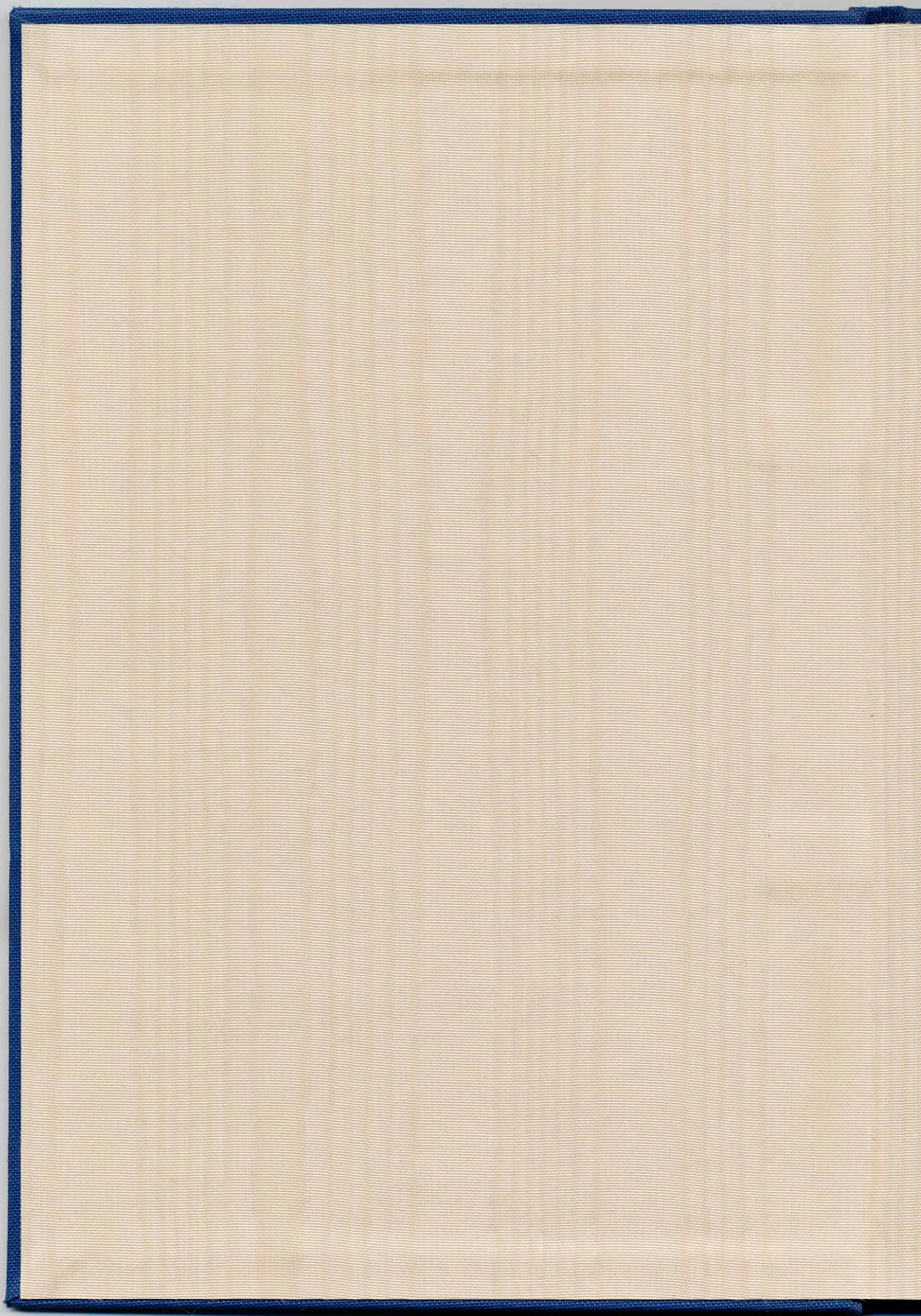


THE JOHN CRERAR LIBRARY





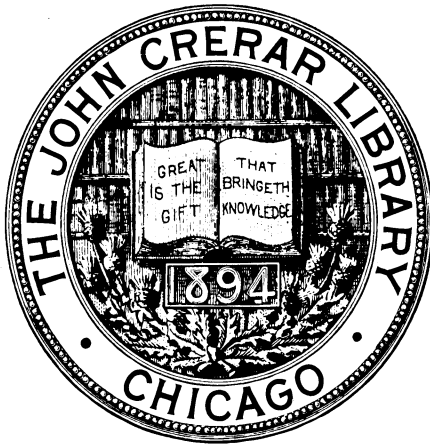
The University of Chicago
Library





John Crerar

THE JOHN CRERAR LIBRARY



CHICAGO
1984

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The John Crerar Foundation

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This volume was prepared to honor the history of a great institution, The John Crerar Library, and its founder, John Crerar, at the time of the Library's affiliation with the University of Chicago. The contributions which the Library has made, over its 90 years, to the research and educational communities of this city, this nation, this world, has always filled me with a great sense of awe and of pride. In every sense, I believe the Library's motto has been fully proven: "Great is the Gift Which Bringeth Knowledge." To have been privileged to participate in the work of this institution has been a signal and inspiring honor, which I know our entire Board of Directors shares with me.

Oliver W. Tuthill

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SERVICE TO SCIENCE: THE CRERAR LEGACY

Oliver W. Tuthill

The John Crerar Library was the first great privately endowed research library devoted to science, technology and later medicine. It was established in 1894 as a free public library under the will of John Crerar, one of the pioneers who helped build Chicago into a great industrial city.

Born March 8, 1827, Crerar was a native New Yorker who moved to Chicago in 1862 where he made his fortune in the railway supply business. Through his firm, Crerar, Adams and Company, and its manufacturing division, Adams and Westlake Company, he helped fill the burgeoning demands of the national railroad network which was centered in Chicago. He was one of the organizers of the Pullman Palace Car Company and also served as president of the Chicago and Joliet Railroad. He was a director of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank and the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company. An Elder of the Second Presbyterian Church and one of the founders of the Commercial Club, he was also fond of books and liked to read, from which developed his interest in the Chicago Literary Club and the Chicago Historical Society.

A lifelong bachelor, Crerar died on October 18, 1889 at the age of 62. On December 22, 1889, a great meeting was held in his memory at the Central Music Hall, which at that time was the main auditorium in the city. At the meeting, Franklin MacVeagh, one of Chicago's leaders, said of Crerar, "He has set us an example of the right use of wealth, the great uses of wealth, the permanent uses of wealth, and the final uses of wealth."

