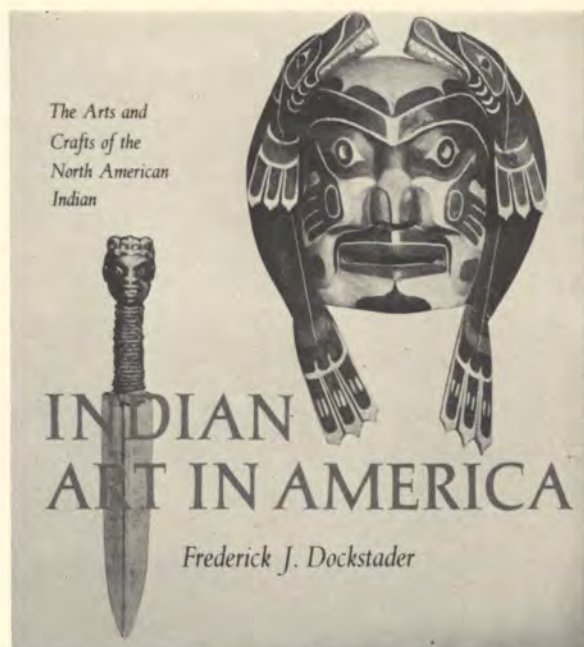


Fig. 52. An example of a recent purchase from the Stanley Fund.

"Perhaps it was necessary during vacations to supplement college reading by the use of the historical society's library, then installed in the delightful quarters that had been the first home of the Watkinson collection. In many ways it seems a pity that this old library, with its oak bookshelves, arranged in alcoves, its galleries and delightful little staircases, has been abandoned for modern, but less atmospheric quarters. It was a charming room and the only place of its kind in the state, except the old library at Yale. . . .

"It was discovered, however, that the newer and larger Watkinson Library also offered a quiet refuge when one wanted to study or read without interruption. Here, too, were and still are alcoves, galleries and staircases, but loftier, more imposing and triumphant than in the intimate and friendly and older library. The main room of the Watkinson is, however, an alluring spot where one may escape from the financial implications of the immediate environment into a world with which money and business have little to do."

Before the move in 1893, at any rate, a new era had been established and the old one had ended. When Gay replaced Fletcher as assistant librarian

in November 1883, plans for the expansion of the Watkinson Library were taking shape. And, just two years before the new building opened, on January 1, 1891 Gay effectually became librarian upon the retirement of J. Hammond Trumbull, although he was appointed acting librarian at the time. Trumbull retained the title of librarian emeritus on half salary until his death in 1897 with the ostensible duties of advising on book purchases and the development of the library. At his retirement the library contained 43,343 volumes.

At first Gay consulted Trumbull on countless details of management, as in a letter written on April 30, 1892. "If convenient will you see me this evening? . . . In distributing bibliography (that which was downstairs) would you put the

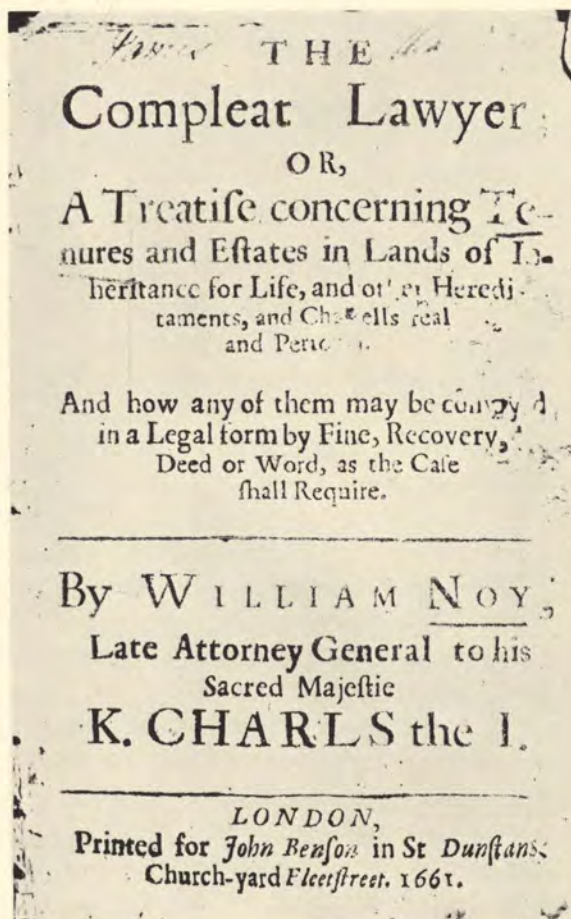


Fig. 53. One of the many rare books given by George D. Sargeant.



Fig. 54. Watkinson Library interior, 1892, drawn by Seth Talcott.

bibliogr. of a subject, with the works on the subj., or would you reclassify our bibliogr. as a whole?" [Trumbull noted on the letter "no, except by frequent cross reference."]

"Would you take the author catalog. & sort it out by alcoves & shelves, then after the books are dusted and ready to send into the new room put each book's card into it to remain there until the new shelves are all arranged?" [Trumbull jotted a ? on this question.]

"Would you bind the parts of one work together without respect to number; i.e. say #28, 42, and 50 are Harrison's 'England' – put them together (if not too stout) & place as #28, the old arrangement is troublesome, and awkward." [Trumbull's note: "but, in many cases, necessary: to be adjusted in the *cataloguing*."]

Poor health however prevented Trumbull more and more in those last years from carrying out any duties at all, and he rarely claimed the salary that had been voted him. Not until after

his death was the balance due him actually paid to his estate.

His resignation was a melancholy occasion. At the annual meeting of December 9, 1890 when he was ill and absent, he wrote to the president, the Honorable Nathaniel Shipman, who had just the same year succeeded William R. Cone in that office: "Impaired health, and the absolute necessity of rest, compel me to the decision at which I ought perhaps to have arrived some years ago, of resigning the office of your Librarian, at the termination of this my twenty-seventh year of service. That no temporary embarrassment may be occasioned by my resignation, I leave it to the Trustees to fix the date of its acceptance and of the appointment of my successor – with the request, however, that my final release be not be long delayed."

The trustees refused to accept his resignation on that date and appointed a committee to wait upon him. But at a special meeting held later that month they made him librarian emeritus.

A letter written by Trumbull to Gay shortly thereafter indicated the extent of his fragility. But it also showed the extent to which he retained his neat and precise handwriting even in his last years.

J. Hammond Trumbull, Bibliographer

J. Hammond Trumbull died on August 5, 1897, an attack of grippe two months before leading to rapidly failing strength. His wife, Sarah Robinson Trumbull, and his daughter, Annie Eliot Trumbull, survived him.

He was particularly noted as the foremost authority on the languages of the North American Indian. Yale had elected him a lecturer on Indian languages but his health prevented him from delivering the course. He was said to be the only person alive in his day who could read John Eliot's *Bible*, translated into the Algonkin tongue by that early English missionary and for which Trumbull had compiled a dictionary and vocabulary.

There is, however, in the Watkinson Library files an unidentified, undated newspaper clipping

Office of U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE,
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT,

Hartford, Dec^r 10th 1890.

My dear James.

The Jurors did not accept your resignation, but appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. Goodwin, Clark and myself to take the question into consideration - We designated Mr. Goodwin to confer with you - He is going to Boston today to attend the reading of Mr. Pierpont Morgan's son, and will not return until, perhaps, Friday.

We therefore, want to know if it will be convenient for you to be in. at your house, on Saturday, at four o'clock P.M., and have an interview on the subject.

Yours truly
Nathaniel Shipman,

Fig. 55. Letter to J. Hammond Trumbull from Nathaniel Shipman, requesting reconsideration of Trumbull's resignation as librarian.



~~The Watkinson Library~~

Hartford, Conn. Jan. 17 1891

Dear Sir,

Before receipt of your postal card yesterday I had made an engagement, at home, for Saturday evening, which I find it impossible to escape. If the weather had been less severe I should have been at the Library this morning, but after getting as far as Main Street, I find myself unfit for the longer trip. On Monday evening, or on Tuesday evening, I shall be glad to see you, as I want to talk with you about the Stechert, and the Stevens, matters.

Yours L.

J. H. Trumbull

Fig. 56. Letter from J. Hammond Trumbull to Frank Butler Gay just after his resignation as librarian.

which reads: "A gentleman of this city denies the claim that Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull is 'the only man in America who can read Eliot's Indian Bible' in the Indian tongue ('Up-Biblum-God,' etc.). He says there is (or lately was) an elderly man living in South Natick, Mass., who can read the old Indian Bible perfectly well. Natick (the south part), formerly a part of Dedham, was the scene of Eliot's missionary labors, where in 1650 he built his church and began his work. Several others lived not long ago, in that village who could read the Indian language."

However, Trumbull's facility in linguistics and his interest in shorthand enabled him to decipher ancient manuscripts. And he learned to read with little difficulty any language that happened to be of even transient use to him.

Trumbull was a council member and secretary of foreign correspondence of the American Antiquarian Society from 1874, a founder of the American Philological Association and its president in 1874-75, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and of the American Association

for the Advancement of Science. He was a member of the American Oriental Society and of the American Ethnological Society, and of six state historical societies including the Massachusetts Historical Society. He was secretary of the Wadsworth Athenaeum from 1862 to 1887, corresponding secretary of the Connecticut Historical Society from 1849 to 1863, and its president from 1863 to 1889. As such he was ex officio a member of the board of the Watkinson Library trustees, and when he retired he was elected a member of the Watkinson trustees to succeed Dr. E. K. Hunt so that he was always simultaneously a trustee and the librarian of the Watkinson Library.

With Dr. Horace Bushnell and Dr. C. S. Henry he was an organizer of the Monday Evening Club of Hartford and a member all his life. One of the most active citizens of Hartford, he was "part of all gatherings," as his obituary noted.

Trumbull wrote voluminously. In addition to his published works which included his major bibliographical listing of the library of George Brinley, and numerous historical or linguistic works such as *The Composition of Indian Geographical Names*, *Defense of Stonington Against a British Squadron . . .*, *First Essays at Banking and the First Paper Money in New England*, *Historical Notes on the Constitutions of Connecticut*, and *Notes on Forty Algonkin Versions of the Lord's Prayer*, he contributed many articles to such publications as the *American Philological Association Transactions*, and the *Magazine of American History*. He edited the first three volumes of the *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, Thomas Lechford's *Plain Dealing*, Roger Williams' *A Key into the Language of America*, and the massive *Memorial History of Hartford County*.

After his death the Smithsonian Institution published his *Natick Dictionary*, and his daughter Annie Eliot Trumbull edited his *List of Books Printed in Connecticut, 1709-1800*, which was published by the Acorn Club.

There were also "pages of transcription of old records in the beautifully regular and perfectly legible handwriting that he never lost, the manuscript folios of Indian words and their grammati-

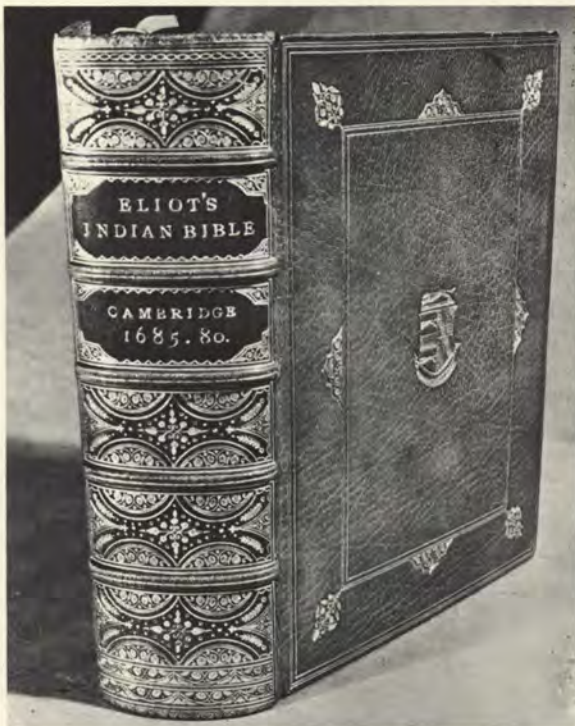


Fig. 57. The rare second edition of John Eliot's Indian Bible.

cal inflections, the many carefully prepared pamphlets on many subjects from Algonquin roots to garden simples, the columns of newspaper contributions, the genealogical trees, the mass of bibliographical notes and the very large correspondence, much of which relates to questions from strangers, acquaintances and friends alike," his daughter wrote.

"... He was endowed with the flair of the true bibliographer – the quickness of perception which told him, as it were by instinct, why a book was valuable, why it was exceptional, if it were practically unique – and with the almost unerring eye which noted differences and similarities, and which identified slight peculiarities as indicative of period, authorship, or manufacture. What strikingly differentiated this knowledge from that of many so-called bibliophiles – enrollment among whom, by the way, he was none too anxious to claim – was that it was not all any one of these things, or even their sum; it was something more than a technical facility or even divination; something infused and illuminated by a wide knowledge of the time and the locality in which he was specially interested; a breath of actual realization which made the dry bones of bibliography live."

In his obituary the *Hartford Daily Courant* of August 6, 1897 noted that "Dr. Trumbull was consulted by a multitude of people and not always with most satisfactory results. . . . People who questioned him foolishly or in annoying ways sometimes got curt replies. Among such he was likely reckoned somewhat crusty. But he was exceedingly helpful to those whom he saw to be in earnest. . . ." And he was generally held in the greatest respect "for his very high talents and vast learning . . . [and in] genuine affection for the kindly and simple side of his nature as revealed to us in familiar and friendly intercourse."

Frank Butler Gay shared J. Hammond Trumbull's lively interest in almost every conceivable subject. But temperamentally their writings show them to be quite different. Trumbull's reports to the board of trustees were always couched in cool, precise and formal prose, with an elegant turn of phrase and a kind of detachment from the

day to day exigencies that crowd any public enterprise. He rarely mentioned "housekeeping" details except for the continual need of shelf space for books.

He did report over a period of years from 1874 to 1876 the experiments in evening hours from 7:30–9:00 authorized by the board of trustees in response to frequent requests. Gas lights were installed and during the fall and winter of 1875 attendance in the evenings approximately equalled the number of daytime readers. But it later fell off drastically and the hours were changed back to 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. since expenses with heating and lighting, and with additional library attendants, were practically doubled by the evening hours.

But there were protests. One came to Trumbull dated September 4, 1885, signed by "A Citizen."

"I take the liberty of writing to you upon a subject which greatly interests me, and which in view of its importance has been, it seems to me, but feebly agitated before the public.

"I refer to the necessity of some free-reading-room & library where the youth & older can have access to the standard works, reviews, etc. . . .

"The Watkinson Library is in a great measure such an institution as is needed, but its hours of closing prevent all who are employed in any way during the day, and these of course constitute about all, from enjoying its privileges, and consequently they are not benefited by it in the least. . . ."

In 1877 Trumbull mentioned the need of a change in the heating system to prevent injury to books from dust. In 1878 steam pipes and radiators were substituted for open registers in the main hall, eliminating dust and regulating the temperature.

But other details of daily experience were ignored. A sense of vibrant activity is present in Gay's lengthy and detailed annual reports that brings the library to life in a way that Trumbull's never did. Of course the library was new when Trumbull's regime started and some of the problems that beset a growing and aging institution were not apparent until later on. Also he was primarily immersed in book acquisition and biblio-

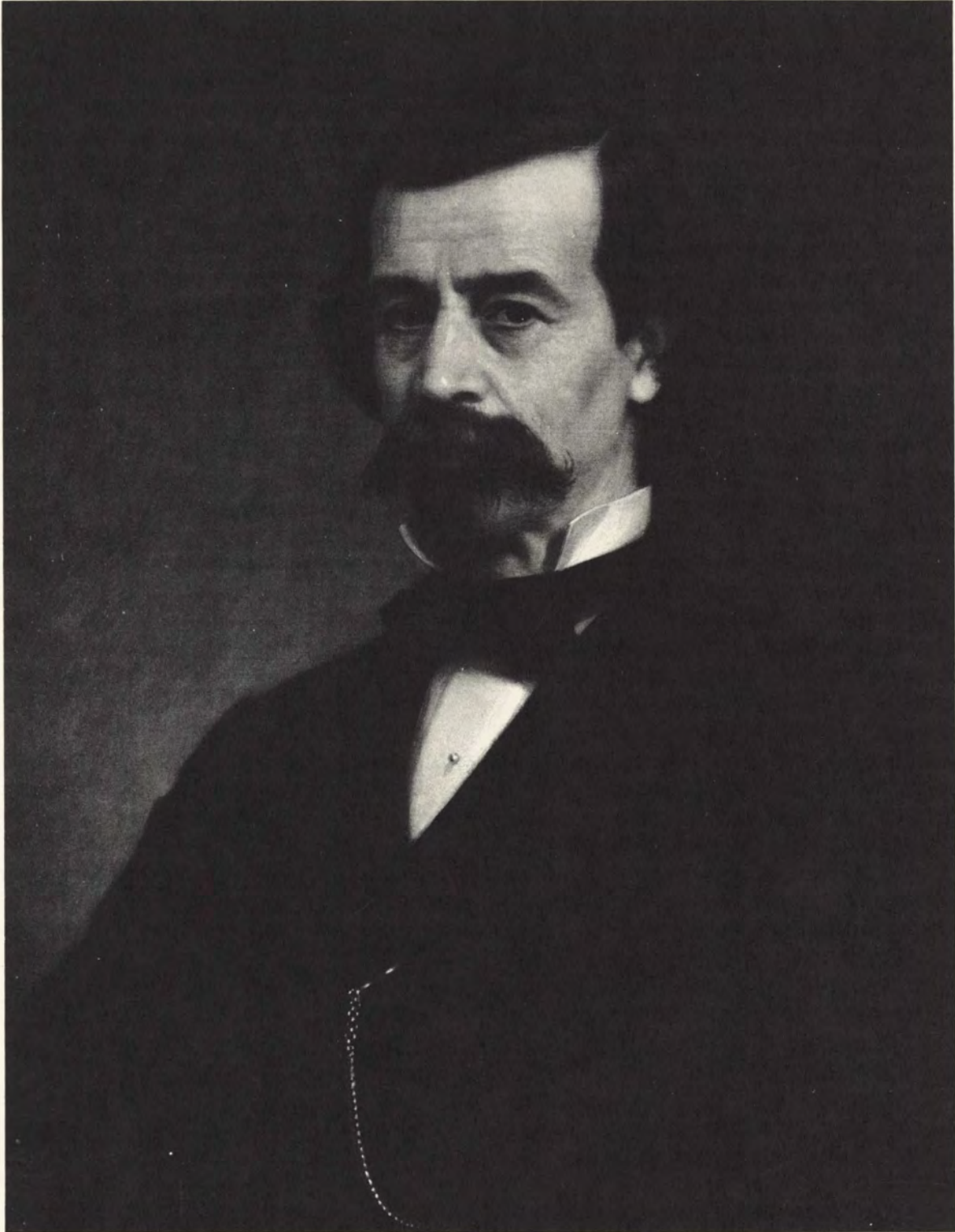


Fig. 58. J. Hammond Trumbull, president of the Connecticut Historical Society, 1863-1889, and secretary of the Wadsworth Atheneum, 1862-1887. Painting by William R. Wheeler.



Fig. 59. William R. Cone, third president of the Watkinson Library, 1875-1890.



Fig. 60. Interior view of original Watkinson Library built in 1863.

graphical studies, and many of the events discussed by Gay would perhaps have seemed to him trivia. But to a later age they become the raw materials of history.

Trumbull had served under three presidents, Alfred Smith from 1858 to 1868, George Brinley from 1868 to 1875, and William R. Cone from 1875 to 1890. They were all three devoted and energetic administrative officers. No better choice could have been made of a man to establish the new library than Alfred Smith with his life-long interest and experience in the affairs of Hart-

ford's institutions. None better could have been found as an adviser in building a book collection than George Brinley with whom Trumbull shared a "mutual satisfaction in the incitements and excitements of discovery and acquisition." The legal experience of William R. Cone must have been invaluable in directing the reorganization that culminated in larger quarters for the Watkinson Library and the Connecticut Historical Society, and a free public library and art gallery in 1893.

Reorganization of the Atheneum Corporations

The Second Librarian

Frank Butler Gay was born in East Granby on November 15, 1856, his ancestry going directly back to several soldiers who served in the "First American War" – the Pequot War of 1637. In 1873 he came to Hartford, was tutored privately in history, philosophy and languages, but never went to college. He began his business life in the *Hartford Courant* office, setting type, writing copy and serving as night proofreader.

Later he worked in the office of the *Christian Secretary* edited by the father of William Lyon Phelps. At that time Gay boarded in the Phelps home. Gay was then about eighteen, six or seven years older than the young Phelps, and had a great influence on the younger boy in shaping his interest in good books. Some fifty years later, William Lyon Phelps wrote in his *Autobiography with Letters* that he had never known a more perfect gentleman than Frank Gay. Intelligent and widely read, Gay had an almost infallible taste in literature and the fine arts and was good-natured and full of fun, yet with a quiet dignity that made him, though unconsciously, a model of good behavior. Gay had to work for a living when other boys of his age were in high school, Phelps commented, and he never had time, and perhaps no inclination, to play games. He was interested in books, music, and the theater.

Not long after that period, Gay took a position as an assistant in the Hartford Library Association. He was to serve all four of the institutions housed in the Wadsworth Atheneum in a variety

of capacities. From 1877 to 1883 he worked in the Hartford Library. For a brief interval in 1883 he went to the *New Britain Herald* as editor's assistant, then in the autumn was appointed assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library.

From 1884 to 1893 he was secretary of the Connecticut Historical Society, and was also Historical Society librarian during those years under the presidency of J. Hammond Trumbull, who was therefore his master in two capacities.

In 1909 he was appointed curator of the Atheneum and in 1911 he became the first director and executive head of the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Morgan Memorial, a position he retained until 1927 when he was voted director emeritus and trustee. For eighteen years he was thus simultaneously head of the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Watkinson Library, a factor undoubtedly complicating their eventual untangling when they parted company in 1950.

Need for Reorganization

As previously noted, when Gay first came to the Watkinson Library plans were well under way for the reorganization that resulted in closer cooperation among the four cultural institutions of Hartford making up the Atheneum. The art gallery was in a period of the doldrums.

"In the mind's eye a vision arises of musty and seemingly impenetrable rooms, where the visitor, had he cared to invest the sizable sum of twenty-

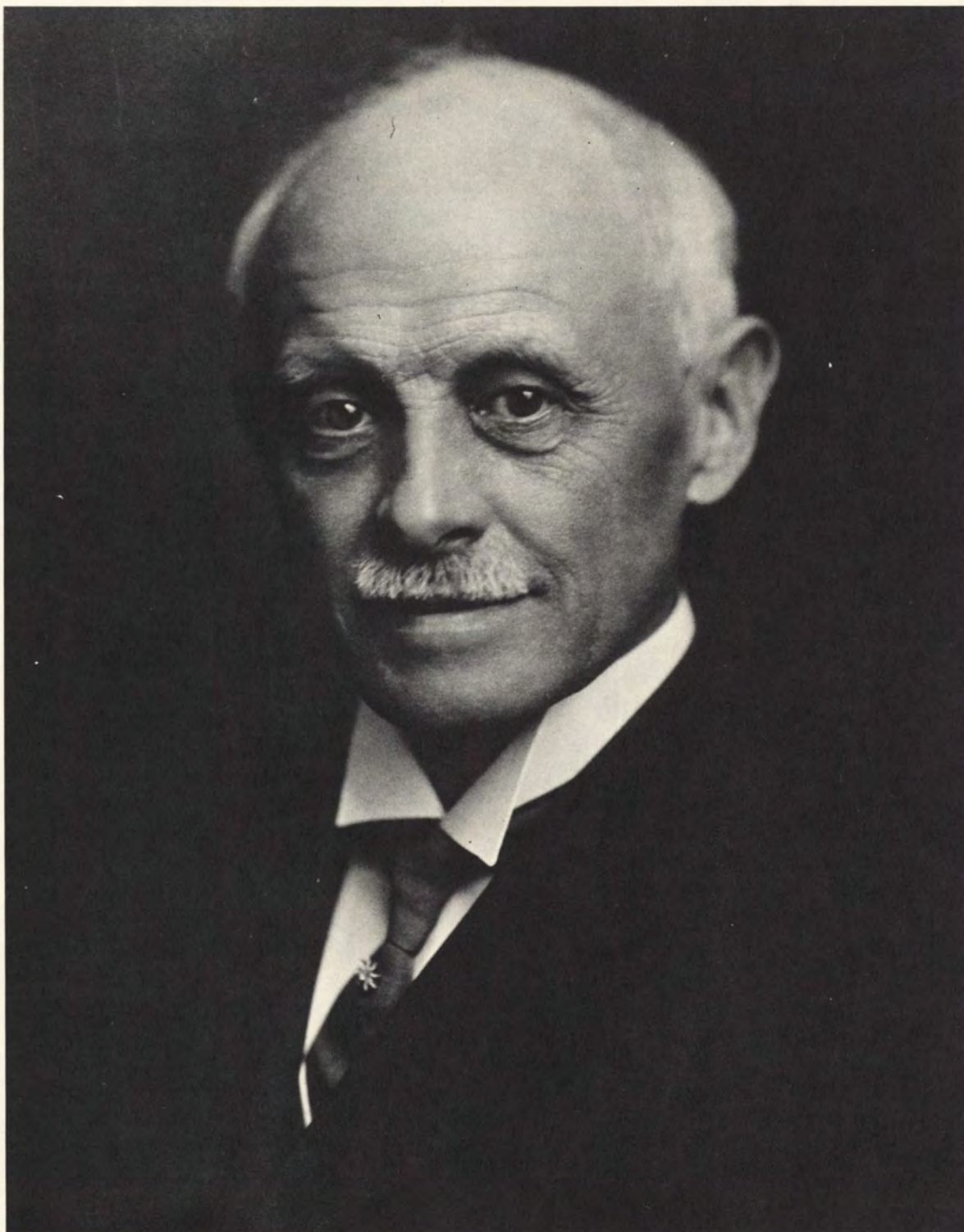


Fig. 61. Frank Butler Gay, assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1883-1890; librarian, 1890-1934; curator, then director of the Wadsworth Atheneum, 1909-1927.

five cents, might wander aimlessly, perhaps a trifle intimidated by the huge darkened Trumbull battle paintings or by the towering and slightly forbidding portrait of Benjamin West," Charles E. Buckley wrote in *Wadsworth Atheneum: 110 Years*. To halt its aimless drift a new plan of development was needed.

The Art Society of Hartford was incorporated by Special Act of the legislature on March 12, 1886, to promote the knowledge and practice of art in the city, to establish classes and schools in art, to manage the art gallery in the Atheneum, and to establish any other art gallery. By amendment to the charter of the Wadsworth Atheneum the Art Society became one of the occupants of the Atheneum building and assumed the care of the art gallery there. It was then open to the public free of charge certain days of the week, and on other days instruction was given in drawing, painting and sculpture.

The entire board of officers was composed of "ladies" though men were named in the Act of Incorporation, including Joseph R. Hawley, Francis Goodwin, James G. Batterson, Charles D. Warner and Henry C. Robinson. The Art Society supposedly retained its administrative duties until Gay was appointed curator in 1909.

The Hartford Library Association was open only to subscribers until the reorganization of 1890, but pressure for a free public library was growing. When still known as the Young Men's Institute, its president in 1871, George F. Hills, had expressed the hope that Hartford should establish on a permanent basis a free public library for the circulation of 100,000 volumes. In his report for 1872 he proposed the reduction of the annual three dollar membership fee and the eventual freeing of the Institute to the public. A few years after it ceased its program of lectures and had become purely a circulating library, its name was changed by a Special Act of the General Assembly on March 26, 1878 to the Hartford Library Association.

All through its history that institution had periodically been in dire need of funds and, in order to match the bequest of David Watkinson's yearly five hundred dollar appropriation for

books in 1858, it was necessary to solicit gifts to create a permanent endowment. The association managed to meet the book fund requirement each year, but in spite of gifts amounting to more than \$35,000 between 1860 and 1883 and an increase in the annual fee to five dollars after 1872, there were years when it could not meet expenses. In 1889 the membership fee was set at three dollars once more.

The Connecticut Historical Society and the Watkinson Library were yearly becoming more crowded, and the committees that each institution had appointed in 1880 to search for a feasible solution to their difficulties finally met on March 17, 1882 at the Atheneum and:

"Resolved, That a more intimate connection of the Institutions we represent, for the purpose of establishing a Free Public Library and a Free Art Gallery, would if practicable, greatly promote the public good and the ends for which these Institutions were severally founded and endowed.

"Resolved, That a committee of four shall be appointed, to draw up a report containing a plan of union and recommending the measures necessary to carry it into effect, which, if accepted by this Joint Committee at a future meeting, shall be reported to the several institutions we represent, for their action."

Messrs. Trumbull, Bartholomew, Hunt and Butler, were appointed to the committee of four. The first three were all members of the Watkinson board, although two of them represented other corporations. Plans were exhibited showing how the present Atheneum building might be enlarged and altered.

Of the members on the committees appointed in 1880, the Wadsworth Atheneum was represented by William R. Cone and Ebenezer K. Hunt (both also Watkinson Library trustees), the Connecticut Historical Society by J. Hammond Trumbull, Charles J. Hoadly and Sherman W. Adams (Trumbull being librarian of the Watkinson Library), the Hartford Library Association by Albert L. Butler and Theodore Lyman (the latter to be elected a Watkinson Library trustee the following year), and the Watkinson Library itself by George M. Bartholomew and Francis Goodwin.

The first unofficial public announcement of the project under consideration came in a news report of the monthly Connecticut Historical Society meeting in January 1882, when its president, Trumbull, gave his report of the joint committee meeting. An editorial in the *Courant* of January 5 under the heading "Of Great Interest to Hartford" commented that "The possibilities, which such a proposition opens up, are vast. Comparatively few of our own citizens know the full value of the books now under the roof of the Atheneum building . . . the real artistic merit of many of the paintings and works of sculpture in the art gallery. . . .

"Let all these be . . . made free to all, and Hartford at one step would come forward to the very front rank among the progressive cities of the day, where art and letters are appreciated and popularized. No one can safely prophesy the extent of the benefit that such a movement would bring to us as a city."

Study of the Problem

The appointed committee began its study of the problem of achieving a closer and more functional relationship. In December 1882 the Watkinson librarian announced that just as he was closing his annual report, he was "informed of the passage by the Common Council of a resolution instructing the city attorney to apply to the General Assembly for an amendment to the city charter, authorizing an annual appropriation for maintaining a free public library and art gallery."

The city attorney's application met with success, and in a Special Act approved March 14, 1883 the General Assembly authorized and empowered the City of Hartford "to appropriate by concurrent vote of the court of common council" a sum not exceeding one-fifth of one mill upon the grand list, for the purpose. It thus paved the way for the reorganization of the Atheneum institutions.

The eleven representatives of the original joint committee on June 29, 1883 published their *Committees' Report*, which had been prepared by Trumbull, for a closer union to effect the re-

quired expansion and establishment of the free library and art museum. They had confronted a complicated situation.

OBSTACLES TO ABSOLUTE UNION

Each of the institutions was incorporated under a special charter, and each held real and personal property in trust for specific uses. Thus, absolute union by surrender or merger of the several charters would be difficult, and the four committees felt they were not authorized to consider either the practicability or expediency of such a merger. But they were of the unanimous opinion that a more intimate connection of the institutions for the purpose in mind would promote the public good and the ends for which those several institutions were severally founded and endowed.

EXISTING SITUATION AND RELATIONS OF EACH WITH THE OTHERS AND WITH THE PUBLIC

The Stockholders of the Wadsworth Atheneum, incorporated in 1842, held under deed of trust of Daniel Wadsworth:

Land and building occupied by the art gallery, the Connecticut Historical Society and the Hartford Library Association	\$30,000
Their own paintings and statuary in the gallery	30,000
Invested funds	2,000
	<hr/>
	\$62,000

The annual income from the invested funds and receipts from visitors did not suffice to meet expenses. Occasional subscriptions by stockholders had been required in order to remain open to the public.

The Connecticut Historical Society, incorporated in 1825, held under deed of trust of Daniel Wadsworth the south division of the Atheneum Building in perpetuity and:

A library of more than 20,000 titles of rare volumes and tracts on American history	\$50,000
Manuscripts	30,000

DAVID WATKINSON'S LIBRARY

A museum of historical, ethnological and antiquarian materials [no estimate]	...
A collection of portraits [no estimate]	...
Invested funds	15,000
	<u>\$95,000</u>

Estimated present value

Books and library	\$100,000
Investments	108,847
	<u>\$208,847</u>

The income from the invested funds with occasional subscriptions for specific purposes and annual assessments from a few members sufficed to meet current expenses with the utmost economy but with no allowance to add to the library or properly maintain its books and manuscripts.

The Hartford Library Association, incorporated as the Young Men's Institute in 1839, held under deed of trust of Daniel Wadsworth the use, free of rent, of the north division of the Wadsworth Atheneum building and:

A library of about 33,000 volumes in its reading room	\$20,000
A fund from gifts, bequests and fees of membership, etc. (year ending June, 1883, \$2,556)	19,000
Annual gift for books of \$500 from the Watkinson Library to the value of	11,000
	<u>\$50,000</u>

Their invested funds barely allowed them to meet expenses, and in some years special subscriptions were required.

The Watkinson Library, founded and endowed by David Watkinson who died in 1857, was incorporated in 1858, with a co-residuary interest in his estate, and the sum of \$100,000:

Library of Reference established in connection with Connecticut Historical Society, opened to the public August 28, 1866 with about 12,000 volumes, now about 36,000 volumes, expended	\$ 83,673
Brinley gift of books worth	5,000
Spent on extension of Connecticut Historical Society division to house Watkinson Library, the Historical Society to have prior right to occupy rooms but must repay amount expended if and when it moves into them	5,000
Invested funds (David Watkinson)	102,486
Invested funds (Sydney Stanley)	6,361
	<u>\$202,520</u>

The estimated present value is thus at least:

Libraries:		
Watkinson Library	36,000 volumes	\$100,000
Hartford Library Association	33,000 volumes	20,000
Connecticut Historical Society	20,000 volumes	50,000
Connecticut Historical Society	manuscripts	30,000
Funds invested:		
Watkinson Library		108,847
Hartford Library Association		19,000
Connecticut Historical Society		15,000
Wadsworth Atheneum		2,000
Real estate: Wadsworth Atheneum		30,000
Gallery of Art: Wadsworth Atheneum		30,000
Museum of the Connecticut Historical Society [no estimate]		...
		<u>\$404,847</u>

Both the Connecticut Historical Society and the Watkinson Library had long outgrown their accommodations. The Watkinson Library had ten thousand more volumes than the original estimate of the capacity of the building. The Connecticut Historical Society had overcrowded shelves and cabinets. Erection of a new and larger building could not be postponed much longer, without culpable disregard of the obligations imposed by the creation of the trust.

The ultimate necessity had been foreseen by the trustees of the Watkinson Library and provision made for it by the purchase of the Wadsworth property adjoining the land of the Atheneum on the east, with frontage on Prospect Street.

For the city of Hartford and the general public, the four institutions, occupying contiguous halls and substantially under one roof, constituted collectively one public library of reference and circulation with an associated gallery of paintings and sculpture and a museum of historical and antiquarian curiosities, all founded and endowed by the liberality of private citizens and

REORGANIZATION OF THE ATHENEUM CORPORATIONS

hitherto sustained for many years by the efforts of the trustees without cost to the city or the state.

The committees had to consider how to unite under one management, but without the surrender of corporate existence and privileges, in order to constitute in fact and name a free library of reference and circulation and a free art gallery.

EFFECTING THE PROPOSED UNION

The city tax, allowed by the General Assembly, would help to effect the proposed union. Requirements could be met by:

1. Arranging the whole lower floor of the Athenaeum building for the accommodation of the Hartford Library Association as a lending library and reading room of the public library, with removal of the partition in the north and south wings and reconstruction of the staircase in the central division.
2. Similarly opening up the second floor for the gallery of art and the historical museum.
3. Constructing a new building for the Watkinson Library.
4. Use by the Connecticut Historical Society of the present Watkinson Library building with repayment of the five thousand dollars spent on its construction.
5. Before alterations could be made:
 - a. The Wadsworth Athenaeum stockholders would have to surrender the art gallery to public use.
 - b. The Hartford Library Association would have to relinquish its exclusive right to use of that library.
6. The associated institutions would have to agree to entrust the general direction of the public library and the gallery to a board of managers on which each institution would be represented.

DIRECTION AND CONTROL

For the Watkinson Library control had necessarily to remain with the board of trustees appointed under the will of the founder.

For the Hartford Library Association manage-

ment of the public library might properly be committed to the board of the Watkinson Library with additions as determined. But the Hartford Library Association in surrendering its library and income from funds had a right to retain control of funds and consent to expenditure of income. They might prefer to perpetuate the name and corporate existence of the Hartford Library Association by an incorporation of a board of trustees elected by present members of the association to be known as "Trustees of the Hartford Library Association." Otherwise two members might be associated with the trustees of the Watkinson Library in a general board of managers of the public library. The details of organization could be left for future consideration and mutual agreement.

COST OF REORGANIZATION

1. Cost of alterations, and of a new building for at least 100,000 volumes was estimated at a minimum of \$75,000.
2. The annual expense of the four institutions was about \$8,000. If the Hartford Library Association was opened to the public, its expenses would be doubled, as would those of the Wadsworth Athenaeum. For the Watkinson Library and the Connecticut Historical Society the ratio of increase would be less. An estimate of cost for the next five years, if opened to the public, was \$12,000 to \$15,000.

An appeal for public subscriptions would be necessary. The joint endowment of nearly a half million dollars, all from benefactions of private citizens, seemed good evidence that such expectations could be fulfilled. Also a city tax of one-fifth of a mill on the grand list would have to be asked of the mayor, aldermen, and Common Council, to establish and maintain the project.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the facts and suggestions that were presented the committees finally recommended:

1. That committees be appointed by each of the four corporations to draw up articles of asso-

ciation and mutual agreement for establishing the free public library substantially as indicated, and conditioned on the continued aid of the city by an annual tax. These articles of agreement, if approved and adopted, should then be jointly executed.

2. That a committee to consider the plan for alterations of the building and to procure estimates thereon, and a committee to solicit subscriptions for effecting the alterations and for the new building, should be appointed, one member of each committee to be designated by each of the four associated institutions.

3. That the presidents of the four institutions be constituted a joint committee to petition the mayor, aldermen, and Common Council, to lay a tax for the establishment of the public library and art gallery.

The plans advanced slowly but steadily. Each corporation had to accept the general overall proposals made by the joint committee. Specific proposals for a plan of action had then to be made. They were drawn up by a committee of four, Francis Goodwin, James G. Batterson, Sherman W. Adams and Samuel O. Prentice, which published its Joint Committee Report on February 6, 1888. Its recommendations were:

1. Conveyance to the Wadsworth Atheneum of all the real estate and interests in realty owned by the other corporations, save those of occupancy.

2. An appeal to the public by the Wadsworth Atheneum, in the name of the joint enterprise, for financial aid to make such building additions, reconstructions and changes as were necessary and to create a permanent fund, if the response were adequate, to be used for the heating, lighting, and care of the property, and any other general objects agreed upon.

3. Investing in the Atheneum corporation full and absolute direction, control, and care of said property, the other occupants paying only their proportionate share of any expense demanded by the necessities of the future.

4. Securing to each of the other corporations suitable rights of occupancy, subject, however, to

the assignment and control of the Atheneum trustees.

5. Providing that the eleven members of the board of trustees of the Wadsworth Atheneum, the number fixed by its charter, shall hereafter continue but that one member of each of the other corporations be a member of the board, to be nominated by the respective corporations.

6. As the necessities of new circumstances develop, securing legislative modification or enlargement of corporative powers and privileges to meet the new demands.

At a meeting later that month on the 27th, slight amendments were made and the Joint Committee Report was adopted by the committees of the four corporations. It had then to go on to each institution for approval.

Articles of association had to be drawn. Building plans had to be refined. A committee to solicit subscriptions to the building fund had to plan its action. The presidents of the four institutions joined to petition the mayor, the aldermen and the Common Council to lay a tax for the maintenance of the new library.

Charles Hopkins Clark was chairman of the committee for the public subscription. Ruth A. Kerr's unpublished *History of the Watkinson Library* quotes him as saying, "After people once saw what this thing meant there was no soliciting, we just held the hat and you filled it. The completeness with which the subscriptions were raised shows the willingness with which people gave. They wanted to. Men stopped me in the street to hand me money and later to double what they had given. School children carried their pennies and nickels to school and these were dumped by the pound upon my desk. Men in the factories passed subscription papers about and everybody gave something. There was grace in all the giving but there was sanctity in some of it. Men and women told me of their griefs and of their dead, and put into my hands the bank accounts, more or less money as might be, that their dear ones had accumulated. They wanted this especially sacred money to be always doing good, and so they put it into this work. There were wet eyes in my office often and I could not always see



Fig. 62. Elevation of proposed Watkinson Library building, never built.

very well myself, and that is the way the money came in."

The Solution

At long last on April 2, 1890 the Watkinson Library and the Wadsworth Atheneum signed the contract which established their relationship for the next sixty years. It provided in brief that the Watkinson Library trustees convey to the Wadsworth Atheneum a deed to all lands and buildings east of the Atheneum, assessed at \$25,000, as its contribution to the \$400,000 fund raised by public subscription. The Wadsworth Atheneum agreed to erect a building adjoining the present Atheneum building, convenient to the Connecticut Historical Society rooms, to insure and maintain the premises until future needs required future additions, and to provide a permanent home with light, heat, care and repairs on said land. When the new building was ready the Watkinson Library would move promptly, the ex-

penses to be paid by the Wadsworth Atheneum. As the Wadsworth Atheneum received additions to its present fund of \$400,000, which included the value of the land conveyed to it by the Watkinson Library, and was in a financial position to distribute surplus funds annually to the other corporations within its buildings, the Watkinson Library would receive its equitable share. Should the Watkinson Library ever leave the building, the books purchased with surplus Wadsworth Atheneum funds were to remain the property of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

The Connecticut Historical Society was held to its original agreement to repay the Watkinson Library the \$5,000 spent on its first building and should the Historical Society be unable to pay, the Wadsworth Atheneum was obligated to assume the debt.

Insofar as it could influence its stockholders, the Wadsworth Atheneum was annually to elect one member of the Watkinson Library trustees to its own board.

Francis Parsons, later to be a president of the Watkinson Library board, wrote in a news feature published in *The Hartford Times* of November 28, 1934, which surveyed the library's past and its needs for the future, that "all of this was not accomplished without much searching of hearts and cudgelling of brains. . . . In the course of time rights, equities, privileges and moral as well as legal obligations were created. . . . The adjustment and re-organization of 1892 was a triumphant solution."

J. Cleveland Cady, a New York architect, designed the new building to be used by the Watkinson Library. It was completed by the summer of 1892 but not opened formally to the public with appropriate exercises until January 2, 1893. Cady, incidentally, left his library of architectural works to Trinity College which in 1880 had awarded him an honorary M.A. and in 1905 the LL.D. degree.

The process of construction was not without incident for the Watkinson Library marking time in its old quarters. The new wing shut out the light on the north and east, so the lower room was in almost total darkness. The roof over the north side of the old building had to be partially removed for a time, and Gay reported that the closest vigilance was required to save the books from damage in heavy storms.

The Watkinson Library in its old quarters closed on May 16, 1892 to prepare for the move which occupied three weeks. Frank B. Gay reported at the annual meeting in December of

that year that every book and article was thoroughly dusted in the old rooms, packed in the old order and temporarily shelved in the new stacks. Then came the time consuming work. The shelf order and classification of the old room was inappropriate to the new and every volume found a new place. Each book was compared with its catalog card, a long and tedious job still uncompleted, mistakes were corrected, old shelf numbers erased and new ones entered, and the cards rearranged alphabetically. Entirely new shelf lists were written for inventory and for class lists of the various subject areas.

