New Library Described From Basement To Roof

Volume XLIX

HARTFORD, CONN.

May 28, 1952

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Library Will Open for Fall Use
Books To Be Moved This June

Architects' Drawing

Pictured is the painting of the new library building by the architects, O'Connor and Kilham, which appeared in the TRIFOV over a year ago.

A Letter From the Librarian

Mr. Donald R. Engley

Librarian.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to tell you something about our new 195,000-volume building which is now being made for its occupation and formal opening in the Fall.

At the outset I should like to express to the Class of 1952 my regret that they will not be able to make full use of the building until next year, but I know that you are feeling a bit disconsolate, at this time I extend an official invitation to each and every Senior to a specially conducted Class of 1952 tour of the new Library at Homecoming the following May. I hope many of you will be on hand that day in your finery as an Alumni of Trinity.

The big task just ahead of us is the transfer of the College's 225,000 books and the 150,000 volume Watkinson collection to their new shelves. We start on June 16, the day after Commencement, and expect to be occupied at this until Labor Day. The packing and unpacking at each end is to be handled by a group of your conference under the direction of the Library staff, the actual moving being a local professional moving concern. Therefore several factors must be taken into consideration in making the temporary quarters available for the students and faculty during the summer months. Among these are the cramped quarters in the present stacks and the lack of an elevator there, the need of making the temporary quarters pleasant and convenient and in another location.

The Library staff will be on hand to greet you in the Fall and introduce you to the new building. I am sure you will find it inviting and will want to take early advantage of its facilities.

DONALD R. ENGLEY, Librarian.

Donovan Found To Be Key Library Figure

By Jim Filer

In handing out the prizes to those who have worked on the new library, certainly a good share of them should go to Mr. Donald R. Engley, the chief Librarian and the man who has been burdened with the planning and principles of the structure.

After graduating from Mt. Hermon Academy, Mr. Engley went to Amherst where he began his library career. From Amherst he went to the Columbia Library School to study for his M.A. in 1948. During the war he was in the 79th Infantry Division as a battery Commander and at the close of the war he was librarian in a school at Biarritz, France for four thousand dollars. In 1947 he received his M.A. at the University of Chicago and worked at the Amherst, Columbia, and New York public libraries and Norwich University before coming to Trinity in 1949.

One of Mr. Engley's special interests is librarianship and planning, and he has visited college libraries for the American Library Association. Drawing from the knowledge he received, he has designed a library to help students and faculty in the learning and teaching processes as much as possible.
Decentralized Study Facilities Are Added Feat of Building

The Library is unique in that it is designed for decentralised study.

The comparatively small central reading room is supplemented by special purpose rooms and niches for individual students. This new plan facilitates access to the books and permits students to work in the area of the library from which they are using reference material.

For example, fifty specially constructed desks, called carrels, are to be installed around the sides of the stack rooms. Four Seminar Rooms, on the second floor, will be available for discussion groups in which reference material is used. The walls will be hinged so that the rooms may also be used for special art exhibits.

One of the unique features of the building is the Record Listening Room on the second floor which a movable partition supplies with kitchen facilities. Combined, the two rooms will be used for lectures, tours, and receptions before exhibits.

Sound equipment at this time includes a speaker for group listening but many additions will probably be made. The Foreign Language Department plans to integrate the sound equipment into its courses. Advanced students, faculty, and visiting scholars will be able to use small vehicles for their work, and may be assigned them for long periods. Ten of these tiny rooms, each with a desk and a book shelf, will be available for men doing extended research, the old ones.

Miss Kerr Gives History Of Watkinson Collection

Miss Ruth A. Kerr has been the librarian of the Watkinson Library since the death of Mr. Frank R. Gay about 35 years ago. Reminiscing about the many little incidents that enhance a day's work at the library, Miss Kerr remarked that many a day had been interrupted by a small boy's inquiry about "the book bound in human skin." Cataloguing provides some problems as the library has witnessed three successive revolutions in filing systems and, like the Egyptians, has never been quite able to exterminate the old ones.

Miss Kerr stated that the Library found that its original endowment of $100,000 was not sufficient and a plan was suggested to keep the library intact by giving it to a suitable recipient. Through the influence of President Funston, the trustees decided to award it to Trinity of a suitable building were coveted.

Mr. George W. Adams, Reference Librarian, who has charge of the reading room, of Government documents, of student assistants, and of inter-library loans.

Miss Kerr cited the work of the Watkinson Library to Trinity if available.

Mr. Donald B. Esley, President.

Dial 620

Music and News

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Top: Nov. 21, 1950—First day of operations; Dec. 6—Excavating for the basement; Dec. 6—Men work on the caissons for the foundation. Second row: Dec. 18—Sinking caissons is slow work; Jan. 6, 1951—Work goes on despite several inches of snow; Feb. 9—The first foundation walls appear. Bottom: Feb. 26—The work approaches the ground level; Feb. 26—The work from above; Mar. 5—The walls begin to rise.

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Top: Mar. 15, 1951—Supports for the floor form; Mar. 31—A view of the floor form from above; Apr. 9—Pouring the first floor. Second row: Apr. 9—Work on smoothing the concrete goes on even at night; May 5—Beginnings of the second floor; May 13—As the library looked from the Bishop's statue. Bottom: June 6—The third floor goes on; June 6—Bricklayers begin their work; June 16—G. K. Fursto collects coals for inclusion in the corner stone.

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Top: July 20, 1951—Slowly the building goes up; July 26—One floor yet to go; Oct. 10—The building reaches its height.
Second row: Oct. 10—The first steel for the roof goes in place; Nov. 9—Ready for roofing; Nov. 9—Another Bishop's-eye view.
Bottom: Nov. 17—The main reading room on the Wesleyan week-end, complete with water on the floor; Nov. 17—A sky view from the top floor; Dec. 19—Snow again, but this time with at least the roof on.

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Top: Feb. 6, 1952—The building nears its final form; Feb. 8—A view of the southeast corner; Feb. 20—The slate roof is nailed on; Mar. 30—The reading room again, this time enclosed and dry; Apr. 11—Final cleaning and finishing of the main entrance; May 9—A portion of the 25 tons of stacks in the new library. Bottom: May 9—Leaves on the trees again and complete except for cleaning and finishing touches; May 9—Decorating of the reading room begins; May 9—A little paint on the windows and landscaping and the job is done. (All photos in this series by Richard P. Yeomans, '52.)
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