In his will, Crerar bequeathed some \$600,000 to his partners and friends and his mother's relatives; about \$1,000,000 to some eighteen religious, educational and charitable institutions, and \$100,000 "to be expended in the erection of a colossal statue of

Abraham Lincoln?" The bronze statue, designed by Augustus St. Gaudens, is mounted on a granite base within a great semi-circle flanked by two pylons in Grant Park opposite Van Buren Street. The architectural surroundings were designed by Stanford White.

In the final provision of his will, Crerar left the residue of his estate, some \$2,500,000 for the "...erection, creation, maintenance and endowment of a Free Public Library to be called The John Crerar Library and to be located in the City of Chicago, Illinois...I desire the building to be tasteful, substantial and fire-proof and that a sufficient fund be reserved over and above the cost of its construction to provide, maintain and support a library for all time..."

Crerar's will further specified that the first president of the Library should be his friend Norman Williams, and that other friends such as Marshall Field, Robert Todd Lincoln, T. B. Blackstone and George A. Armour should be members of the first Board of Directors. The first meeting of that Board took place on November 23, 1894 at the Prairie Avenue residence of Marshall Field. Three years prior to that meeting, the Crerar directors had been instrumental in the passage by the Illinois Legislature in July, 1891, of an act to safeguard privately endowed libraries which was entitled "An Act to encourage and promote the establishment of free public libraries in cities, villages and towns of this State?" The John Crerar Library was incorporated on October 12, 1894 under that act.

The will made no mention of relatives on his father's side. His father had died in 1827 and his mother had little if any acquaintance with his father's relatives. However, there were living Crerars and a great legal battle took place. The case was carried to the Illinois Supreme Court, where in 1893 the will was fully sustained.

Faced with the problem of starting a new public library when the city already had a thriving public library as well as the recently established Newberry Library, the directors sought the guidance of Professor Henry Crew of Northwestern University. Crew recommended "a library which has for its aim

the cultivation of science.” In the letter suggesting this, he concluded: “The Crerar Board, by complementing the Newberry and Public (libraries) may do as much or more for the various institutions of this city. No other body of men have, within their own hands, so much power to make Chicago, as through the next 30 years, a veritable scientific center, as these gentlemen to whom Mr. Crerar has entrusted this foundation.” Thus, the Board of Directors decided that the new library would be a research library devoted to science and technology.