With a twinkle, Gay reported that on November 14, 1892 at 9:30 A.M. "with due formality but without an audience, I declared the doors of the Watkinson Library open, and this Hall was ready for work. However, the three people who first entered asked for books in the Connecticut Historical Society."

Once again a new Watkinson Library opened with festivities, formal exercises, and a collation at 4:30 P.M., on January 2, 1893. But this time it was to dedicate "the enlarged and improved building" of the Wadsworth Atheneum containing the Art Gallery, the Hartford Public Library, the Watkinson Library of Reference, the Connecticut Historical Society Library and Collection, the Hartford Art Society School, and the Free Public Reading Room. Among the principal speakers were the Reverend Francis Goodwin, Charles Dudley Warner, Charles Hopkins Clark and His Honor the Mayor, William Waldo

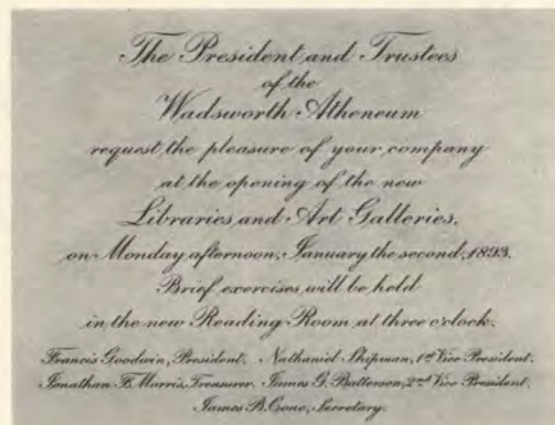
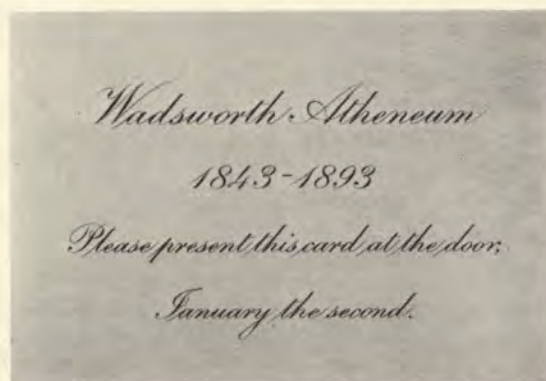


Fig. 63. Card of invitation to the opening ceremonies of the new building in 1893.

EXERCISES COMMEMORATING THE
DEDICATION TO THE PUBLIC USE OF
THE ENLARGED AND IMPROVED
BUILDINGS OF THE
WADSWORTH
ATHENEUM

CONTAINING • THE ART GALLERY • THE HART-
FORD PUBLIC LIBRARY • THE WATKINSON
LIBRARY OF REFERENCE • THE CONNECTICUT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY AND COL-
LECTION • THE HARTFORD ART SOCIETY
SCHOOL • THE FREE PUBLIC READING ROOM



HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, MONDAY, JAN-
UARY SECOND, EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND
NINETY-THREE, AT THREE O'CLOCK P. M.

Fig. 64. Program of Exercises at the opening in 1893. Vignette shows new building along Wadsworth Alley.

Hyde, who was a member ex officio of the Watkinson board of trustees not only in his capacity as mayor at that time but also in 1882-84 as president of the Hartford Library Association.

Two months after the formal opening of the fine new libraries and art museum a letter was received by Gay from Edwin E. Marvin, Clerk of U.S. Courts, Hartford, dated March 9, 1893. Written "not so much to criticize this magnificent benevolence as to suggest obvious improvements," it noted that the Wadsworth Atheneum, Watkinson Library, Hartford Public Library and Connecticut Historical Society all were listed in the Directory as at 206 Main Street, but none of the buildings posted the number. Once inside, no

names were on the doors to show which was which. The writer offered to pay for appropriate signs.

He suggested that a catalog with the titles of "every book, picture and relic within the walls" should be available to take home, and offered to contribute toward such a publication.

He recommended that the "utterly insufficient skylight of the picture gallery" be ripped off and reconstructed to let in "the glorious light of day and disperse the shadows and sombreness of these apartments," and he would contribute his share to this too. No apparent reaction was elicited by his offer.

Frank Butler Gay's Tenure

New Developments

Frank Butler Gay started his new regime with innovations. He had moved the library into its brand new Gothic hall, the books dusted, rearranged and reshelved. On the gala occasion on January 2, 1893 when the revitalized Atheneum formally signaled its opening to the public, he arranged on the bare, uninviting tables, an exhibit of books on the fine arts which received notice in the *Courant* the next morning. All day long people came in to see the pictures.

Every Friday evening that month the four institutions held reception nights and out of them grew a new enterprise for the library. On the second open night Gay showed historical pictures and portraits, on the third, decorative and industrial arts, when fourteen hundred people came within two and a half hours. That exhibit remained on view for several days and the crowds from all over the state attested to the interest of the show. From it came offers from local townspeople of books and pictures not in the library, and teachers brought their classes to see it. Requests for other special exhibitions came in from schools and clubs.

The following year he and Miss Caroline Hewins, the librarian of the Hartford Public Library, entertained a class from the Albany Library School in April and the Watkinson Library arranged an exhibit of Henry VIII and his times with over four hundred pictures on view from

books and magazines. It was a new method of instruction to most of the group, as well as an effective advertisement of the library.

At the fall meeting of the American Library Association that year at Lake Placid, Gay was besieged with questions about his shows and their



Fig. 65. Interior view of new 1892 Watkinson Library building.

arrangement. He seems to have inaugurated the use of source material outside of text books for students in libraries.

Gay had found by 1895 that "In the Watkinson, the absence of all checks between the reader and the librarian has some disadvantages for the latter. We boast of having fewer 'rules' than any other library known to me. With no desk or counter hindrances, no registration, call-slips or charging-slips; no order in coming or going, sitting or standing; no railings, gates, bars, chains or doors between the books and the readers; the result is not altogether satisfactory to librarian or readers. The impersonal relation between them is soon lost and a pleasant contact or unpleasant friction may be the result. I seriously think of reviving some of the old rules which you established years ago, but which have been allowed to lapse—to the great benefit of the public." In 1897 he reported to the trustees that free access to shelves was granted when visitors were known to him.

Use of "the library by students from Trinity College and the Theological Seminary had increased. While the attendance was not numerous it was constant, studious and insistent in its varied demands. "The Hartford Library's reference room with its large collection of popular works . . . answers well the demands of most casual readers. The genealogical students, who were for a generation taken care of by the Watkinson Library, now use our books constantly in the Historical Society's library. To us come the working student, the dilettante, the cultivated amateur, and what are familiarly called 'the Club Girls.'" In an insistent plea to the trustees Gay said that not the dollar novel but the one hundred dollar folio was needed to supply his clientele, the students who were insatiable in their demands. Text books were sometimes requested but they were in the Hartford Public Library where they could be borrowed. The "material from which text books are made, [is] here."



Fig. 66. Ebenezer K. Hunt, succeeded Alfred Gill as trustee in 1863. Painting by Charles Noël Flagg.

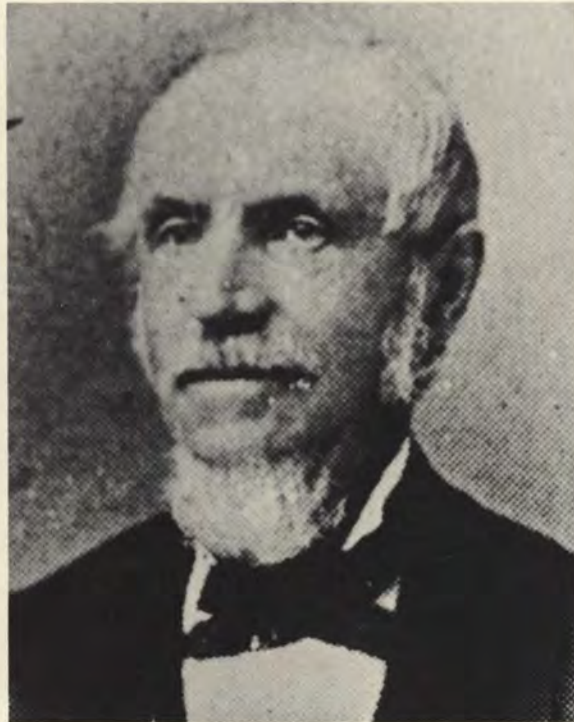


Fig. 67. Roland Mather, succeeded William L. Storrs as trustee in 1862.

Although he kept statistics of the number of readers, he felt the results were misleading, disappointing, unfair and valueless. In a later year, in 1909, reporting a gain in readers with the remark that "cold statistics, after all, show little," he listed some of the subjects on which material had been sought within a three or four day period: The Louvre; colonial gardens; anthropology; manufacture of varnish; excavations at Troy; debate on the abolition of capital punishment; earliest Chinese history; Arabic historical texts; coats of arms (perpetual); musical biography; Moorish architecture; debate on strict construction of the Constitution; pronunciation of Manx language; how to construct a pentagon; monasteries of northern Greece; process of etching; Harrow School; references to the Journal of the Franklin Institute; animal physiology; Bodleian Library; fire insurance data; various botanical subjects; dates of old books; making of ink; identification of plants; icons of the Saints; "the old mangus" – magus; source of family surnames; child labor; geological survey maps; arctic exploration.

The Watkinson Library at that time continued to share with the Public Library the task of providing clubs and school classes with material for papers and debates. But Gay's era witnessed the development of public library reference service, which gradually superseded the intent of David Watkinson's Library of Reference. The Watkinson was slowly becoming the special research library that was to be its eventual role.

Frank Gay always maintained the most cordial relations with Caroline M. Hewins who was librarian of the Hartford Public Library until 1926. In 1895 he mentioned in his annual report that "we the librarians are striving and in a large measure succeeding in making these two libraries interdependent."

The Watkinson Library sent its books down to the Hartford Public Library for evening use and, in fact, anywhere within the building where they might be needed. To avoid duplication of book purchases in the libraries within the Athenaeum, much time was spent in checking the Connecticut Historical Society and the Hartford

Public Library catalogs. They had in fact an informal cooperative buying program long before the days of formal interlibrary cooperative practices. In 1892, for instance, Gay stopped subscriptions to periodicals that were also taken in the public library, enabling him to add others to the Watkinson list.

That situation extended even beyond the confines of the Athenaeum. Gay in his report of 1894 quoted "one of the foremost library workers in the country" [unidentified] as remarking that "on a recent visit to Hartford I was surprised to see the cordial cooperation among the libraries there. I hardly know of another city where the libraries divide the field and agree to supplement one another so well." And Gay later commented that "the enlarged work at Trinity College, especially in the department of the sciences suggests to us the question, how far should this library cooperate with and supplement that work."

Another service that the Watkinson Library rendered was to house the Hartford Medical Society library from 1893 to 1898. It was formed in 1889, as successor to the Hartford Medical Library and Journal Association whose nine hundred books provided the nucleus of the new collection. In 1898 the Hunt Memorial was opened and the medical library transferred, but in the meantime their books had been classified, labelled, shelved and made available to qualified readers in the Watkinson.

A Growing Book Collection

Frank Butler Gay started his Watkinson librarianship with plans for a new building under way. But unlike Trumbull who had the stimulating task of choosing the new books that formed the library and had enough money to buy them, Gay inherited a burden of volumes worn by use and budgets too low either for adequate binding or for acquiring the collections to build the great library that he wanted to make it. As Trumbull did, he bought much at auction, but too often had to let gems go at heart-breaking prices above his limited means. When J. Hammond Trumbull's library was sold in New York in 1921, al-

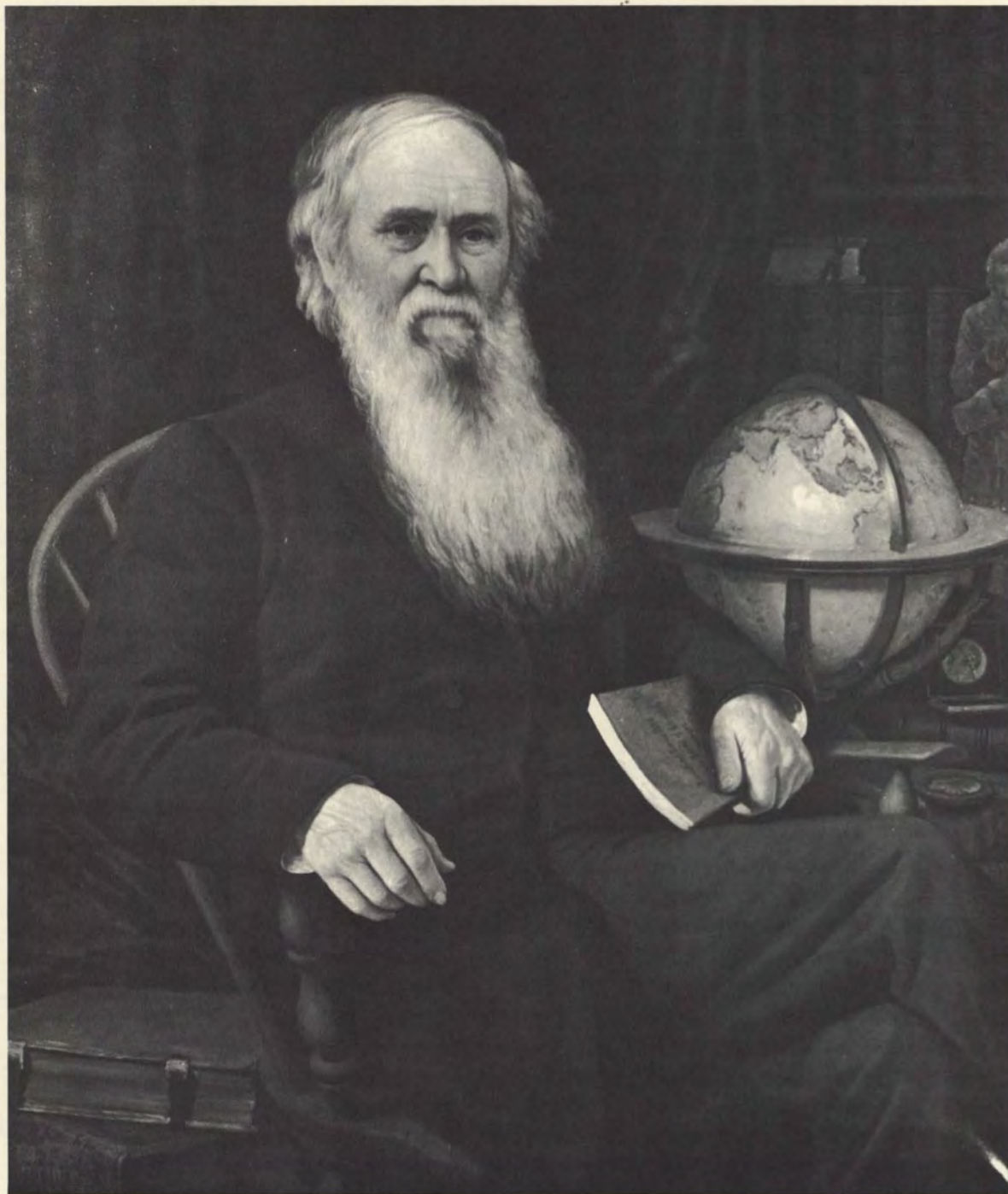


Fig. 68. Henry Barnard, charter trustee. Painting by Franklin Tuttle.



Fig. 69. J. Hammond Trumbull's personal bookplate.

though Gay coveted many of the books for the Watkinson Library, he found the competition too strong and most of the "nuggets" passed out of reach.

Later he wrote a memorandum that poignantly expressed the frustration of his position. To the president and trustees of the Watkinson Library he addressed an undated letter:

"Gentlemen:

"I hope my daughters will be able to give to the Watkinson Library, \$5000.00 which I have willed them and I desire and charge you to carry out my wishes as herein expressed.

"I. Invest this sum in such manner as you may approve, adding the income to the principal until you have a capital sum of \$10,000.00. However, if at any time my wife, Jane Marsh Gay, shall need any of the income or principal for her comfortable support, you are to pay to her, or her agent, such sums as may be necessary at stated times. Perhaps you will be willing to call this The Frank B. Gay Fund.

"II. I have noticed that library boards and committees, and librarians are apt to buy books of the day, current at the time, or cheap. But the opportunity always comes to get something rare, famous, beautiful and valuable; it is most regretfully refused because too high-priced, or no funds. In a small way, I sincerely wish to help and please my successors by relieving them of many disappointments and give them something to look forward to with bibliographical interest and stimulation.

"Therefore, I make the following conditions:

When the fund reaches \$10,000.00, the income shall be available and shall be expended for books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, or for such material as the future may show is necessary or interesting for reference in this Library. *Note:* not more than three books or titles shall be bought with the income of any one year, and it may be wise to buy only one. A book may consist of more than one volume, therefore if the year's income is insufficient to make a much desired purchase and there is no unexpended income from a previous year, borrow against the Fund, replacing from future income. A pamphlet or map wanted may be found bound with others in one or more volumes. The "others" need not be counted as against the year's number. Manuscripts come singly, or as a lot or series (i.e. a series of documents or letters) and count as one (or more if continued). Do not refuse "curiosities" or "useless rarities" such as specimens of early printing and many other books which, although they may not be called for, will add grace, dignity and interest to the Library. To illustrate: a Babylonian seal, cylinder, or tablet, American Indian picture-writing, Maya-Aztec manuscripts; even a part or portion of an early and rare book should be considered.

"III. At some time in the distant future, issue a catalog of the (my) collection. Print in the best style then in vogue (as to typography, ink and paper) a small edition, 100 to 150 copies, bound in a plain but suitable manner; and present this catalog to college and other libraries of a similar type to the Watkinson, where they will agree to retain and enter it in their catalogs. Have all the items that appear in this printed catalog fully and properly described with full collations, notes, etc. Illustrate with interesting title-pages, facsimiles of maps, documents, letters, etc. Wait until there are about 150 titles, then take from the Fund sufficient money to pay for this work. It should form a very dignified announcement from the Watkinson Library and incidentally be the memorial I should like best. A suitable bookplate could be a charge on the Fund.

"On the completion of this catalog, if there is

a part of the Fund left, let it accumulate again and then be used as I have herein directed." The letter is unsigned but is accompanied by a fragment of a note dated January 25, 1929:

"My dear successor:

"While I do not wish to hamper you too much, let me make a few suggestions. As I fear the Library will never have funds to buy the type of books I've indicated, I do wish you to feel free to indulge in some modest bibliographical luxuries for my collection. At first I thought of saying that every item bought must cost at least one hundred dollars or more and that seems a good limit, but you might have the opportunity of getting a real treasure much less - I bought Archbishop Laud's copy of Comines' *Memoirs* for less than five dollars, the first play of Shakespeare printed in America, for less, Valturius' work on military arts for three dollars and I would not deprive you of such an experience. But see that the item is worth a place in my collection."

Gay's fund had not yet been established in 1966. At the death of his daughter Constance, on January 3, 1942, the bequest was confirmed in her will as a contingent legacy subject to a life interest.

However, Gay was able to make major purchases in the first decade of existence in the new building with the annual appropriations from the Wadsworth Atheneum fund, which were distributed to the joint leaseholders in the overall establishment. The Atheneum first voted to pay \$1,500 in 1894 for books to be placed in the library. Conditions of purchase were left to the Watkinson Library board. The help from the Atheneum could hardly be over-estimated in the library's then straitened circumstances, as that appropriation was its main source for book purchases. Those annual grants lasted through 1905 when the Atheneum began to build a fund for future needs and no longer disbursed its unexpended annual income to the other members of the institution. Its endowment at that time was a combination of the pooled resources of all four corporations and of the public subscription of 1890-91, raised for their joint benefit.

Never with adequate funds for his purposes Gay, however, used his lively talents to collect special categories of material not in demand at the time but which would later be of incalculable value as source material. One such field was World War I material on the war psychology of the German people. He sought contemporary documents, papers, speeches and sermons to prove their motives. With the enormous fall in German exchange in 1920 much of that material came within his reach. Similar material on the French was also acquired, but France did not need to justify her position, produced less propaganda, and less material therefore sufficed.

His sense of the unique materials that could lend distinction to a library like the Watkinson with small funds was expressed in his annual report of 1901: "There are two kinds of books still left for the reference library, in a field which can be made peculiarly its own, viz: books too large and books too costly to circulate. . . . To these may be added the timely work such as the transactions or journals of scientific bodies, and the book which nobody saves at the time of publication. Here is a field large enough for this library."

On one occasion Gay told of a "colonial dinner" which one of the leading confectioners in Hartford had been hired to serve. It had to be correct in every detail even to the laying of the table and "the sweets." And, he related, "two or three years ago I was laughed at for buying several cookbooks and 'housekeeper's friends,' all of them of the last century and earlier. This 'old trash' probably never had a more respectful or delighted reader than our fellow townsman."

Another year he reported buying ninety titles on the Spanish-American War, all from the Spanish point of view, all in Spanish, printed in Spain, in the Philippine Islands and in Cuba. It was prejudiced history, he commented, but although other libraries would have the works of American writers on the subject, "we feel confident that this collection will, in the course of a generation, be exceedingly 'rare and valuable.' "

Sales of notable collections on the French Revolution allowed Gay to add a large number

of titles in 1908, some of the highest importance. It remains one among many special fields of distinction in the Watkinson Library.

He made a special effort to complete the library's philological holdings, "the speech-history of the world," feeling that "the ultimate goal is, obviously, that no reader of any book or periodical in the Library shall lack the means of studying for himself the meaning of any linguistic article, quotation, or allusion he finds in it." In his annual report of 1912 he listed the addition of grammars and dictionaries in "Maliseet, Penobscot, Otomi, Tarasca, Sioux, all American; English and Cornish, French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Gallician-Spanish, Modern Greek; Latin; Hungarian, Roumanian, Serbian, Turkish, Armenian, Persian, Arabic; Sanskrit, Bengali, Pali, Hindustani, or Urdu, Gujarati; Chinese, Japanese; Khassi, Zulu; Cuneiform languages and Assyrian."

In the same report Gay made an interesting comment about United States Government documents which "as always, must be credited with a mass of valuable monographs and reports and other publications, whose importance, originality, and even charm of readability often, are disguised to the average eye by their official presentation and unpretentious get-up."

He started the collection of nineteenth-century sheet music to form a basis for the study of popular songs of that period, by buying in 1911, at a removal sale, about fourteen hundred pieces published from 1856.

But juggling wants and funds was a nagging problem. In his annual report for 1903 Gay eloquently defined his dilemma. "May I call attention again, to the problem which continually confronts me, worries me deeply by its imposing protean character and insistence. With small funds what shall we purchase! How shall we apportion our expenditures, to get the best and most satisfactory return. Where is the prescience that shall enable us to build well for the future, while serving the present. What should now be bought which the yet unborn scholar will thank you for. This is a problem which cannot be

solved at the local bookstore, however large; which is beyond the all wise reviewers of the literary journals and Saturday supplements; which cannot be satisfied by the wares urged by the most attractive prospectus, or helpful and agreeable book-agent. Many popular publications are bought because asked for, but the number of calls is often in inverse proportion to the lasting value of the book; while at the same time others should be bought now although no living man is likely to use them. These latter are the books for all time, but of which there will be no second edition."

A portion of Gay's report of the following year merits quotation as a graphic description of only one part of the duties of his post. "This library makes the larger portion of its purchases from catalogs of second-hand book-sellers, or of sales by auction. Every week brings a considerable bunch of catalogs from the foreign markets, as well as from all over this country. We have no well equipped order department, therefore it takes much of my time reading and checking these catalogs. (The reading I do mostly at my home evenings.) In the auction field, reading the catalog is the least of the work; hunting up prices on the lots I wish to bid on takes a great deal of time, as usually they must be looked for through long series of German, French, English and Italian catalogs, to say nothing of the general trade lists. Then there is the search through the great bibliographies and histories of books to find the status of the title under consideration. It frequently happens that after some minutes work, one finds that the book offered is not the right edition, or is now superceded by some other work, therefore not wanted. . . .

"Then search is made through our own catalog to see if we already have them. After this comes the hunt for prices. But the real crux is after the catalog is 'worked up.' Then the question is, what *must* we have; what can we afford to pay; is this particular sale likely to enhance the price of this work; what will our funds permit? Next, to fix fair or low prices on books we should like to have - on the chance that they may fall to us.

If you don't bid of course you don't get. Lastly the auction order is made up and sent. All this may have taken a week or more of my spare time. But it may be months before the books are received here, collated, the 'imperfects' returned, the mistakes corrected, and the revised bill ready for payment."

In spite of such lively anxieties Gay noted in 1908 that although the Wadsworth Athenaeum appropriations for books had ceased in 1905, "save for perhaps a few volumes lost or retired . . . the trustees and custodians can rejoice in the steady growth. . . . The Watkinson Library has this pleasure, though much curtailed from the golden days of the Athenaeum fund distribution, which doubled the possibilities of purchase." In 1911, in the twenty years since the library was put in his charge, the number of volumes had doubled, including the approximately 10,000 books "belonging to the Athenaeum." In 1923, the fortieth anniversary of his first relationship with the Watkinson Library, he said that he

could wish for forty more there, as few men could have had more pleasurable work for such a length of time.

Major Gifts

Donors of books were steadily increasing though endowment was not. Countless individuals, too vast a number to list, helped create the collections. One of the great acquisitions of the library, though not a gift, came through the offer in 1899 of J. H. Trumbull's personal collection of materials on North American Indian languages by his daughter, Miss Annie E. Trumbull. Bought at three thousand dollars and paid for out of the Stanley Fund it was sometimes referred to as the Trumbull-Stanley Collection at the time of acquisition. Its seven hundred titles were a brilliant addition to the riches of the Brinley Americana already in the library.

In 1905 one of the most important gifts ever to come to the Watkinson was again promoted by Annie E. Trumbull. The Trumbull-Prime Collection of the "History of Illustration by Printed Pictures" had been inherited by her aunt, Annie Trumbull Slosson, from Mrs. Slosson's brother-in-law William C. Prime. Its almost two hundred fifteenth-century and over one thousand sixteenth-century printed books had been collected by Prime in order to write a history of early German engraving. He had traveled in the east and had also written books on Egypt and the Holy Land.

The collection came to the Watkinson Library subject to special restrictions specified in the deed of gift:

1. The books must be kept in good order, good repair and kept clean.
2. They must be kept intact.
3. They were not to be placed with other books.
4. Signs designating the collection were always to be displayed with the books.
5. They were to be marked with a plate for which Mrs. Slosson furnished the die.

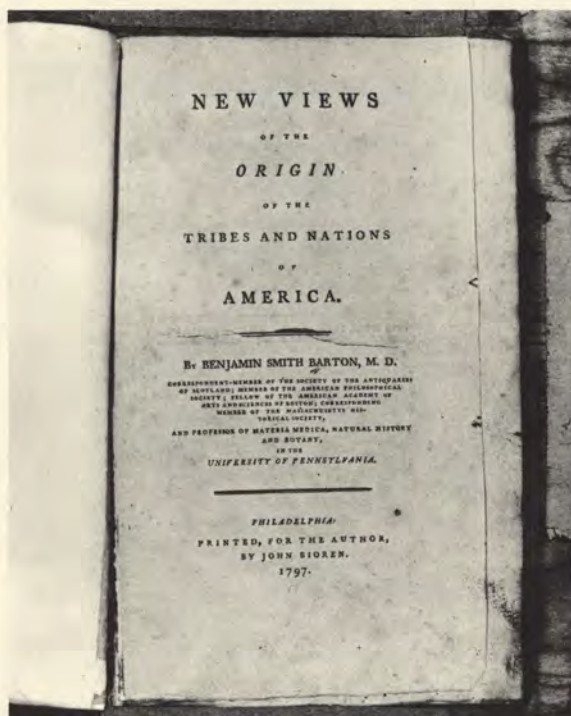


Fig. 70. First edition of the first philosophical treatise on American philology by an American author. From the Trumbull Indian Collection.

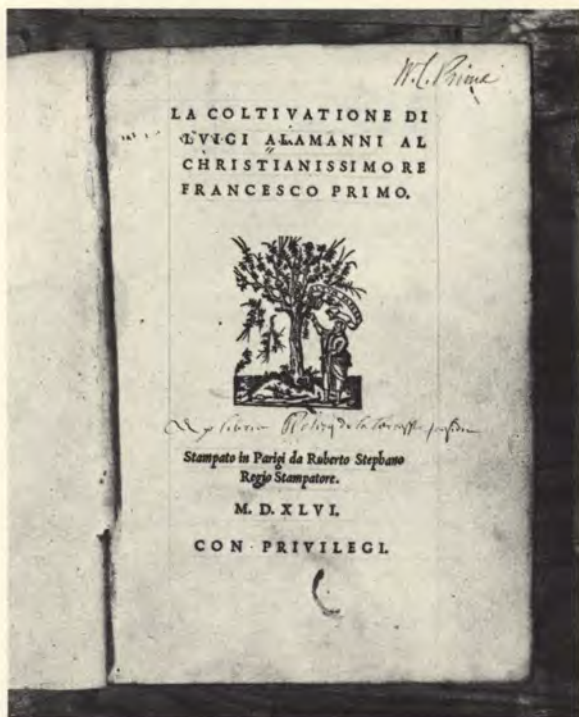


Fig. 71. A sixteenth-century book printed by the famed house of Estienne, from the Trumbull-Prime Collection, showing William C. Prime's autograph.

6. They were to be open to the use of students under proper restrictions.

A special memorial alcove was eventually prepared to receive them, but it was delayed for five years until the Atheneum building program for the Colt and the Morgan Memorials was completed.

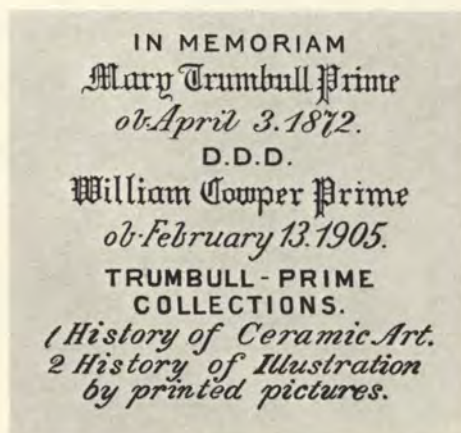


Fig. 72. Trumbull-Prime Collection bookplate.

Frank Gay obtained Mrs. Slosson's agreement to allow similar rare books, incunabula and sixteenth-century rarities from other sources, to be shelved with the original gift and thus augment its scope since it had been Mr. Prime's own intention to add to his collection.

Annie E. Trumbull at her death left ten thousand dollars to perpetuate the Trumbull Memorial, and it was used in 1952 to furnish the Trumbull Room in the Watkinson's new quarters at Trinity College. She left an additional ten thousand to the library for general purposes.

After Henry Barnard's death his entire library was purchased from his daughters by J. P. Morgan, "who buys libraries with as much ease and choice of selection as he buys railroads or steamship lines," the *Courant* of June 27, 1905 reported. It was presented to the Wadsworth Athenaeum in 1905, but it came to the Watkinson Library as a more appropriate depository.

It was an educator's library of about nine thousand volumes on the history and theory of education, and the methods and practice of teaching. It included government reports and proceedings of educational associations, and contained rare and original sources on educational institutions and systems in the United States. About one half of Barnard's library comprised a collection of early American textbooks. Other old schoolbooks have been added ever since by various donors, increasing it by a thousand or so.

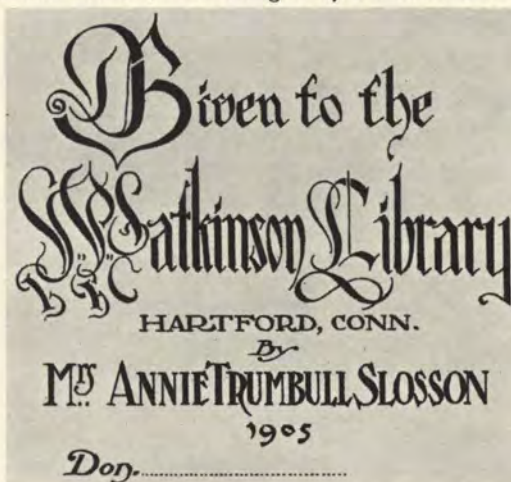


Fig. 73. The Annie Trumbull Slosson bookplate.



Fig. 74. Trumbull-Prime Collection alcove in old 1892 building.

The Barnard material contained many duplicates, and Gay urged the disposal of such works by gift or sale. No decision was made at the time, however, and the books remained stored in the lower hall for many years. Its fame spread and in later years, particularly after the move to Trinity College in 1952, it became the Watkinson Library collection most often consulted by scholars.

David Watkinson did not leave any of his books to his endowed library, and when Gay became librarian he made a determined effort to find and bring back all those he could locate. He asked permission of the board of trustees in 1892 to advertise through the newspapers for books belonging to David Watkinson. Only one was known to be in the Watkinson Library and two others were in the Connecticut Historical Society. The results of the press release were far from spectacular but through the years, from correspondence with Watkinson family descendants, a few dozen were accumulated, including books belonging to other members of earlier generations.

A letter dated April 4, 1925 from Miss Elizabeth Howard of Santa Barbara, California, a descendant of David's sister Anne, states "of course you know many things of David's went into the Bartholomew family," no doubt at the time George M. Bartholomew bought the Watkinson house on Prospect Street. Five of David Watkinson's books were sent to Gay in 1902 from Mrs. Fannie Weld, daughter of George M. Bartholomew, along with the "D. Watkinson" brass door plate. Several other books from the David Watkinson library were given by Miss Hewins of the Hartford Public Library, including a copy of Ann Radcliffe's thriller, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, and an imprint of Isaiah Thomas.

Other gifts of some magnitude at that time included a selection of psalm books and hymnology in 1908 from Charles T. Wells, son of Dr. Horace Wells, discoverer of anaesthesia. Accom-



Fig. 75. William C. Prime, donor of the Mary Trumbull Prime Collection of Civil War material and collector of the Trumbull-Prime "History of Illustration by Printed Pictures."



Fig. 76. Annie Eliot Trumbull, daughter of J. Hammond Trumbull and a benefactor of the Watkinson Library in many ways.

panying them was his collection of a more general nature, including modern art, essays and poetry, and American history. One of the books "worth its weight in gold," said Gay, was Billing's *New England Psalm Singer* with a plate engraved by Paul Revere. Another was Brant's *Book of Common Prayer* in the Mohawk language. A bookplate with the portrait of the donor surrounded by emblematic devices designed by himself, for the approximately one thousand volumes, was engraved under the direction of George S. Godard, state librarian.

Nathan H. Allen, for many years organist and choir director of the Center Church, First Congregational, and teacher of organ, musical theory and voice, in 1915 gave to the library many of the rare and curious parts of his collection of musical and stage literature. Work of early Connecticut

musicians, such as Allen Dudley Buck and Henry Wilson, was included as were technical works on musicology in German, early printed scores by Gluck, Mozart and Handel, and a large collection of American sheet music mostly published before 1865. Of unique value to future music historians were nine scrapbooks that included material on organs. "A hasty glance would seem to show, that not an organ has been erected or an organ concert given but what here are the specifications and the programs," reported the *Courant* of December 15, 1915. The following year Allen gave additional musical literature and over four hundred playbills of English theatres from 1795 to 1840, a new field for the Watkinson Library, but a significant one, which Gay felt ought to be augmented.

In 1917 Leverett Belknap, the longtime Hartford bookseller, gave an unusual collection of sixty-eight different editions of Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*. The next year he added several

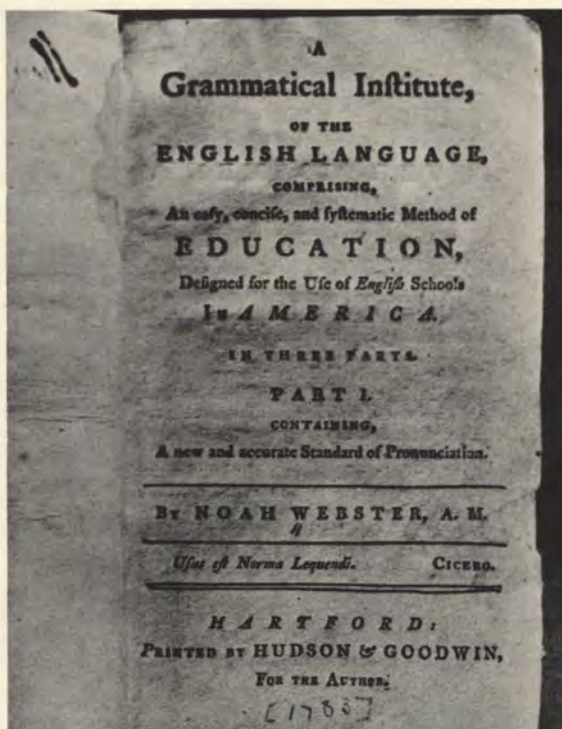


Fig. 77. Noah Webster's Grammatical Institute, first edition. From the Barnard Collection.

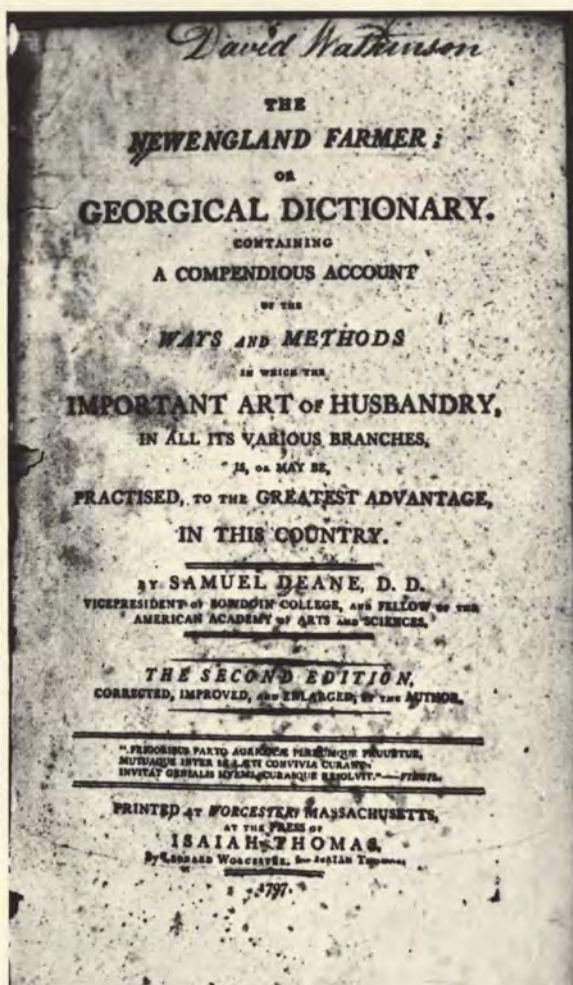


Fig. 78. An Isaiah Thomas imprint from the personal library of David Watkinson.

more editions and forty volumes of the works of Hawthorne.

Also in 1918 the daughter of Gilbert A. Tracy of Putnam carried out his wish in presenting a collection of two hundred titles on Abraham Lincoln, augmenting the Civil War collection in the library.

The Watkinson Library had never made a concerted effort to acquire manuscripts, although Annie E. Trumbull had earlier given some in her father's Indian language collection, but in 1921 Miss Mary Barton, executor and legatee of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dudley Warner, gave the library a large amount of unsorted material, "practically all that was left of his [Warner's] busy working literary life," Frank Gay noted.

Most of the letters from his famous contemporaries had been returned to their writers, but the gift included a few from Joseph E. Twichell. Manuscripts of books and travel notes were part of the collection.

From Wallace Stevens, Hartford poet not yet come to general fame, the library received in 1922 a gift of two volumes and 146 pamphlets including many issues of "Little Magazines" reflecting various phases of "extreme modernist art," said Gay. In them were many first appearances of Stevens' poems. To this beginning the Watkinson Library later added first editions, some by gift from Stevens and from his daughter, and some by purchase, in addition to books about him.

Gay himself made a major contribution in 1923 by presenting to the library his sixty volumes of works by Cobbett which he had started to collect in 1879. He reserved the right to add to it or to make exchanges as opportunity arose. There are few collections in the country as complete.

Henry Wilson's large collection of music, much of it unpublished manuscript material, came to the Watkinson the same year, "a unique memorial" to the well remembered organist and choirmaster of Christ Church, and an addition in the area begun by N. H. Allen. By bequest of the latter, in 1925, came his entire collection of orchestral and chamber music scores and the first choice, with a few exceptions, of his books, musical or otherwise.

Also in 1925 Samuel O. Prentice, long president of the Watkinson Library, by bequest left such of his genealogical books and New England local history and biography as the library chose to select.

Two from the list of donors that had been giving books for "many, many years" died in 1926. One was Caroline M. Hewins of the Public Library and the other was Charles Hopkins Clark, editor of the *Hartford Courant*, trustee and former secretary, then long treasurer of the Watkinson board. "I shall never again hear Mr. Clark's call 'They are house cleaning (my office) and it is terrible, but if there are any pamphlets



Fig. 79. Fifteenth-century French Book of Hours. From the Charles T. Wells Collection.

or stuff that you want for either library, take it away quick!' and we got a great lot of material . . . the rare flotsam of a great newspaper editor's office," wrote Gay.

The Reverend Duncan Black Macdonald, professor of Semitic languages at the Hartford Theological Seminary from 1892 to 1931, later to leave a choice portion of his library to the Watkinson Library, gave in 1930 his collection of the works of Charles Nodier and thereafter continued to add important items. It constituted one of the fine special collections in the library.

In the meantime Melancthon W. Jacobus who had been elected a trustee in 1906 was making gifts from time to time both of books and funds that enabled Gay to buy particularly handsome and otherwise unobtainable items. One of the

first was Kingsborough's nine mammoth folios on the antiquities of Mexico which were bought at auction in Philadelphia in 1910.

The librarian reported that same year a particularly large and fine selection of small gifts from many donors. They were especially welcome as practically all book purchases had been stopped in view of the impending outlay for refitting and furnishing the new rooms that became available to the Watkinson Library upon the completion of the Morgan Memorial, when the Watkinson regained its old original quarters.

Perennial Need for Room

In 1902 had come the inevitable cry for more space. "Ten years ago last September, the Wat-

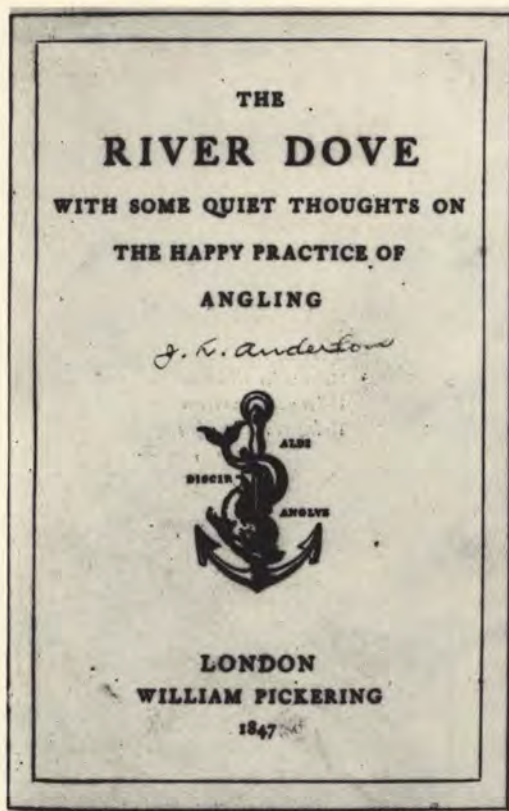


Fig. 80. A Wells Collection book, an early start on the growing Watkinson collection of books on angling.

kinson Library was opened in its new and handsome hall and stack," Gay reported. "At that time it was supposed that sufficient room was left for growth in the main departments in the library hall. Already the hall is overcrowded; books are piled upon the ledges and shelves are carrying two rows deep." Lack of work room was largely responsible for the disorder. While the stacks had considerable room, unsatisfactory, dangerous and inefficient shelving made it "nearly everything it should not be." Dust lay thick on books and shelves, as no thorough cleaning had been done since the move ten years before.