During the year 1894 and later, conferences were held by representatives of the respective boards of the three libraries and the librarians in order to avoid competition and wasteful duplication. In 1895, the following plan of division was agreed to:

- Chicago Public Library—“All wholesomely entertaining and generally instructive books, especially such as are desired by the citizens for general home use. Also, collections of newspapers, patents, government documents, books for the blind, and in architecture and the decorative arts.”
- Newberry Library—“Literature, Language, History, Sociology, Philosophy, Religion, Fine Arts in part, Medicine.”
- The John Crerar Library—“Philosophy, the Physical and Natural Sciences; the Useful Arts (Technology); the Fine Arts in part; Sociology and Economics.” Ten years later, agreement was reached between the trustees of Newberry and the directors of Crerar for the transfer to Crerar of the medical collections which had been developed at Newberry, the central segment of which was the great collection of Dr. Nicholas Senn, first Surgeon General of the United States and a famous Chicago personage.

As its first home, the Crerar Library rented the fifth and eventually the sixth floors of the Marshall Field store at Wabash Avenue and Washington Street. Building of the collection, and the recruitment of staff began immediately. The Library was opened to the public on April 1, 1897, with some 11,000 volumes and a staff of twenty-two.

The formal invitation to the opening read as follows:

*The Board of Directors has the honor to announce the opening of
The John Crerar Library, in its temporary quarters on the sixth floor*

of the Marshall Field & Company Building, 87 Wabash Avenue, Thursday, April 1, 1897. During the first three days, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., all the rooms will be open to the public for inspection, and the Librarian, with his staff, will take pleasure in showing visitors the Library. Thereafter, until further notice, the Library will be open to readers every day, excepting Sundays and legal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Attention is respectfully called to the accompanying circular, which will explain, in outline, the organization, scope and plan of the Library.
Chicago, March, 1897.

The Board initially hoped to erect the Library's permanent building in Grant Park, between Monroe and Adams Streets. However, the rather complicated laws protecting the integrity of the lakefront required approval of all abutting property owners—which was not granted. In due course, property thought to be adequate “for about 120 years” was acquired at the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street. Crerar's 15-story, modernized Romanesque building by Holabird and Roche was erected there, and was formally dedicated on May 28, 1921.

During the first 40 years, substantial collections in philosophy, general history, economics and certain other subjects not closely related to the primary fields of interest were developed at Crerar. In 1951, the decision was made to eliminate these collections and devote the Crerar's resources to science, technology and medicine. This decision coincided with the explosive increase of scientific research and development in the United States during and following World War II. It enabled Crerar to concentrate on the acquisition of the rapidly increasing numbers of publications of scientific, technical and medical knowledge.

In the world of scientific research, the initial source of information is the scientific journal; and these in particular had proliferated enormously. Library acquisitions are, of course, geared to the needs of patrons and current research trends. Any segment of the Library's collections provides the basic resources for a special library in the various limited fields of science and technology. Like many special libraries, Crerar emphasizes not only books, current journals, and conference proceedings, but also technical reports which are of great importance as a result of the activity of federal agencies and others in research and industrial development.

Thus, Crerar provided Chicago with a major repository of scientific knowledge attracting industry to this area in some instances because of the availability of such a resource. But not only Chicago benefited. Throughout the nation, very few other libraries were as famed for the richness and comprehensiveness of their scientific holdings. Scholars came to Crerar, and still do, from all over the United States and many foreign countries. In the realm of scientific learning, the name Crerar has world-wide recognition.

Since the Library's incorporation at the end of the 19th century, it has been the policy of the Library to acquire both current and historical materials in all of the sciences. This policy was proposed by the Library's first President, Norman Williams, who in a letter to the directors wrote:

"I do not sympathize with the suggestion that only the newest and latest publications be selected. Such a library would have neither beginning nor end. The student, every student, requires and demands a knowledge of the history of the subject he pursues, and should have at hand the means of investigation from the beginnings."

By the time Crerar started its collections, more than three centuries of active publication had passed. Thus, an organized effort to acquire the most essential historical materials was made by the first librarian, Clement Walker Andrews. He compiled an extensive list of desired periodicals and concentrated on the acquisition, including the back issues, of titles on that list. By the time he retired in 1928, all such titles had, indeed, been acquired, including some where publication had first begun late in the 17th century. Many valuable older materials of major importance were obtained with the aid of gifts.

Because the Crerar collections are so strong in the history of science, Crerar functions not only as a library for current but also for historical research. The history of man cannot be understood without some knowledge of the history of science. In late 1978 and early 1979, Crerar demonstrated the breadth and depth of its collections in the history of science with an exhibit of 100 landmark books at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center. This exhibit of only a fraction of Crerar's 27,000 rare books included such authors as Galileo, da Vinci,

Agricola, Bacon, Descartes, Copernicus, Boyle, Newton, Franklin and Lavoisier, among others. The exhibit had several objectives: To remind the citizens of Chicago that the Library is a major cultural and intellectual institution freely accessible to all; to inform recent arrivals of the Library's resources and services; and to demonstrate dimensions of scope and richness of the collections which perhaps few had recognized.

Although Crerar was officially established as a public research library, the character of its users frequently led the Library to play very much the same role with respect to research and education that is typical of a university library. In line with the request of the founder, who believed that the future depended largely upon the training of our youth, Crerar has put considerable emphasis on making its facilities available to young people who are interested in science and medicine. Classes in chemistry, biology, and physics in Chicago area high schools are given regular tours of the Library and taught how to use its resources. Well over half of all Crerar visitors are students or faculty of educational institutions. This trend toward serving young people accelerated in 1962 after Crerar decided it had outgrown its old building and relocated to the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology. Chicago, with its great industrial base, requires a steady increase in scientists and engineers and Crerar has been an important factor in their education and training.

Because Crerar is a free public library, individual records are not kept of its users. However, through correspondence we do know of two major inventions that resulted primarily from study at Crerar. They were Lee De Forest's development of the vacuum tube—in a letter he stated “the value of the Crerar Library to me could not be overestimated”—and the invention of the dry cell battery by Charles F. Burgess, who spent countless hours in the reading room. His biographer reported that Burgess felt a tremendous debt to Crerar because of the financial rewards that came to him as a result of his work there. Also, it is known that one reason for the location of research facilities in the Chicago area has been the availability of the Library.

Other types of studies have also taken place in the Crerar

reading rooms. The Chicago Tribune in 1978 published a story on Henry Ferneker, a noted bank robber in the 1920s, who, according to the Tribune, robbed a score or more of banks. After being apprehended by the police, Ferneker was asked how he became so expert in the use of explosives. He replied that he had studied bomb manufacture at The John Crerar Library.

The John Crerar Library has attained, over the years, recognized status as a truly national and international resource. It is known for its capacity to satisfy the needs for the commonplace journal as well as the unique foreign or specialized publication. Because it is a basic research library, an information source of last resort, Crerar subscribes to periodicals for which requests may be received only two or three times a year. The completeness of its holdings eliminates the need for educational, public and corporate organizations to acquire large collections. The research library synthesizes the knowledge record of many disciplines, cultures and civilizations.

Maintenance of such strengths by Crerar has been difficult. The institution has felt the full impact of the proliferation of scientific knowledge, the rapidly rising costs of individual publications and the greatly expanded number of publications to be acquired, major expansion in both volume and complexity of library operations, and changes in the technology to make the rapidly growing volume of information more readily available.

For perhaps the first 50 years in the history of Crerar, income from endowment was generally sufficient to maintain service programs and continue to build the collections. In the 1950s, it became apparent that new sources of support must be developed. A membership program was established, encouraging individuals, institutions and corporations to share in the maintenance of the Library through annual contributions. Today, this membership includes more than 300 corporations, educational and other institutions and agencies, as well as many hundreds of individuals.

While membership has continued to grow through the past three decades, costs have risen, especially during the past ten years, at a much faster pace than income and outside support. Subscription prices for periodicals, the essential core of a scienti-

fic research library, at one point rose annually for several years at a rate of 15 to 20 percent or more. Maintenance of library excellence has strained the fiscal resources of all research institutions; inflation and foreign exchange factors have been especially damaging, because thousands of significant publications that Crerar purchases originate in foreign lands.

Due to these financial pressures, the Crerar Board for a number of years studied the available options for fulfilling its responsibility to sustain the institution founded by John Crerar. This matter was resolved on April 13, 1981, when Robert W. Reneker, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, and Oliver W. Tuthill, President of The John Crerar Library, signed a twenty-four page agreement which had previously been approved by each of the two boards.

The purpose of this agreement is stated in paragraph 1.01 as follows:

“The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for the establishment of a new research library on the campus of the University which will be devoted to the fields of science, medicine and technology, which will consist of a consolidation of the Crerar and University collections in these fields, which will be known as ‘The John Crerar Library’ and which will be located in a new building having the same name.”