The next year he received a special appropriation for extra help to clean the library and the books the following summer. He gave an amusing account in his annual report of 1904 of the ingenious contraption invented to accomplish the task. An electric fan was set in a hood with a furnace pipe extending through a window to

carry off the dust brushed from the books. The high walls and groined ceiling were first dusted down, and the shelves were washed.

Two men worked eight hours a day for forty-one days, each at a wage of one dollar per day, so the cost of labor was \$82, the total cost \$108.20. In the process books were rearranged and inventory taken.

A year later, during the summer, the electrical wiring was almost completely replaced by the Atheneum throughout the building, with all wires insulated and carried in hollow steel cables. New drop lights with the latest variety of flexible cord were installed, not improving the appearance of the room but correcting both lighting problems and a fire hazard. In December 1905 mortar and brick dust from the summer's work still was everywhere and "the library never was so dirty as now." Although Gay and his assistant, George Dana Smith, had themselves tried in early mornings to move the books which, shelf



Fig. 81. The Charles T. Wells Collection bookplate, designed by himself.

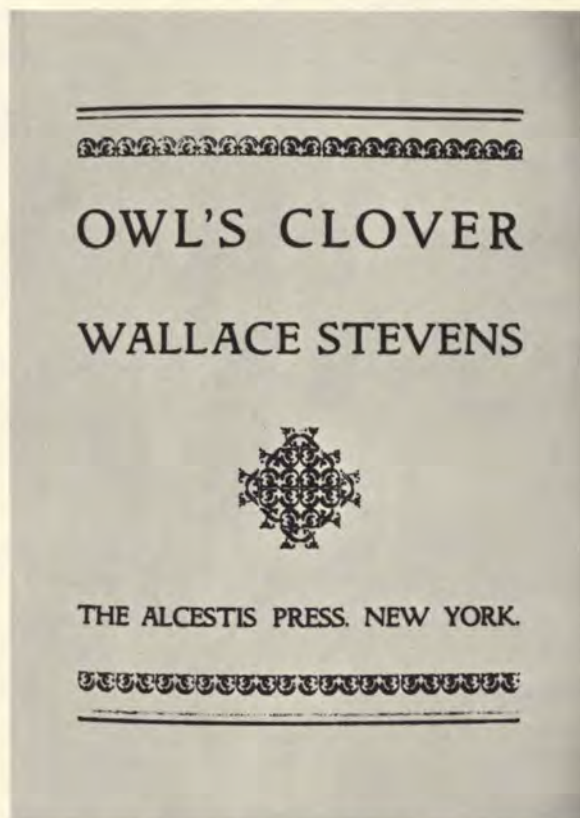


Fig. 82. A gift to the Watkinson Library by the Hartford author, one of the great poets of his age.

after shelf, had to be got out of the way, many of them several times over, "the electricians, the masons, the joiners, the iron workers & their various helpers went at the shelves, as tho. the books were bricks, & they put them anywhere; some of the books are still there."

The cleaning job of the year before had not been satisfactory, for some injury to the books resulted from dusting. Gay was reluctant to recommend the same procedure a second time. A vacuum cleaning company was hired to clean the library, but the size of the books varied too much to be dusted on the shelves and "it was truly a strain on the nerves to see the way the rare and handsomely bound volumes were handled. Both Mr. Smith & I hope never to be put to such a strain again," wrote Gay in 1906.

Following the reorganization of 1890 the four corporations began to develop in unforeseen directions and ultimately went their separate ways. The art gallery in 1900 began to gather

momentum in its own right. About that time J. Pierpont Morgan gave a large lot to the Athenaeum which included not only its block bounded by Main, Prospect and Atheneum Square North and South, but also the land where the municipal building was built. It was given to the city by the Athenaeum on condition that it remain the site of the city hall.

In 1906, the Colt Memorial was built through funds left by Mrs. Samuel Colt in memory of her husband. In 1910 it joined the old Wadsworth Athenaeum building with the new Morgan Memorial, the front half of which was dedicated that year, and the remainder in 1917, the entire structure the gift of the Morgan family. J. P. Morgan in 1910 gave the Athenaeum a large block of shares of United States Steel as endowment, and in 1917 J. P. Morgan, Jr. added a considerable amount to the invested funds.

In 1918 Samuel P. Avery gave the Athenaeum almost a quarter of a million dollars for additional building. The funds were allowed to accumulate, and by 1932 had more than tripled in value. The Avery Memorial, which displaced Daniel Wadsworth's home on Prospect Street, was opened in 1934. A later public drive for funds resulted in 1965 in the start of an ambitious rebuilding and reconstruction project to enlarge and modernize the art museum which had long held a place among the fine institutions of the country.

The Connecticut Historical Society, which had begun with little or no endowment, in 1923 received funds by will from George E. Hoadley which were sufficient to put up a new building. The Society acquired a lot on the corner of Washington and Buckingham Streets in 1930 with a view to establishing a closer relationship with the State Library, at the same time acknowledging the required continuance of their physical relationship with the Watkinson Library.

With the depression that started in 1929 the market value of the Society's building funds was cut in half, and they were left with no immediate prospect of building. By 1941, however, the value of the bequest had accumulated to over a quarter of a million dollars. But during the forties they



Fig. 83. Nathaniel Shipman, fourth president of the Watkinson Library, 1890–1906.

found it impossible to build and in 1949 they sold the lot and in 1950 bought the Veeder property at One Elizabeth Street.

The Hartford Public Library and the Watkinson Library were left behind, financially speaking, and not until the 1950's were their housing difficulties satisfactorily solved.

In the meantime, by 1906 the Atheneum had embarked on its new building program, and while the process of construction went on the library was more or less in a state of upheaval, dust and disarrangement. The confusion was compounded by the use of the Watkinson Library quarters by readers of the Hartford Public Library in 1909 while the Morgan Memorial went up. In 1910 the art collections were moved out of the original Wadsworth Atheneum building and the Connecticut Historical Society took over all of the second floor. The Watkinson Library had its old original quarters back, rearranged for office and stack space, and Gay was delighted with the generous allotment of room.

In common with the other inhabitants of the

old Wadsworth Atheneum building, the library entrance was now on Main Street, up a new flight of stairs into an entrance hall replacing the old south picture gallery. The former staircase hall on the north was floored over providing a lobby and coat room. The entrance to the old office from the northwest corner of the main library hall was built up and shelves put in, adding over twenty-seven feet of new shelf space to a long overcrowded alcove.

The former entrance from the Watkinson Library into the Connecticut Historical Society library was now the doorway into the main lobby. Other new construction on the south provided a stairway leading into the librarian's new office which occupied the eastern third of the original Watkinson Library quarters. Much of the rest of that room was completely rearranged for stacks. Only three of the old alcoves remained substantially intact.

The entrance to the vaults was directly behind the librarian's desk in his new office instead of at



Fig. 84. Samuel O. Prentice, fifth president of the Watkinson Library board, 1906–1924. Painting by George Burroughs Torrey.

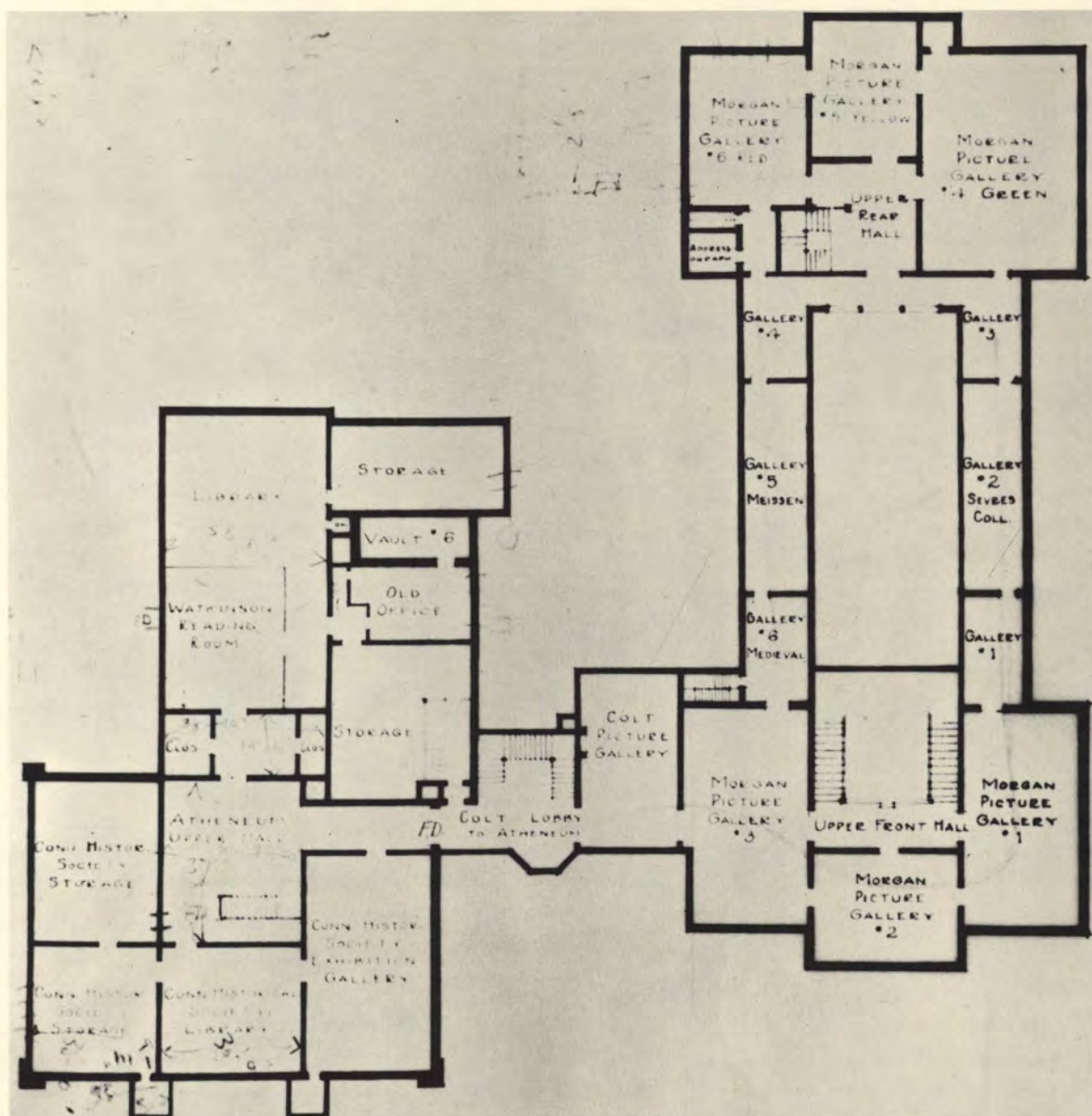


Fig. 85. Plan of Wadsworth Atheneum buildings, development of 1910-1917.

the rear of the farthest stack. He had new furniture, bookcases and lights, and the old windows were lowered for additional daylight. "Thanks are heartily given for these unexpectedly good accommodations," Gay wrote in 1910.

The Morgan Memorial was formally presented to the city on January 19, 1910. The Watkinson Library was then opened also, giving the public a full view of the entire Atheneum interior, brilliantly lighted and decorated with the best of

its contents. The Watkinson Library overflow of the past decade was temporarily arranged in the new stack room and the main shelves in the reading room in consequence could be put into holiday guise. The collections in the great Gothic hall showed to more advantage than at any time since its opening in 1893.

It is interesting to note that at that time there was still the overlapping holding of office in the various Atheneum institutions that had existed



Fig. 86. Watkinson Library office and meeting room in old 1866 building, reoccupied in 1910.

in David Watkinson's day. Samuel O. Prentice, president of the Watkinson Library, was also president of the Hartford Public Library and a trustee of the Wadsworth Atheneum. Charles H. Clark, treasurer of the Watkinson, was also treasurer of the Wadsworth Atheneum, and William R. C. Corson was assistant secretary in both. Henry S. Robinson was assistant treasurer of both the Watkinson Library and the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Other members of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library who held offices in the other corporations were Francis Goodwin, president of the Wadsworth Atheneum and a director of the Hartford Public Library, Lucius F. Robinson, a director of the Hartford Public Library, and James J. Goodwin, treasurer of the Wadsworth

Atheneum and vice-president of the Connecticut Historical Society.

Frank Gay, besides being librarian of the Watkinson Library, was curator of the Wadsworth Atheneum and the next year was to become its director. As plans later advanced for the development of the addition to the Morgan Memorial, he foresaw the need for additional works in the fine arts, and the Watkinson Library trustees early in 1916 voted to cut off other purchases and use all unexpended funds in that field.

Early in 1917 the rest of the Morgan Memorial building was opened with the newly acquired Morgan collection as well as many "new classes" of museum material on view. In 1918 its first professional general curator, Mrs. Florence Paull Berger, came to the Wadsworth Atheneum from



Fig. 87. Program of Exercises at the opening of the Morgan Memorial in 1910, built for the four corporations "having rights of occupancy in the building."

the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. She was used to a well equipped art and museum library and asked for a number of useful but expensive books. Gay hoped to get them when general foreign trade was reopened, but was unable at the moment to fulfill her request.

In 1918, eight years after the new accommodations were provided, a serious shortage of room, with books and pamphlets piled everywhere, was once more reported by Gay. He suggested three feasible solutions at little cost: to put a row of shelves around the large open room above his office, to shelve a basement room, or to extend the partial gallery in the new stack all around the room with a light staircase to reach it. Such measures would postpone a serious problem for five to seven years, he felt.

In 1919 he wrote in his report "the need of more shelf-room is most insistent; I beg the Trustees of the Library committee to give this attention during the coming year." The prob-

lem, however, remained basically unsolved for the next thirty years.

Technical Problems

The question of binding was acute from the start and was to remain so. Gay in 1894 reported a great and constantly increasing mass of unbound books, pamphlets and periodicals, all cataloged and an integral part of the library, but "in the case of periodicals particularly, what a disliked, obtrusive, unsatisfactory part they are. A single completed work in one volume unbound is bad enough, but we take periodicals every one of which has from 4 to 53 numbers a year, to be carefully kept together and accounted for. . . . Less than half-a-dozen volumes were bound during the year."

A few years later the funds began to permit the expenditure of one to two hundred dollars a year on binding. Some of the sets were put into buckram in 1900 "instead of the usual half leather."

In 1912 Gay went abroad to establish new contacts for purchase of both books and art works for the Wadsworth Atheneum. Binding was neglected to allow greater funds for his foreign buying. He then recommended in 1913 that for the next two or three years most of the book appropriation be devoted to binding. But 1913 was the last year for many years that any was done.

With a shrinkage in the library's income after the outbreak of World War I, binding was put off to spend the available funds on books. As a result of the war blockade foreign leathers were unobtainable at any price. English cloth was superior to any other and British looms were turned to "more exigent work." Gay reported in 1916 that many periodical sets were stripped and ready for binding but for the time being were held up.

At the end of the war binding costs were still too high. In 1927 they remained high and the quality of leather had declined. The substitution of cloth was proposed. By 1931 Gay reported prices lower, and some binding was done that

year, but so little that in 1939 the Trustees' *Minutes* noted that the library was thirty years behind.

Another insistent need was for adequate cataloging. The Watkinson Library found itself in a new era of technical development in this field without the means to make more than sporadic attempts to deal with it. The books were never classified, except relatively as they were assigned to specific subject alcoves. Constant moving to make space for newer, more important acquisitions, compounded the difficulty of keeping them accessible, and necessitated recurrent shelf listing whenever a major move was undertaken.

A massive job was required of making cross references and revising subject subdivisions in the card catalog. New fields were opening up such as radium and aviation and the acquisition of colonies by the United States about the turn of the century, and twenty years later when geographical entities were drastically changed after World War I.

Because of a perennial shortage of card catalog cases more than one title had frequently been entered on a catalog card and the alphabetical arrangement thus disturbed. Also, the shelf number of each book was entered only on the author card, not on the cards under subjects. Both situations still existed in 1966 for the books as yet uncataloged and unclassified in the Watkinson Library.

From time to time trained catalogers were hired for temporary periods to reduce the backlog of cataloging. Neither the librarian nor his assistant could give much continuous time to it. Such work demanded close and uninterrupted attention, Gay noted, and an open, facile and alert mind. It was increasingly difficult for him to find time and conditions for accomplishment there. But a full-time cataloger was never financially possible.

From the time the library moved into its new building in 1893, Gay annually urged the purchase of a modern card catalog. In 1898 one was bought but it only accommodated the old fashioned 2" x 5" cards, and larger ones, such as the standard Library of Congress cards, had to be

trimmed down. Still, it made accessible to the public for the first time a catalog of the library's holdings in the absence of a printed catalog.

As time went on it became filled, and the old retired card drawers, which in the beginning had been carpenter-built without central rods to hold the cards in place, were brought back into service. By 1921 even that makeshift was almost exhausted. Five thousand cards had been added that year, mostly in cataloging World War I material. The overflow then went into boxes. In 1929 the Watkinson Library was glad to accept from the Hartford Public Library an old but large catalog cabinet with drawers made for the smaller cards. The congestion and confusion were thus greatly relieved. At long last in 1940 a modern sixty-drawer catalog case holding 3" x 5" cards was installed, and Library of Congress cards could thenceforth be used intact. Two more cabinets were ordered in 1943 and another two in 1944.

Assistant Librarians

If Gay had an assistant working under him from December 1890 when he assumed charge of the library until William Carlton came on March 24, 1892, it does not show in the available records.

William Newnham Chattin Carlton was born in Gillingham, County Kent, England in 1873 and came to the United States in 1882. As a boy he attended school in Holyoke, Massachusetts, starting his library career as a part-time page in the Holyoke Public Library from 1887 to 1890. He attended Mt. Hermon School for one year, then came to Hartford and became assistant librarian to Gay at the age of nineteen. While working in the Watkinson Library he studied privately under Dr. Samuel Hart, a professor of classics at Trinity College between 1893 and 1899.

On September 16, 1899 he was made librarian of Trinity College, recommended for the position both by Dr. Hart and Frank Gay. While there, he was given an honorary M.A. in 1902 by Trinity and in 1915 they awarded him the L.H.D. degree. He went on to become librarian

of the distinguished Newberry Library in Chicago from 1909 to 1919, when he entered the rare book business with George D. Smith in New York, whose sudden death in 1920, however, put an end to their plans almost at the start. In 1920 he was director of the American Library in Paris for a year, was acting librarian of the Hamilton, Ontario, Public Library the next, and in 1922 went to Williams College as librarian where he remained until his retirement in 1938. From the start of World War II until his death in 1943 he served on the staff of the British Library of Information in New York.

Without a formal college education Carlton became nevertheless a scholar and lover of books of such infectious enthusiasm that it is known he influenced at least two men to become librarians. One was Clarence E. Sherman, long librarian of the Providence, Rhode Island, Public Library, author of an article about Carlton in the *Trinity College Library Gazette* of April 1957, and the other Wyllis E. Wright, librarian of Williams College from 1947 to date, who wrote in February 1966, "As a student assistant and a graduate assistant here in the Williams College Library I worked for five and a half years with Dr. Carlton and remember him with affection. He was largely responsible for my choosing librarianship as a career."

In the Watkinson Library under Frank Gay, the latter wrote of him after nine months service, "I hardly know what I should have done without him." In his annual report of 1894 he wrote, "To Mr. Carlton, the assistant, I am especially grateful. His quiet efforts and faithful scholarly work are highly appreciated by our readers." In 1897 the report read, "W. N. Carlton has performed his duties in the usual satisfactory manner and with an interest it is a pleasure to recommend." These dry bones of comment cannot recreate the lively influence of his tenure, but after all they were embodied in official reports.

George Burwell Utley, who followed Carlton as assistant at the Watkinson Library on September 25, 1899, was also to follow him at the Newberry Library in Chicago in 1920. He was born in Hartford on December 3, 1876, and graduated

from Brown University in 1899. His first professional position was as assistant in the Watkinson where he worked for two years. Gay noted the "faithful attention" to his duties in his annual report for 1900.

Utley went on to a distinguished career in the library world, leaving to become in turn, librarian of the Maryland Diocesan Library in Baltimore and of the Jacksonville, Florida Public Library, the secretary and executive officer of the American Library Association, as well as its president in 1922-23, and librarian of the Newberry Library from which he retired in 1942 as librarian emeritus after twenty-two years of service. He died on October 4, 1946 at his summer home in Pleasant Valley, Connecticut.

He left the Watkinson Library on September 1, 1901 and Frank Edward Kaula, who had worked in the Somerville, Massachusetts, Public Library for several years and was in the last class at the Amherst Summer School for librarians, replaced him, coming well recommended and "with abundant zeal." He left however on December 21 that same year, and was replaced by "Mr. Pope" who, however, apparently left without warning on December 10, 1902 the day after the annual meeting of that year. Gay was alone for over a month. A notice on December 13, 1902 was published in one of the local newspapers: "*Wanted - Helper - Male. Wanted - An assistant, a young man of some library experience with two languages. Apply WATKINSON LIBRARY, city.*"

George Dana Smith came in January 1903. He was born in Waterbury Center, Vermont, January 12, 1861. He studied at Green Mountain Seminary in 1868-77, was a post office assistant from 1877 to 1882, and then an accountant with Wells & Richardson Co., until 1900. In 1901-02 he was assistant librarian at Amherst College while simultaneously studying at the Amherst College Library School, and from there he came to the Watkinson Library.

He stayed for five and one-half years, and his "faithfulness and care in exact routine work have never been equaled in this library," reported Gay. On August 1, 1908 he left to become librarian of the Free Library of Burlington, Vermont,



Fig. 88. William N. C. Carlton, assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1892-1899.



Fig. 89. George B. Utley, assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1899-1901.



Fig. 90. George Dana Smith, assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1903-1908.

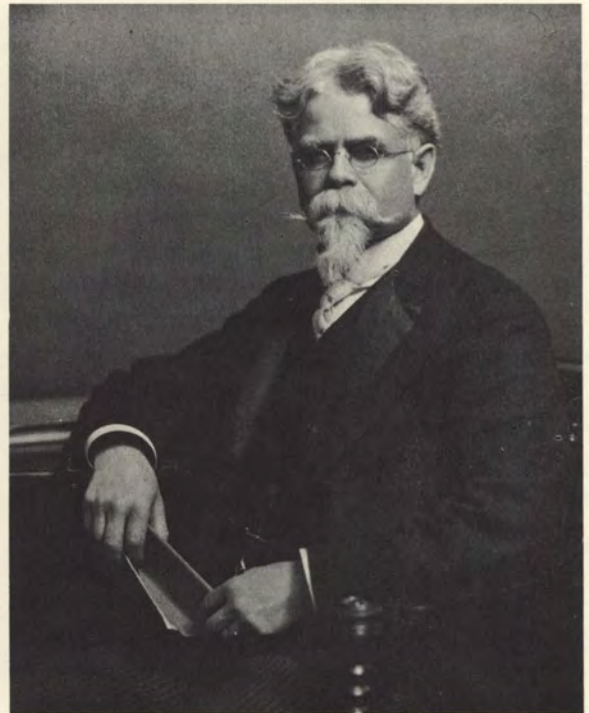


Fig. 91. Forrest Morgan, assistant librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1908-1924.

where he remained until his retirement in 1942. He died on June 26, 1945.

In a letter to Gay dated May 23, 1929 George Dana Smith wrote, "I do not forget . . . the Watkinson Library, and all that you did for me. . . . I am sending you a Brinley No. 4243 that drifted in to me with other books for the Fort Ethan Allen soldiers. Many rare things have been sent in from time to time but no Brinley copies before this." He spoke of the "eighteen regretful years before taking up library work" that he spent as an accountant, and hearing that Gay was cruising the Mediterranean and touring the Near East, hoped that he would "come this way next time."

On July 10, 1908 Smith was replaced as assistant librarian in the Watkinson Library by Forrest Morgan whose breadth of knowledge and encyclopedic mind were to prove invaluable. He was considered one of the foremost literary and editorial workers in Hartford. He edited the *Travelers Record*, a widely famed literary monthly from 1882 to 1896, wrote the *North American Review's* section of Reclus' *Birdseye View of the World*, edited Walter Bagehot's works in five volumes, and was associated with Nathan Haskell Dole and Caroline Tichnor in compiling *The International Anthology* of twenty volumes which he expanded to thirty volumes as *The Universal Anthology*. For the latter work he translated several hundred pages of French, German, Italian, Dutch, Russian and Swedish literature. He wrote many of the articles for the early volumes of *The Encyclopedia Americana* and assisted in editing *Ridpath's New Complete History of the World* for which he wrote one thousand pages including the whole history of the Revolutionary War.

Morgan was born in Rockville on March 20, 1852 and, lacking a college education, trained himself through insatiable reading. Trinity College recognized his ability by awarding him an honorary M.A. in 1903.

His editorial career started in the office of the *Willimantic Journal* where he learned to set type, and he was a compositor in various offices in southern New England including Case, Lock-

wood & Brainard, the *Meriden Journal* where he was assistant editor, and the printing office of A. Mudge & Sons, Boston. He was president of the S. S. Scranton Co., book publishers in Hartford for a time.

Morgan wrote extensively for magazines and in 1904 published *Connecticut as a Colony and a State*. He was a member of the Connecticut Historical Society, the American Historical Association and the Owl Club formed to study American history.

In the Watkinson Library he was a unique, talented and devoted helper who among other jobs helped reduce the mountain of cataloging. He introduced the use of the typewriter in the library and was the bibliophile who cataloged the Trumbull-Prime collection. He spent thirteen years there, and at his death on February 24, 1924, Frank B. Gay sent to both the *Times* and the *Courant* "a few words of affectionate tribute." "I would call him a 'unique personality' — only if he could he would give that amused, half-scornful laugh, which expressed his opinion of such phrases. His peculiarities, and there are many, had a quaintness, a primitiveness that often made them interesting. He lived in a world apart from the rest of us . . . [but] he had more kindness (with less calculation) than any man I have known." In his tribute Gay told of saying to Professor Henry Ferguson of Trinity College who highly appreciated him, "what a great pity Morgan could not have had the training that so many college boys do not try to get." Ferguson's reply was, "Morgan does not need your pity; it's an even chance but that college would have spoiled his originality and brought him nearer the level."

Morgan's health had been failing for more than a year before he died and the Watkinson trustees continued his salary. He wrote to them on December 19, 1923 to express his thanks for their generosity "with so little means of making a fair return for it."

Gay reported in December that with an accumulated total of eight months of periodic absence of his assistant during the year, the regular tasks had suffered. One of Forrest Morgan's sons, Professor Bayard Q. Morgan of the University of

Wisconsin, took his father's place for three months during the summer and had checked and arranged the Barnard text book collection so that it could now be used. Miss Alice M. Gay, a cousin, had also helped at various times during the year.

Frank Gay's new assistant librarian, Dwight Crowell Lyman, started work on January 14, 1924. He was born in Hartford, October 9, 1903 and was educated in Hartford schools. His tenure lasted until May 1926.

Lyman went on to an interesting and diversified career that included promotional writing for the *Hartford Courant*, directing publicity for the Children's Theater of New York City, book and movie reviewing for radio and newspapers

and free lance writing. In 1942 he became librarian of the United States Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory in New London, a post he still held in 1966.

Lyman "who had served faithfully in the library" was replaced by Robert C. Gilmore in July 1926. After "faithful service" Gilmore left November 22, 1927 because of illness.

Gay's annual report in 1926 gave the first hint of a flagging spirit. "Forty years ago I began to make Annual Reports to you; and now it is almost impossible to put before you . . . anything new. . . . The report misses the late assistant librarian, Forrest Morgan, who could always suggest something for me to talk about in which he, at least, was interested."



Fig. 92. Forrest Morgan in the 1892 building of the Watkinson Library, photographed in 1922.

In the Doldrums

The Watkinson Library entered its long period in the doldrums with World War I. After 1918 it never had adequate funds to meet simultaneous demands for salaries, new book purchases or maintenance of the older collections. Nevertheless it continued to grow, thriving partly on continued gifts of books but at the expense of book preservation and, later, salaries.

In his annual report for 1918, Gay wrote that with the war over they could hope, not very confidently, that many things would return to their former conditions. But everything was changed geographically, politically, and economically, and new foreign year books, almanacs, statistical registers and atlases were a pressing need although he saw no way to buy most of them. Furthermore the usefulness of the library was much hampered by lack of funds for needed supplies. And still another depressing note was sounded in his report of 1921. "After the ceiling in the old Watkinson Library, now a stack room, had been repaired, there was another fall of plaster in the same locality."

The next year he wrote, "The past year has been one of patient waiting, for – we do not know what. Lack of money has curtailed our purchases to such an extent as to make the additions by that means very small. We can no longer, as once, begin the year with an assured buying fund even of small volume, much less the couple of thousand dollars that had come to seem almost a law of nature."

Late in 1924 Dr. Melancthon W. Jacobus succeeded Judge Samuel O. Prentice to the presidency and at once attacked the perennial problems with vigor. But he was thwarted by his own ill health as time went by. He instituted three board meetings a year to increase the participation of the trustees in library affairs, but months sometimes went by without a meeting, or meetings lacked a quorum. After the by-laws were changed in 1931, requiring quarterly meetings, however, they met regularly.

Jacobus had a pamphlet published in 1926 reprinting the portion of David Watkinson's

will that dealt with the incorporation of the library, and its charter and by-laws. In 1926 he set up a committee of the board to work with Frank Gay in preparing lists of books and collections in various fields for distribution to interested organizations in order to make the library better known. He himself paid for the publication of the two bulletins thus issued, the first entitled *Books on Spanish and Spanish Literature in the Watkinson Library* printed in 1927 by Case, Lockwood & Brainard in an edition of five hundred copies at a cost of \$122.23. Gay felt that it exposed the library's limitations in the field, but there was little expectation of filling the gaps.

The second bulletin was published in 1929, *List of Serials in the Watkinson Library*, and it included about one thousand titles, each one annotated, the work of two years by the library staff. It was not a complete list of holdings, but it demonstrated the richness of the collection of rare early periodicals. No further bulletins were forthcoming, though Ruth Kerr wrote that many requests came in for "Bulletin No. 3," or for completion of the series, which unfortunately could never be continued.

Jacobus appointed a committee in 1926, of Edward Day, Charles Cooley and Henry A. Perkins to explore the history and records of the Watkinson Library in order to clarify its legal privileges and obligations in relation to the other Atheneum corporations. In 1927 Attorney C. W. Gross was retained to study the situation.

Jacobus tried to secure a firm commitment or at least a clarification of the future intentions of the Connecticut Historical Society in regard to its physical proximity to the Watkinson Library, particularly when in early January of 1930 the Historical Society purchased its building site on Washington Street. Its president at that time, Dr. George C. F. Williams, expressed conviction of the necessity for a continued vital relationship between the two corporations, but he died in 1933 long before the building program could be determined.

Earlier, in 1929, Jacobus had laid before the board an analysis of the needs of the library, in-

cluding expert assistance to Mr. Gay in his advancing years, a new card catalog and classification system which would involve an extended outlay of time and money, and publicity for the treasures possessed by the library. For the serious needs that burdened it, added endowment to increase the present annual income by, at the very least, ten thousand dollars would have to be sought, and such a campaign required organization and more time and money.

The president, he said, must assume responsibility for securing additions to the endowment. He himself was unable to assume the responsibility so he tendered his resignation, effective immediately. The board refused to accept it and he stayed on. But often from a sick bed he carried on an extensive correspondence with William R. C. Corson, the board's secretary, trying to effect some of the vital changes needed. Again in December 1932 Jacobus served notice of an intention to resign at the end of the coming year because of intermittent illness, but the board persuaded him to continue, subject to the understanding that he might be absent from meetings.

As the depression of the early thirties deepened the income of the library decreased still further. Of some \$12,000 held in mortgage loans, \$2,750 were in default. Dividends from stocks decreased. In early 1933 the anticipated income was almost two hundred dollars less than fixed expenses, even allowing for a reduction in salaries of ten per cent.

In September 1933 Jacobus drafted a press release which he submitted to the trustees for their consideration. It gave a brief review of the founding and early history of the library and provided a glimpse of its financial condition through the years. The "endowment survived the crisis of the Civil War and the panics of 1873 and 1895 largely unimpaired," he wrote, "though before the Great War the income had begun definitely to be reduced from its original amount. Since that world catastrophe the reduction had alarmingly increased until now in the depression of these last four years both capital and income have become so depleted as seriously to threaten the con-

tinued functioning of the library even to the ultimate closing of its doors.

"That such an event would prove a distressing loss to Hartford . . . New England and the country at large . . . needs no arguing. It would be a disaster from whatever angle it could be considered; and yet the funds now do not permit any further purchase of books and barely support the care of the Library itself.

"The trustees have hesitated to make known this distressing condition of the Library's funds, but having done all in their power to cut down expenses, they feel that in view of the almost certain closing of the Library, unless aid and assistance are forthcoming, nothing is left them but frankly to acquaint the public with the facts."

The release was not issued, for the board, meeting on September 26, 1933, felt it would be "inadvisable at this time" to disclose the need of assistance. Instead they proposed to personally solicit contributions on a confidential basis to raise \$1200. Although this would take care of the fiscal deficiencies for the year, it only postponed a solution.

Financial matters aside, two major events occurred in the last few years of Gay's tenure. One was the addition east of the Watkinson Library building of the Avery Memorial wing for which the Daniel Wadsworth mansion was dismantled. It closed off the great east window in the library's Gothic hall, shutting out both light and air, although the Wadsworth Atheneum cut three large windows through the upper south walls. But it left the stack room dark except for two windows at the far south end.

Frank Gay's report of 1932 graphically described some of the accompanying grievances. "For some months now, the library peace has been broken by a cacophony composed of the buzzes, shrieks, grinds, puffs, blows, gasps, and booms produced by the drills, steam shovels, cement mixers, etc., which are a necessary, if unpleasant prelude to the new Avery Memorial. That our patronage has dropped off this fall, may undoubtedly be attributed to this bedlam



Fig. 93. Daniel Wadsworth's house on Prospect Street, Hartford.

outside the windows. . . . In a recent blast, thirty-eight window panes were broken in the building by flying rocks and concussion." As a trustee of the Wadsworth Atheneum at the time, he was in a sense partly responsible for that condition of things.

The other, the major disturbing factor, occurred about the same time. The depression brought on a rash of thefts of books from libraries, and just the preceding year Gay had noted in his annual report of 1931 the astounding newspaper accounts of those in Boston. He thought there had been no pilfering in the Watkinson Library, but some books had strayed from their shelves. However, Ruth Kerr in her *History* reported that at that time Gay "could be seen pacing the floor, rubbing his hands together in anxiety, and muttering to himself, 'someone is looting this Library.'" This was a new development. In 1888, shortly before retirement, J. H. Trumbull had reported that to his knowledge only two volumes had been lost from the library in the past twenty-five years. Gay in 1901 had taken inventory from the shelf list and found only three books unaccounted for. Again in 1904 George Dana Smith had made an inventory and found seventeen books missing from the shelves, the greater part of which were probably somewhere in the building, it was thought.

However, early in 1932 after Gay's sanguine report, he caught a local teacher going out the door with an armload of books. A devoted book-lover who found it hard to resist temptation, he

had filled his room with volumes from many libraries in the city. Those were, of course, recovered.

"But," wrote Gay in his annual report to the trustees in 1932, "my pride and optimism received a rude shock when I was called to New York within a month after that report to tell the detective of the New York Public Library about losses here. I had to confess I did not know of the loss of some books he told me of. I learned then of the many libraries who had suffered from these intelligent, bookish criminals who stole to sell again. But the astounding thing was when I was called from Florida on learning that a trusted friend, almost an employé, had been systematically looting the library. I found that the matter had been placed before you and that in effect, you knew more about that than I did. Over one hundred volumes were returned us from a bookseller in New York, but that leaves still a large number of losses unaccounted for."

As a result of the discovery of professional thievery in April, the trustees directed that a grill be installed to close off all but two alcoves to the public. Those containing bibliography and strictly reference material were left open. Two

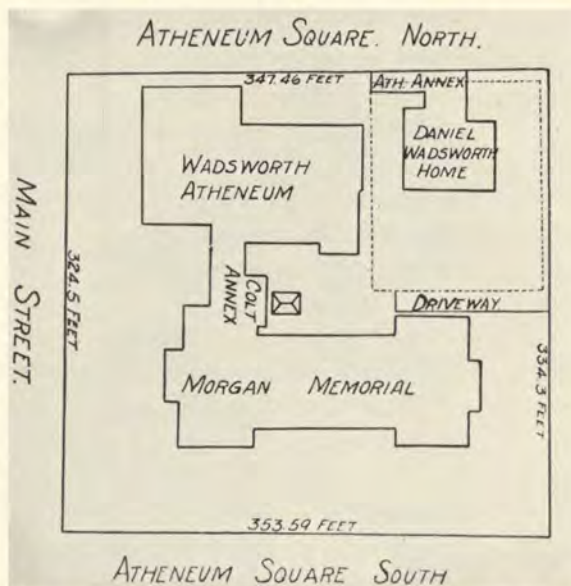


Fig. 94. Outline plan of Wadsworth Atheneum buildings, drawn by Albert L. Washburn, showing location of Daniel Wadsworth's house.

staircases to the galleries nearest the exit were removed. The wire screen proved to be hardly the eyesore that had been feared, and most of the library patrons approved the move, some feeling it should have been done long before.

Simultaneously a new shelf list, the latest of which from lack of adequate staff had never been completed, was under compilation with an extra staff member working on it through the summer and fall. The enormous task of checking the books from the card catalog, revising the shelf arrangement, and shelf listing, occupied all spare time from the usual routine.

Frank Butler Gay

Upon the death of J. Hammond Trumbull in 1897, Gay was appointed librarian of the Watkinson Library. It is not clear why he had remained in Hartford, for in 1891 he was offered the position of librarian of the Seattle, Washington, Public Library. He evidently considered the matter in earnest as his reply, quoted in Ruth Kerr's article about him in the *Trinity College Library Gazette* of February 1955, shows: "I occupy a good and very dignified position here . . . but it was made by someone else and the Angel Gabriel himself would hardly be competent to fill it in the minds of some. I want reputation for myself and for the Seattle Free Library. . . ." But he did not leave and he directed the Watkinson Library until his own retirement on March 6, 1934. He died not long thereafter on June 15, 1934 at his home at 745 Farmington Avenue, after an illness of six months.

President Jacobus wrote to Mrs. Gay, "The Library has hardly known itself, apart from its Librarian. Half a century ago he became associated with its service. . . . He had a remarkable sense of values for a library of reference, and, as we know, spared neither time nor effort in bringing his gift to bear. . . . When we shall come to look around for some one of his knowledge . . . his devotion . . . his unassuming spirit . . . we will have no vision of a personality such as his."

The memorial tribute entered on the minutes

of the Wadsworth Atheneum, and quoted in its *Bulletin* of October-December 1934, said of Gay, "The Atheneum was the center of his active life for more than half a century. It was more than that. In a sense it was his spiritual home. Its history, its traditions, its ideals, its memories . . . were close to his heart. No one who was present when he first took his place on this board will forget his happiness in his election as Trustee. To him it was the crown of his labors of a life time."

The extraordinarily interesting account of his character and accomplishments written by his successor, Ruth A. Kerr, for the *Trinity College Library Gazette* of February 1955, need not be paraphrased, but one or two comments deserve repetition.

"Where Dr. Trumbull's appreciation of books sprang from a scholar's knowledge of their contents, Mr. Gay's approach was that of an art connoisseur. He loved books for the sensuous pleasure he derived from them—the feel of a fine binding, or the appearance of a beautifully printed page. He, too, had an eye sensitive to bibliographical detail, and great was his excitement when after spending hours in its analysis, he discovered the object of his study was the first issue of the first edition, or, perhaps, that in the past some famous person had once been its proud possessor. . . .

"The Museum and the Library were both institutions in which he took great pride. Many of his Sunday afternoons were spent in the tapestry hall of the Morgan Memorial, playing classical records to interested groups, combining music with comments on the composers and compositions. . . .

"He was always exquisitely dainty about his appearance and faultlessly groomed from spats to carefully manicured fingernails. Seated at his desk surrounded by a vast disorder of unopened mail, books, pamphlets, maps and music, heaped about on desks, ledges, tables, and chairs, stacked in boxes, and spilling about over the floor, Mr. Gay maintained a perpetual air of detachment and immaculateness!"

Beside his positions with each of the Atheneum corporations, he was active in the library

world as a member of the American Library Association and some of its committees, a founder and president of the Connecticut Library Association, and a founder of the Hartford Librarians Club. An example of his outside library activities, from the record of 1904, includes lecturing at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn to the senior class in library science on the bibliography of literature, attending the dedication of Clark University Library at Worcester in January where he took part in a symposium for reference librarians on periodicals, attending the dedication of the John Carter Brown Library in Providence on May 17, and spending a week in October at the American Library Association's annual conference in St. Louis. He was secretary of the Acorn Club of Connecticut, a member of the Drama League of America, the American Association of Museums, the American Historical Association, the Bibliographical Society of America, the American Folk-Lore Society, the Guild of Boston Artists, and the Society of Colonial Wars of Connecticut. A charter member of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, he was registrar and for many years historian, and was historian also of the Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth branch of the S. A. R. He held memberships also in the Twentieth Century Club of Hartford, the Get-together Club, the City Club, and was the secretary of the Hosmer Hall Choral Union from 1886 to 1893.

Gay married Jennie H. Marsh, daughter of Hartford's well-known civil engineer, Major Seth Edwards Marsh, and they had two daughters, Constance Marsh Gay and Eleanor Gay Wiley.

He was a devoted member of St. John's Church in West Hartford where he was vestryman, and of the Weekapaug Chapel in Rhode Island where the Gays had a summer cottage. Dr. Remsen Ogilby, president of Trinity College, conducted a memorial service for Frank B. Gay at Weekapaug on July 1, 1934. Trinity College in 1917 had conferred on him an honorary M.A. degree.

As had Trumbull, Gay worked under three presidents of the board of trustees, Nathaniel

Shipman who headed the board from 1890 to 1906, Samuel O. Prentice from 1906 to 1924 and Melancthon W. Jacobus from 1924 to 1935.

Judge Shipman held office during a period of relative prosperity, a time of new beginnings, in a new building. The assumption of his Watkinson board presidency coincided with Gay's start as librarian, even though Trumbull still retained a certain amount of authority for a few more years. At Shipman's death in 1906 Gay wrote that, for years "I went to him almost weekly with matters relating to the work here. Never, even in his active days was he too busy or disinclined to give deliberative attention to what must often have seemed to him somewhat trivial affairs. While frequently differing from me in his views of the policy and work of the library, his blunt and characteristic 'No' was so impersonal that it left no sting behind for remembrance. In my memory he remains as the fairest man with whom I have ever had contact in a business way."

Judge Prentice became president of the Watkinson board as an ex officio member by virtue of his presidency of the Hartford Public Library. Not until 1915 was he elected a trustee of the Watkinson Library. He witnessed the acceleration of the decline of the Watkinson funds, the static years during World War I, and the post-war upheaval reflected in the uncertainties of the future of the library. Gay wrote at his death in 1924, "May I add a word of personal tribute to his fine sense of fairness; he recognized our great limitations through lack of funds, of service and of room, and therefore did not put forward impracticable plans or criticisms."

Dr. Jacobus took over the presidency with great energy and a determination to find means to deal with the protean problems that had come to seem almost endemic. At his accession Gay had written, "it is a matter of deep satisfaction to us that Vice President M. W. Jacobus, D.D. has consented to become President." But he was frustrated by circumstances, among them his own and Gay's growing physical disabilities, and the worldwide depression of the thirties.

Ruth A. Kerr's Tenure

The Third Librarian and Her Staff

Miss Ruth Agnes Kerr became assistant librarian on December 1, 1927. She came well recommended from the Boston University Library. "It is an experiment having a woman assistant and we hope it will be successful," wrote Gay in his annual report that year. No doubt it was, for he reminded the trustees the following year that their initial agreement with her had included a raise in salary from December 1, 1928. He reported that she was giving excellent service and was well liked by the public.

Frank Butler Gay was looking toward retirement. In correspondence with Miss Kerr, following her application for the position in 1927, he had written that he was "looking for someone to take my place here as soon as he or she can carry on the work. The Library is of the University type, solely for reference and scholarly work. . . . There are to be great changes here in a few years and whoever is here may look forward to a satisfactory life work in an uncommon library."

During her first winter he was absent on a vacation in the south and west. In February and March of 1929 he took a cruise to the Mediterranean. In December 1930 he reported that during the past year he had been absent due to sickness, writing, "I find that bodily vigor does not keep pace with the passing years." With his wife and daughter, Constance M. Gay, he made a trip to Bermuda and the West Indies in 1931. At

such times his cousin Alice M. Gay was a part-time assistant in the library.

Ruth Kerr was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, on July 21, 1894. She attended Dean Academy, and in 1917 graduated from Mount Holyoke College. For two years she worked in the library there, and then for a year in Dartmouth College Library. Before coming to Watkinson she held positions in turn at the United States Naval College in Newport, Rhode Island, the Public Library of Watertown, Massachusetts, and the Boston University Library.

She took professional library science courses at Simmons College in Boston one summer, and at Columbia University in 1931 and 1942. She combined her summer vacation with a few weeks additional leave from the Watkinson Library, granted for the purpose by the board of trustees.

Much of her knowledge of books came from Frank Gay, she said, and in her unpublished *History of the Watkinson Library* Ruth Kerr wrote, "It has been the happy faculty of each of the Librarians of the Watkinson Library to imbue his successor with some of his own enthusiasm." She worked under Gay as assistant librarian until his retirement as librarian emeritus on March 1, 1934. At his death on June 15, 1934, she continued as acting librarian until she was appointed librarian in 1939. At that time Arthur Adams, a trustee of the Watkinson and librarian



Fig. 95. Ruth A. Kerr, assistant librarian, 1927-1934; acting librarian, 1934-1939; librarian of the Watkinson Library, 1939-1959; shown in the unlighted stack room in 1952.

of Trinity College, was elected director of the Watkinson Library. He served the library in an advisory capacity without pay, but according to Miss Kerr he never interfered with her management.

Gay died during the depths of the depression when the income from the Watkinson endowment was at its lowest ebb. Miss Kerr lacked a library science degree, and her experience with a specialized library such as the Watkinson was limited to the six years she had spent under him. The trustees wanted as librarian a bookman and bibliophile in the tradition of J. Hammond Trumbull and Frank Butler Gay, with an intimate knowledge of bibliographic details, the auction market, and book values. But they had funds neither to pay an adequate salary nor to follow a comprehensive program of book buying in order to attract the type of bookman they wanted.

In Ruth Kerr they had devoted allegiance, courage, and cheerful acceptance of the inadequacies of her situation. Even when the meager salaries had to be cut by ten percent in 1933, "just at the time when prices started to rise," as Gay put it in mild protest, she did her part in administering a library that in some years paid out more for insuring the books it already owned than it could spare for buying new ones.

When Ruth Kerr became acting librarian in 1934 her salary was decreased still further. At that point it threatened to be almost one-third less than the amount at which she started. Only the personal contribution of one of the trustees saved her from that financial deprivation. Not until the end of her first decade was her salary back where she had started. When she was made librarian in 1939, she was paid the same amount that had been Gay's reimbursement since 1900, a "remuneration" that Jacobus in 1929 had called "pitifully small." With the slight improvement in finances by 1943 she was, however, thereafter given periodic increases in pay.

There must have been moments of wry remembrance for her when she recalled the promise with which she came to the Watkinson Library

in 1927, of great changes to come in the years ahead and of a satisfactory life work in a developing and unusual library. The first twenty-five years of her tenure were spent under the trying circumstances of a deteriorating building, inadequate help and lack of basic equipment. But she made the best of it and served the public in an imaginative and knowledgeable fashion.

Ruth Kerr never did have a full-time assistant librarian. But even before Frank Gay's death, when he was often away, she had part-time assistants. With the discovery of the thefts of books in the spring of 1932, Vera Cross, who was to prove invaluable, though working at irregular intervals for several years, was hired to help compile the shelf list of books in the library. She was paid twenty-five cents an hour, the usual wage at that time for untrained clerical workers. With no previous experience, she became an efficient and knowledgeable assistant. She worked full time during the summer vacation period in 1932, Frank Gay paying half her wages, and she worked a few more months on half time through the fall and into the winter. One of her achievements was to relist the Trumbull Indian Collection along with a thorough index.

A succession of assistants who stayed only briefly led to Ruth Kerr's slight understatement in her annual report of 1935 that "such frequent changing of assistants hinders the work of the Library." Among the substitutes employed during vacations was Professor Ralph Williams of Wellesley College, later to teach at Trinity, and the son-in-law of the Watkinson's treasurer, Earle E. Dimon. Edgar Waterman, Watkinson president, wrote of him, "This is probably the first time a professor of English in a leading college has presided over the affairs of the Watkinson Library." For the benefit of replacements when she was away, Miss Kerr wrote "Notes for Assistants: Routine Procedures" with a list of "privileged characters who have the freedom of the Watkinson Library."

In her annual report of 1939 Miss Kerr wrote, "One staff member is sufficient to serve the Library patrons and take care of the routine work.

If we had more help, more could be done about cleaning and clearing up the Library." When there were no substitutes later on, the library closed during her vacation.

The Book Collection

Through the generosity of "a graduate of Yale" in 1934, all books on the Yale University Press list were made available to the library at half-price. The Library Committee selected titles, none of which were in any of the Athenaeum libraries, with a list value of \$353, but at a cost to the Watkinson of \$176. It marked the resumption of book purchasing which increased in the next few years.

In 1935 Frank Farnsworth Starr, a genealogist of Middletown, gave to the Watkinson Library a considerable amount of material on the Watkinson family. He had been working with Mrs. Jane Huntington Watkinson Norton, a granddaughter of David Watkinson's eldest brother, John, in assembling data for a comprehensive history of the family. Mrs. Norton had become too elderly and feeble to complete the work, and Mr. Starr was obliged to drop the investigation. Along with genealogical material from other Watkinson descendants, the original and copied documents formed a notable collection. In the material received later on was Mrs. Norton's manuscript given by her son John in 1948.

From the estate of Mrs. Horace B. Clark, eight hundred volumes of general literature came in 1937. Many of them represented fine printing and binding. Other gifts received in the next decade included an addition in 1940 to the collection of musical scores, vocal, instrumental and orchestral, from the widow of Richmond P. Paine, Hartford conductor of choral clubs. Also in that year, over one hundred old books and pamphlets, mostly early school books and cook books, were given by Miss Jane W. Stone, a Watkinson family descendant. Her sister, Miss Elizabeth W. Stone, had earlier given books to the Watkinson Library in the twenties, and in

later years their niece, Miss Mary W. Todd, was to tell of books gradually disappearing from the family shelves, without consultation among the relatives, whenever Miss Elizabeth Stone paid a visit to the Watkinson Library. In 1948 about eight hundred volumes were received from the library of Robert E. Todd, Mary Todd's father.

During the early World War II years the Library Committee of the board decided to develop a collection of works on Central and South American literature, history, economics and arts, with the expectation of closer ties with that region. It failed, however, to become one of the major fields of acquisition in the library.

In 1941 another large gift of four hundred books came from Duncan B. Macdonald of the Hartford Seminary, adding to his collection first started in the Watkinson Library in 1930. At his death two years later, his books on medieval and modern European literature, including a collection on the Arthurian legend, were bequeathed to the Watkinson Library but were to be retained by a colleague as long as he remained at the Seminary. The total bequest included about eight hundred volumes. In 1944 over five hundred of them were released and delivered to the Watkinson Library in June.

Annie E. Trumbull in 1944 presented about thirty volumes more from her father's American Indian collection, much of which had been a major purchase early in the century. About fifty books were presented by Miss Eleanor Ferguson from the estate of Miss Henrietta Gardiner in 1948. They included a 1497 Boetius, seven sixteenth-century printed books, and a number of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century imprints. Henry A. Perkins added to the extensive collection of nineteenth-century music already formed in the Watkinson, and gifts from Yale University, in memory of Dr. George C. F. Williams, received over a period of years, still continued.

Beginning with the presidency of Dr. Jacobus there had been consistent attempts to make the library better known, more used, and more effectively supported. On November 28, 1934 a review of the history of the library, written by



Fig. 96. Melancthon W. Jacobus, sixth president of the Watkinson Library board, 1924-1935. Painting by W. M. Parton.



Fig. 97. Francis Parsons, seventh president of the Watkinson Library board, 1935-1936.

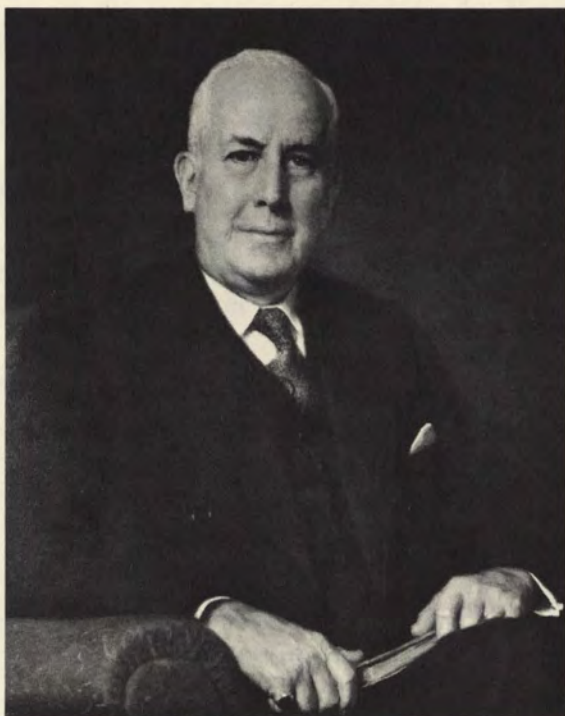


Fig. 98. Edgar F. Waterman, eighth president of the Watkinson Library board, 1936-1952. Painting by Martin Kellogg.

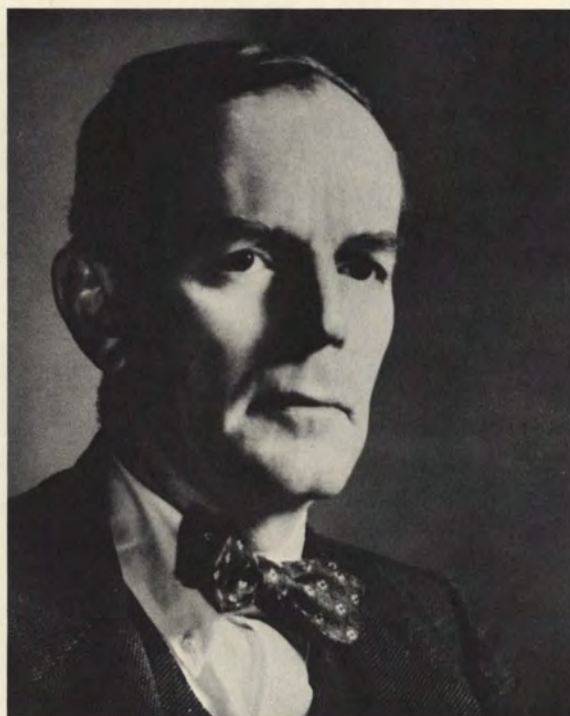


Fig. 99. John C. Parsons, ninth president of the Watkinson Library board, 1952- .

Francis Parsons, then vice-president of the board, appeared in the *Hartford Times*, and others were planned to follow. But the newspapers were reluctant to give much space to lists of new books which, it had been hoped, would continue to call the library to the attention of the public. A decade later they were to become more interested.

The State of Connecticut in 1935 celebrated its Tercentenary Year. The Watkinson Library joined the Connecticut Historical Society in a series of exhibits of books, maps and documents held in the Connecticut Historical Society rooms from May to October. The two institutions each agreed to pay the pro rata cost of publication of exhibition catalogs. The Watkinson Library participated in three of the exhibits: "Examples of Connecticut Imprints of the Eighteenth Century," on display during July, in which the Watkinson's earliest book was Cotton Mather's *The Greatest Concern in the World*, 1718; "Manuscripts of Connecticut Interest," on exhibit in August, including two from the Watkinson, Roger Wolcott's *Outline History of Connecticut*, 1759, and Benjamin Trumbull's *Complete History of Connecticut from 1630 to 1713*, 1797, and "Publications by Connecticut Authors," shown in September, which included from the Watkinson Library John Trumbull's *M'Fingal* of 1782, Noah Webster's *Grammatical Institute*, 1783, Thomas Hooker's first published work, *Poor Doubting Christian Drawne unto Christ*, dated 1629, and the first appearance of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published from June 5, 1851 to March 11, 1852 in the *National Era*, an anti-slavery paper.

In late 1936, under the presidency of Francis Parsons, Vera Cross Taylor wrote a series of articles on the library which was run in the *Courant*. "Large Cache of Song Hits in Watkinson," and "Watkinson Library of Reference Vast Mine of Pleasure and Profit," ran the headlines. And the Reverend William Douglas Mackenzie, president of the Hartford Public Library, wrote an article during the same period emphasizing the "Splendid Libraries" in Hartford. The publicity made no financial difference but brought new people into the library. Under Edgar Waterman the fol-

lowing year one thousand copies of a small four-page folder were printed for distribution, giving brief data on the library and listing its trustees and officers.

In 1940 the 500th anniversary of printing was celebrated throughout the country. Planned by a committee on which Ruth Kerr represented the Watkinson Library, an exhibit was held in the hall of the State Library during November and December. Some of the finest and rarest printing in existence was on display, the books borrowed from varied sources, mainly in Hartford, including private collectors as well as libraries. Treasures from the Watkinson collection included: *Biblia Germanica*, ca. 1475, the first illustrated Bible ever printed; the *Douai Bible*, the first Roman Catholic Bible in the English language, printed from 1582 to 1609; an *Atlas*, printed in 1640 by the great Dutch astronomer and cartographer, Willem Blaeu; the 1685 edition of John Eliot's *Bible*, translated into Algonkin; the first edition, first issue of *The King James Bible*, 1611; and Noah Webster's *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*, 1783, one of the first books in the United States to be published under the protection of a copyright.

Ruth Kerr frequently welcomed classes of students as well as other groups to the library, sometimes giving talks on books or related subjects. A member of one such group, Dorothy Anderson of the library class from St. Joseph College in West Hartford, published an article in the school paper, *The Targe*, in 1941, writing that "At first glance the crowded, rather gloomy room . . . seems to be a bit forbidding but underneath the musty exterior, there lies a collection . . . rare and valuable. . . . It is, in my opinion, deplorable that so few of the people of Hartford even know about the valuable collection of source material."

Among the gifts and purchases assembled over the span of eighty years were many rare and irreplaceable items, some of them known to exist only in the Watkinson Library. Books published in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in British America, on rough paper with imperfect type, used and reused in those early days when few books were available to the colonists, were

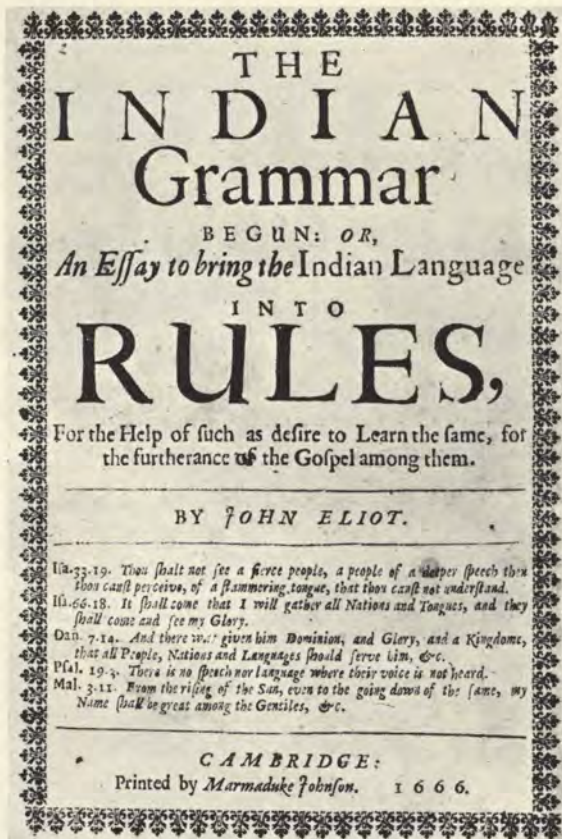


Fig. 100. John Eliot's Indian Grammar. Earliest example in the Watkinson Library of printing in the British American colonies. From the Brinley Collection.

among the group and included Cotton Mather's *Greatest Concern in the World*, New London, T. Green, 1718, and Samuel Stone's *Shorter Catechism*, Boston, reprinted by J. Franklin for D. Henchman, 1720. Both of them came to the Watkinson Library from the Brinley Collection.

Early American textbooks, often printed in the thousands but worn out by generations of school children, by then existed in only a few libraries. Among the many Watkinson volumes in that category was William C. Woodbridge's *Modern Atlas . . . to Accompany the System of Universal Geography*, Hartford, Oliver D. Cooke, 1823. It contained a map which was to prove of primary importance to one of the great geographers of the country, William H. Hobbes, of the University of Michigan. In research on the discovery of the Antarctic, he found that it was discovered in 1820 by a Stonington, Connecticut sea captain, Nathaniel B. Palmer, rather than

in 1819 by an Englishman, Captain William Smith. The Woodbridge map showed "Palmer's Land" to be Antarctica while maps of Captain Smith's earlier discovery proved his to have been the South Shetland Islands. Hobbes' study appeared in the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, n.s., vol. 31, pt. 1, January 1939, and in it he reproduced the map from the Watkinson *Atlas*, one of the Barnard Collection of early school books. He was quoted by Ruth Kerr as saying that the Watkinson Library had the best collection of early atlases known to him.

Early publications dealing with the expansion of the country westward were often held of little account before collectors of Americana had demonstrated their importance. Extraordinarily rare items of that nature were in the Watkinson, including *The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boon*, Norwich, John Trumbull, 1786, written by John Filson, and the *Iowa Constitution adopted in Convention, November 1, 1844*, Iowa City, printed by Jesse Williams, 1844. Since it was not the constitution ultimately adopted by the state of Iowa, the pamphlet seemed of no immediate importance at the time, and few were kept.

In a different category were some of the earliest books published. Among the most famous in the Watkinson Library were single leaves from a copy of the *Gutenberg Bible*, ca. 1450; five editions of the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, printed from 1493 to 1496; and the first edition of Aristotle printed by Aldus in 1497. Among the rarest was Orosius' *Le premier (et le second) volume d'Orose*, in the vernacular "François," published in Paris by A. Verard, 1491.

In a still different category were the two ancient Chinese manuscripts, on heavy fan folded paper between wooden boards: *Letters of Mi Nan Koong* written by himself about the year 1000, and an *Ancient History of the Chinese*, in the handwriting of Toong Kee Cheong about 1100. Both were gifts of George D. Sargeant.

Books interesting because of other factors, such as the 1729 forgery of the first edition of Boccaccio's *Decameron* of 1527, the forgery being as rare as the original; and books belonging to famous



Fig. 101. The map from William C. Woodbridge's Atlas proving that Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer discovered the Antarctic. From the Barnard Collection.

personages such as Charles Nodier's *Lord Ruthwen* owned by Napoleon's Empress Marie-Louise, and J. Hector St. John's *Letters from an American Farmer* owned by Hartford's Revolutionary War hero, Jeremiah Wadsworth, were in the Watkinson. The riches of the library could not begin to be enumerated.

The fame of the Watkinson Library spread far beyond the confines of the city and in fact was, as is the rule, more appreciated by and more familiar to those abroad than to its neighbors. Compilers of bibliographies frequently included Watkinson holdings in their works. Frank Gay wrote in 1904 that Charles Evans, in listing publications printed in the United States from 1639 to 1870 for his *American Bibliography*, failed to come east from Chicago before issuing the 1639-1729 volume in 1903. Neither the Connecticut Historical Society nor the Watkinson Library books appeared in volume one, as no published catalogs of their collections were available to Evans. But coming to the library in July 1904 for a few hours to check titles he was still at work there ten days later. In a letter to Gay of October

4, he expressed thanks for the "arduous extra labor on the cards phase . . . which assured the Watkinson Library of a creditable representation in my next volumes."

Every year the Watkinson supplied titles to Joseph Sabin's *A Dictionary of Books Relating to America*, which started publication in 1868 and ended in 1936. It was continued by Wilberforce Eames after Sabin's death, and completed by R. W. G. Vail for the Bibliographical Society of America.

Seymour De Ricci listed the early manuscripts owned by the library in his *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*, of 1935-37. *The Census of Fifteenth Century Books Owned in America*, compiled by a Committee of the Bibliographical Society of America in 1919, recorded the Watkinson's comparatively large collection of incunabula. Additions were contributed to the new edition in 1940, edited by Margaret Bingham Stillwell. *The Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*, started in Berlin in 1925 but interrupted by World War II in 1940 and never completed, was

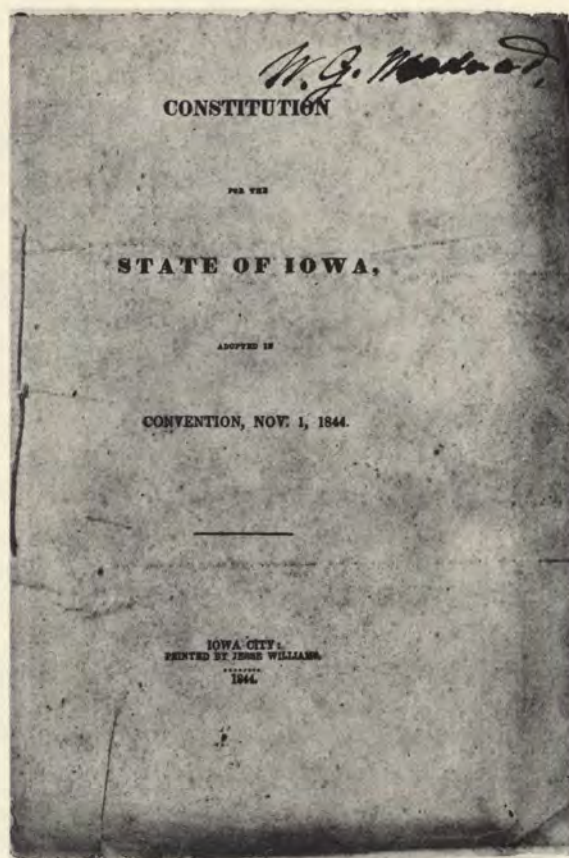


Fig. 102. Constitution of the State of Iowa, 1844. From the Brinley Collection.

to have listed the Watkinson Library collection.

In addition to the University of Michigan's Professor Hobbes' research on the discovery of the Antarctic, another Michigan man, Louis C. Karpinski, made extensive use of the Barnard Collection in his *Bibliography of Mathematical Works Printed in America Through 1850*, which was published in 1945. For the *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, & Ireland from 1475 to 1640*, a *Checklist of American Copies* was completed by William Warner Bishop of the University of Michigan and printed in 1944. Ruth Kerr sent the Watkinson list of holdings for inclusion, and additional titles in 1950.

The library's approximately twenty-three hundred periodical titles were included in the second edition of the *Union List of Serials* and its supplements.

Cotton Mather, a *Bibliography of his Works*, by T. J. Holmes, 1940, listed the Watkinson as among the twenty libraries having the largest collection of his works. In compiling *A Bibliography of the Writings of Noah Webster*, 1958, Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Jr., great-granddaughter of the famed lexicographer, made extensive use of the Watkinson Library. To D. T. Starnes of the University of Texas, the Watkinson sent a list of seventeen dictionaries for inclusion in his *Renaissance Dictionaries English-Latin and Latin-English*, published in 1954.

The Watkinson contributed over eight hundred titles to Brown University's *Sixteenth Century Imprints in Certain New England Libraries*, issued in 1953. David A. Jonah, librarian, wrote to Ruth Kerr in 1946, "The length of your list is overwhelming and a sample checking with our preliminary list indicates that your holdings will just about double the number of known titles."

The Watkinson Library for years supplied many rare non-serial titles, printed in the United States from 1640 to 1802, to the American Antiquarian Society which, with the cooperation of four hundred other libraries, was engaged in making the full text of such material available on Readex microprint. The coverage date was later extended to 1820, and the contributions from the Watkinson still continued in 1966.

But the Watkinson Library also had attracted scholars nearer home. Frank Gay wrote in 1924 that one morning four men were at work writing or compiling books. One of the most notable scholars to make use of the library facilities was Benjamin Lee Whorf, assistant secretary of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company at his untimely death in 1941 at the age of forty-four. In his leisure time he taught himself the Aztec language from grammars, dictionaries and texts in the library, and became so interested in the Mayan and Aztec civilizations that he made himself one of the leading authorities in the field. Three years after he started his study he achieved fame when he read an original translation of an Aztec record before the International Congress of Americanists in 1928.

Dr. Jacobus in 1929 acquired for the Watkin-

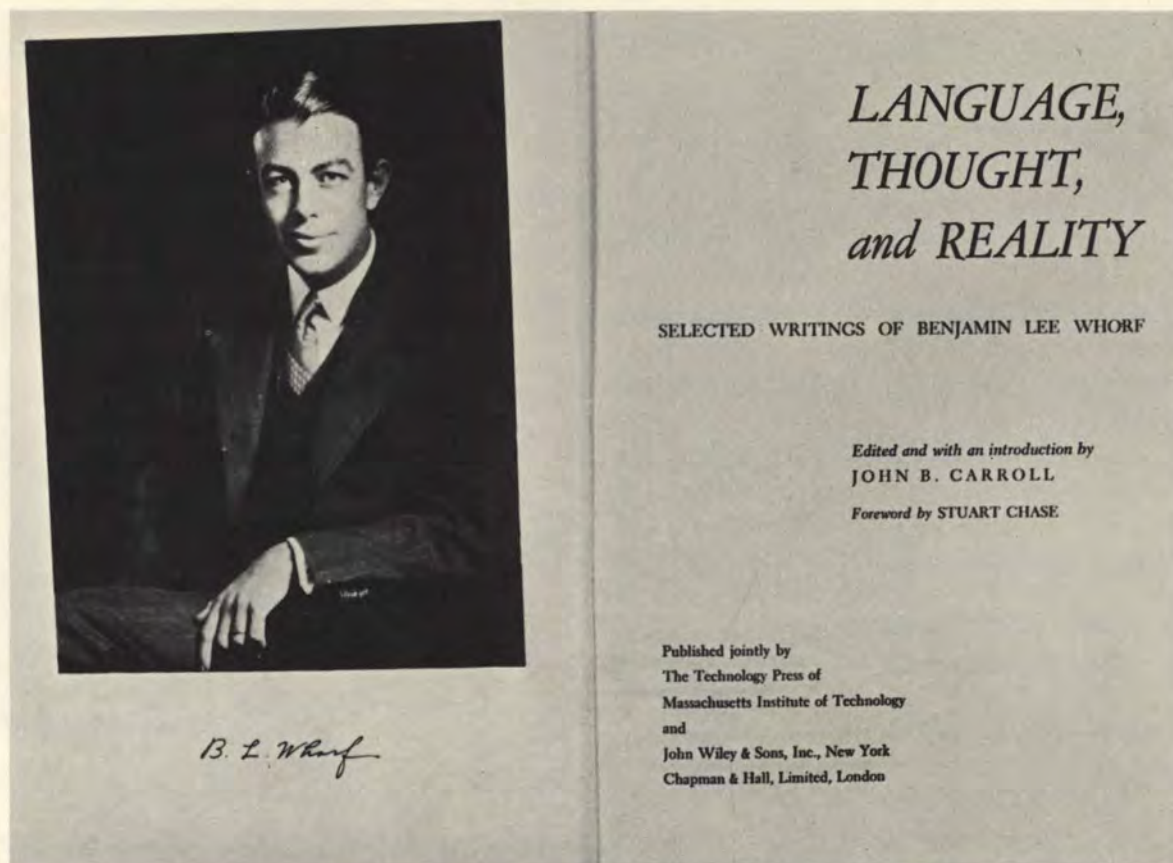


Fig. 103. Whorf's work, a prime example of the value of such a special research library as the Watkinson.

son Library a photostat copy of an Aztec-Latin-Spanish dictionary from the original in the Newberry Library, printed in a neat manuscript hand by Father Bernardino Sahagan, a Spanish Catholic missionary in Mexico in 1500. It was for the specific use of Whorf in following his linguistic studies which, however, went far beyond the ancient Mexican and other American Indian languages to a study of language in relationship to thought itself. He seems to have shared J. H. Trumbull's ability to easily learn any language that suited his purpose, searching out the root meanings. And he certainly shared his interest in ciphers and secret codes. Most of his works were contributions to learned journals or published compilations of articles.

Later on when the Watkinson Library had moved to Trinity College, it continued its contributions to bibliographies and original books and papers. Among the works involved were

Irving Lowens' bibliography of American songsters; Milton Drake's *Almanacs of the United States*, 1962; a census of seventeenth-century editions of John Milton's works by W. R. Parker of London, completing his biography of the poet; and a bibliography of Watkinson holdings of the Arthurian Legend sent to Franco Collino in Trieste, Italy, in 1965.

But the heart of the story can never really be told. The people who gave time, energy, money and books to build the Watkinson Library are on record. But the wider horizons, the deeper understanding, the relief from worry, sorrow, or boredom, the joy in beauty and the inspiration for creation, all reasons for the existence of libraries, rarely have tangible results.

Management of the Library

During Ruth Kerr's tenure the president of the

board played a larger role than he had in Gay's time and, as in Trumbull's era, the Library Committee of the board once more took over the selection of books.

Francis Parsons had taken the presidency in December 1935 with the understanding that he would be able to serve for one year only. In that

year he brought to bear his long experience as assistant secretary, vice-president, and member of numerous committees on the Watkinson board, and his native perspicuity, imaginative realism, and a profound sense of identification with the cultural aspects of Hartford. He closed his year's presidency with "only partial accomplishment, but the problems . . . reduced to definite terms and some progress . . . toward tentative solutions here and there."

Parsons wrote an annual president's report, setting a precedent which Edgar Waterman was to follow, in which he noted that the first task at the beginning of the year had been to fit expenditures as closely as possible to their restricted income, which had been "done with some ruthlessness," although involving "a fine balancing of necessities on both sides." He felt that book purchases must be continued in fields of special emphasis in the library, and he had not hesitated to authorize small but legitimate encroachments on income accumulations of past years in the Stanley Fund, in buying books in the field of

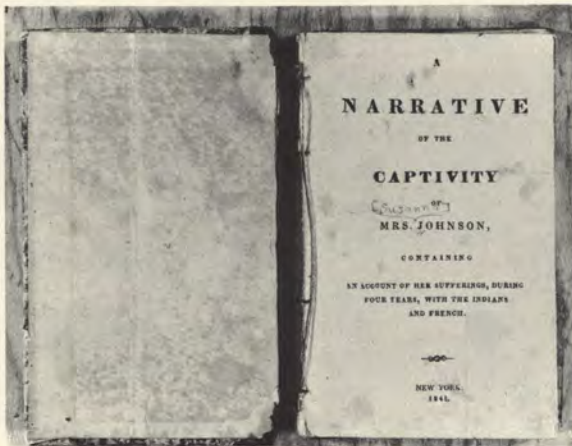


Fig. 104. Narrative of the Captivity [by the Indians] of Mrs. Susanna Johnson. From the Stanley Collection.



Fig. 105. Elizabeth G. Speare's *Calico Captive*, a story for girls based on Susanna Johnson's captivity, which Mrs. Speare read in the Watkinson Library.

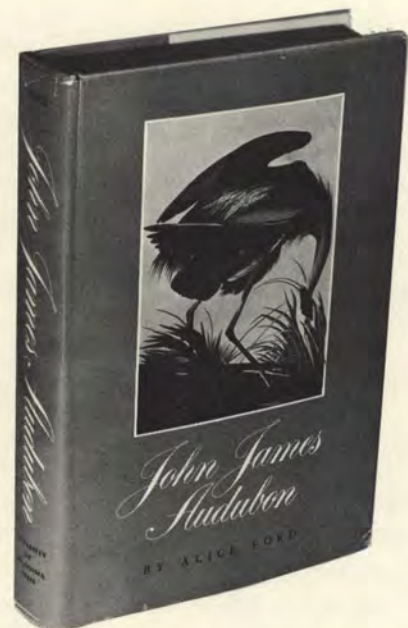


Fig. 106. Alice Ford's *John James Audubon*, showing a plate supplied by the Watkinson Library from its "elephant folio" edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Americana. Then toward the end of the year he discovered that no legal obstructions restricted the use of the Stanley Fund to Americana, a disclosure which could liberalize the book purchasing policy.

He tried in every way to reduce unnecessary or excessive expenditures. Fire insurance premiums cost about \$500 a year for a coverage of \$69,000, far less than the actual value of the books. But the only practicable way to reduce that annual budget item was to reduce the coverage, although involving considerable risk. The board dispensed with the treasurer's bond, saving \$25 a year.

One of the programs initiated by Francis Parsons, and continued for years, was the sale of duplicates which simultaneously raised funds for book purchases and released needed shelf room. It was a question whether the books should be sold at auction in Hartford or New York, or to local book dealers. But the offers of the latter were far too low, one less than \$170 for the whole collection of duplicates. Under Edgar Waterman in the next few years the most successful method devised was to send priced lists of the most valuable books to other libraries, and sell the lesser ones to dealers at the highest bid. In the end a total of about \$3,800 was raised over a period of ten years. In 1943 Waterman commented, "The sale of our duplicate books and pamphlets, like the Russian armies, continues its surprising progress." Among the "exclusive clientele" of the Watkinson Library sales were the Newberry Library, the Huntington Library, the University of California at Berkeley, Brown University, and Connecticut College. With such demand for books, the Watkinson increased its prices ten to fifteen per cent in 1944.

A plan proposed by Francis Parsons, to hold free and informal programs of talks or concerts, never proved practicable in the cramped Athenaeum quarters, but was started spontaneously after the move to Trinity College where arrangements were ideal. Tea or other refreshments should be served if possible, "for people will come if they think they are to be fed when they wouldn't otherwise." Parsons' hope was that an

informal organization of those interested in the library might evolve from such a series. Again, he anticipated the formation of the Trinity College Library Associates that later was to benefit so greatly the coordinated libraries at Trinity.

Of the Watkinson he wrote, "We must not allow [it] to collapse. But to keep it going at all will require some time and serious thought on our part." It is unfortunate that the Watkinson Library could not have had the benefit of Francis Parsons' talents as president for more than the one year he was able to give.

Edgar Waterman, as president the following year, in turn tried to promote the formation of a sustaining friends of the library group, securing information on the procedures followed at Princeton, Yale and Johns Hopkins in establishing such organizations. But nothing came of his suggestions at the time. Ten years later, along with the concerted drive first promoted by Wilmarth S. Lewis to solve the library's overall problems, a committee was appointed to plan the establishment of such an organization. They gave considerable time and thought to the matter, but in view of the prospect of an imminent and permanent solution to the problem of the library's future by that time, it was decided to wait until a settlement was reached.

Meanwhile, the library made slow progress. By the end of 1936 the shelf list and inventory of the entire library, which had been started five years before upon discovery of the major thefts, was completed. The catalog was now more nearly in accord with the position of the books on the shelves than at any previous time, Miss Kerr felt. With the accession of almost no new books in the past few years there had been time to catalog many that had long been stored in the basement. But she recommended that as soon as a larger staff could be provided, the library be classified by some system such as the Dewey Decimal. The shelf number method in use was cumbersome and time consuming.

Edgar Waterman, in his first term as president in 1937, secured from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving a gift of \$982 to enable the Watkinson Library to continue its services. From

that sum, five hundred dollars was appropriated for the purchase of books. Subscriptions to a number of society publications, dropped in 1933, were renewed, and back issues were acquired before they went out of print. The Library Committee of the board, with its limited means, followed a policy of adding books to the subject areas in which the Watkinson was strongest. It was a policy which in a few years became the only practicable one for a special library of comparatively moderate size.

Also in Waterman's first year the new Special Donations Fund was created. It had been suggested by Francis Parsons in November 1936 to prevent absorption by the General Fund of money given for books. Its nucleus was the remainder of a sum originally donated by Charles P. Cooley, to which was added a gift from Dr. Jacobus and the receipts from the sale of duplicates.

The resumption of library purchasing in 1937 made the lack of shelving even more acute. To add new books old ones had to be stacked on the floor. Cataloging of sheet music was at a standstill from lack of boxes for storage. At a June 1938 meeting Waterman secured the approval of the board to add book stacks, filling all available space and providing 1728 more feet of shelving. To house the approximately six thousand individual pieces of sheet music gathering dust on the floor, sixty cardboard boxes were procured. Mrs. Taylor at that time sorted, indexed and arranged the sheet music alphabetically by composer.

Another project initiated during Francis Parsons' year in office was the compilation of W.P.A. indexes to the manuscripts and maps in the Watkinson Library. In early 1936 he had received a communication from Nelson R. Burr of West Hartford, a Princeton Ph.D. who, as Field Supervisor of the Works Progress Administration, asked the cooperation of the Watkinson trustees in allowing research workers to catalog the historical manuscripts owned by the library. The request was followed up in September by Luther Evans, National Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey of the Federal Writers' Projects,

who wrote for approval of the program by the board. It was authorized and Dorothy Bidwell, who had previously worked in the Watkinson, was assigned to the task of arranging and listing the manuscripts and maps in the library. In doing so material never before cataloged was put in order. Those W.P.A. indexes still proved invaluable in 1966.

In addition to the W.P.A. indexes, two federal employees, Miss Ethel Noll and Alexander Smyth, during 1938 went through the card catalog to list American imprints before 1877, for inclusion in a bibliographical tool still kept up by the Library of Congress, The American Imprint Inventory. In 1936 Miss Kerr had found many rare pamphlets among the old uncataloged material, including English political and religious tracts of the 1680's, early American sermons, and slavery and Civil War items. She cataloged them in time for inclusion in the federal inventory.

Much unsorted material still remained in storage, and in the spring of 1939 Waterman himself worked with two men in the basement, vacuum cleaning the books and bringing up two thousand to be cataloged or sold as duplicates. A result of the additional cataloging was once more a crowded card catalog.

By 1939 the library was no longer operating with quarterly deficits. Modest amounts could go into investment to build endowment, and at the end of that year fifteen hundred dollars was transferred to the principal of the General Fund, although kept fluid, and subject to expenditure as accumulation of income in case of need. As a consequence, the library was at long last able to purchase, early in 1940, a full-sized-drawer cabinet. In that year, too, binding was resumed on a small scale, about 160 of the most used books and sets being rebound. From then on as much income as could be spared each year, about two hundred dollars, was used for binding.

Edgar Waterman and Ruth Kerr later sorted out the remainder of the basement books. Many were discarded as worthless and the rest transferred to the Watkinson Library storage room above. Some of them had been gifts, boxed and forgotten, and some were from the collection of

the Barnard textbooks. The long neglected Barnard Collection posed a problem in sorting out the items of value from those which should be rejected. Edgar Waterman reported to the board that Charles A. Goodwin, president of the Wadsworth Atheneum which had received the Barnard library as a Morgan gift, wished the valuable books in that collection to be kept by the Watkinson Library and the rest eliminated. President Waterman himself wrote in 1942, "I feel quite sure that Mr. Barnard's library consisted largely of publications bearing on education which he obtained from governmental sources, nearly all of which are to be found in other libraries in this city."

Whatever the situation at the time, in 1966 a doctoral candidate working in the Watkinson Library on his thesis with the theme *A Study to Determine the Factors Responsible for Connecticut's Loss of Leadership in the Common School Movement Between 1820-1850*, found invaluable the collection of reports of committees and individuals. Mr. Bernard J. McKearney wrote on March 5, 1966 that his particular dissertation "would not have been possible . . . without the material available in the Watkinson Library. . . . What a treasure trove!" Simultaneously, a Master's candidate at Trinity, Mrs. W. Ainsworth Greene, was making a comparative analysis of the various editions of the textbooks in the Barnard Collection for her graduate thesis.

In 1924, Frank Gay had reported that the textbooks were the subject of a University of Chicago graduate thesis. Countless other uses were made through the years of the manuscript notes and letters, as well as the books, that came to the Watkinson from the Barnard library.

To the problems of maintaining the book collection and staffing the library were added those of a deteriorating building. In February 1935 leaks in the roof of the Watkinson building resulted in damage to books in the vault, where some of the rarest and most valuable books were kept. The bindings of about seventy books were warped, requiring rebinding for which the funds were then insufficient. The Wadsworth Atheneum repaired the roof over the vault, but with

every storm leaks continued in the reading room and stacks. In 1936 the Watkinson Library itself reroofed the reading room area, but could do no more.

In 1941 the Wadsworth Atheneum cleaned and releaded the high north windows in the reading room, the first time they had been washed in fifty years. Ruth A. Kerr narrowly escaped injury when part of the low railing around the reading room gallery collapsed in early 1942. The recorded reaction of the trustees was to make sure that they carried adequate liability insurance.

In addition to water damage, the books were deteriorating from excessive heat and dryness in the winter and humidity in the summer. The trustees considered in 1948 installation of humidifiers at an estimated cost of about three thousand dollars. But, in view of the expense, they decided to lower the heat in the reading room to a less damaging degree, and to use the board room as a work and reading room.

In the meantime, to help salvage the rare books in the library, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in 1947 made a second grant to the Watkinson, this time four thousand dollars for repair and rebinding. But lack of skilled craftsmen and equipment restricted use of the funds for that specific purpose and, instead, most of the current periodicals were bound and thousands of leather bound volumes were oiled.

Again in 1949, the Foundation granted seven thousand dollars, one half to be used for binding, the other half for treatment of leather bindings. Three trustees, all members of the board of the Foundation, were appointed to supervise the expenditure of the grant, Charles A. Goodwin, Lawrence A. Howard, and Earle E. Dimon.

In April 1950 an unhappy development closed the library to all but a few students or workmen. Routine inspections of the Atheneum buildings had been made for years by the Hartford Fire Department, but with no previous criticism. The fire marshal on April 12 issued a report stemming from the last inspection in December 1949, which condemned the worn wiring, antiquated electrical fixtures, and a slatted floor between two stack



Figs. 107, 108. Interior views of the Watkinson Library just before moving to Trinity College.

levels, and which required installation of water sprinklers and an exterior fire escape from the second floor.

In view of plans to move out of the building as soon as legal approval, then under contemplation by the Superior Court, was secured, it seemed pointless to expend more funds on the old quarters. Likewise the trustees were reluctant to ask the Wadsworth Atheneum to do so, as the art museum intended to demolish the Watkinson Library's brick building of 1892 in a future development plan of its own.

With comparatively minor changes in the electrical system, the fire marshal agreed to waive the other requirements if the library were closed to all but a few special students and those preparing books for transfer, provided that: the librarian had a key to the door into the Colt Memorial, that the door be kept open while she was in the library, that the front door be kept locked and that admission of those few permitted entry be by bell. In September the trustees voted to close the library subject to those provisions. A steel and white plaster cage was built over the

main stairwell of the building by order of the fire inspectors and Ruth Kerr was quoted in the *Hartford Courant* of December 28, 1950 as saying "I feel as if I'm sealed in a sepulcher since they built that tomb."

She closed her own unpublished *History of the Watkinson Library* with the following paragraph: "After dusk, the Library with its high vaulted ceiling and dark stacks becomes a weird and eerie place, and eerie people have invaded it. Strange and unbalanced personalities, as well as mischievous boys find their way up the staircase and into the lonely library. More than once it has been necessary to call in the police. Twice the librarian has had her purse stolen from her dressing room. Then there were two young boys, who deaf to calls for their return, ran up the stairway in the direction of the roof, and never were seen again. Once the librarian with two detectives in a police car, chased another young man down Main Street. When caught, he was arraigned in court, charged with a statutory offense.

"Bats, too, find the atmosphere of the Library congenial, and are frequent visitors."

Search for a Final Solution

Although Edgar Waterman continued to stress the need for added endowment, as had Francis Parsons, none had been given the library since the Stanley bequest in 1878. When in March 1943 he was asked why the library, as formerly, was not complaining about pinched resources, he replied, "We simply made our plans to live within our means. This would seem to be the only thing to do."

But at the September 25, 1944 board meeting, at the suggestion of Wilmarth S. Lewis, he appointed a committee of Lewis as chairman, Lucius F. Robinson, Jr. and himself, to consider possibilities for an increase in endowment and provision for better care and housing of the collections. Wilmarth Lewis called a meeting in the fall with the mayor and representatives of the State Library, the Hartford Public Library, the Connecticut Historical Society and the Watkinson Library.

The committee's first report was submitted to the Watkinson trustees at the December meeting. General agreement had been reached that the Watkinson and the Historical Society libraries should have a new building, preferably near the State Library. Joint accommodations with the Public Library would be advantageous, and it was up to the latter to initiate ways and means to accomplish that result. No decision was reached on a plan to raise the required funds.

At the March 1945 meeting, however, Lewis reported that the trustees of the Hartford Public Library favored continuation of a downtown location for their new building when it could be constructed.

A new committee under the chairmanship of Wilmarth Lewis was shortly thereafter appointed to consider the possible union of the Watkinson, the Connecticut Historical Society and the Hartford Public Library in a new building proposed by the latter. Representatives of the three institutions met on January 22, 1946 and drew up a

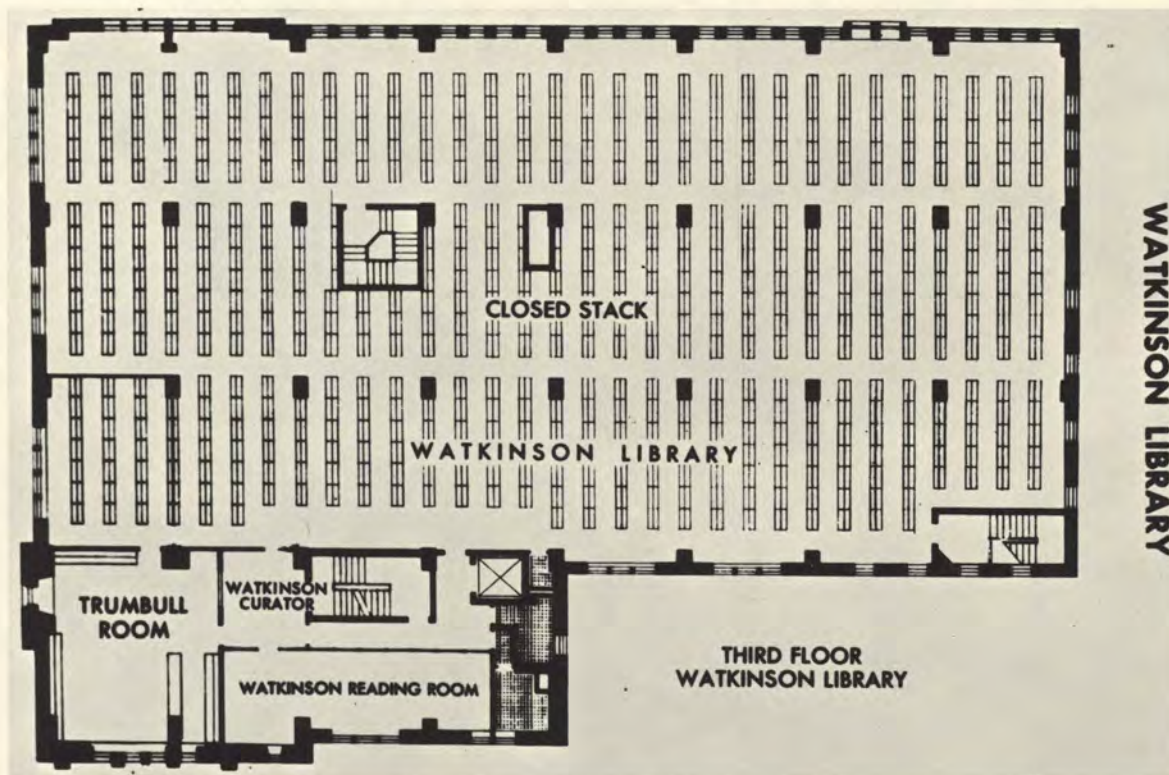


Fig. 109. Plan of the Watkinson Library on third floor of the Trinity College Library, built in 1952.

Memorandum on New Quarters . . ., dated March 1, 1946. It was signed by John C. Parsons for the Hartford Public Library, Edgar F. Waterman for the Connecticut Historical Society, and Wilmarth S. Lewis for the Trustees of the Watkinson Library. They were all, of course, on the Watkinson board.

At the March 1946 meeting of the Watkinson trustees the committee submitted the *Memorandum* and obtained board approval of the proposals for action to:

1. Secure the approval of each library of the plan to move into new quarters under a single roof or in adjoining buildings.
2. Have the committee already appointed act as a Joint Committee to:
 - a. Consider plans for one or a group of buildings to house the three libraries in

accordance with requirements specified by each; and engage an architect to submit preliminary plans.

- b. Confer with the Wadsworth Atheneum to define the respective duties, rights and privileges of each of the four corporations, in order to satisfactorily supplement the agreements of 1890 in establishing new quarters for the three libraries.
- c. Confer with the mayor of Hartford and other city officials on acquisition of a site, and on securing funds for the land, for the building, and for maintenance.
- d. Devise a plan for closer union of the three libraries, preserving the individual corporate franchise of each, but permitting joint action on matters of common interest.



Fig. 110. Exterior of Trinity College Library building of 1952.

In the meantime, the Connecticut Historical Society had received a letter from John C. Parsons outlining the proposals and asking for approval by the directors of the Historical Society. At a meeting of the Standing Committee on April 8, 1946, which Parsons attended in order to present the plan and urge its support, unanimous disapproval was registered of any association with the Hartford Public Library and of any site not within easy access to the State Library. The Society desired proximity to the latter in order to make easily accessible "the incomparable resources of the two institutions . . . of similar aims and purposes." At a regular meeting of the Connecticut Historical Society on May 7, 1946, the Standing Committee's rejection of the proposal was unanimously supported.

The project was thus in abeyance, at least for the present, although the Watkinson committee continued in existence. At the annual meeting in December 1946 they were requested to consider other plans for improved housing and endowment of the Watkinson.

At that point Paul Alcorn, librarian of the University of Connecticut, wrote to Wilmarth S. Lewis suggesting that the Watkinson Library become a research section of the university library. The university was then about to embark on a program of graduate study at the doctoral level. The matter was inconclusively discussed at the March meeting of the Watkinson trustees in 1947, along with consideration of relations with the Connecticut Historical Society, the Hartford Public Library, Trinity College, and the Connecticut State Library. A year later, at the June 2 meeting, Lewis reported that the president and the librarian of the University of Connecticut had renewed their offer to incorporate the Watkinson in the university library.

G. Keith Funston had become president of Trinity College in 1945, and in attending Watkinson board meetings, he wrote later, was convinced from the start that something had to be done to "utilize more effectively . . . this valuable research library . . . rotting away in a firetrap." He countered the University of Connecticut's proposal with an announcement that Trinity was planning an extensive addition to its library building and he believed that the trustees of the college would be happy to provide quarters for the Watkinson Library there. A committee of five lawyers on the Watkinson board was appointed to determine what, under the will of David Watkinson, was legally permissible in changing its location. Lawrence A. Howard, Charles A. Goodwin, Francis W. Cole, John C. Parsons and Lucius F. Robinson, Jr. formed the committee.

At the next quarterly meeting in September 1948, the legal committee reported a tentative opinion that connection with the Connecticut Historical Society "was of the essence," and that a court would so hold. Dissent was expressed by some members of the committee, all agreeing that the decision of a court could not be forecast with certainty.

Keith Funston renewed his assurances that he felt he could speak for the trustees of Trinity College in welcoming an alliance with the Watkinson Library. About one-third of a million dollars was on hand for an addition to the Trinity

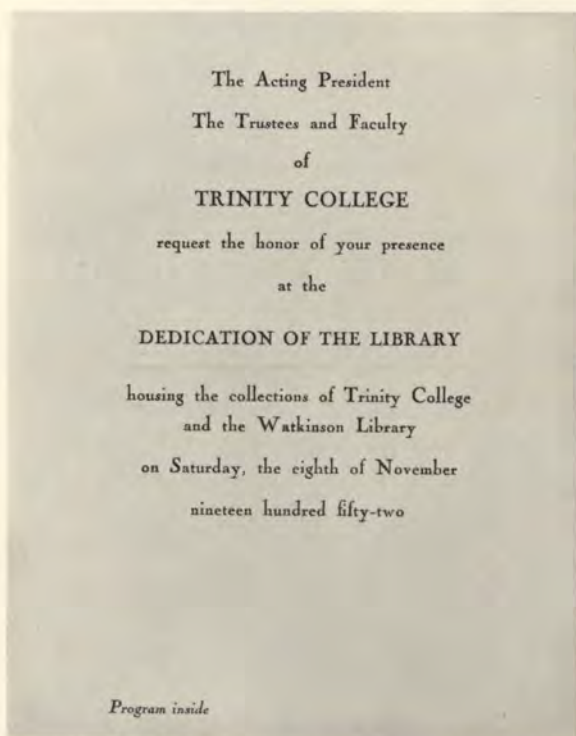


Fig. 111. Invitation to the dedication ceremonies of the new Trinity College Library in 1952.

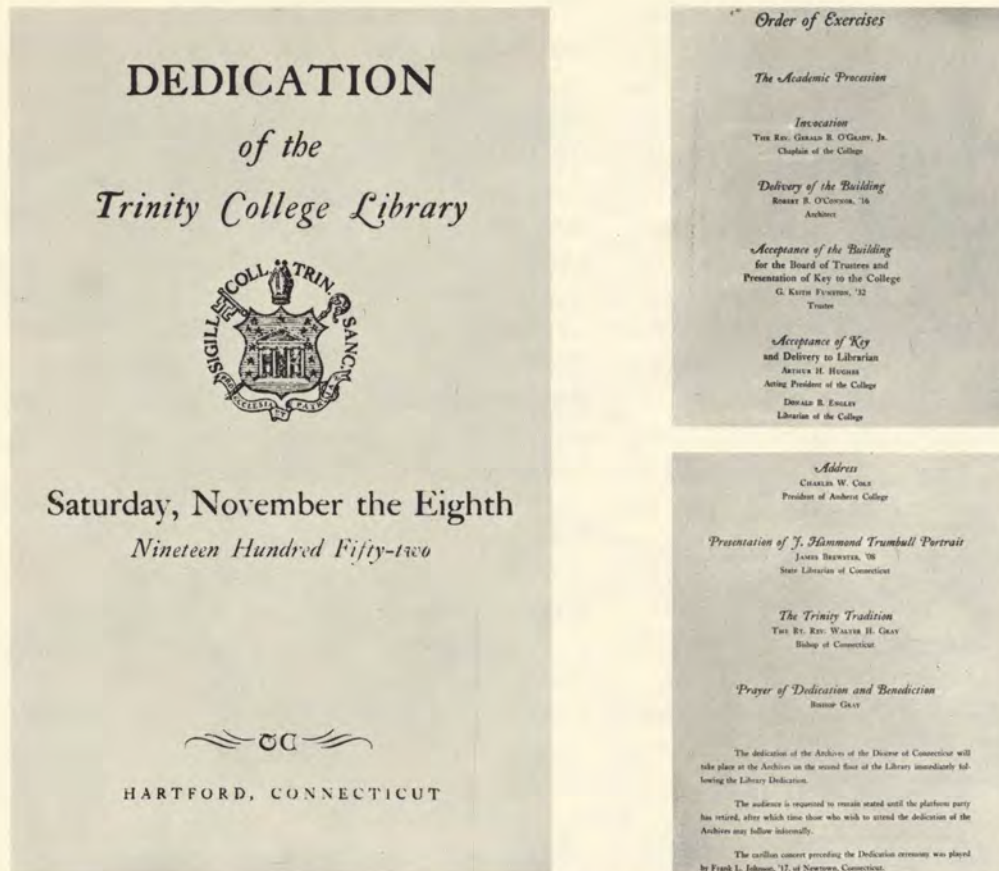


Fig. 112. Dedication program at the opening of the new Trinity College Library in 1952.

library. President Funston was asked to secure formal action by the trustees of the college, and a committee of the Watkinson board was appointed to advance the plans for the future of the library. It included Lawrence A. Howard, H. Bacon Collamore and John C. Parsons.

Uncertainty still remained about the intentions and attitude of the Connecticut Historical Society toward future relations with the Watkinson Library. The new committee presented and obtained approval, at the annual meeting held on December 1, 1948, of a *Report* dated November 29. They recommended proposing once again to the Connecticut Historical Society and the Hartford Public Library that those institutions, either or both, join with the Watkinson Library, and that if the suggestion proved unfeasible within a reasonable length of time, the offer made by President Funston of Trinity College

be accepted, contingent on court or legislative approval.

Letters were consequently sent on December 20, 1948 from John C. Parsons representing the committee of three, to Edgar F. Waterman, president of the Connecticut Historical Society, and to Henry A. Perkins, president of the Hartford Public Library, asking whether a closer union of the three libraries was possible, and requesting as definite a reply as they could give, as soon as possible.

The Connecticut Historical Society, meeting on February 1, 1949, voted to relinquish "to the Trustees of the Watkinson Library any claims it may have that it be continued in the future 'in connection with the Connecticut Historical Society.'" They pointed out that the will of David Watkinson placed no responsibility on the Society for the operation or continuance of the Watkin-

son Library, that the Historical Society had not contributed in any way to the operations of the library, and that an adjacent location was no longer of importance to either organization, as the operation of the two in common had long ago proved impracticable. A certified copy of their action was submitted to the Watkinson trustees.

The Hartford Public Library, on the other hand, urgently desired continued close association with the Watkinson Library, and proposed housing it in their contemplated new building, recataloging the collection, maintaining it as the reference and research department of the public library and, pending the provision of funds for the construction of a new building, contributing toward the maintenance and preservation of the Watkinson books. The reply of the public library committee charged with drawing up recommendations, of which Miss Roswell Hawley, C. C. Hemenway and John C. Parsons were members, was accompanied by cost estimates and by a memorandum from the librarian, Magnus K. Kristoffersen, advancing detailed arguments

in favor of the merger. John Parsons, because of a conflict of interest, had resigned from the Watkinson committee, and his place was taken by Henry A. Perkins.

In the meantime a bill to amend the charter of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library was submitted to the January 1949 session of the General Assembly. It would permit the institution to merge with any corporation maintaining a public library within the limits of the town of Hartford, or to transfer its books and other property to Trinity College, provided that such merger or transfer be in conformity with the provision of the will of David Watkinson as interpreted "by a court of competent jurisdiction." The amendment was adopted by the General Assembly on May 23, 1949. It was accepted by the Trustees of the Watkinson Library on June 1, 1949, and on that date they voted to accept the offer of Trinity College to provide the new and permanent quarters they had long sought.

The Watkinson trustees were advised against any such merger or transfer until approved by a judgment of the Superior Court for Hartford County. Thus an action had to be brought. Pending the court's decision, the Trustees of the Watkinson Library and the Trustees of Trinity College on June 9, 1949 signed an agreement by which the Watkinson was to be transferred to Trinity.

The decision against remaining with the Hartford Public Library was influenced in large part by the more immediate prospect of a new building at Trinity which had funds already available. The public library's promise of adequate quarters necessarily had to be on a when, as and if basis and postponed still further the desperate need to salvage the books in the Watkinson Library. Another consideration that bore some weight with the trustees was the quality of the Watkinson collection. As a scholars' library it seemed to belong in a college or university.

The directors of the public library felt that keeping the Watkinson Library in a central downtown location, on "neutral academic ground," would ensure greater use not only by students and faculty of other schools and colleges in Greater Hartford, but by the general public.



Fig. 113. G. Keith Funston.

But Ruth Kerr in her report for 1949 noted that under the librarianship of J. Hammond Trumbull, himself a scholar, the library had developed along university lines, and that it had been most used by professors and students of educational institutions. She commented that the protests received from citizens regarding the inaccessibility of Trinity College came mostly from those who rarely used the Watkinson Library, and that over the last three years the average attendance had been three to four people daily.

The public library directors later on reversed their view because of the costs involved. Henry A. Perkins, their president, testified at the Superior Court hearing on the transfer to Trinity College, that the public library's available annual income could not cover the additional expense of maintaining the Watkinson Library. The estimated figures of new building costs were two million dollars for adequate housing of the combined libraries, and for the public library alone one-fourth less. They had no immediate promise of even that much. The Hartford Public Library did acquire its new building in 1957, financed through city funds.

Transfer to Trinity College

The successful outcome of the negotiations between the Watkinson trustees and Trinity College was the culmination of long and complicated planning. On Trinity's part the transfer was involved in the larger project of securing funds for new library quarters. In 1948, the college contemplated an addition to the old building and had \$300,000 on hand in a bequest from George Hamlin. The total cost of an addition was estimated at \$650,000.

Keith Funston, Trinity's president, and also a Watkinson trustee, conceived the idea of making the two library projects one. Abetted by Wilmarth S. Lewis, who had been thinking independently along the same lines, he was able to announce in June 1949 that the additional \$350,000 had been secured, contingent on Court approval of the Watkinson transfer to Trinity College. At the time the donor, the Old Dominion

Foundation, established by Paul Mellon, remained anonymous.

The Trinity librarian, Arthur Adams, however, wanted a new building which would cost at least \$1,000,000. He regarded an addition to the antiquated quarters as a waste of money. Donald B. Engley was engaged in the summer of 1949 as associate librarian to plan the new building, to arrange the transfer of the Watkinson Library to the campus, and to succeed Arthur Adams, soon due for retirement. He agreed that an addition was a short range solution.

Between June 1949 and June 1950, while the judgment by the Superior Court was pending, Keith Funston, backed by the Trinity trustees, and aided by Donald B. Engley, began to think in terms of a totally new building. Preliminary architectural drawings were rapidly secured, and, with these in hand, Funston conferred again with the trustees of the Old Dominion Foundation who, in view of the importance both to the Watkinson Library and to Trinity College of the merger and of adequate housing for both libraries, agreed in September 1950 to increase their gift to something over \$800,000, the amount needed to make a new building possible.

In the meantime the case before the Superior Court, handled by a Watkinson trustee, Lawrence A. Howard, of the firm of Day, Berry and Howard, was entered on August 21, 1949. Witnesses for the plaintiffs, testifying on February 23, 1950, included James T. Babb, Wilmarth S. Lewis, Henry A. Perkins, Donald B. Engley, Arthur Adams, Ruth A. Kerr and G. Keith Funston. Assistant Attorney General Thomas J. Conroy, representing the defendants, "the people of the State of Connecticut," admitted all the allegations of the complaint without contesting, and chose not to appear at the hearing.

In the *Memorandum of Decision*, dated April 17, 1950, Superior Court Judge Howard W. Alcorn decreed that, certain provisions of David Watkinson's will having lost their significance, the Trustees of the Watkinson Library were authorized to move the library to Trinity College. Due to ambiguous language in the *Memorandum*, a motion to amend the judgment was

requested on May 29, 1950, and on June 12, 1950 the amended judgment was granted. It was adjudged "that when The Trustees of Trinity College shall have provided space in a fireproof building in conjunction with its library adequate to accommodate the items comprising the Watkinson Library . . . to make them readily available and accessible for reference; then and on that condition the Trustees of the Watkinson Library are authorized to . . . transfer and convey its property and assets to The Trustees of Trinity College . . . without commingling with other property or funds of the . . . College."

According to the agreement dated June 9, 1949, between the Trustees of the Watkinson Library and the Trustees of Trinity College, sole control of the books and funds was vested in the college. But Trinity felt that the continued existence and activity of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library would lend strength to the development of the merged institutions. All the Watkinson trustees except those *ex officio*, however, were to resign and were to elect as their successors persons named by the Trinity president, in order to insure representation of college trustees on the board. Pending completion of a new building and of the legal aspects of the transfer, the old board continued to function.

While the legal and financial negotiations were proceeding, Donald Engley surveyed modern college libraries throughout the country, before the architects' plans by the firm of O'Connor and Kilham of New York City were drawn. He had subsoil tests made to determine the least costly location for the building, and chose its site in the center of the campus. As a result of the preliminary planning, ground was broken on November 11, 1950, Arthur Adams wielding an old wooden grain scoop belonging to David Watkinson, one of the founders of Trinity College as well as the Watkinson Library, and Keith Funston and other dignitaries using a ceremonial spade for the purpose. In a letter of December 31, 1965 from Keith Funston he wrote that the early start on construction "was some sort of record. It would not have been possible to move so speedily had not Don Engley done a superla-

tive job in the previous year of getting a consensus and plans for the new building."

There was much to be done before completion of the new library. Negotiations with the Watkinson's old neighbors, the Wadsworth Athenaeum and the Hartford Public Library, as to which books in the Watkinson Library legally belonged to each, consumed much time and thought. Although the funds distributed by the Wadsworth Athenaeum from 1895 to 1905 constituted income from an endowment established for the benefit of all four corporations housed in the Athenaeum at the time, the clause in the agreement of 1890, stating that, should the Watkinson Library ever leave the premises, the books bought with the annual appropriations were to remain in the custody of the Athenaeum, gave legal weight to the contention of the Athenaeum that they were entitled to the collection of art books. In exchange for non-art books bought with the early appropriations, they received other Watkinson works on art, some of them gifts to the Watkinson Library from many sources.

The Hartford Public Library in years past, for lack of space, had withdrawn and deposited in the Watkinson Library many books regarded by the latter as gifts. With the impending physical separation, the Public Library reclaimed some five hundred volumes. All of this involved for Ruth Kerr countless hours of searching and removing cards from the catalog.

Her last year in the old building was a depressing one. In December she wrote that suspense, uncertainty and anxiety characterized the annals of the Watkinson Library in 1950. Throughout the next year Donald B. Engley spent about one day a week at the Watkinson, supervising a crew of four Trinity students, cleaning the books and planning the transfer to the college. But few other people came into the second floor quarters and, at the March 7, 1951 meeting of the Watkinson trustees, Ruth Kerr presented to the board her resignation as librarian because of the disagreeable situation in which she had to work. The trustees withheld acceptance, and President Funston and Dr. Ar-

thur Adams conferred with her to arrange more tolerable conditions.

Shortly thereafter Donald Engley requested of the board that Miss Kerr be allowed to work on a part-time basis at the college library until the new building was ready for occupancy the following year. Consultation with the cataloging staff on classification plans for the Watkinson collection, and a familiarity with the college library would facilitate administrative decisions in the months just ahead, as well as assisting her in reference work after the move to Trinity. The relief from monotony in the old quarters was of importance too. Miss Kerr agreed to the plan and spent a day or two each week on the college campus.

The building progressed, and by June 1952 it was almost completed. While carpenters, electricians and painters put finishing touches on the handsome and functional new library, the moving of books got under way. The new librarian, Donald B. Engley, who took office in 1951, reported the masterful job of planning and execution that proved so effective, that summer, in enabling the library to open on schedule at the start of the college year in the fall:

"The moving of the Trinity College Library from Williams Memorial began on June 16, the day after Commencement, and continued for five weeks through July 18 to its completion. It was preceded by months of planning on the part of the library staff so that when the moving date arrived everything could be transferred as rapidly and yet as carefully as possible. To mention but one of the planning tasks, every foot of the book collection was measured and assigned to new locations on blueprints of the new book stacks. Signs were made for each new stack compartment to indicate the first book which was to be shelved in that compartment. Steps such as this one saved countless hours and headaches during the moving.

"During the Spring months the Hartford Despatch and Warehouse Company surveyed our moving task with us and were engaged to handle the transportation of the books between the old library and the new, and from the Watkinson

downtown to the new building. A portable, exterior elevator was rented, since neither of the old buildings contained a lift, and was erected first at the north end of the Williams stacks.

"Twelve Trinity students were hired through the College Placement Office to assist in the cleaning, packing, and unpacking of the books, and several of them reported for duty on the Friday before the start of the move to prepare the first loads for the mover. The success of the entire operation was in no small measure due to the diligence and enthusiasm with which these twelve men . . . carried out their responsibilities in the handling of close to ten miles of books and associated library material. . . .

"The task of moving the 225,000 volumes in the Trinity Library consumed a total of twenty-one working days, for an average of better than 10,000 volumes transferred per day. The remaining three days of the last week were spent in bringing in the card catalog, which had been carefully prepared for transfer from its 310 trays to 720 new ones by the Catalogue Department, and the other furniture and equipment. Each truckload during both the Trinity and Watkinson moves was to average a total of 1200 books in 36 cartons, or an average of 333 in each carton, usually two rows of books in the 24" carton, or four feet of books. This compares closely to the usual rule of thumb of eight books to a foot. By July 18 the Trinity College Library was under its new roof and the staff was preparing to take care of the needs of the Summer School students in the new quarters.

"June 16 was the first and by all odds the most important day of the move. It was the acid test for the plans we had made months ahead. It was also the chance to observe and rapidly adjust our operations as they went into effect. The most important change made early the first day was to triple the number of dollies in use and to leave them under the two boxes each dolly carried, all the way from the elevator at the old building to the shelves of the new building. This meant that while fewer boxes were carried in each truckload the truck could load and unload faster and make more trips per day. In addition, and



Fig. 114. Donald B. Engley, fourth librarian, holding a fifteenth-century edition of the Nuremberg Chronicle from the Trumbull-Prime Collection.

just as important, it decreased severalfold the handling and lifting of each box. The first day also brought the chance to observe the successful results of decisions made early in the planning and often contrary to the literature of library moving. One such item was the question of box size. The choice of a 24" box of cardboard, collapsible and expendable, instead of the almost universally recommended 36" wooden box saved untold hours in handling, not only because of the decrease in weight but also because of the maneuverability of the cardboard box in the narrow stack aisles.

"The moving of the Watkinson Library started on schedule on July 28. This starting date made it possible for the student work crew to have a week's much-needed rest and vacation and gave us time to dismantle and re-erect the portable elevator at the Watkinson site. It also provided the time necessary for the carpenters to build the ramps and platforms required in a Victorian building of high ceilings and narrow balconies, as well as to install portable flood lights to replace the antiquated lighting system condemned by the Hartford Fire Department two years earlier and removed at their order. Further, the week permitted the builder that much more time to re-erect a quantity of our old book stacks so that Watkinson books could be placed on them.

"The only deterrent to the Watkinson move, outside of the consistently hot and humid weather, and the only contingency not scouted in advance, turned out to be the re-paving of Hartford's Main Street in the month of August. Since the mover's trucks had to traverse part of this street and to cross it each time, the regularity of each trip, which was a feature of the first phase of the moving, was lost. However, this was overcome to some extent by moving the student workers around with the loads when it was necessary either to speed the packing at the Watkinson end or to break a log-jam of packed boxes at the new-building end of the line. At the end of three weeks' time, or fifteen working days, the 130,000 volumes of the Watkinson Library had been transferred to Trinity. Between 8,500 and 9,000

books had been moved per day, compared to just over 10,000 volumes per day during the shorter haul from Williams Memorial. The last two weeks of August were used to arrange furniture and files, and to straighten the collections on the shelves. By August 29 the two libraries were settled into their new quarters and ready for the opening of the college year in September. . . .

"A sum of \$15,000 had been budgeted for the task. It proved to be a close estimate, for the major expenses [totaled] \$14,317.79."

Once again, for the third time, the Watkinson Library celebrated the opening of new quarters. The Watkinson had outgrown two buildings in 86 years. Trinity College Library had outgrown three in 129 years. From 1824 to 1878 it was on the old college campus where the State Capitol was later built. From 1878 to 1914 it inhabited quarters in Seabury Hall on the new campus. From 1914 to 1952 it was located in the Williams Memorial building given by J. P. Morgan.

The prospect of the merger of the Watkinson with Trinity College had been the key to acquiring the financial resources that made it possible. Its addition to the college library made Trinity's resources as rich as any comparable college in New England and helped effect a "re-birth" of the college, as Wilmarth S. Lewis had predicted. Its acquisition promised also to be a positive force in furthering closer ties between the college and the Hartford community, with the Watkinson Library's responsibility to serve all who could make use of its resources.

Dedication ceremonies were planned for one of the biggest weekends in Trinity history, November 7-9, 1952. It included the introduction of President-elect Albert C. Jacobs, replacing G. Keith Funston who had resigned to become president of the New York Stock Exchange, alumni homecoming, the Sophomore hop, and Amherst soccer and football games. Donald Engley, incidentally, was a graduate of Amherst.

The *Trinity College Bulletin* of November 1952 quoted President Charles W. Cole of Amherst College, principal speaker at the dedication, as congratulating Trinity "on the 'happy marriage' of the two libraries, picturing the

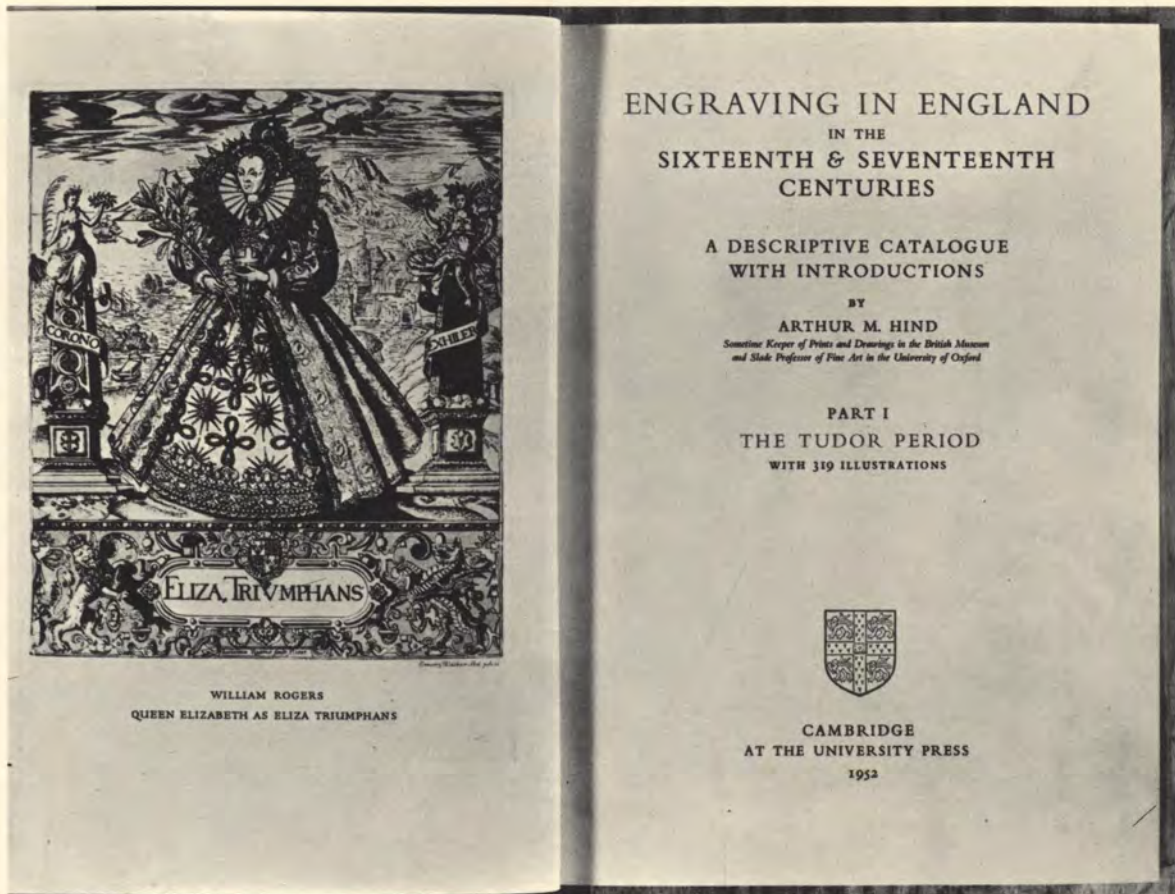


Fig. 115. An example of the handsome books made possible by the Trinity College Library Associates Fund.

Watkinson Library as a 'somewhat neglected spinster, the Trinity Library as the eager swain, President Funston as the skillful marriage broker, the trustees of both libraries as far-sighted well wishers, and the Old Dominion Foundation as the fairy God-mother which by the wave of its financial wand made the marriage possible.' "

Keith Funston returned to the campus to accept the new building from architect Robert O'Connor, as the climax of his administrative accomplishments at Trinity College. A gold key was presented to Paul Mellon, representing the Old Dominion Foundation, and another to acting president Arthur Hughes, who passed along authority for the library to Donald Engley, planner of the building, the merger, and the move into new quarters.

Once the building was open and in operation, the Watkinson Library board of trustees met and, on September 24, 1952, in accordance with their formal agreement with the college, voted

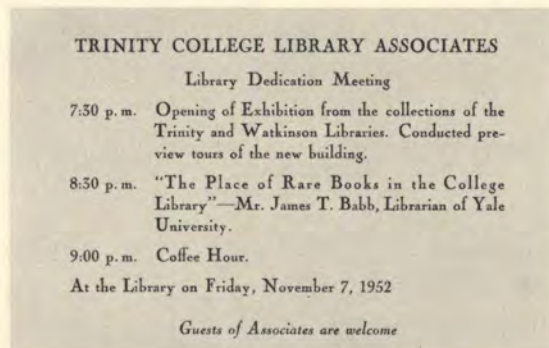


Fig. 116. Card of invitation to the Trinity College Library Associates meeting at the opening of the new library in 1952.



Fig. 117. Northwest corner of the Trumbull Room of the Watkinson Library at Trinity College.

approval of the new library accommodations, clearing the way for assumption of legal title by Trinity College to the books and assets of the Watkinson Library. Edgar Waterman presented his resignation as president and trustee, and John C. Parsons was elected president. Earle E. Dimon, because of ill health, resigned as treasurer and as trustee, and Henry A. Perkins was elected treasurer to replace him. At their annual meeting, adjourned from December 3, 1952 to March 12, 1953, the president presented the resignations of all elected trustees to take effect at the adjournment of that meeting. He presented the nominations to the board made by acting president Arthur H. Hughes of Trinity College, and all candidates were elected by ballot, to take office at the end of the meeting. Only two former members were lost to the board, one

other remaining by virtue of ex officio status, although he had formerly also been an elected member. But because of the previous resignations of Dimon and Waterman, neither replaced at the time, five new members were added.

The Fourth Librarian

Under Donald B. Engley the Watkinson Library entered the last fourteen years of its first century of existence.

Born in Stafford Springs on July 19, 1917, he was a graduate of Mt. Hermon School and Amherst College, and received the degree of B.L.S. at Columbia University School of Library Service in 1941. He entered the army as a private that year, becoming an artillery battery commander with the Seventy-ninth Infantry Division in the



Fig. 118. Northeast corner of the Trumbull Room of the Watkinson Library at Trinity College.

European Theater of Operation in World War II, and at its close held the rank of major. After V-E day he established the library of the American University at Biarritz, France for the benefit of four thousand soldier students. In 1947 Donald Engley received an M.A. degree at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. He went to Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, as librarian for two years before coming to Trinity.

His first year saw, in addition to plans for the new library, the establishment of the Trinity College Library Associates, an organization long hoped for on the part of the Watkinson Library trustees. Dr. Jerome P. Webster, a Trinity alumnus and trustee, a noted surgeon, author and member of the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University,

became its first chairman. Wilmarth S. Lewis, the driving force on the Watkinson board for a final solution to its problems, the noted Horace Walpole scholar and a member of the Yale Corporation, was its first vice-chairman. Donald Engley was secretary-treasurer. Its aim was to further the development of the Trinity College and Watkinson Library book collections, and its funds, contributed from many sources, made possible the purchase of expensive works otherwise difficult to acquire with an always over-strained book budget.

On the eve of the dedication of the new library on Friday, November 8, the Library Associates were given a preview of the building. They held a special program at which James T. Babb spoke on "The Place of Rare Books in the College Library."

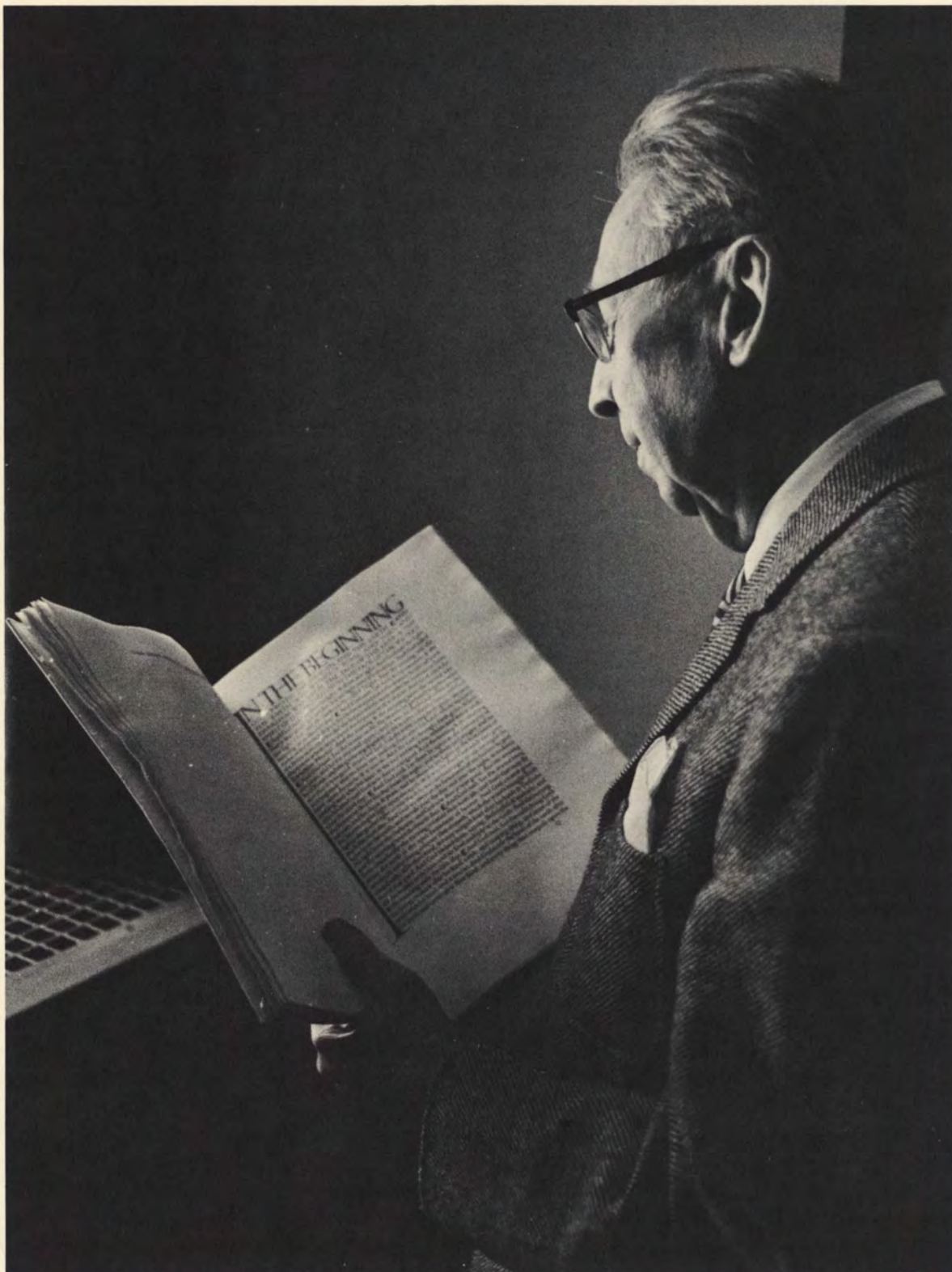


Fig. 119. Allerton C. Hickmott, a trustee of the Watkinson Library as well as of Trinity College, holding a volume of the Doves Press Bible, one of his gifts to the Watkinson Library.

Ruth Kerr remained as librarian of the Watkinson until her retirement in July, 1959. Complying with the 1950 Court directive, as well as with the intent of David Watkinson, his library retained its identity as a research collection by virtue of separate housing on the entire third floor of the new building, although in close connection with the rest of the library. It remained a closed stack, non-circulating, public library, with its books always available to any scholar.

During the first year of the library's new life at Trinity, Miss Eunice Wead, authority on rare books and the history of printing, and formerly professor at the University of Michigan Library School, was consultant to Ruth Kerr in the hunt for rare books in the stacks. Many sixteenth-century printed books came to light then and later, about doubling the number contained in the Trumbull-Prime Collection, and other rarities too were uncovered. Miss Wead also drew up

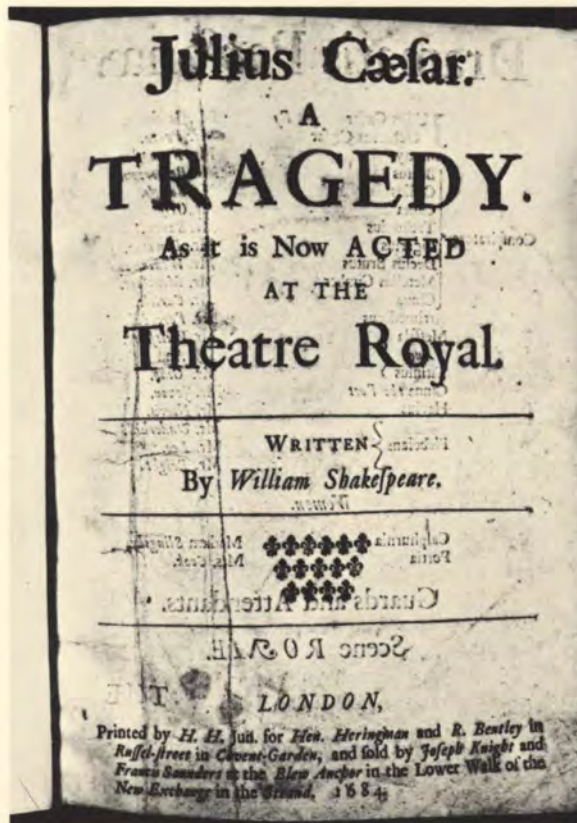


Fig. 120. The first edition of Julius Caesar separately printed. A gift of Allerton C. Hickmott.



Fig. 121. Pencilled illustration added by the artist, John Tenniel, to this first edition of Lewis Carroll's *Through The Looking Glass*. Gift of Everest D. Haight.

suggestions and recommendations for future handling of the collections.

In 1954 the Watkinson Library received from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving its fourth grant, \$7,500 to start the recataloging project. Grom Hayes was employed in January 1955 as cataloger, and a clerk typist was hired as well to assist him. Grants from the Ensworth, Gannett, and Old Dominion Foundations were made in succeeding years to continue the project. With cards for the Watkinson books appearing in the main catalog of the Trinity College Library, a noticeable increase in users of the Watkinson Library resulted. Grom Hayes, however, resigned in late 1959, and not until May 1963 was recataloging resumed when Miss Mary Tincovich was hired.

The collections continued to grow, Donald



Fig. 122. One of the many gifts of Sherman P. and Anne Lyon Haight, which represents both their Cruikshank and Dickens Collections presented to the Watkinson Library.



Fig. 123. One of the extensive gifts of Lloyd E. Smith. A sixteenth-century imprint from the press of Aldus.

Engley having a particular talent for attracting donors. Among the major collections added after the Watkinson Library came to Trinity were: private press books, Elizabethan and Jacobean rarities, and other fine illustrated books from Allerton C. Hickmott; books on the graphic arts, sporting books and Bibliophile Society publications from Newton C. Brainard; first editions of late nineteenth-century English and American

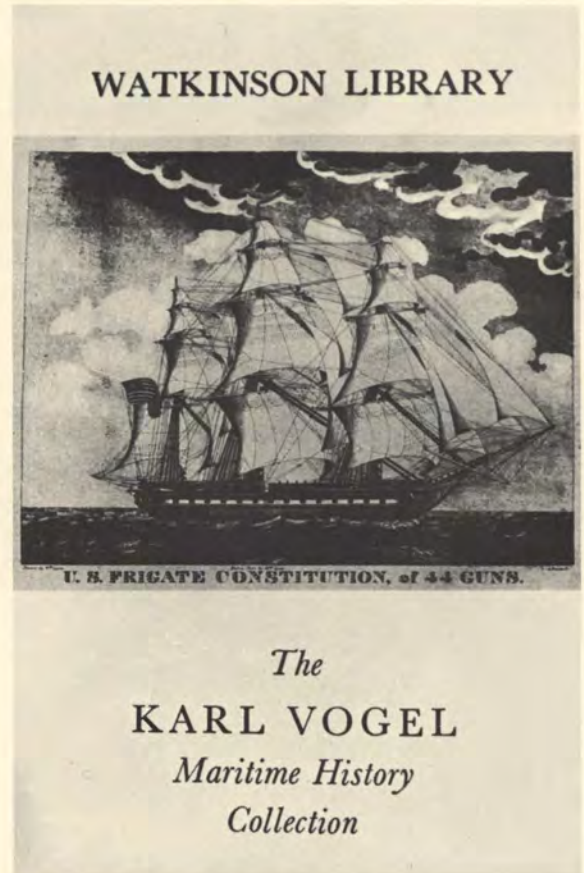


Fig. 124. Vogel Marine Collection bookplate.

novelists from Everest D. Haight; an extensive collection of Cruikshank, and first editions of Dickens and Thackeray from Sherman P. and Anne Lyon Haight; numerous gifts from Wilmarth S. Lewis in the field of English literature; continued gifts from Lloyd E. Smith of Hartford imprints, of books in general categories and of books on witchcraft and demonology, already a special field in the Watkinson; from H. Bacon Collamore a large collection of first editions of

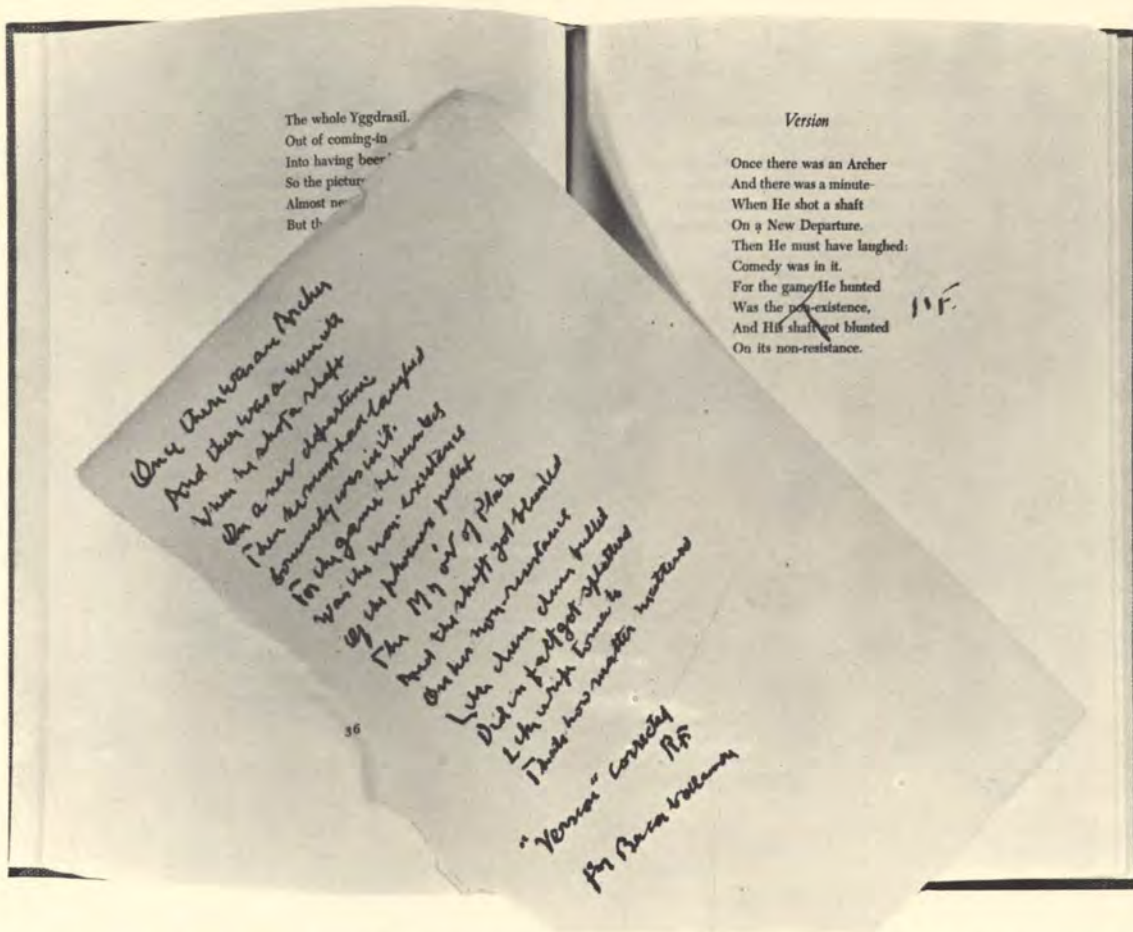


Fig. 125. One of the unique copies of Robert Frost's works, printed by the Spiral Press, included in the recent gift from H. Bacon Collamore. A Version especially corrected by the poet for his friend, the collector.

American and English writers, his Rupert Brooke collection, his books on Middle American civilization and, more recently, his matchless collection of Robert Frost; an Emily Dickinson collection from Charles R. Green of Amherst, as well as gifts of Robert Frost material; collections of books on horology and maritime history from Dr. Karl Vogel; books from the library of William Bird, printer of the Three Mountains Press in Paris in the twenties, purchased through the Trinity College Library Associates, including first editions and annotated copies of Hemingway, Pound, and others; a collection of books printed by John Baskerville from Mrs. Sidney T. Miller, Jr.; and eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century pamphlets from Bernhard Knollenberg.

In 1957 Francis Watkinson Cole established

the Cole Fund, and in 1958 Allerton C. Hickmott instituted the Hickmott Fund, both for purchase of books in the Watkinson Library. Each of the contributors continued to augment his original gift from time to time.

In 1958, the observance of the centennial year of the chartering of the Watkinson Library was both public and private. A dinner was held for over one hundred trustees, alumni, librarians, collectors, book dealers, and friends of the library in Hamlin Hall on the Trinity campus, on December 1. The history of the institution was reviewed, its present unique character was defined, and its future needs for growth stressed if it were to fulfill its mission in its second century. The impending retirement of Ruth A. Kerr on July 1, 1959, after thirty-two years of devoted

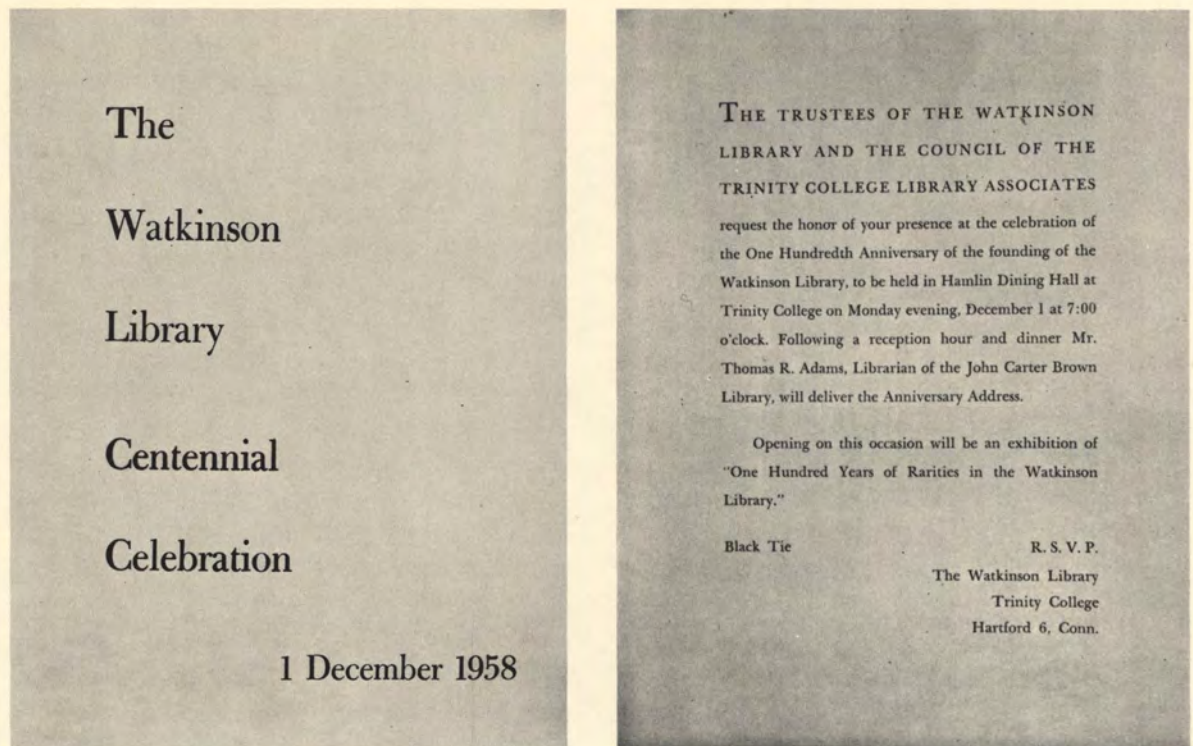


Fig. 126. Invitation to the centennial observance of the incorporation of the Watkinson Library in 1958.

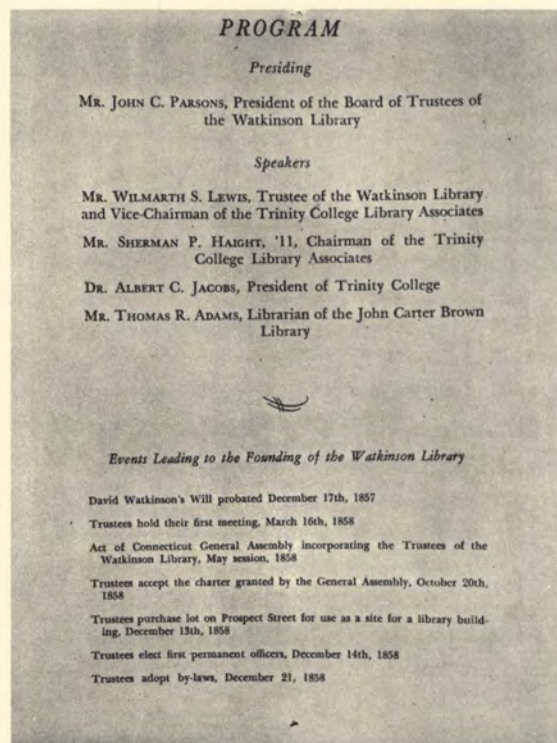


Fig. 127. Program of the Watkinson Library centennial observance in 1958.

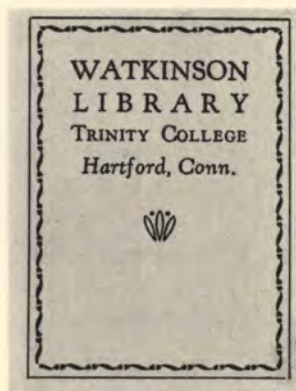
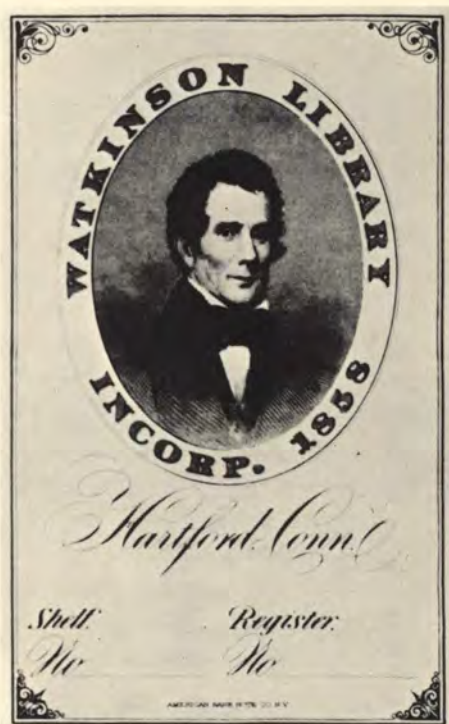


Fig. 128. Bookplates used by the Watkinson Library in the past and present. The smaller is the current plate.

service was announced. The Watkinson's first hundred years had been administered by just three librarians.

John C. Parsons, president of the board, said of Ruth Kerr, "It is impossible for me to express adequately what we all owe to her. One of my fondest memories of the earlier Watkinson will always be her charming, humorous and informative reports on acquisitions which she was too modest to read and, in my time, were read by Mr. Waterman and occasionally by Professor Perkins. . . . For her courage, cheerfulness, knowledge and her devotion to the Watkinson, we greet Miss Kerr."

The private observance was a statement and recommendation prepared by the board president for the Trustees of Trinity College defining the aims of a development program which later was to swing into full gear. Long range goals were defined as the need for greater services, including the purchase of more books, providing for rare book repair and binding, for research equipment and supplies, and for more staff. All

of this required increased funds. To obtain funds required wider knowledge and understanding of the library and its great collections. The hundredth anniversary of the organization of the library was felt to be a fitting occasion for the start of the development program.

At Ruth Kerr's retirement, Donald B. Engley was named librarian of the Watkinson Library and Mrs. Marian Clarke was appointed curator. She was given two major assignments, to help reorganize the Watkinson collections for greater usefulness, and to make the library better known. As a consequence open house programs coordinated with exhibits, radio and television broadcasts, and news releases were utilized in the years ahead to let Hartford citizens know of the existence of the Watkinson Library.

In 1966 the drive for adequate endowment was in full swing. The prospects for a flourishing second century had taken on new luster. The Watkinson Library, during the heyday of its first fifty years, was shaped into the special library it had become. For most of the next half century, it



Fig. 129. The Trinity Spotlight program of December 4, 1960 on WHCT-TV, on "the Watkinson Library," represented several aspects of the new era at Trinity College. The moderator, George B. Cooper, professor of history at Trinity, was a council member of the Trinity College Library Associates. Marian Clarke, new curator, who spoke on administering a special collection, holds a first English edition of Ulysses. It was the gift of H. Bacon Collamore, a trustee of the Watkinson and later president of the Trinity College Library Associates, who talked on building a book collection. Snowden Stanley, a Trinity student, who discussed the use of special research collections, had based a freshman history thesis on the De Sibour family manuscripts owned by the Watkinson Library, a collection mostly in French, and the gift of Dr. Jerome P. Webster, another Watkinson Library trustee.

had been forced to mark time. Now it could begin again to serve the ends for which it had been established.

At the 1958 centennial celebration of its founding, Thomas R. Adams, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, in the principal address of the evening said that "during the past five hundred years it has been our Western civilization that had the most profound effect on mankind. It is not pure coincidence that it was during those

five hundred years we created and developed the printed book . . . Western man's most distinctive artifact. . . . It is our most significant everyday object not found in earlier civilizations."

The Watkinson Library is a rich repository of such pieces of cultural evidence from Gutenberg onward. Its responsibility, in Adams' words, is clear: to play an important part in the never ending search for a better understanding of the most complex of animals – the human being.

Biographical Sketches of Trustees

The lives of the trustees named by David Watkinson, and two replacements voted before the library opened in 1866, are given in more detail than of those who served on the board in the years after 1900.

James Hancox Wells

James H. Wells, the brother-in-law who died shortly before David Watkinson in 1857 and so never served on the board of trustees, was born December 2, 1774. He had come from Bromsgrove, Worcester, England early in life and in May 1796 was in Hartford in partnership with William Wells selling dry goods and liquors. Later under his own name he continued in hardware. In 1830 to 1831 he closed his business, advertising his stock for sale in February 1830, the last newspaper notice appearing March 13, 1831. He married Anne Watkinson and they lived at 34 Prospect Street just at the end of Wadsworth Alley, between the homes of Edward and Robert Watkinson.

William Alfred Buckingham

The ex officio trustees, who generally served shorter terms than the elected members of the board, included at the time of incorporation, Governor William A. Buckingham who was first elected to state office in 1858 on the ticket of the newly formed Republican party. He served seven consecutive terms, being in office throughout the Civil War. It was said of him that the history of Connecticut during that war was almost wholly

the story of his administration. He was one of the small group of distinguished war governors who gave Lincoln the kind of support that Trumbull had given Washington.

He was born May 28, 1804 on a farm in Lebanon, Connecticut, where he remained until 1824. He became a clerk in a Norwich dry goods store, worked briefly in New York in a wholesale firm, and in 1826 opened his own dry goods store in Norwich. In 1830 he took on also the manufacture of carpets, but relinquished both in 1848 to become a founder and treasurer of a plant in Colchester manufacturing India rubber goods. He was twice mayor of Norwich in 1849 to 1850 and in 1856 to 1857.

It is interesting that his gubernatorial opponent in the election of 1860 was Thomas H. Seymour, a former governor and charter trustee of the Watkinson Library. Two years after Buckingham retired from the governorship he was elected to the United States Senate, in 1868, but died shortly before the expiration of his term, on February 5, 1875.

Two of the ex officio trustees in 1858 who were already charter trustees were Henry Barnard, president of the Connecticut Historical Society and Alfred Smith, president of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Frank Woodbridge Cheney

The president of the Young Men's Institute in 1858 was Frank W. Cheney who had an excep-

tionally interesting life. Born June 5, 1832 in Providence, Rhode Island, he lived as a boy for a time in Ohio where he helped his father in activities with the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves. He graduated from Brown University in 1854 and became his father's assistant in the Hartford silk ribbon mill established that year by the Cheneys. He went to China and Japan in 1859 to buy raw silks for the Cheney Brothers factories and returning in 1861 enlisted in the Sixteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, to which he was appointed lieutenant colonel by Governor Buckingham. Leading his men at the battle of Antietam in September 1862 he was shot through the arm, and in December of that year was discharged from the army as a result of disability caused by the wound.

He was reelected president of the Young Men's Institute in 1862-63 but declined the office. He had returned to his post as assistant secretary and treasurer of Cheney Brothers which he retained until 1874 when he became secretary and treasurer until his death on May 26, 1909. He was a candidate both for lieutenant governor and governor of Connecticut and was a representative from Manchester to the Constitutional Convention of 1902. He married Mary, daughter of the Reverend Horace Bushnell in 1863, and they had twelve children. He lived at 33 Prospect Street in Hartford in 1858 but later in South Manchester.

Daniel Raynes Goodwin

The president of Trinity College in 1858 was Dr. Daniel R. Goodwin, who filled that post from 1853 to 1860. He was born in North Berwick, Maine on April 12, 1811 and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1832 with first honors in his class. He studied at Andover Theological Seminary a year, in Europe for two, then succeeded Henry W. Longfellow as professor of modern languages at Bowdoin. Meanwhile, Goodwin completed his theological studies and was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church in 1848.

At Trinity, besides holding the presidency, he taught modern languages and later filled the chair of mental and moral philosophy. Geer's

Hartford Directory for 1857-58 lists thirteen faculty members at Trinity and sixty-one students of whom seventeen were "Senior Sophisters," sixteen were "Junior Sophisters," fifteen were Sophomores and thirteen were Freshmen.

From Trinity Dr. Goodwin went to the University of Pennsylvania as provost and built it up to a first rank institution. Primarily interested in ecclesiastical affairs, however, he became in 1868 dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Philadelphia, and he was a vigorous participant in practically every religious controversy of his time. He received the degrees of D.D. from Bowdoin in 1855 and LL.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1868.

He wrote many tracts and treatises on a wide range of subjects, particularly on ethics, theology, metaphysics and philosophy. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Oriental Society and he was the first president of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. He died in 1890.

In the years between the incorporation of the board of trustees and the opening of the library, one of the charter trustees, William L. Storrs, died in 1861 and Roland Mather, a prominent philanthropist and businessman, was elected to replace him.

William Lucius Storrs

William L. Storrs, a graduate of Yale College in 1814, was born in Middletown on March 25, 1795. He studied law at Whitestone, New York and was admitted to the New York bar in 1817, but soon returned to Middletown to practice. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1827-29, and again in 1834. He was speaker his last term. He was elected Representative to Congress from Connecticut from 1829 to 1833, and again from 1839 to 1841, but he resigned in 1840 to accept an appointment as judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. He was Chief Justice of that Court from 1856 to his death on June 25, 1861.

In 1846 and 1847 he was a professor of law at Yale, and in 1846 received the LL.D. degree from

Western Reserve University. He never married and in Hartford boarded at the City Hotel on the corner of Main and Gold Streets.

David Watkinson's nephew Alfred Gill apparently resigned about 1863 and Dr. Ebenezer K. Hunt, promotor of many Hartford enterprises, was elected on February 21, 1863 as his successor.

Alfred Gill

Alfred Gill was born in Middletown on September 5, 1813, the fourth son of Jane Watkinson and Samuel Gill who died when his son Alfred was thirteen. In 1835 Alfred was admitted a partner along with Ezra Clark, Jr. in his uncle David's firm of Watkinson & Co., Ezra Clark, Sr. then being a partner also.

Alfred was considered one of the leading young men of the city. He was active in the North Church under Dr. Horace Bushnell. He had been named by his uncle David as an executor of the latter's will and in various codicils to serve as a member of the board of various institutional beneficiaries. The fact that he declined in 1857 to become executor of his uncle's estate, before the latter's death, or to fulfill the requested directorships, and his early resignation from the Watkinson Library board of trustees at about the age of fifty suggests that he had other plans. He left Hartford about that time, as he last appeared in the city directory in 1858, and he lived successively in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; Orange, New Jersey; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Sebastopol, California. Town records of the first three revealed only that in 1860 he laid out "Gill's addition" to Lock Haven, and that he was listed in the Orange city directory of 1870 as living on "Essex - near Main."

He had lived at 12 Myrtle Street which ran between Garden and Spring Streets one block west of the railroad station. It was then on the outskirts of the city, where several antiquated mansions still showed vestiges of former glory one hundred years later. His wife, Mary Elizabeth Southmayd of Middletown, died in 1880. He had one son Frederick Watkinson Gill with whom he lived during his last years in Sebastopol, and

one daughter Julia Marie who died in 1882, neither of whom married.

Rowland Swift, who worked as a cashier in the Bank of Hartford County under Alfred Gill, then president, remembered with affection the kindly interest he took in the welfare of his employees.

Gill died in Sebastopol, California on February 27, 1900. At his death the Sebastopol *Standard* noted that "he was a fine looking old gentleman with beautiful white hair and a gracious and friendly manner attractive to all." On the first of November, 1897, a slight stroke of paralysis was the beginning of his decline.

He was the last of his family, outliving his elder brothers Samuel, John and Elias and his sister Mrs. Collins Stone. Only his son survived him for three years.

When the Watkinson Library opened in 1866 all but one of the ex officio trustees were new to the board.

Joseph Roswell Hawley

Governor Joseph R. Hawley had just been elected that year, a war hero of great stature. Born October 21, 1826 in North Carolina though his father was a native of Farmington, Connecticut, Joseph spent part of his youth in Hartford and graduated with honors from Hamilton College in 1847. He taught school and read law, and was admitted to the bar in Connecticut in 1850. He was among the anti-slavery crusaders and was one of the organizers of the Republican party in the state. In 1857 he abandoned law to take the editorship of the *Evening Press* in Hartford, the organ of the new party.

With the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion he was mustered into the First Company of Volunteers with the rank of captain, and in September 1865 was brevetted major-general of volunteers for gallant and meritorious service.

When his term of office as governor was over Hawley became editor of the *Hartford Courant* with which the *Evening Press* merged in 1867. But politics remained his preeminent interest, and he served three terms in the House of Repre-

sentatives between 1868 and 1881, and from that date to his death in March 1905 was in the United States Senate.

J. Hammond Trumbull was president of the Connecticut Historical Society and was thus ex officio a member of the board of trustees, as well as the first librarian, of the Watkinson.

Calvin Day

The president of the Wadsworth Atheneum from 1862 to 1884 was Calvin Day, long active in Watkinson Library affairs as well as the Atheneum which he had been influential in establishing. He was its secretary from the start in 1842 to 1861. He was one of the foremost leaders in the business and cultural interests of his time. Born in Westfield, Massachusetts on February 26, 1803, he came to Hartford in 1822, went into the wholesale dry goods business, and was ultimately head of one of the greatest wholesale houses in Hartford, Day, Owen & Co., dealing in foreign and American goods. He was interested in industry, insurance and banking, and was one of the leading members in the Centre Church.

From 1833 to 1835 Day was major of the Governor's Foot Guard. He was active in establishing the Republican party and the *Evening Press*, its organ in Connecticut, and was one of Governor Buckingham's close advisers during the war.

He lived at 55 Spring Street, one block west of the railroad station, then a suburban area. Just a few months after the death of his wife, Catharine Seymour Day, he died on June 10, 1884.

William Hamersley

The president of the Young Men's Institute in 1866 was William Hamersley, son of the former mayor, William James Hamersley, who was an editor, publisher and bookseller of note in Hartford.

Young William was born September 9, 1838 in Hartford and entered Trinity College in 1854 but never graduated. He entered the law office of Welch and Shipman and was admitted to the bar

in 1859. He was made a member of the Common Council in 1863, and was its president in 1867-68. He was City Attorney for Hartford from 1866 to 1868, then State's Attorney for Hartford County for the next twenty years. He spent a term in the General Assembly in 1886, and in 1893 was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Errors. He was one of the founders of the Connecticut State Bar Association and of the American Bar Association.

Hamersley lectured on constitutional law at Trinity College from 1875 to 1900, and was a member of the board of trustees at Trinity from 1884 to 1917. In 1893 Trinity awarded him an honorary LL.D. degree. He died in 1920.

John Brockelsby

John Brockelsby, acting president of Trinity College in 1866-67, also took that interim post on several other occasions, in 1860, 1864 and again in 1874. He was born in West Bromwich, England on October 8, 1811 and came to the United States at the age of nine. He graduated from Yale in 1835, taught for a year, studied law for two years, then was appointed tutor in mathematics at Yale. In 1840 he was admitted to the bar and entered law practice in Hartford. Two years later he gave up the legal profession to take the chair of mathematics and natural philosophy at Trinity College where he remained for forty years. In 1873 he was also named professor of astronomy at Trinity and became professor emeritus in 1882.

He was especially interested in meteorology and microscopy and wrote and read many papers in those fields before the American Association for the Advancement of Science of which he was one of the first elected fellows. He received an LL.D. degree from Hobart College in 1868. He died in 1889.

Robert Watkinson

After the opening of the library in 1866, the first trustee lost to the board was Robert Watkinson, David's brother, who died June 11, 1867. He was the youngest of the twelve children of Sarah and Samuel, and was nine years old when the

family came to New England. He was the last to die. He had been one of the executors of his brother's will, and in his youth had been in David's business with Edward and William Watkinson. The three brothers who remained in Hartford all their lives had been devoted friends and neighbors along with their sister and her husband, Anne and James H. Wells. On Prospect Street the Wells' house stood between Edward's and Robert's, and David's was opposite.

Robert had been a partner of George M. Bartholomew in the wholesale dry goods business of Watkinson and Bartholomew, and they were always closely allied in other manufacturing and commercial interests. When David Watkinson died in 1857 George Bartholomew bought his house on Prospect Street. Bartholomew had been living at 59 College Street (later Capitol Avenue) one block east of Trinity College, of which he was a trustee, as was Robert Watkinson. The Reverend Collins Stone succeeded Robert Watkinson on the library's board of trustees. He was elected on October 1, 1867.

Alfred Smith

Alfred Smith, the first president of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library, which office he held until his death, died at his residence on Prospect Street on August 12, 1868 of heart disease, which had afflicted him for years. It was a great loss to Hartford and to the Watkinson Library.

Born in Hadley, Massachusetts on July 10, 1789, he came to Hartford at about thirty years of age and became "the great planner and projector of enterprises for the benefit of this city," as the *Hartford Courant* of August 13 noted in his obituary. The formation of the Connecticut River Company, incorporated in 1824, which owned the extensive canal extending from Windsor Locks to the falls at Enfield, was instigated by him, and he was for many years its president.

Smith had practised law from 1818 to about 1832, had been Judge of the County Court, and was considered one of the best legal draftsmen the bar ever had. He was also a member of the

legislature. He was a great friend and special adviser not only of Daniel Wadsworth in creating the Atheneum and of David Watkinson in planning the library, but of such men as Governor Joseph Trumbull with whom he had earlier been a law partner, and Judge Thomas S. Williams, Chief Justice of the Superior Court from 1834 to 1847.

Some years before his death he retired from active participation in a number of varied businesses, and devoted his time and entire income to charitable objects. He attended Centre Church though not a member.

He was particularly interested in the four institutions that made up the Atheneum. A resolution voted by the Watkinson Library trustees expressing their deep regret at his death noted, "the city of Hartford and her institutions have great reason to rejoice, that this man lived among us and was of us, that his influence has been so indelibly imprinted upon her interests and so inseparably connected with her prosperity."

At his death he left \$30,000 to the Hartford Orphan Asylum and \$14,000 to the Hartford Hospital, the bequests being among the largest each had received. Major bequests also went to the American Home Missionary Society, the American Bible Society, The American Tract Society, The American Missionary Association, the American and Foreign Christian Union, and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Smith's wife and only son had died before him and his estate, estimated at about \$300,000 was otherwise mostly left to three grandsons, Alfred F. Smith, Charles Henshaw Smith and J. C. Bates Smith.

Alfred Smith had lived at 56 Prospect Street just north of Grove Street, in a house that later was occupied by the Travelers Insurance Company as its first main office. It was then "a quiet, shady, country-like street, in the heart of the city and but a few yards from Main Street, yet seemingly retired and unvexed by heavy traffic."

Less than a month after Alfred Smith's death, Thomas H. Seymour, former governor of Con-

necticut, died on September 3, 1868, and Ezra Clark, Sr., David Watkinson's former business partner, at about the same time resigned from the board of trustees. All three men were replaced at a meeting held on October 3, 1868. Dr. James C. Jackson was elected to fill Smith's place, Rowland Swift to replace Governor Seymour, and George H. Clark to take Ezra Clark's post on the board. George Brinley was elected president.

Thomas Hart Seymour

Thomas H. Seymour, born on September 29, 1807, was on the list of Hartford attorneys for many years but he was never active as a lawyer. In 1837 he had been the commanding officer of the Hartford Light Guard, an independent light infantry company which was the pride of Hartford, attaining a high degree of discipline. He had graduated from Captain Alden Partridge's Military School.

He came of a spirited family of soldiers. His uncle, Thomas Y. Seymour, who had studied military science in France, was a dashing officer in the Revolutionary War and the originator of the Governor's Horse Guard. His father, Major Henry Seymour, the commanding officer of the Horse Guard from 1803 to 1807, was a well-to-do broker and a man of liberal education.

Thomas H. Seymour was the nineteenth governor of Connecticut. He was a colonel by brevet in the Mexican War, commander of the Ninth New England Regiment, and a gallant and chivalrous officer. He was later United States Minister to Russia and the Putnam Phalanx was organized in August 1858 partly to revive the old Continental uniform and to help welcome home Hartford's famous citizen when he returned from his Russian mission on August 30, 1859.

He was a member of St. John's Masonic Lodge, No. 4, and of the Washington Commandery, Knights Templars of which he was for some years Eminent Commander. He always held the chivalric order in high esteem, and was noted for his courtesy. He was unmarried and lived at 53 Governor Street, in the block between Charter Oak Avenue and Sheldon Street, one block east of South Prospect.

Ezra Clark, Sr.

Ezra Clark came to Hartford from Brattleboro, Vermont about 1819 and joined David Watkinson's hardware and iron business as a partner. His son Ezra Clark, Jr. later became a partner in the business along with Alfred Gill.

Ezra Clark, Sr. was born August 21, 1785. He had originally come from Northampton, Massachusetts and went to Brattleboro in 1809 where he was a druggist as well as a hardware merchant. The sale of drugs was controlled by physicians up to this time so he was always called "Doctor" there. Upon leaving for Hartford his business was taken over by his former clerk and partner but he retained ownership of the shop for over twenty years.

"Dr. Clark was remembered in Brattleboro for his excellent qualities of mind and heart and for his remarkable uprightness in business. He was vivacious, quick-witted, and was in demand for extemporaneous speeches which overflowed with wit and wisdom," according to the *Annals of Brattleboro* by Mary R. Cabot.

He was descended from Lieutenant William Clarke (who apparently spelled his name with a final *e*) the first of his family to come to this country from England, settling in Dorchester, Massachusetts about 1636.

Ezra Clark, Sr. married Laura Hunt. They lived at 236 Main Street in a house near Grove Street in the block north of the Atheneum. Main Street was still largely residential, dotted with churches and with small shops beginning to spring up. They had several sons, the eldest S. Morton Clark, living in Brattleboro for a time. Another was George Hunt Clark who followed his father on the Watkinson board.

George Brinley, Jr.

The death of the Watkinson Library's second president occurred on May 14, 1875. George Brinley, Jr. was one of the three greatest book collectors of Americana, along with John Carter Brown whose books are now enshrined at Brown University and James Lenox whose collection along with those of Astor and Tilden formed the New York Public Library. Unlike the other two

collections, Brinley's books were sold at auction after his death for the benefit of his family estate. The monumental sale catalog prepared by his great friend, J. Hammond Trumbull, in a sense holds intact that rare collection of more than 12,000 volumes, and in the Watkinson Library is an annotated copy showing the buyer of each item.

George Brinley, Jr. was born in Boston on May 15, 1817, the son of George Brinley and Katherine Putnam. His mother was the granddaughter of General Israel Putnam of Revolutionary War fame. His father's family was Tory, and he had a grand-uncle who was commissary general of the British Army. George, Jr. married a niece of Daniel Wadsworth whose father, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth, was commissary general of the Continental Army. These circumstances of his and his wife's forebears, many of whom on his father's side were moving back and forth from the colonies to England from 1640 on, possibly were responsible for his intense interest in colonial history.

George, Jr. was educated at good schools in Boston though he did not attend college. Yale later awarded him the M.A. degree in 1868.

About 1840 his family moved to Hartford and for a short time he engaged in active business. But he inherited an estate that with careful supervision enabled him to indulge his taste in rare books and to build without undue extravagance the fabulous library that ensured his fame. His unorthodox methods have been described in his son Charles' memoirs.

A quotation from that unpublished work, "My father was a man of strong prejudices. . . . His temper was autocratic," is exemplified in letters in the Watkinson Library files. If a book dealer incurred his disfavor he sometimes refused to pay a bill. Such was the case with E. French of New York, who wrote to Trumbull in November 1864, advising him that he had sent to George Brinley the previous spring "a copy of the History of West Point, the subscription price of which was twelve dollars, and though I have written to him three or four times he has not replied to any of my letters, nor sent me the

money," although he had promised to pay for it.

In 1871 and 1872 Edward G. Allen of London appealed to Trumbull to intercede for him with Brinley who had refused to pay a bill owing for a year or two. With the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War Allen had feared the destruction of his business, should Britain be drawn into the conflict, and had sold elsewhere some books that Brinley was considering. Allen seems never to have been forgiven by Brinley.

Another quotation from his son's memoirs graphically describes the state of the household after Brinley moved his collection from the former Wadsworth outbuildings behind the Atheneum to a home large enough to house his books and family too.

"Sometime before 1860 my father bought and moved into a large house on the Southwest corner of Pearl and Wells Streets. There was a spacious room on the third floor that former owners had used as a 'ball room,' which meant, I suppose, a room for little dances; it seemed a queer place for formal guests to climb to. It was transformed into a library, all the wall space, and that of a smaller room adjoining, being covered with shelving; up and down the center of the main room were a double row of old fashioned standing book-cases with cupboards and drawers below and shelves above behind glass doors. My father's collection had been housed in rooms behind the Wadsworth Athenaeum, in a long, narrow, one story building running along the alley to Prospect Street. It was now moved to the new house, which had in the northeast corner a square hall with staircase all the way up, the front door being on Pearl Street. There was a back hall and stairs in the southwest corner, and more bookcases in the third story back hall—others again in a small room west of the parlor on the first floor, and in the dining room, where there were two horse hair covered sofa's. . . . One of these sofa's was always piled high with books, and not uncommonly the other. Spare dining room chairs had often the same burden. There were shelves for books, not precious as Americana, in the third story front hall and tucked about in the bed rooms."

Brinley was early a member of the American Antiquarian Society and shortly after coming to Hartford he joined the Connecticut Historical Society in which he was active for the rest of his life. He was also a trustee of the Wadsworth Atheneum, and a director of the Phoenix National Bank and the State Savings Bank. In addition he served as an executor of private estates, filling positions of trust and influence.

One such position was his appointment to a committee of three in 1862, when at a special town meeting on September 18 a resolution was voted to pay one hundred dollars to the family of each drafted citizen mustered into the service. His committee prepared a plan for funding that war debt of six per cent bonds issued to the amount of \$200,000, falling due in annual sums of \$10,000 after January 1, 1874.

Brinley died in the prime of life at fifty-eight years while still actively engaged in collecting books. His health had always been somewhat frail but he was stricken by malaria in Florida in the winter of 1874-75. In the spring he went to Bermuda to recuperate but died there in May.

William R. Cone was elected third president of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library to replace George Brinley in 1875. But the vacancy on the board was not filled until a special meeting was held April 8, 1876 at which time two positions created by deaths that had occurred previously were also filled.

Collins Stone

One was the sudden death of the Reverend Collins Stone over five years before on December 23, 1870, when he was killed instantly by a locomotive when driving over the railroad track in Hartford. Judge Nathaniel Shipman was elected to replace him on the Watkinson board of trustees.

Collins Stone was born on September 6, 1812 in Guilford, Connecticut and was a member of the class of 1832 at Yale. His wife was Ellen Gill, niece of David Watkinson and sister of Alfred Gill, the Watkinson charter trustee.

From 1833 to 1852 Stone was an instructor in the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb. He studied theology with the Reverend Joel Hawes of Centre Church in Hartford, and in 1853 shortly after going to Ohio to become superintendent of the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb there, he was ordained as an evangelist. He remained in the Ohio post for eleven years, then in 1863 returned to become superintendent of the Asylum in Hartford where he remained until his death. He was then a deacon in the Centre Church.

James Dixon

The other position to be filled on the Watkinson board in April 1876 was created by the death on March 27, 1873 of Senator James Dixon from a heart attack. Francis Goodwin was elected to fill Dixon's place.

James Dixon was born in Enfield on August 5, 1814, the son of a lawyer prominent and influential in civic affairs. His mother was descended from Henry Whitfield, founder of Guilford.

Dixon graduated from Williams College in the class of 1834, was class laureate and an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1862 Trinity College conferred on him the degree of LL.D. He studied law in his father's office, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in Hartford in 1838 in partnership with Judge William W. Ellsworth. But his interest in politics and the anti-slavery cause somewhat diverted his attention from the legal profession. As an aide to the governor of Connecticut, Dixon visited Europe and in Paris was presented to Louis Philippe, King of France.

Earlier, in 1837 at the age of twenty-three, he was elected from Enfield to the General Assembly and became speaker, serving there also in 1838, 1844 and 1854. In 1845 he was elected Representative to Congress on the Whig ticket, being the youngest member in the House, where he remained until 1849. He resumed the practice of law in Hartford from 1850 to 1856 when he was elected to the United States Senate where he served two terms. Subsequently President Johnson

appointed him minister to Russia but he declined the office, and retired from public life.

Senator Dixon was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln, of Charles Sumner, of Horace Greeley and of General Grant, and was an advocate of the cause of liberty. After the war he opposed confiscation of property in the South, favoring the restoration of the Union, and he advocated states' rights and free trade.

In his youth he wrote poetry and articles published in the *New England Magazine*, the *Southern Literary Messenger*, and the *Hartford Courant*. "A gentleman of elegant and scholarly tastes. . . His poems, especially the Sonnets which are given in Everest's collections, are musical and graceful, though rather amateurish. They remind the reader occasionally of Bryant," wrote Henry A. Beers, Professor of English Literature at Yale College, in Trumbull's *Memorial History of Hartford County*.

Senator Dixon was president of the Hartford Life and Health Insurance Company organized in 1849, which oddly enough, in view of his support of emancipation, covered the insurance of slaves and coolies for their masters. The company ceased operation in 1859.

His wife was Elizabeth Lord Cogswell and they had four children, two sons and two daughters. His granddaughter, Miss Elizabeth Dixon Welling, still lived in Hartford in 1966.

James Bidwell Hosmer

On August 14, 1876 a long newspaper article in the *New York Daily Graphic* celebrating the life and career of James B. Hosmer characterized him as the "oldest man living in the city" and as one of Hartford's best and most prominent citizens. He was born on September 27, 1781 and still lived "in an ancient house on Main Street, near the old State House, where he has resided since he was two years old." He never married and had no "family connections." The account said of him that "he is still in good health . . . and walks out every day." He died two years later at the age of ninety-seven on September 25, 1878.

In 1802 he opened a dry goods business in Hartford from which he retired in 1833 at fifty-

two with "a sufficient competency." From then on he devoted his time to many civic and cultural interests.

James B. Hosmer was an organizer of the Society for Savings in 1819 and its president from 1851 to his death. Throughout all those years he was said to have missed only one annual meeting. He was a director of the Collins Company, Inc., which had been founded by two of David Watkinson's nephews, the first concern in America for the manufacture of cutting edge tools. He was treasurer and a member of the Committee for the Ancient Burying Ground Association, and on the Committees for the North Burying Ground Association and for the Old South Burying Ground and Zion Hill. He was a trustee of the Wooster Street Chapel Association and of Warburton Chapel.

Hosmer was the superintendent of construction of the Wadsworth Atheneum, a life trustee by subscription and its treasurer until he retired shortly before his death. He was a president of the Connecticut Historical Society, of which he was also the treasurer from 1840 to 1874. To the Historical Society he bequeathed the historical portion of his library.

But one of his greatest interests was the Hartford Theological Seminary. He founded a Professorship of New Testament Exegesis, later to be filled by a Watkinson Library board president, Melancthon W. Jacobus. He gave \$100,000 for the building on Broad Street which housed the Seminary from 1880 to 1926, and made it the residuary legatee of his estate from which it received a large addition to its permanent fund. It had originally been established in 1834 in East Windsor Hill as the Theological Institute of Hartford and, later in August 1865, the Institute leased the former Daniel Wadsworth house then owned by the Watkinson Library board of trustees.

No action was taken by the trustees to fill Hosmer's place at his death in 1878, nor that of Dr. James C. Jackson nor of George H. Clark, both of whom died in 1881, until a special meeting was held on April 16, 1883 to replace all three.

The mayor of the City of Hartford "for the time being and ex-officio" was elected to succeed James B. Hosmer.

Mayor Ex Officio

On March 8, 1882, probably because of increasing interest in the plans for a free public library and art gallery, and of the role of the city government in asking for legislative action to permit tax support for the projected development, an amendment to the Charter of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library was approved by the General Assembly thus authorizing the trustees to fill any vacancy on their board. The mayor holding office in 1883 was Morgan G. Bulkeley.

Theodore Lyman was chosen to succeed Dr. Jackson, and Charles Hopkins Clark replaced George H. Clark, his uncle.

James Corbin Jackson

James C. Jackson was born August 22, 1818 at Cornish, New Hampshire. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College in 1844 and of Philadelphia Medical College in 1847. That same year he came to Hartford and became one of the outstanding physicians of the city.

He married Mary W. Childs in 1849, and Helen Lyman in 1878. Both were childless but he brought up a niece, Lillian Jackson, who died of typhoid fever the week before his own death from double pneumonia on February 7, 1881.

Dr. Jackson was one of the first visiting physicians of the Hartford Hospital, was consulting physician of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company, and was one of the most active members of the State Medical Society and of the Hartford Medical Society. He published papers on medical science of which one of the most important was *Logic Applied to Medical Science*.

During the War of the Rebellion he was politically active and at the election just preceding his death he was a candidate for state representative. He was long chairman of the Brown School Committee.

Dr. Jackson was said to be a most enjoyable man, always in good spirits, with an undercurrent of humor, quaintness and brusqueness of speech which at once attracted the attention of listeners. Apparently he was never in a hurry, always ready to stop on the street to talk with a friend, though at the expense of punctuality.

George Hunt Clark

George H. Clark, a son of Ezra Clark, Sr., succeeded his father on the Watkinson Library board of trustees. He was born in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1809 and, coming to Hartford with his father when a boy of ten, he served an apprenticeship in David Watkinson & Co. under the partnership of David Watkinson and his father. For some years he was in New York with the large iron importing house of Boorman, Johnston & Co., James Boorman having been a fellow-boarder with David Watkinson in the years he spent in New York.

At the time of David Watkinson's retirement in 1841, George returned to Hartford to enter into partnership with his father and brother, Ezra Clark, Jr., in the firm of Ezra Clark & Co., successors to David Watkinson & Co. From about 1870 the firm was Clark & Co., the partners being George H. Clark and Lester L. Ensworth.

His obituary in the *Hartford Courant* of August 22, 1881 stated that he "carried all through his life the unhealed grief of the loss of his only child" which partly accounted for a lack of social contacts. He was a poet, a frequent contributor to *Putnam's Magazine*, the *Knickerbocker* and other periodicals. He published *Now and Then* and *The News*, poems of about one thousand lines each, and *Undertow of a Trade-Wind Surf*, a collection of sentimental and humorous pieces.

Edward Blair Watkinson

One of the most active members of the board of trustees and its secretary from the start was Edward Blair Watkinson, son of David's brother Edward and his wife Lavinia Hudson, whose sister Olivia had married David Watkinson. He was born on Prospect Street February 24, 1813,

and died at his home at 10 Townley Street on March 21, 1884.

He attended Mount Pleasant Classical Institute in Amherst, and after leaving school was a clerk in the Watkinson family's wholesale house. He spent a few years as a clerk in business in New York, then returned to Hartford to become secretary of the Collins Company, the business founded by his cousins, at their office on State Street. On the death of Samuel Collins in 1871 he became president of the company until his own death.

In the meantime, about 1844, Edward became agent and manager of the Union Manufacturing Company with mills in Manchester and Marlborough. In 1871 he left the Union Company to become president of the Connecticut Trust and Safe Deposit Company. That same year he was chairman of the building committee for the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company of which he was vice-president. He was considered one of the most prominent and successful businessmen and financiers of his day.

At twenty-one, in 1834, he married Jane Abernethy. She died childless in 1874. In 1876 he married Louise Stone, daughter of the Reverend Collins Stone, and thus the daughter of his cousin Ellen Gill. They had three daughters, Helen, Grace and Mary.

It is interesting that, although he was married, the city directory in 1857 to 1862 lists him as a boarder at the United States Hotel at 26 State Street, and from 1863 to 1867 at the City Hotel at 217 Main Street. After that he had homes on Main Street, Asylum Street and, from 1882, on Townley Street.

James Brewster Cone, son of William R. Cone, succeeded E. B. Watkinson as trustee of the Watkinson Library and Charles H. Clark succeeded him as secretary of the board. The replacements were voted at a special meeting on April 16, 1884.

George Medad Bartholomew

Two years later the most incredible disaster struck the board of trustees when its trusted

treasurer of twenty-eight years went bankrupt and fled to Canada. It is a tragic story whose ramifications cannot be told in this brief history.

George M. Bartholomew was one of the most brilliant financiers in Hartford and one of its most highly respected businessmen. Born in Hartford on October 3, 1816, he started out as a clerk with the Connecticut River Banking Company, then was employed by Robert Watkinson. They became partners in 1839 in the firm of Watkinson and Bartholomew, wholesale dealers in dry goods, and subsequently in the Union Manufacturing Company of Manchester, of which Bartholomew was treasurer and later president, in the Marlborough Mills in Marlborough, and in the Hartford Manufacturing Company in South Glastonbury. The stock of all those companies was held principally by David, Edward and Robert Watkinson.

Bartholomew was president of the Hartford County Bank, later named the American National Bank, from 1858 to 1871. He was one of the founders of the Holyoke Water Power Company and was its president from its second year until 1886 when he resigned. He was trustee and "practical manager of the line" from 1855 to 1875 of the old Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, chartered in 1847, and was one of the three trustees for its Connecticut bondholders. He was later the president and director, then the receiver of its successor, the Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad and once the president of the old Fond du Lac Railroad. He was a director with Samuel J. Tilden of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad from 1858-1867. He also served with the Richmond and Allegheny, the Indianapolis and Cincinnati, the New Jersey Southern, and the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railroads, and was vice-president and a director of the old Connecticut Western road.

Bartholomew was involved with the Florida Construction Company, was a director of the Connecticut River Banking Company, a trustee of the State Savings Bank incorporated in 1858, and a director of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company of Hartford incorporated in 1847. Upon the failure of the Charter Oak Life Insur-

ance Company in 1878, due to immense and ruinous loans on railroad and mining property, and the decision to have its affairs wound up under regular management instead of a receivership, Bartholomew's consent to become president "renewed the courage of all parties in interest. Gifted with quick and keen perceptions, he was a man of affairs, accustomed to handle large transactions without neglecting details. He had the full confidence of the community and was much in demand for positions of trust," Woodward wrote in his *History of Insurance in Connecticut*.

Under his management over \$6,000,000 was returned to policyholders between 1878 and 1886, far more than they would have received had the concern been wound up at once. Bartholomew had assumed the presidency after much persuasion in a fight for the life of the company. But maturing claims constantly exceeded income, and property after property had to be sold to meet current demands. The credit of the company withered, and to raise funds Bartholomew from time to time gave personal endorsements to over \$2,250,000.

He held numerous private trusts for individuals and was an executor of both David Watkinson's and Robert Watkinson's estates. He was also a member of the Board of Education of the Church Scholarship Society. He had studied at Washington College in the class of 1836, although he did not graduate, and he was a trustee of Trinity College from 1863 to 1886. He was a director of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, and of the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane, and a charter trustee of the Watkinson Library and its treasurer from the start in 1858 until his resignation in 1886.

The disaster that ruined him in September of 1886 at the age of seventy seems to have been touched off by the embezzlement of between one-half and one million dollars from the Hartford Silk Company and the Union Manufacturing Company of Manchester by a close associate, a man who was president of the Silk Company and treasurer of the Union Company. Bartholomew was president of the Union Company, a director

of both companies involved, and personally a heavy endorser of their papers. Thus he was responsible for the amount defaulted. He tried to float a loan in New York City, from Cyrus W. Field, whose wife was a cousin of Mrs. Bartholomew. But Field, upon learning the extent of the involvement, was quoted as having advised him to leave the country. The claims presented at the time amounted to over \$1,500,000 but were subsequently greatly reduced through George M. Bartholomew's trustee, C. M. Joslyn, and one gains the impression in reading the newspaper accounts of the time that his creditors were a pack of howling wolves at his heels. When the news broke, the *Hartford Daily Courant* of Thursday, September 23, 1886, printed the story beginning "People were astounded yesterday to learn that Mr. George M. Bartholomew, one of the most widely known businessmen of Hartford, had failed to meet his appointments. . . . It was the most exciting day ever known in Hartford business circles after the news got fairly underway, and the sensation was all the greater because it was not, and is not yet, possible to determine the extent of the complications." For a week a column ran daily in *The Courant* headed, "The Bartholomew Affair" or "The Bartholomew Matter." *The Times* gave even more coverage and quoted out-of-town newspapers that made extravagant and scurrilous statements.

The Watkinson Library records were circumspect and gave no hint of what had happened. A letter of September 24, 1886 from President William R. Cone to Secretary Charles H. Clark requested that a special meeting be called, "at the earliest possible date to take such action as shall be deemed advisable relative to the treasurership heretofore held by George M. Bartholomew now absent from the State and the appointment of another in his place."

At the meeting held on September 27 the president informed the board that on September 18 he had set a date with Mr. Bartholomew for joint examination of the securities on September 21, but by then Mr. Bartholomew had left for Canada, and on September 22 the president deposited the box containing the securities in the

Aetna National Bank vault and gave the auditing committee its key. The auditors reported some, though not great, disparity between the securities in the vault and those listed in the treasurer's report.

Rowland Swift was immediately elected treasurer. The whole matter of the Watkinson fund, the expected income, and whether reduction in expenditures would be necessary was referred to the finance committee to report at the next meeting.

A manuscript letter from Bartholomew, written at his dictation but signed by him, was sent to "My dear Mr. Clark" on October 21, 1886, in reply to "your kind favors of the 5th and 7th inst."

"... As I have been Treasurer of the W. Library nearly 30 years I think under present circumstances I ought to have credit for compensation against some debit in a/c if any but the cash would be very acceptable at this time to my wife or to myself. Did you ever compute what \$150 or \$200 per annum with interest at 6 per cent compounded would amount to in 30 years? I have not heretofore raised the question of compensation but circumstances alter cases. . . .

"I am informed that Mr. J. C. Parsons has been appointed executor in D. Watkinson Estate in place of Alfred Watkinson resigned. I have turned over to the Estate 186 shares Del & Hudson Stock 102 shares Pennsylvania Coal Coy Stock & together worth in the market between \$30,000 to \$40,000. I expect soon to know the precise value of the Pennsylvania Coal which will give me precise figures of each. This goes to the Residuary Legatees and I presume may be a surprise to some. So soon as I informed Judge Shipman it was on hand untarnished they were very anxious to see it. . . .

"I will give you a synopsis of what G M B alone did for the Legatees of D. Watkinsons Estate and let you say whether or no the Residuary Legatees ought to growl if they now don't get the last penny. Along early in the Execution of the trust some of the heirs offered to accept seventy per cent in full if I would pay it then rather than wait on uncertainties but they did

get one hundred per cent full and interest. . . ."

A few months later Colonel Joslyn, trustee, issued an accounting which was published in the *Hartford Times*, January 11, 1887, of the claims against his client. Many of them were adequately secured and were not liabilities. He stated that the Watkinson Library claim of \$28,420.19 was based on the allegation that Bartholomew appropriated between three and four thousand dollars and that by bad investments of library funds in mining stocks the library had sustained the loss named.

Letters from Bartholomew to John Hubbard Watkinson, nephew of David Watkinson, in 1860 show that in that year the executors of the Watkinson estate paid to the relatives the total amount bequeathed to them: on the first of March, seventy per cent "as per the will," and in September, the remaining thirty per cent.

In putting off final settlement of the estate Bartholomew was justified by David Watkinson's own instructions. In Codicil No. 16, the last addition to his will made on October 27, 1857, one and a half months before his death, David Watkinson stated that "Whereas, in . . . Codicil number Twelve, I made my pecuniary legacies or bequests to be due and payable at the end of two years from my decease," and as many of his investments had since greatly depreciated in value, "therefore, I authorize and empower my Executors, according to their best judgment and discretion, to postpone and delay, after and beyond said two years the payment and time for becoming due . . . [as] they shall deem needful or expedient, in order to allow such time as they think best for the market values of my said investments to recover and increase. . . ."

Bartholomew's accounting in 1886 of David Watkinson's estate in a manuscript memorandum in the Watkinson Library files showed that although it was inventoried at his death at \$432,184.33, within three years and six months \$640,028.17 had been paid to the legatees, and prior to 1874 an additional amount of \$101,228.00 went to the residuary legatees. With the 186 shares of Delaware and Hudson and 102 shares of Pennsylvania Coal Company stock that he still

held in October 1886, at an estimated value of \$36,000, his handling of the estate increased its value by \$345,071.84 over the inventory at the time of David Watkinson's death.

At any rate, the Watkinson Library found itself with reduced income at the annual meeting on December 14, 1886 and voted to appropriate four hundred dollars from the Stanley Fund to help meet current expenses for the coming year. The new treasurer was instructed to change a number of investments, in particular to sell real estate in Michigan and Indiana on which the trustees held mortgages. And for the first time an annual salary of \$250 was voted the treasurer, a tacit justification of Bartholomew's feeling that his stewardship of almost thirty years deserved some financial reward. But he did not get it.

The treasurer's report of December 1886 shows \$2,727.20 to be due the Watkinson Fund account from George Bartholomew. At the annual meeting on December 10, 1889 he applied for a discharge from his personal obligations to the corporation. The board felt that it should not be granted without some "pecuniary consideration," the amount of which ought to be proposed by the debtor. At the next year's annual meeting in 1890 the finance committee reported that it was unable to take any action to release Bartholomew from his obligation. Through the next decade he struggled to pay off his debt, \$1,224.04 coming to the trustees in 1895, \$244.81 in 1896, and \$367.21 in 1898. After his death in 1899, \$891.14 was still due from his estate.

At a special meeting on May 31, 1887, the trustees had, however, voted to discharge him from all liability and indebtedness to themselves as residuary legatees of the David Watkinson estate upon the delivery by Bartholomew of a certificate of 144 shares of Anthracite Coal Co. stock to their elected agent, John C. Parsons.

In the meantime Bartholomew had returned to Hartford in late 1890. The last years of his life he lived quietly at home on Prospect Street, giving up all that he had and spending what strength he had to save something out of his broken fortune for his creditors.

He was characterized as having been full of energy, doing two days work in one, of the simplest habits of life, kindhearted and gentle, and even when one of the powers of the town, altogether unassuming in manner. No one who knew him ever intimated that he had profited personally by the operations that ended in disaster. At the time of his flight to Montreal, Canada, repeated comments were made that the institutions he had served were stronger for his management and that any funds due them were unconsidered trifles. Among those who made this assertion were the president of the Holyoke Water Power Company, the treasurer of the Florida Construction Company, an official involved in the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company matter, and a spokesman for the Orphan Asylum. Those nearest him said that he would have been dead or hopelessly broken down had he stayed three days longer in Hartford under the tremendous pressure that was applied.

He died on February 16, 1899 and his funeral services were conducted by the Reverend Dr. Samuel Hart of Trinity College. They were attended by many of the influential citizens of the city, including Governor M. G. Bulkeley and Judge Nathaniel Shipman who was also on the Watkinson Library board of trustees. Colonel Jacob L. Greene replaced Bartholomew on the board on December 14, 1886.

Ebenezer Kingsbury Hunt

Dr. Ebenezer K. Hunt, elected to replace Alfred Gill on February 21, 1863, died May 2, 1889. He had had a varied and active career.

Born in Coventry, Connecticut on August 26, 1810, he left home at about twelve years of age to attend school in Middletown, then in Amherst, Massachusetts for three years. He graduated from Yale in 1833, taught at Monson Academy in Massachusetts for one year, and was a private tutor in Natchez, Mississippi for two years. In 1836 he studied medicine at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia from which he graduated the next year. He practiced medicine in Ellenville, Ulster County, New York for two years, then came to Hartford.

He was physician to the Retreat for the Insane during the spring and summer of 1840, then medical visitor for over forty years and a director for over thirty years. He was physician to the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb for twenty-five years. A founder of the Hartford Hospital, he was an attending physician and surgeon there and later a consulting physician on the staff.

For both the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Hartford Life Insurance Company he served as medical examiner. He was a founder of the Hartford Medical Society and the Hunt Memorial is named for him. He held memberships also in the Hartford County Medical Society, the Connecticut Medical Society of which he was twice president, and the American Medical Society.

At various times he was chairman of the Hartford Board of Health and led the project to introduce a water supply into the city. He was a trustee of the Industrial School for Girls in Middletown, served on a special commission to construct a new state prison, and was a member of the commission to provide for insane criminals in the state prison.

He was a member for two years of the First District school committee, a trustee of the Watkinson Farm School, and in 1845-47 was president of the Young Men's Institute. In the Natural History Society he was curator of comparative anatomy.

In addition to all this he was at one time president of the Union Manufacturing Company, and a director of the Aetna National Bank and of the Security Company.

He translated from the French, Esquirol's treatise on insanity with notes of his own, published by Lea & Blanchard of Philadelphia in 1845, and in 1858 he wrote a biographical sketch of Dr. Amariah Brigham, a 123-page pamphlet.

He lived at 16 Prospect Street, halfway between Arch and Wadsworth Alley, across the street from the David Watkinson house. At his death he was survived by his wife Mary Crosby Hunt and two daughters. J. Hammond Trumbull succeeded him on the Watkinson board of trustees.

William Russell Cone

William R. Cone, the next to the last charter trustee and the third president of the board, died the following year on January 10, 1890.

He was born in East Haddam in 1810, attended the Hopkins Grammar School, and was a graduate of Yale in the class of 1830, along with Henry Barnard. He attended Yale Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1832. With William Hungerford, also a native of East Haddam, he established a partnership which became the largest, most important and remunerative law practice in Connecticut, and they were credited with inaugurating the rebuilding of Hartford. The Trust Company building on the corner of Main and Central Row was "Hungerford & Cone's block" and, built in 1857, was considered the finest structure in Hartford. In 1860 Cone retired from active practice though he retained his partnership. Hungerford died in 1873.

William Cone was president of the Retreat for the Insane, president of the Wadsworth Athenaeum from 1884 to his death and of the Watkinson Library from 1875. He was interested in the plan for the free public library and was one of the early subscribers for a "handsome amount." He was a member of the Centre Church.

His wife was Rebecca D. Brewster, a direct descendant of Elder William Brewster, and his son was James B. Cone, a member of the Watkinson Library board of trustees and its secretary from 1886 to 1918. William Cone lived at 137 Washington Street, about opposite Russ Street, then one of the beautiful tree-lined residential avenues of the city. Lucius F. Robinson succeeded him as a member of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library and Nathaniel Shipman was elected on March 26, 1890 to succeed him as president of the board.

These were the board changes that occurred during J. Hammond Trumbull's tenure as librarian of the Watkinson. There were left one charter member, Henry Barnard who died in 1900, and one trustee holding office at the time the library opened in 1866, Roland Mather who had succeeded William L. Storrs in 1862.

Roland Mather

Roland Mather died on May 10, 1897. He was born in Westfield, Massachusetts on May 31, 1809, and came to Hartford in 1828. He became a member of Edmund G. Howe's firm of commission merchants for imported and fancy goods as well as domestic cottons and woollens, under the name of Howe, Mather & Co., of which Junius S. Morgan was a partner at one time. Mather retired in 1851 but continued his interests in many other directions.

He was commander of the Governor's Foot Guard in 1838-40, was at one time a councilman from the First Ward and was on the ways and means steering committee of the Common Council.

He was a great financial benefactor of many institutions, including the Young Men's Institute to which he gave ten thousand dollars at one point to help meet deficits in current expenses as well as other funds, and the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, under the Reverend J. H. Twichell, to which he contributed twenty thousand dollars for the stone spire of the new building. He lived at 10 Myrtle Street next door to Alfred Gill. He was succeeded by James J. Goodwin.

Henry Barnard

The death of Henry Barnard on July 5, 1900 signalled the end of the original group of trustees as well as the end of the century. Born January 24, 1811, a member of the class of 1830 at Yale, he was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1835, and elected to the state legislature in 1837 where he spent three years. There he began his reform of education by introducing a bill that founded the education system of Connecticut. He spent most of the rest of his life in furthering every cause to improve education.

He was born and died in the comfortable brick house at 28 Main Street on the South Green now owned by the Sisters of the Holy Ghost.

Between graduation from college and his term of office in the General Assembly he spent much time in reading, in travel around the United

States and in Europe, studying school systems and social conditions wherever he went.

He was first commissioner of education in Connecticut, in Rhode Island, and of the United States in 1867-70. He was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin in 1859-60, and president of St. John's College at Annapolis, Maryland in 1866. Between 1855 and 1881 he edited the *American Journal of Education* in thirty-one volumes, an encyclopedia of education.

He was a founder of the reconstituted Connecticut Historical Society in 1839, and its president from 1855 to 1860, a trustee of the Wadsworth Atheneum, a founder of the Young Men's Institute and the adviser of David Watkinson in establishing the Watkinson Library.

His achievements in the field of education are too numerous to mention here but one of his acts was to write in 1853 the *Report of the Commissioner of the School Fund* to the State Legislature which resulted in establishment of a school fund for the State from the \$1,200,000 paid for the eight northern counties of Ohio awarded in settlement of Connecticut's claims to the Western Reserve.

On the board of trustees of the Watkinson Library he was succeeded by Henry Ferguson.

The trustees who served through Frank B. Gay's tenure included Charles D. Warner through Richard Potter.

Charles Dudley Warner

Charles Dudley Warner, born in Plainfield, Massachusetts on September 12, 1829, was a graduate of Hamilton College. He was a lawyer, writer, traveler, editor of *Warner's Library of the World's Best Literature*, and of the *American Men of Letters* series, co-author with Mark Twain of *The Gilded Age*, part owner of the *Hartford Courant* and a contributor to the editorial department of *Harpers Monthly Magazine*. On the Watkinson Library board of trustees he succeeded J. Hammond Trumbull at his death on August 5, 1897 but died himself only three years later on October 20, 1900. William Russell Cone Corson, nephew of James Brewster Cone

and grandson of William R. Cone, took his place.

Rowland Swift

Rowland Swift, who on October 3, 1868 was elected to succeed Thomas H. Seymour as a trustee, was born in Mansfield, Connecticut on February 22, 1834. He was Watkinson treasurer, from the time of George Bartholomew's resignation from the board in September 1886, until his death. Swift was president of the American National Bank from 1871 until he died on June 13, 1902. He was succeeded on the Watkinson board by Henry S. Robinson.

Jacob Lyman Greene

Colonel Jacob L. Greene, born in Waterford, Maine on August 9, 1837, studied law in 1857-58 at the University of Michigan which had recently opened. After distinguished service in the Union Army he came to Hartford in 1870. He became president of the Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company in 1878. He replaced George M. Bartholomew on the Watkinson board and at his death on March 29, 1905 was followed by Dr. Melancthon W. Jacobus.

Henry Ferguson

The Reverend Henry Ferguson, a Professor of History and Political Science at Trinity College from 1883 to 1906, was elected to the Watkinson Library board of trustees on December 15, 1900 to replace Henry Barnard who had died on July 5 of that year. Born in Stamford, Connecticut, April 18, 1848, he attended Trinity College and received a B.A. there in 1868, an M.A. in 1875, and an LL.D. degree in 1900. Henry Ferguson resigned from the Watkinson board in 1906 when he took a position elsewhere. But his place was not filled until 1924 when the vacancy was discovered and Charles P. Cooley was elected as his successor.

Nathaniel Shipman

Nathaniel Shipman, born in Southbury, Connecticut, August 22, 1828, studied at Plainfield Academy and was a member of the class of 1848 at Yale. He read law for a year in the office of

Judge Thomas B. Osborne of Fairfield, then studied at Yale Law School. He was admitted to the bar in Hartford, served in the General Assembly in 1857, and from 1858 to 1862 was executive secretary to Governor Buckingham. In 1875 he was appointed Judge of the United States District Court and in 1892 to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, where he served until 1902. Yale conferred on him an LL.D. degree in 1884. He was elected to the Watkinson board on April 8, 1876, and succeeded William R. Cone in the presidency on March 26, 1890. Judge Shipman died on June 26, 1906. His place on the Watkinson board was filled by the Reverend James Goodwin.

James Junius Goodwin

James J. Goodwin, brother of the Reverend Francis Goodwin, a Watkinson trustee elected earlier to the board, was born in Hartford on September 16, 1835 and in 1851 started out in business there. He later spent over a year in study and travel abroad, and in 1861 became a partner of his cousin J. Pierpont Morgan in the New York branch of the London bank of Morgan's father, Junius S. Morgan. After 1878 he spent much of his time with his brother in managing their father's estate in Hartford. He succeeded Roland Mather on the Watkinson board in 1897 and at his death on June 23, 1915 was followed by Judge Samuel O. Prentice who had been serving as president of the Watkinson trustees since 1906 by virtue of his ex officio membership as president of the Hartford Public Library. A son of James J. Goodwin was later to serve on the board, James L. Goodwin.

James Goodwin

The Reverend James Goodwin, born in Middletown, Connecticut on February 10, 1865, graduated with honors and as class poet from Trinity College in 1886. He studied in Paris for a year, entered the General Theological Seminary, and was ordained a deacon in Trinity Church in Middletown by the Right Reverend John Williams, Bishop of Connecticut. Dr. Goodwin served in pastorates in New York City and in churches in

New Hampshire until he became rector of Christ Church in Hartford in 1902. He was elected to the Watkinson Library board in 1906 to replace Judge Nathaniel Shipman. He died on January 3, 1916 and Francis Parsons that same year was elected to fill his place.

Austin Cornelius Dunham

Austin C. Dunham, who in 1876 replaced George Brinley on the board of trustees a year after the latter's death, was born in Coventry, Connecticut on June 10, 1833. He succeeded his father, Austin Dunham, in various offices in many of the large corporations in Hartford. His principal business was as senior partner in Austin Dunham's Sons, manufacturers of worsted yarns and hosiery. He died on March 17, 1918 and was succeeded on the Watkinson board by Samuel P. Avery.

James Brewster Cone

James B. Cone, the son of William Russell Cone, former president of the Watkinson board of trustees, was born in Hartford on January 6, 1836. He was a Yale graduate of the class of 1857. He traveled and studied abroad for a number of years and in 1859 was American vice-consul at Lyons. Returning to Hartford in 1862 Cone entered business, then for about twenty years worked in various New York firms. After 1883 he managed the family estate in Hartford, and was elected in December 1886 to the Watkinson board to replace Edward B. Watkinson, two years after the latter's death in March 1884. James Cone was secretary of the board from 1886 until his death on March 20, 1918. Archibald A. Welch took his place as trustee.

Theodore Lyman

Theodore Lyman, successor to Dr. James C. Jackson on the board two years after the latter's death, was born in Hartford on January 4, 1834. A graduate of Yale in 1855 he studied law and was admitted to practice in 1859. He specialized in the law of real property and was active also in real estate. He died on August 12, 1920, and Morgan B. Brainard was his successor on the Watkinson board.

Samuel Putnam Avery

Samuel P. Avery, born in 1847, was the eldest son of the art connoisseur, collector and appraiser who was one of the founders of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The son was also a collector of art, and the benefactor who made possible the Avery Memorial building of the Wadsworth Atheneum. He died on September 25, 1920. Henry A. Perkins succeeded him on the board.

Francis Goodwin

The Reverend Francis Goodwin replaced James Dixon on the board but three years elapsed between Dixon's death and Goodwin's election on April 8, 1876. Born on September 25, 1839, he went into business for a few years as a youth with Howe, Mather and Company, then entered the ministry and was ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal church. He served in several Hartford churches, and was the first archdeacon of Hartford. But in later years he was associated principally with business and financial, as well as philanthropic and civic, activities. James Junius Goodwin and Charles A. Goodwin were his sons, both members of the Watkinson Library board of trustees. Francis Goodwin died on October 5, 1923, succeeded as trustee by Charles A. Goodwin.

Samuel Oscar Prentice

Samuel O. Prentice, president of the Watkinson Library board from 1906 to 1924, was born in North Stonington, Connecticut, August 8, 1850. He attended Norwich Free Academy in the class of 1869, and graduated from Yale in 1873. He stayed on at Yale Law School and while there taught at the Hopkins Grammar School. After graduation with a law degree in 1875 he entered the law office of Chamberlain, Hall and White in Hartford, but shortly went into partnership with Elisha Johnson. In 1889 he was appointed to an eight year term on the Superior Court bench by Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley, and reappointed to another term by Governor Lorin A. Cooke. In January 1889 he was appointed executive secretary to Governor Bulkeley. In

1901 he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Errors, and in 1913 became Chief Justice until his retirement in 1920 at the age of seventy. He died on November 2, 1924, and was succeeded on the Watkinson board by Edward M. Day.

Henry Seymour Robinson

Henry S. Robinson was elected in 1902 to replace Rowland Swift who died that year. He was born in Hartford on April 16, 1868 and graduated from Yale in 1889. He studied in his father's law office of Robinson and Robinson in 1889-91 when he was admitted to the bar, and was taken into the firm. But he later joined the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company and became its president in 1918. After his death on March 3, 1926, the Reverend Warren S. Archibald was elected his successor but not until December 1927.

Charles Hopkins Clark

Charles Hopkins Clark, son of Ezra Clark, Jr. whose father was David Watkinson's business partner, was born on April 1, 1848 in Hartford. A graduate of Yale in 1871, he joined the staff of the *Hartford Courant* first as a reporter, later becoming editor-in-chief, and then president of the Hartford Courant Company. He was a director of the Associated Press from 1910 until his death. He succeeded his uncle, George Hunt Clark, on the Watkinson board of trustees in 1883. From 1884 to 1886 he served as secretary, then as treasurer of the board from 1902 to 1925. He died on September 5, 1926 and a year later Richard M. G. Potter was elected to succeed him.

Richard M. G. Potter

Richard M. G. Potter, born on November 17, 1899, graduated from Union College in 1921 after his studies were interrupted by war service. He attended the Harvard School of Business Administration, graduating in 1922, and was an investment counselor in Hartford. Elected to the board of the Watkinson on December 14, 1927 he shortly thereafter moved to Boston but was persuaded to remain a trustee, with the prospect of attending board meetings. On December 18, 1929 he resigned, however, as active service had proved

to be impractical. He died on April 7, 1941. Spencer T. Mitchell was elected in 1931 to fill his place on the board of the Watkinson Library.

The trustees whose service ended during Ruth Kerr's era included those who had died, and those who resigned at the time of the move to Trinity College.

Archibald Ashley Welch

Archibald A. Welch, born in Hartford on October 6, 1859 was a graduate of Yale in 1882. He became president of the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company and for a time lectured on insurance at Yale. He was elected a member of the Watkinson Library board on December 10, 1918 and served until his death on May 8, 1935. He was succeeded by James Lee Loomis.

Mayor of Hartford

In 1936 the board voted to terminate the ex officio membership on the board of the Mayor of Hartford. The incumbent had been a member since 1883, when the charter amendment had first been implemented. But in later years he had seldom attended meetings, and since the library received no financial support from the city, there seemed to be no reason for continuing the position. Edgar F. Waterman was elected to fill the post in 1938.

Melancthon Williams Jacobus

Melancthon W. Jacobus was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1855. In 1873 he entered Princeton University, then called the College of New Jersey, and graduated with honors in 1877. From 1878 to 1881 he studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, and for the next three years studied abroad at Göttingen and Berlin. In 1884 he became pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Oxford, Pennsylvania, remaining there until he accepted a position as Hosmer Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Criticism at the Hartford Theological Seminary. He was offered the presidency there but preferred the office of dean of the faculty which he retained until his retirement in 1928. He was awarded the

honorary degree of D.D. by Lafayette College in 1892, and by Yale in 1910.

Dr. Jacobus became president of the Watkinson board on November 13, 1924. He was responsible not only for the gift of many handsome books to the Watkinson Library and for contributions in funds as occasion demanded, but also saw to needed supplies. In 1931 he gave to the library a gift bookplate designed by his son, Melancthon W. Jacobus, Jr., in two versions. And in 1934 he ordered five thousand bookplates then needed by the library. In 1935 he resigned from the presidency of the Watkinson board, and he died on October 31, 1937. Arthur Adams, librarian at Trinity College, succeeded him.

Francis Parsons

Francis Parsons, born in Hartford, Connecticut, January 13, 1871 graduated from Yale in 1893 and attended law school there from 1895-97. Although admitted to the bar, most of his business life was spent in trust companies which through various mergers became the Hartford National Bank and Trust Company, of which he was vice-chairman at the time of his retirement in 1934. In 1917 he was elected to the Watkinson board to replace the Reverend James Goodwin. The following year he was named assistant secretary. When M. W. Jacobus became president in 1924, Francis Parsons was elected vice-president and through much of the next ten years when Dr. Jacobus was so often ill, he gave a great deal of time and thought to the problems posed by the deteriorating condition of the library. He combined a precise business sense with clarity of literary style and wrote and published several books, pamphlets and articles, mostly on historical subjects.

Although in ill health he agreed to become president of the board for the year 1935-36. He died on December 30, 1937 and was succeeded on the board by his son John C. Parsons.

Spencer Trask Mitchell

Spencer T. Mitchell, born in Brooklyn, New York on November 4, 1888, was the son of the distinguished theologian, Professor Edwin K. Mit-

chell, of the faculty of the Hartford Theological Seminary Foundation. The son graduated from Princeton in 1910 and joined the Spencer Trask Company, New York investment bankers. He later came to Hartford and became treasurer of the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company. He was elected to the board of the Watkinson Library on June 2, 1931, and became its treasurer on December 8, 1931. He was one of the most effective members to serve in that post and under him a more active management of investments was undertaken. He died at the untimely age of fifty, on February 23, 1939, and was succeeded by Earle E. Dimon, both on the board and as treasurer.

Charles Parsons Cooley

Charles P. Cooley, born in Hartford on February 25, 1867, graduated from Yale in 1891. He engaged in banking from 1896, and was chairman of the board of the Society for Savings. He was elected a Watkinson Library trustee on December 15, 1924 and contributed not only time but money for books and other expenses. He resigned from the board on December 4, 1940 and was succeeded by Wilmarth S. Lewis. He died on January 18, 1954.

Lucius F. Robinson

Lucius F. Robinson, born in Hartford on June 12, 1863, was a Yale graduate of the class of 1885. He entered law practice in his father's firm and at his death was senior partner in the firm of Robinson, Robinson and Cole. He was elected a member of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library in 1890 to replace William R. Cone, and at his own death on June 11, 1941 was succeeded by his son, Lucius F. Robinson, Jr.

William Russell Cone Corson

William R. C. Corson, grandson of William R. Cone, third president of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library, and nephew of James B. Cone, long secretary of the board, was elected a member of the board on December 15, 1900 to replace Charles Dudley Warner. Corson was born in New York, February 18, 1870, but grew up in

Hartford and graduated from Yale in 1891. He became a consulting engineer, later joined the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company and worked his way up to the presidency by 1927. He was elected assistant secretary of the Watkinson board in 1906 and secretary in 1918, which he held until he asked to be relieved of that post in 1938. He died on October 2, 1945. James T. Babb, librarian of Yale University, was elected to fill his place.

Warren Seymour Archibald

Warren S. Archibald, pastor of the South Congregational Church in Hartford from 1917 to his death on May 16, 1945, was born in Boston, Massachusetts on June 17, 1880. He graduated from Harvard in 1903, magna cum laude after three years study. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1908. Trinity conferred on him an honorary D.D. in 1943. He was elected a trustee of the Watkinson Library on December 14, 1927. Francis Watkinson Cole succeeded him on the Watkinson board in 1946.

Edward Marvin Day

Edward M. Day, born in Colchester, Connecticut, on August 20, 1872, graduated from Yale with a B.A. in 1894, and with a law degree in 1896. Shortly after graduation he was a representative to the state legislature from Colchester for two years, and executive secretary to Governor Henry Roberts for a year. He became a member of the Hartford law firm of Day, Berry and Howard, which later was to represent the Watkinson Library at its legal transfer to Trinity College. He was elected a trustee of the Watkinson on December 15, 1924, and died May 2, 1947. He was succeeded by Lawrence A. Howard, his law partner. Part of his estate was left to the Watkinson Library subject to a life interest.

Henry Augustus Perkins

Henry A. Perkins, professor of physics at Trinity College from 1892 until his retirement in 1942, was born on Prospect Street in Hartford on November 14, 1873. He was a Yale graduate in

1896, and won a degree in electrical engineering from Columbia University in 1899. He studied also at the Sorbonne and the College de France in Paris, and was given an Sc.D. degree by Trinity in 1920. He was acting president of the college in 1915-16 and again in 1919-20. After his retirement he returned to assist with the Navy V-12 program at Trinity from 1943-46. He was elected to the Watkinson board on December 14, 1920. He resigned his elected membership on March 3, 1948 in order to make a place on the board for H. Bacon Collamore, but remained an ex officio member as president of the Hartford Public Library board of directors. He died on July 15, 1959.

Edgar Francis Waterman

Edgar F. Waterman, long an active president of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library, was born in Tarrytown, New York, on December 16, 1875. He graduated from Trinity College in 1898, from which he won a Master's degree in 1901, and he was awarded an LL.B. degree from Columbia University School of Law the same year. He practiced law in New York City until he came to Trinity College as assistant treasurer in 1903, and then served as treasurer from 1906 to 1929. As president of the Connecticut Historical Society he was ex officio on the Watkinson board from 1933 and became Watkinson president in 1936 although he was not an elected trustee until March 3, 1938. He resigned from the Watkinson Library board on September 24, 1952, and Dr. Jerome P. Webster took his place in 1954. John C. Parsons followed him as president.

Morgan Bulkeley Brainard

Morgan B. Brainard, born in Hartford on January 8, 1879, was a Yale graduate in 1900, and earned an LL.B. degree in 1903. He won honorary degrees of M.A. from Trinity in 1932, LL.D. from Bryant College in 1953 and from Wesleyan University in 1954. He became chairman of the board of the Aetna Life Insurance Company. He was elected a Watkinson trustee on December 14, 1920 and resigned on March 12, 1953. He died in August 1957. Lyman Brainerd took his place.

Earle E. Dimon

Earle E. Dimon was born on May 16, 1879. He was self-educated, never having finished high school. But he became an investment counselor and when elected a trustee of the Watkinson on April 13, 1939 he was made treasurer of the board. On September 24, 1952 he resigned because of ill health and he died on November 13, 1955. He was replaced on the board by Karl W. Hallden.

Charles Archibald Goodwin

Charles A. Goodwin, born in Hartford on November 18, 1876, a son of the Reverend Francis Goodwin, a former Watkinson trustee, graduated from Yale in 1898 and from Harvard Law School in 1901. He was senior partner in the law firm of Shipman and Goodwin. He was elected to the Watkinson Library board on December 17, 1923, and resigned on March 12, 1953. But most of that time he was simultaneously an ex officio member as president of the Wadsworth Atheneum from 1926 to 1954. He died on October 7, 1954. His place on the Watkinson board was taken by James L. Goodwin.

James Lee Loomis

James L. Loomis, born in Granby, Connecticut on November 3, 1878, attended the New York Military Academy at Cornwall-on-Hudson, then graduated from Yale in 1901. He earned a law degree there in 1903 and later was awarded an LL.D. by Union College. He became chairman of the board of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company. He was elected a trustee of the Watkinson Library on December 3, 1935 and resigned on March 12, 1953. He was succeeded by Allerton C. Hickmott in 1954.

Arthur Adams

Arthur Adams, born in Pleasantville, New Jersey on May 12, 1881, graduated from Rutgers University in 1902. He received an M.A. from Yale in 1903 and a Ph.D. in 1905. He came to Trinity College in 1906 as a professor of English and became librarian in 1915, in addition to his teaching duties. Meantime Adams studied at Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown, Connecticut, re-

ceiving a B.D. degree in 1910. He was ordained a priest of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1909. He was elected to the Watkinson board on December 1, 1937, became secretary on December 7, 1938 and served in that capacity until his death on June 21, 1960. Donald B. Engley was elected to succeed him, both on the board and as secretary.

Lawrence A. Howard

Lawrence A. Howard, born in Hartford, October 15, 1881, graduated from Yale in 1903, and from Yale Law School in 1906. A partner in the law firm of Day, Berry and Howard, he guided the transfer of the Watkinson Library to Trinity College through the Superior Court. He was elected a Watkinson trustee on June 4, 1947 and served on the board until his death on September 8, 1960. Trinity awarded him an LL.D. degree in 1951. He was replaced on the board of the Watkinson Library by Bernhard Knollenberg.

Current Trustees

The trustees serving in 1966 included John C. Parsons, a partner in the law firm of Robinson, Robinson and Cole; Wilmarth S. Lewis, author and editor; Lucius F. Robinson, Jr., a partner in the Robinson, Robinson and Cole law firm; Francis Watkinson Cole, a member of that same firm; James T. Babb, former librarian of Yale University and before that an investment banker; H. Bacon Collamore, retired executive vice-president of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, and currently chairman of the board of the Pittsburgh Steel Company; Lyman Brainerd, president of the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company; James L. Goodwin, conservationist and retired trustee of Trinity College; Karl W. Hallden, inventor, and owner of the Hallden Machine Company in Thomaston; Jerome P. Webster, eminent surgeon in New York City; Allerton C. Hickmott, retired vice-president of the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company; Donald B. Engley, librarian of Trinity College; and Bernhard Knollenberg, historian, and former librarian of Yale University preceding the tenure of James T. Babb.

Watkinson Library Documents

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST WILL OF DAVID WATKINSON

CODICIL NO. 11.

ARTICLE XII. I do also give and bequeath to my Executors, in trust, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, (\$100,000) to be by them paid over to Alfred Smith, James B. Hosmer, William L. Storrs, Robert Watkinson, Henry Barnard second, William R. Cone, James Dixon, George Brinley Jr., and Thomas H. Seymour, or such of them as shall be living at the time of my decease, together with the Governor of this State, the President of the Connecticut Historical Society, the President of Wadsworth Athenaeum, and the President of the Young Men's Institute, the last four for the time being, and ex officio. The above named persons, and the survivors and successors of them, together with such Governor, and Presidents of said Society, Athenaeum and Institute, for the time being, are to be a Board of Trustees, for the purpose and with the power of receiving, investing, managing, and from time to time appropriating and applying as herein directed.

All monies given or bequeathed to them in this Codicil, in accordance with the directions herein given, and particularly for the purpose of establishing in connection with the Connecticut Historical Society a Library of Reference, to be accessible at all reasonable hours and times to all citizens and other residents and visitors in the State of Connecticut, under such control, rules and regulations, as in the judgment of said Trustees, and of their successors, as will best secure the preservation of the books composing such Library, and comport with the general convenience,

and also for the other purposes hereinafter specified, and with power to fill any vacancy in their number, whether caused by death, resignation, incapacity, or removal out of the State. And my will is that as soon after my decease as can reasonably be done, said Trustees do become incorporated under an Act of the General Assembly, or due authority of law, in order to carry out the objects of this bequest as a Corporation, which Corporation shall receive the proceeds of said bequest, and manage and use the same in accordance with my directions in this Codicil.

ARTICLE XIII. The trusts for and upon which the aforesaid property, rights and interest are to be conveyed to said Trustees, and the uses and purposes to which the same shall be devoted, and to which the income thereof shall be applied, are the following:

First. A principal sum of five thousand dollars, (\$5,000) together with the accumulating interest thereon, to aid the Connecticut Historical Society in extending their division of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, or in adding to the rooms of said Society, or otherwise enlarging their accommodations, for said Library of Reference in convenient connexion with the books, manuscripts, and collections of said Historical Society, the plan of such addition, extension, or enlargement of accommodations, being first approved by the Trustees. And should the whole of such principal sum and accumulated interest not be required for building and fitting up such extension, addition or enlargement, then the bal-

ance shall constitute a fund to be called the Building Fund, the income of which shall be applied in keeping the premises in proper repair.

Second. A principal sum of fifteen thousand dollars, (\$15,000) shall be set apart, out of said sum of one hundred thousand dollars, as a Librarian Fund, the income only of which shall be applied to pay the salary of a Librarian, who shall be appointed by the Connecticut Historical Society, with the approval of my Trustees and their successors, and of such assistants as shall be needed, provided said Society shall cause or procure to be set apart a like principal sum of fifteen thousand dollars, the income of both which sums, or so much thereof as shall be needful, shall be applied to pay the salary of such Librarian, and the services of such assistants, or, if such Historical Society, instead of procuring said like sum of fifteen thousand dollars as above, shall appropriate and cause to be paid an annual sum of not less than one thousand dollars, (\$1,000) to be added to the annual income of the first named fifteen thousand dollars set apart as above out of this my bequest, then and in that case both said annual income and said annual one thousand dollars, or so much thereof as shall be needful, shall be applied to the salary and payment of such Librarian and assistants. Should the whole annual income and annual amount above prescribed not be required for the salary and payment of such Librarian and assistants, the surplus may be expended in publishing a Catalogue, an Annual Report, and other Collections by the Library of Reference and the said Historical Society.

Third. A principal sum of two thousand dollars, (\$2,000) and the accumulating interest thereon, shall be devoted to, and from time to time expended for, the purchase of models, casts, and specimens of art, to be donated to Wadsworth Athenaeum, and placed in their Statuary Room.

Fourth. The residue of said sum of one hundred thousand dollars, (\$100,000) or of any other portion of my estate which may become payable and to be paid to the Trustees named in Article XII. of this Codicil, shall constitute a Library Fund, the income of which only shall always be applied to the following objects:

1. A yearly sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, (\$500) in any one year, may be appropriated and applied by said Trustees to the pur-

chase of books for circulation, and be donated to the Library of the Hartford Young Men's Institute, or to some other Library of similar character in the City of Hartford, at the discretion of said Trustees, their successors &c., provided a sum equal to that appropriated by, and paid out of, this bequest, shall be applied during the same year by the Library receiving the same, to the purchase of other books, approved by the Trustees, or a committee by them appointed.

2. A yearly sum, not exceeding five hundred dollars, (\$500) in any one year, may be applied by said Trustees to or toward the purchase of some work or works of art for, and donated to, the Wadsworth Athenaeum, provided a further sum equal to that applied out of this bequest shall in the same year be appropriated by the Wadsworth Athenaeum for the same or similar purposes.

3. The residue of the net annual income of the Library Fund shall be applied to the purchase of books for a Library of Reference, (and not of circulation,) to be kept in rooms of, or in convenient connection with, the Connecticut Historical Society, for consultation, but not to be removed therefrom except on the written permission of the Trustees, designated in Article XII. of this Codicil, or their successors.

ARTICLE XIV. The following conditions are to be observed in relation to the investment, management and account of the Library Funds hereby instituted.

1. All monies received as principal are to be invested as speedily as may be consistent with safety, in permanent securities.

2. All permanent investments are to be made in bonds and mortgages, on unincumbered real estate, of twice the value of the amount loaned, or in stocks of the United States, or of the State of New York, or of Massachusetts, or Connecticut, or in the bonds or stocks of the City of Hartford or of New Haven, or New York, or Boston, or in such other securities as shall be authorized by the Judge of Probate for the Probate District of Hartford.

3. The securities which may be conveyed to the Trustees, and all investments and change of investments, all payments of principal and interest, and all expenditures on account of this trust, shall be entered in a book or books, in which shall also be entered a printed copy of this

portion of my Will, together with a printed copy of any act of incorporation under which said Trustees shall become organized, and of the by-laws which may from time to time be adopted by the Trustees or their successors, for their government. An annual report of the condition of

the Fund and Library shall be published for the information of the public. And a catalogue shall be prepared and published from time to time, to make the contents of the Library available to persons resorting thereto.

CODICIL NO. 12, EXECUTED OCT. 17, 1855.

ARTICLE V. After paying in full all my bequests aforesaid, if a surplus or residuum of my estate should still remain, my Will is, to have one-half of such surplus paid over to my Trustees, designated in Article twelve of my eleventh Codicil, for the purposes of said Library of Reference; and the other half of said surplus paid over to my Trustees designated in Article V. of the same eleventh Codicil, the latter half to be applied by them to any one or more of the several objects entrusted to the latter Trustees, and in such proportions among them as they shall think best. And I empower both or either of the Board of Trustees above referred to, to expend the whole or any part of the principal sum of this surplus, (if there be one,) for the objects intended, or to invest the same, or any part thereof, for future income for said objects, according to their judgment of what is best.

ARTICLE VII. If the Trustees designated in Article XII. of my eleventh Codicil, think it de-

sirable and expedient to acquire books for the Library of Reference, and to pay for them out of the principal sum of my bequest to them, I authorize them to use and expend for that purpose, any amount, not exceeding ten thousand dollars, or any larger sum, provided it shall not exceed in the whole, twenty per cent. of the principal sum which shall come to their possession or control from my bequest to them. But if contrary to my wish and expectation, the whole amount bequeathed to said Trustees shall prove to be less than one hundred thousand dollars, then the sums that may be expended for books out of the principal of such bequests are to be proportionally reduced.

ARTICLE VIII. I hereby add to the Trustees of the Library of Reference, designated in Article XII. of my eleventh Codicil, Ezra Clark senior, and Alfred Gill, James H. Wells, and Edward B. Watkinson and the President of Trinity College for the time being.

CODICIL NO. 15.

ARTICLE VII. I also appoint and add said (George M.) Bartholomew to be one of the Trustees for the Hartford Library of Reference.

AN ACT INCORPORATING THE TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY

(Passed at May Session 1858)

WHEREAS, the late David Watkinson, of Hartford, by his last will and testament, and codicils thereto, since duly proved and approved, created a board of trustees, consisting of Alfred Smith, James B. Hosmer, William L. Storrs, Robert Watkinson, Henry Barnard 2d, William R. Cone, James Dixon, George Brinley Jr., Thomas H. Seymour, Ezra Clark Sen., Alfred Gill, James H. Wells, Edward B. Watkinson, and George M. Bartholomew, or such of them as should be living

at the time of his decease, together with the Governor of the state, the President of the Connecticut Historical Society, the President of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the President of the Hartford Young Men's Institute, and the President of Trinity College, the last five for the time being, and ex-officio; which persons above named, and the survivors and successors of them, together with such Governor and Presidents, were by said will and codicils created and declared to be a

board of trustees, for the purpose and with the power of receiving, investing, managing, and from time to time appropriating and applying as therein directed, all moneys given or bequeathed to them in said will and codicils, in accordance with the directions therein given, particularly for the purpose of establishing, in connection with the Connecticut Historical Society, a library of reference, to be accessible, at all reasonable hours and times, to all citizens and other residents and visitors in the state of Connecticut, under such control, rules and regulations as in the judgment of said trustees and their successors will best secure the preservation of the books composing said library, and comport with the general convenience; and also for purposes therein after specified; and with powers to fill any vacancy in their number, whether caused by death, resignation, incapacity or removal out of the state; also in the same codicil directing, that as soon as after his the said testator's decease as can reasonably be done, said trustees do become incorporated, under an act of the General Assembly, or due authority of law, in order to carry out the objects of said bequest, and to manage and use the same in accordance with his directions in said codicil.

AND WHEREAS, by several of the codicils relating to said library of reference, said Watkinson bequeathed to his executors in trust for said trustees, a sum or sums of money, the amount of which cannot be determined or ascertained, until a sale of said testator's property and a settlement of his estate shall be duly made, and also gave sundry directions or permissions to the trustees to apply the sums bequeathed, to the objects of enlarging the accommodations of the said Historical Society, or adding to their rooms, for said library of reference; of a librarian fund; of purchasing models, casts, and specimens of art, to be donated to the Wadsworth Athenaeum; of purchasing to a limited amount, out of the principal sum of said bequest, books for said library of reference; and of constituting a library fund, the income of which only to be applied for the purposes specified in said codicil or codicils; together with sundry directions therein as to making investments, keeping account of payments and expenditures, publishing an annual report for the information of the public, and preparing and publishing, from time to time, a catalogue of said

library, and other provisions, as set forth in said will and codicils, or any of them, a printed copy whereof is here present, to be kept on file in the office of the secretary of state, to which reference may and is to be had; therefore,

RESOLVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY: — 1st. That Alfred Smith, James B. Hosmer, William L. Storrs, Robert Watkinson, Henry Barnard 2d, William R. Cone, James Dixon, George Brinley, (late junior,) Thomas H. Seymour, Ezra Clark Sen., Alfred Gill, Edward B. Watkinson and George M. Bartholomew, being the survivors of the persons individually named as trustees in said will and codicils, together with the Governor of Connecticut, the President of the Connecticut Historical Society, the President of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the President of the Hartford Young Men's Institute, and the President of Trinity College, the last five for the time being, and ex-officio, and their successors in said trust, be, and they hereby are created and constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the "TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY," by which name they may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with, have, use, and at pleasure alter a common seal, be known in all courts and other places, and do all acts and things proper to such trustees.

2d. Said trustees shall and may receive from the executors of said will and the codicils to the same, all such moneys or other things bequeathed to or intended for said trustees by the testator, or as shall be donated to them by others; shall hold, invest, manage, apply and appropriate, all such moneys or other things; shall keep accounts, publish reports or statements, fill vacancies, make rules, regulations and by-laws, and do all other lawful acts and things necessary or expedient to carry out the objects of said bequest, in accordance with the true intent and meaning of said testator.

Said trustees shall have power to choose a president, a secretary or secretaries, a treasurer, and such other officers as they shall find necessary or expedient; to unite with the said Historical Society in providing rooms for the library of reference and appointing a librarian, and in all other things necessary or expedient, and all in accordance with the will, codicils and intention of said testator; also, to determine the times and places of all stated or special meetings of said

trustees, and the notice that shall be given of holding the same, and in general to determine, by votes or by-laws, all matters relative to the mode and manner of carrying out the intentions of said testator, in accordance with said will and codicils.

3d. The funds, property and estate which may be granted to or held by said corporation for the uses above specified, shall with the income thereof, be exempt from taxation.

4th. This act may be altered, amended or repealed at the pleasure of the General Assembly.

BY-LAWS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY

ADOPTED DECEMBER, 1858.

1. MEETINGS.

1. The annual meeting of the Trustees shall be held on the first Tuesday in December for the choice of officers and the transaction of other business; and thereafter during the ensuing year the Trustees shall meet on the first Tuesday in March, the first Tuesday in June and the last Tuesday in September, for the purpose of considering the affairs of the Library and of transacting any other business proper to come before its meetings. *Amendment of December 6, 1932.*

2. Special meetings shall be called by the President at his option, or at the written request of two Trustees; or in his absence, or inability to act, by the Secretary, upon the like request.

3. Written or printed notice of every meeting shall be given to each Trustee by the Secretary, by addressing the same to each through the post-office at Hartford, at least three days before such meetings.

4. All meetings shall be held at the office of the Trustees, unless otherwise specially directed by the President.

5. Five Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but any smaller number may adjourn. *Amendment of December 11, 1866.*

6. The yeas and nays upon any vote shall be recorded, upon the request of any member.

2. OFFICERS.

1. The officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Secretary, and an Assistant Treasurer, a Finance Committee of three members, an Auditing Committee and a Library Committee to consist of the President and three others, all of whom shall be chosen by ballot at the Annual Meeting, who

shall hold their offices for one year, or until others are chosen in their places: PROVIDED, that if there be a vacancy, or if the annual meeting shall not take place, such officers may be chosen at a special meeting. *Amendment of December 11, 1906.*

2. The President shall preside at all meetings, preserve order therein, give the casting vote, and perform the other usual duties of that office. In the absence of the President, those present shall elect one of their number to preside over that meeting in his stead.

3. The Secretary shall notify all meetings of the Trustees, and keep a fair and full record of all proceedings therein.

4. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Trustees, and shall object, receive and have custody of all real estate, moneys and vouchers belonging to them and release and discharge any and all mortgages upon the payment of the same; shall pay no bills beyond current expenses, but such as shall have been audited by the Trustees, or a committee appointed for that purpose, and countersigned by the President, or a committee of the Trustees. He shall render a detailed account of the condition of the property in his charge at the annual meeting, and whenever required to do so by the Trustees. *Amendment of December 10, 1889.*

5. The Finance Committee, of which the Treasurer shall be one and be chairman, shall have the management and investment of the funds of the corporation. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee from time to time carefully to consider and examine the investments and funds of the corporation, to sell such securities as it may deem best, and to invest and reinvest the funds of the corporation in such amounts and in such securities as the committee shall consider for

the best interests of the corporation, subject, however, to any provisions of law affecting the same. No sale of any security and no investment of any of the funds of the corporation shall be made without the consent of a majority of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is hereby authorized to provide for the sale, transfer and delivery of any security and for said purpose shall have full authority to authorize the treasurer, or any other officer of the corporation, to execute such assignments, powers of attorney, or other instruments, as may be necessary in the premises. Said Committee shall report its doings to the Trustees at each meeting and shall cause to be submitted to the Judge of Probate for the Probate

District of Hartford, for his approval each year, a list of the investments of the corporation. *Amendment of June 2, 1931.*

3. VACANCIES.

Any vacancy occurring in the Trustees by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by ballot at a meeting specially called for that purpose or at a regular annual meeting. *Amendment of December 15, 1924.*

4. ANNUAL REPORT.

An annual report of the condition of the fund and library shall be published for the information of the public.

AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY

Resolved by this Assembly: The trustees of the Watkinson Library are authorized to fill any vacancy in their board by electing as one of said trustees the mayor of the city of Hartford, for the

time being, and *ex-officio*; anything in the charter of said trustees to the contrary notwithstanding. *Approved, March 8, 1882.*

AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

and adding to the property so transferred. *Approved May 23, 1949.*

HON. HOWARD W. ALCORN, Judge.

No. 85372

TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY, a corporation specially chartered by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut and located in Hartford,

and

THE TRUSTEES OF TRINITY COLLEGE, a corporation specially chartered by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut and located in Hartford

vs.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND REPRESENTATIVES AND CREDITORS OF DAVID WATKINSON, late of Hartford, deceased

SUPERIOR COURT
HARTFORD COUNTY
JUNE 12, 1950

The continued maintenance of the Watkinson Library in rooms of or in convenient connection with The Connecticut Historical Society having become impracticable, the corporation is hereby authorized, acting by a vote of a majority of its trustees, to merge with any corporation maintaining a public library within the limits of the town of Hartford, or to transfer its books and other property to Trinity College, in order to permit its library to be used and conducted in conjunction with the library of Trinity College, provided such merger or transfer shall be in conformity with the provisions of the will of David Watkinson as it may be interpreted by a court of competent jurisdiction. All legacies, devises and gifts made now or hereafter by will or deed to the Trustees of the Watkinson Library shall, in the event of a merger, be paid over to the resulting corporation, or in the event of a transfer to Trinity College, as herein provided, shall be paid over to Trinity College, to be used in caring for

AMENDED JUDGMENT

This action, by writ and complaint dated August 24, 1949, claiming authority to transfer the assets of the Plaintiff, Trustees of the Watkinson Library, to The Trustees of Trinity College in accordance with the agreement between the parties, Exhibit G, filed with the Complaint, as on file, came to this Court on the First Tuesday of September, 1949, and thence to September 7, 1949, when the Defendant, the Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, appeared, and thence to November 23, 1949, when said Defendant filed an Answer to the Complaint, and thence to February 8, 1950, when said Defendant filed a Substituted Answer to said Complaint admitting all the allegations thereof, and thence to the 23rd day of February, 1950, when the Defendants, the Representatives and Creditors of David Watkinson, late of Hartford, deceased, failed to appear and were defaulted, and the Court heard the Plaintiffs on the issues; and thence to the 28th day of March, 1950, when the Court heard further evidence, and thence to May 29, 1950, when the Plaintiffs filed a Motion to Amend a Judgment entered on April 17, 1950, and thence to June 12, 1950, when the Court heard further evidence.

The Court finds that service of said writ was duly made upon the Defendant, the Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, and that service was duly made upon the Defendants, the Representatives and Creditors of David Watkinson, by publication in The Hartford Times once a week for two successive weeks commencing on or before August 25, 1949, as appears by order and return on file, and that by said services, notice and appearances, all persons having an interest in this action have been made parties hereto.

Having heard the parties, the Court finds the allegations of the Complaint to be true.

Whereupon it is ADJUDGED that when The Trustees of Trinity College shall have provided space in a fireproof building in conjunction with its library adequate to accommodate the items comprising the Watkinson Library in a manner to make them readily available and accessible for reference; then and on that condition the Trustees of the Watkinson Library are authorized to take the necessary steps to transfer and convey its property and assets to The Trustees of Trinity College, pursuant to the agreement of June 9, 1949, (Exhibit G of said Complaint) to be thereafter administered by The Trustees of Trinity College under the designation of the "Watkinson Library" without commingling with other property or funds of The Trustees of Trinity College; the books, documents, manuscripts and other items of the Watkinson Library shall be maintained as a library of reference, for consultation, but shall not be removed therefrom except on the written permission of The Trustees of Trinity College and shall be accessible at all reasonable hours and times to all citizens and other residents and visitors in the State of Connecticut under such control, rules and regulations as in the judgment of The Trustees of Trinity College and of their successors will best secure the preservation of the books composing such library, and comport with the general convenience; and the investments and funds herein authorized to be transferred and conveyed shall be administered pursuant to paragraph fourth of Article XIII, and Article XIV of Codicil 11 of the will of David Watkinson (Exhibit A annexed to said Complaint).

HON. HOWARD W. ALCORN,
Judge.

Trustees

TRUSTEES IN ORDER OF ELECTION — CHARTER TRUSTEES IN ORDER NAMED

<i>Elected</i>	<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Died</i>
Dec. 14, 1858	Alfred Smith		Aug. 12, 1868
Dec. 14, 1858	James B. Hosmer		Sept. 25, 1878
Dec. 14, 1858	William L. Storrs		June 25, 1861
Dec. 14, 1858	Robert Watkinson		June 11, 1867
Dec. 14, 1858	Henry Barnard		July 5, 1900
Dec. 14, 1858	William R. Cone		Jan. 10, 1890
Dec. 14, 1858	James Dixon		Mar. 27, 1873
Dec. 14, 1858	George Brinley, Jr.		May 14, 1875
Dec. 14, 1858	Thomas H. Seymour		Sept. 3, 1868
Dec. 14, 1858	Governor, <i>Ex Officio</i>		
Dec. 14, 1858	President, Connecticut		
	Historical Society, <i>Ex Officio</i>		
Dec. 14, 1858	President, Wadsworth		
	Atheneum, <i>Ex Officio</i>		
Dec. 14, 1858	President, Young Men's		
	Institute, <i>Ex Officio</i>		
Dec. 14, 1858	Ezra Clark, Sr.	Fall of 1868	
Dec. 14, 1858	Alfred Gill	1863	
—	James H. Wells		Oct. 25, 1857
Dec. 14, 1858	Edward B. Watkinson		Mar. 21, 1884
Dec. 14, 1858	President, Trinity College,		
	<i>Ex Officio</i>		
Dec. 14, 1858	George M. Bartholomew	Sept. 27, 1886	
Feb. 17, 1862	Roland Mather		May 10, 1897
Feb. 21, 1863	Ebenezer K. Hunt		May 2, 1889
Oct. 1, 1867	Collins Stone		Dec. 23, 1870
Oct. 3, 1868	James C. Jackson		Feb. 7, 1881
Oct. 3, 1868	Rowland Swift		June 13, 1902
Oct. 3, 1868	George H. Clark		Aug. 20, 1881
Apr. 8, 1876	Nathaniel Shipman		June 26, 1906
Apr. 8, 1876	Francis Goodwin		Oct. 5, 1923
Apr. 8, 1876	Austin C. Dunham		Mar. 17, 1918
Apr. 16, 1883	Mayor, <i>Ex Officio</i>	[ceased] Dec. 30, 1936	

TRUSTEES

Apr. 16, 1883	Theodore Lyman		Aug. 12, 1920
Apr. 16, 1883	Charles H. Clark		Sept. 5, 1926
Dec. 14, 1886	James B. Cone		Mar. 20, 1918
Dec. 14, 1886	Jacob L. Greene		Mar. 29, 1905
Dec. 10, 1889	J. Hammond Trumbull		Aug. 5, 1897
Mar. 26, 1890	Lucius F. Robinson, Sr.		June 11, 1941
Dec. 18, 1897	James J. Goodwin		June 23, 1915
Dec. 18, 1897	Charles D. Warner		Oct. 20, 1900
Dec. 15, 1900	Henry Ferguson	Dec. 15, 1906	
Dec. 15, 1900	William R. C. Corson		Oct. 2, 1945
June 21, 1902	Henry S. Robinson		Mar. 3, 1926
Nov. 28, 1906	Melancthon W. Jacobus		Oct. 31, 1937
Nov. 28, 1906	James Goodwin		Jan. 3, 1917
Dec. 14, 1915	Samuel O. Prentice*		Nov. 2, 1924
Dec. 11, 1917	Francis Parsons		Dec. 30, 1937
Dec. 10, 1918	Archibald A. Welch		May 8, 1935
Dec. 10, 1918	Samuel P. Avery		Sept. 25, 1920
Dec. 14, 1920	Morgan B. Brainard	Mar. 12, 1953	
Dec. 14, 1920	Henry A. Perkins†	[Mar. 3, 1948]	July 15, 1959
Dec. 17, 1923	Charles A. Goodwin‡	[Mar. 12, 1953]	Oct. 7, 1954
Dec. 15, 1924	Charles P. Cooley	Dec. 4, 1940	
Dec. 15, 1924	Edward M. Day		May 2, 1947
Dec. 14, 1927	Warren S. Archibald	Mar. 7, 1945	
Dec. 14, 1927	Richard M. G. Potter	Dec. 18, 1929	
June 2, 1931	Spencer T. Mitchell		Feb. 23, 1939
Dec. 3, 1935	James L. Loomis	Mar. 12, 1953	
Dec. 1, 1937	Arthur Adams		June 21, 1960
Mar. 3, 1938	Edgar F. Waterman§	Sept. 24, 1952	
Apr. 13, 1939	Earle E. Dimon	Sept. 24, 1952	
June 7, 1939	John C. Parsons		
Sept. 24, 1941	Wilmarth S. Lewis		
Dec. 3, 1941	Lucius F. Robinson, Jr.		
Mar. 6, 1944	Francis W. Cole		
Mar. 6, 1946	James T. Babb		
June 4, 1947	Lawrence A. Howard		Sept. 8, 1960
Mar. 11, 1948	H. Bacon Collamore		
Mar. 12, 1953	Lyman B. Brainerd		
Mar. 12, 1953	James L. Goodwin		
Mar. 12, 1953	Karl W. Hallden		
Jan. 15, 1954	Jerome P. Webster		
Jan. 15, 1954	Allerton C. Hickmott		
Nov. 11, 1960	Donald B. Engley		
Nov. 11, 1960	Bernhard Knollenberg		

* Samuel O. Prentice, President of Watkinson Library from 1906, ex officio as President of Hartford Public Library, until his election as trustee in 1915.

† Henry A. Perkins, Continued on Board ex officio as President of Hartford Public Library.

‡ Charles A. Goodwin, Continued on Board ex officio as President of Wadsworth Athenaeum.

§ Edgar F. Waterman, President of Watkinson Library from 1936, ex officio as President of Connecticut Historical Society until his election as trustee in 1938.

DAVID WATKINSON'S LIBRARY

THE CHRONOLOGICAL SUCCESSION OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY AS OF MARCH 1, 1966

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alfred Smith, 1858-1868. | George Brinley, 1858-1875. |
| James C. Jackson, 1868-1881. | Austin C. Dunham, 1876-1918. |
| Theodore Lyman, 1883-1920. | Samuel P. Avery, 1918-1920. |
| Morgan B. Brainard, 1920-1953. | Henry A. Perkins, 1920-1948. |
| Lyman B. Brainerd, 1953- | H. Bacon Collamore, 1948- |
| James B. Hosmer, 1858-1878. | Thomas H. Seymour, 1858-1868. |
| The Mayor of Hartford, 1883-1936. | Rowland Swift, 1868-1902. |
| Edgar F. Waterman, 1938-1952. | Henry S. Robinson, 1902-1926. |
| Jerome P. Webster, 1954- | Warren S. Archibald, 1927-1945. |
| William L. Storrs, 1858-1861. | Francis Watkinson Cole, 1946- |
| Roland Mather, 1862-1897. | Ezra Clark, 1858-1868. |
| James J. Goodwin, 1897-1915. | George Clark, 1868-1881. |
| Samuel O. Prentice, 1915-1924. | Charles H. Clark, 1883-1926. |
| Edward M. Day, 1924-1947. | Richard M. G. Potter, 1927-1929. |
| Lawrence A. Howard, 1947-1960. | Spencer T. Mitchell, 1931-1939. |
| Bernhard Knollenberg, 1960- | Earle E. Dimon, 1939-1952. |
| Robert Watkinson, 1858-1867. | Karl W. Hallden, 1953- |
| Collins Stone, 1867-1870. | Alfred Gill, 1858-1863. |
| Nathaniel Shipman, 1876-1906. | Ebenezer K. Hunt, 1863-1889. |
| James Goodwin, 1906-1917. | J. Hammond Trumbull, 1889-1897. |
| Francis Parsons, 1917-1937. | Charles Dudley Warner, 1897-1900. |
| John C. Parsons, 1939- | William R. C. Corson, 1900-1945. |
| Henry Barnard, 1858-1900. | James T. Babb, 1946- |
| Henry Ferguson, 1900-1906. | Edward B. Watkinson, 1858-1884. |
| Charles P. Cooley, 1924-1940. | James B. Cone, 1886-1918. |
| Wilmarth S. Lewis, 1941- | Archibald A. Welch, 1918-1935. |
| William R. Cone, 1858-1890. | James Lee Loomis, 1935-1953. |
| Lucius F. Robinson, 1890-1941. | Allerton C. Hickmott, 1954- |
| Lucius F. Robinson, Jr., 1941- | George M. Bartholemew, 1858-1886. |
| James Dixon, 1858-1873. | Jacob L. Greene, 1886-1905. |
| Francis Goodwin, 1876-1923. | Melancthon W. Jacobus, 1906-1937. |
| Charles A. Goodwin, 1923-1953. | Arthur Adams, 1937-1960. |
| James L. Goodwin, 1953- | Donald B. Engley, 1960- |

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE WATKINSON LIBRARY

Governors of Connecticut

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| William A. Buckingham, 1858-1866 | Charles B. Andrews, 1879-1881 |
| Joseph R. Hawley, 1866-1867 | Hobart B. Bigelow, 1881-1883 |
| James E. English, 1867-1869 | Thomas M. Waller, 1883-1885 |
| Marshall Jewell, 1869-1870 | Henry B. Harrison, 1885-1887 |
| James E. English, 1870-1871 | P. C. Lounsbury, 1887-1889 |
| Marshall Jewell, 1871-1873 | Morgan Bulkeley, 1889-1893 |
| Charles R. Ingersoll, 1873-1877 | Luzon B. Morris, 1893-1895 |
| Richard D. Hubbard, 1877-1879 | O. Vincent Coffin, 1895-1897 |

TRUSTEES

Lorin A. Cooke, 1897-1899
 George E. Lounsbury, 1899-1901
 George P. McLean, 1901-1903
 Abiram Chamberlain, 1903-1905
 Henry Roberts, 1905-1907
 Rollin S. Woodruff, 1907-1909
 George L. Lilley, 1909
 Frank B. Weeks, 1909-1911
 S. E. Baldwin, 1911-1915
 M. H. Holcomb, 1915-1921
 Everett J. Lake, 1921-1923
 Charles A. Templeton, 1923-1925
 Hiram Bingham, 1925

Presidents of The Connecticut Historical Society

Henry Barnard, 1854-1860
 James Bidwell Hosmer, 1860-1863
 James Hammond Trumbull, 1863-1889
 Robbins Battell, 1889-1890
 John Woodhull Stedman, 1890-1894
 Charles Jeremy Hoadly, 1894-1900
 Samuel Hart, 1900-1917

Presidents of the Wadsworth Atheneum

Alfred Smith, 1856-1861
 Calvin Day, 1862-1883
 William R. Cone, 1884-1889
 Francis Goodwin, 1890-1918
 Charles E. Gross, 1919-1925

Presidents of the Hartford Public Library (including Presidents of the Hartford Young Men's Institute and Hartford Library Association)

Frank W. Cheney, 1858-1859
 Charles E. Perkins, 1859-1860
 William H. D. Callender, 1860-1862
 Frank W. Cheney (resigned), 1862-1863
 Joseph G. Woodward, 1862-1863
 William Hamersley, 1863-1864
 Nathaniel Shipman, 1864-1865
 William Hamersley, 1865-1867
 John S. Robinson, 1867-1869
 George M. Coit, 1869-1870
 George F. Hills, 1870-1871
 Edwin W. Bryant (resigned), 1871-1872
 George F. Hills, 1871-1872
 Joseph Breed, 1872-1873
 Henry L. Bunce (resigned), 1873-1874
 Joseph G. Woodward, 1873-1875
 John C. Day, 1875-1877

John H. Trumbull, 1925-1931
 Wilbur L. Cross, 1931-1939
 Raymond E. Baldwin, 1939-1941
 Robert A. Hurley, 1941-1943
 Raymond E. Baldwin, 1943-1946
 Wilbert Snow, 1946-1947
 James L. McConaughy, 1947-1948
 James C. Shannon, 1948-1949
 Chester D. Bowles, 1949-1951
 John D. Lodge, 1951-1955
 Abraham A. Ribicoff, 1955-1961
 John N. Dempsey, 1961-

Charles Edward Gross, 1917-1919
 George Clinton Fairchild Williams, 1919-1922
 Morgan Bulkeley Brainard, 1922-1926
 George Clinton Fairchild Williams, 1926-1933
 Edgar Francis Waterman, 1934-1952
 Newton C. Brainard, 1952-1963
 Charles S. Bissell, 1963-

Charles A. Goodwin, 1926-1954
 Arthur L. Shipman, Jr., 1955-1961
 Robert E. Darling, 1962-1964
 John D. Britton, 1965-

Charles H. Clark, 1877-1879
 John R. Redfield, 1879-1880
 Albert L. Butler, 1880-1882
 William Waldo Hyde, 1882-1884
 Samuel O. Prentice, 1884-1886
 William G. Abbot, 1886-1888
 Edward D. Robbins, 1888-1890
 Charles M. Joslyn, 1890-1892
 S. B. St. John, 1892-1895
 Samuel O. Prentice, 1895-1926
 Wilbur F. Gordy, 1926-1930
 Francis Parsons, 1930-1931
 William D. Mackenzie, 1931-1936
 William H. Corbin, 1936-1945
 Henry A. Perkins, 1945-1957
 John C. Parsons, 1957-

Presidents of Trinity College

Daniel Raynes Goodwin, 1853-1860
 John Brockelsby, Acting President, 1860
 Samuel Eliot, 1860-1864
 John Barrett Kerfoot, 1864-1866
 John Brockelsby, Acting President, 1866-1867
 Abner Jackson, 1867-1874
 Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, 1874-1883
 George Williamson Smith, 1883-1904
 Flavel Sweeten Luther, 1904-1919
 Henry Augustus Perkins, Acting
 President, 1919-1920
 Remsen Brinckerhoff Ogilby, 1920-1943
 Arthur Howard Hughes, Acting
 President, 1943-1945
 George Keith Funston, 1945-1951
 Arthur Howard Hughes, Acting
 President, 1951-1953
 Albert Charles Jacobs, 1953-

Mayors of the City of Hartford, 1883-1936

Morgan G. Bulkeley, 1880-1888
 John G. Root, 1888-1890
 Henry C. Dwight, 1890-1892
 William Waldo Hyde, 1892-1894
 Leverett Brainard, 1894-1896
 Miles B. Preston, 1896-1900
 Alexander Harbison, 1900-1902
 Ignatius A. Sullivan, 1902-1904
 William F. Henney, 1904-1908
 Edward W. Hooker, 1908-1910
 Edward L. Smith, 1910-1912
 Louis R. Cheney, 1912-1914
 Joseph H. Lawler, 1914-1916
 Frank A. Hagarty, 1916-1918
 Richard J. Kinsella, 1918-1920
 Newton C. Brainard, 1920-1922
 Richard J. Kinsella, 1922-1924
 Norman C. Stevens, 1924-1928
 Walter E. Batterson, 1928-1931
 William J. Rankin, 1931-1933
 Joseph W. Beach, 1933-1935
 John A. Pilgard, 1935
 Thomas J. Spellacy, 1935-1943

OFFICERS OF THE TRUSTEES

Presidents

<i>Elected</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Died</i>
Dec. 14, 1858	Alfred Smith		Aug. 12, 1868
Oct. 3, 1868	George Brinley		May 14, 1875
Dec. 14, 1875	William R. Cone		Jan. 10, 1890
Mar. 26, 1890	Nathaniel Shipman		June 26, 1906
Nov. 28, 1906	Samuel O. Prentice		Nov. 2, 1924
Nov. 13, 1924	Melancthon W. Jacobus	Dec. 3, 1935	
Dec. 3, 1935	Francis Parsons	Dec. 30, 1936	
Dec. 30, 1936	Edgar F. Waterman	Sept. 24, 1952	
Sept. 24, 1952	John C. Parsons		

Vice Presidents (After a By-law Amendment of Dec. 11, 1906)

Dec. 11, 1906	Melancthon W. Jacobus	Nov. 13, 1924	
Dec. 15, 1924	Francis Parsons	Dec. 3, 1935	
Dec. 3, 1935	Edward M. Day		May 2, 1947
June 2, 1948	Lawrence A. Howard	Dec. 6, 1950	
Dec. 6, 1950	John C. Parsons	Sept. 24, 1952	
Jan. 15, 1954	Jerome P. Webster		

TRUSTEES

Secretaries

<i>Elected</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Died</i>
Dec. 14, 1858	Edward B. Watkinson		Mar. 21, 1884
Apr. 16, 1884	Charles H. Clark	Dec. 18, 1886	
Dec. 18, 1886	James B. Cone		Mar. 20, 1918
Dec. 10, 1918	William R. C. Corson	Dec. 7, 1938	
Dec. 7, 1938	Arthur Adams		June 21, 1960
Nov. 11, 1960	Donald B. Engley		

Assistant Secretaries (After Dec. 11, 1906)

Dec. 11, 1906	William R. C. Corson	Dec. 10, 1918	
Dec. 10, 1918	Francis Parsons	Dec. 15, 1924	
Dec. 15, 1924	Henry A. Perkins	June 8, 1956	
		[Sept. 24, 1952, office combined with treasurer]	
June 8, 1956	Allerton C. Hickmott	[Nov. 11, 1960, office discontinued]	

Treasurers

Dec. 14, 1858	George M. Bartholomew	Sept. 27, 1886	
Sept. 27, 1886	Rowland Swift		June 13, 1902
June 21, 1902	Charles H. Clark	Dec. 8, 1925	
Dec. 8, 1925	Charles P. Cooley	Dec. 8, 1931	
Dec. 8, 1931	Spencer T. Mitchell		Feb. 23, 1939
Apr. 13, 1939	Earle E. Dimon	Sept. 24, 1952	
Sept. 24, 1952	Henry A. Perkins	June 8, 1956	
June 8, 1956	Allerton C. Hickmott		

Assistant Treasurer

Dec. 11, 1906	Henry S. Robinson		Mar. 3, 1926
July 16, 1925	A Trust Company was employed to act as agent for the treasurer.		
Dec. 14, 1926	No assistant treasurer elected, no mention of dropping the office.		
Dec. 8, 1931	Treasurer authorized to appoint a Trust Company to act as his agent and an appropriation of \$150.00 was made to the treasurer for this purpose.		
Dec. 7, 1938	Appropriation increased to \$200.00 at the request of the Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company.		
Sept. 27, 1886	Treasurer paid \$250.00 annually.		
Dec. 12, 1922	Treasurer paid \$150.00 annually.		
July 16, 1925	Treasurer's fee presumably used to pay Trust Company as agent.		
Dec. 8, 1931	Treasurer's fee officially designated as appropriation to pay Trust Company as agent.		

Chronology of Events

- 1857 Death of David Watkinson, December 13.
- 1858 Will of David Watkinson probated, January 5.
First meeting of board of trustees, March 16.
Act of Connecticut General Assembly incorporating the Trustees of the Watkinson Library, May session.
Trustees elect first officers and adopt by-laws, rules and regulations for the board; Alfred Smith elected president.
Trustees purchase lot on Prospect Street for use as site for library building, December.
- 1860 Henry Barnard chosen first superintendent, December 22.
- 1861 Committee appointed to confer on building addition to Atheneum for library, December.
- 1862 Indenture signed between the trustees and the Connecticut Historical Society to form complementary union, May 14.
Trustees approve plans for construction of library quarters, July.
Construction of building commences, Fall.
- 1863 J. Hammond Trumbull elected first librarian, January 17.
Presentation of Trumbull's development Syllabus to the board of trustees, March.
Purchasing of books commences, August.
- 1866 Library opened to the public, August 28.
- 1868 George Brinley elected second president of the board.
- 1871-
- 1881 Presentation of approximately one hundred volumes annually from George F. Bacon.
- 1872 Presentation of Mary Trumbull Prime American Civil War Collection.
- 1874 William I. Fletcher appointed first assistant librarian, April 1.
- 1875 William R. Cone elected third president of board.
- 1878 Sydney Stanley bequest.
- 1879-
- 1893 Acquisition of George Brinley Collection of Americana.
- 1880 Committee of the board appointed to consult with committees of the Wadsworth Atheneum corporations on problem of adequate space, February 16.
- 1882 Meeting and report of committees of the Watkinson Library and the Connecticut Historical Society on problem of adequate space, March 17. Appointment of Watkinson committee of four to jointly consider enlargement.
- 1883 Report of committees of 1880 on contemplated expansion, June 19.
Frank Butler Gay appointed assistant librarian, November.
- 1886 Bequest of George D. Sargeant's library.
- 1888 Proposals on a plan of action to implement Report of 1883 presented by a committee of four each representing one of the Atheneum corporations, February 6.
Report adopted, February 27. Four institutions housed in Atheneum cooperate in new venture.
Subscription fund underway for new building.
- 1890 Signing of contract between the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Watkinson Library for a new building, April 2.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- Nathaniel Shipman elected fourth president of library board.
- 1891 Trumbull appointed librarian emeritus. Gay appointed acting librarian, January 1.
- 1892 Completion of new building. Connecticut Historical Society to take over Watkinson Library building of 1866.
Appointment of William N. C. Carlton as assistant librarian, March 24.
- 1893 New building opened to public, January 2. Wadsworth Atheneum housing Art Gallery, Hartford Public Library, Watkinson Library, Connecticut Historical Society Library, Hartford Art Society School, and Free Public Reading Room.
- 1897 J. Hammond Trumbull's death, August 5. Frank Butler Gay appointed librarian.
- 1899 Purchase of J. Hammond Trumbull's North American Indian Language Collection.
George B. Utley appointed assistant librarian, September 25.
- 1903 George D. Smith appointed assistant librarian, January.
- 1905 Presentation of the Trumbull-Prime Collection of the "History of Illustration by Printed Pictures," by Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson.
Henry Barnard library including collection of early school books presented to the Wadsworth Atheneum by J. P. Morgan. It eventually was transferred to the Watkinson Library.
- 1906 Samuel O. Prentice elected fifth president of board.
- 1908 Presentation of the Charles T. Wells Collection of Psalm Books and Hymnology, and other general works.
Forrest Morgan appointed assistant librarian, July 10.
- 1909-
- 1910 Renovation and reorganization of library quarters, with reacquisition of old 1866 building as supplementary space.
- 1915-
- 1925 Presentation of Nathan H. Allen Collection of Musical and Stage Literature and Musical Scores.
- 1917-
- 1918 Presentation of Leverett Belknap Collection of Goldsmith and Hawthorne.
- 1918 Presentation of Gilbert H. Tracy Collection of Lincolniana.
- 1921 Charles Dudley Warner Manuscript Collection presented.
- 1922 Wallace Stevens Poetry Collection started by gifts from the poet.
- 1923 Frank B. Gay Collection of William Cobbett presented.
- 1924 Dwight C. Lyman appointed assistant librarian, January.
Melancthon W. Jacobus elected sixth president of board.
- 1925 Samuel O. Prentice Genealogical and New England History Collection bequest.
- 1927 Miss Ruth Agnes Kerr appointed assistant librarian, December 1.
- 1930-
- 1944 Dr. Duncan B. Macdonald Collection of Medieval and European Literature and Arthurian Legend.
- 1934 Retirement of Frank B. Gay, March; death, June.
Ruth Kerr appointed acting librarian.
- 1935 Joint exhibit with the Connecticut Historical Society during the Tercentenary Year of the State of Connecticut.
Francis Parsons elected seventh president of board, December.
- 1936 Edgar Waterman elected eighth president of board, December.
- 1937 Bequest of Mrs. Horace B. Clark's library. Grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
- 1939 Miss Kerr appointed librarian.
- 1940 Exhibition of materials at State Library celebrating the 500th anniversary of printing.
- 1944 Committee appointed to seek enlarged endowment and better quarters, September.
- 1945 New committee appointed to consider possible union with Connecticut Historical Society and Hartford Public Library in new building.
- 1946 *Memorandum on New Quarters* prepared and approved, March.
Rejection of proposals by Connecticut Historical Society, April-May.
- 1947 Grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
- 1948 Bequest of Robert E. Todd's library.
Offer of new quarters from President Fun-

- ston of Trinity College.
Report of a new committee issued and approved, recommending acceptance of President Funston's offer if formerly proposed union with Connecticut Historical Society and/or Hartford Public Library not feasible.
- 1949 Grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
Amendment to the Charter of the Trustees allowing possible merger with Trinity College approved by General Assembly, May.
Grant from Old Dominion Foundation.
Trustees accept offer of Trinity College, June 1.
Agreement signed between the Watkinson Library and Trinity College, June 9.
Donald B. Engley brought to Trinity College as associate librarian to plan the merger and a new building.
- 1950 Court authorization to merge granted, April-June.
Ground broken for new library building at Trinity College, November.
- 1952 Trinity College Library building nearing completion, June.
Moving of Watkinson Library commenced, July 28; completed in three weeks time under Donald B. Engley, librarian of Trinity College.
Watkinson Library open to public, September.
John C. Parsons elected ninth president of the board, September.
Dedication of new building, November 7-9.
- 1954 Grant from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
- 1957 Establishment of Francis Watkinson Cole Fund.
- 1958 Establishment of Allerton C. Hickmott Fund.
Observance of centennial year of the chartering of the Trustees of the Watkinson Library, December.
- 1959 Miss Kerr's retirement as librarian, July 1.
Donald B. Engley formally named Watkinson librarian.
Appointment of Mrs. Marian Clarke as curator.

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