Further, because the Crerar Will specifically calls for a “free public library...for all time,” the agreement contains the following provision—under paragraph 7.02 “Public Access”:

“In recognition of the fact that Crerar has always been a ‘free public library’ and that Crerar has been supported by many corporations and individuals, the University agrees that the New Library shall be open to that segment of the public which has historically used the services of Crerar and that user privileges will be extended to such segment of the public on terms reasonably comparable to those established by Crerar as in effect on the date of this agreement.”

The agreement also stated that all of the Crerar assets, both tangible and intangible, with the exception of \$300,000, were to be conveyed to the University. This took place in connection with the move of the Library in 1984. The exception related to the funding

for The John Crerar Foundation, whose purpose is to enhance the stature of the Library and perpetuate the memory of John Crerar.

It is of interest to note that at the time of formation of the Library in 1894 its resources consisted of \$2,500,000 from the Crerar Will, whereas today the Library's resources consist of some 700,000 volumes and about \$11,000,000. This speaks well for the commitment to public service of the Crerar Directors over these many years and the generosity of corporate and individual support.

Because the Library was organized under an act of the Illinois Legislature, it was necessary to get court approval for the transfer of its assets to the University. Accordingly, testimony was given by the Library, the University and the Illinois Attorney General in the Circuit Court of Cook County which resulted in a finding, dated October 26, 1981, which stated that regarding the move of the Library to the University, "The plan for the continuation of The John Crerar Library... is consistent with the intention expressed in Article Fiftieth of the Will of John Crerar and that the Crerar directors had the authority to so act." Further, the decree stated that the transfer of the Crerar assets will become the absolute property of the University provided they "will be held subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement, including the requirement of paragraph 7.02 of the Agreement that the Library be open to the public." Finally, the organization of The John Crerar Foundation was approved by the Court.

Funds were raised, an architectural firm was selected and ground was broken for the new John Crerar Library on October 4, 1982. The new building was designed by Hugh Stubbins and Associates of Boston, and consists of four levels, each the size of a football field. The location is in a quadrangle situated on the block between 57th and 58th streets directly north of the University of Chicago Medical Complex. The building was dedicated on November 1, 1984 followed by a reception and dinner for the University Trustees, the members of the Crerar Board and other friends of both institutions. The dinner speaker was Dr. Lewis Branscomb, Chief Scientist of IBM and Chairman of the National Science Board.

The final meeting of the Crerar Board of Directors had taken place on October 12, 1984 ninety years to the day since the Library

was legally organized, at a formal reception and dinner in the Buckingham and Black Rooms at the Chicago Club.

The merger of the University's science and medical collections has created a library probably without equal, that neither library could maintain alone. It provides Chicago and the nation with the finest library of its kind, strengthening the Crerar's mission as it strengthens our nation's research community.

The decision to join with the University of Chicago achieved the fundamental objective of ensuring the continuity of a great intellectual and cultural treasure, a uniquely dimensioned resource of scientific, technical and medical information for use by the citizens of Chicago, of our country and of the world. The move also sustains and enhances the worldwide renown the Library has earned by providing bright opportunities for higher levels of service feasible with fast-changing technologies. Further, the institution will always be freely open to the public while continuing to be known as The John Crerar Library.



**WILL
of
JOHN CRERAR**

In the Name of God, Amen;

I, JOHN CRERAR, of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, being of sound mind and memory, do hereby make, publish and declare, this my late will and testament in the words and figures following, to wit: . . .

Fiftieth.

Recognizing the fact that I have been a resident of Chicago since 1862, and that the greater part of my fortune has been accumulated here, and acknowledging with hearty gratitude the kindness which has always been extended to me by my many friends and by my business and social acquaintances and associates, I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, both real and personal, for the erection, creation, maintenance and endowment of a free public library to be called "The John Crerar Library," and to be located in the City of Chicago, Illinois, a preference being given to the South Division of the city, in as much as the Newberry library will be located in the North Division. I direct that my executors and trustees cause an act of incorporation under the laws of Illinois, to be procured to carry out the purposes of this bequest, and I request that Norman Williams be made the first President thereof, and that in addition to my executors and trustees the following named friends of mine will act as the first Board of Directors in such

corporation and aid and assist my executors and trustees therein, namely: Marshall Field, E. W. Blatchford, T. B. Blackstone, Robert T. Lincoln, Henry W. Bishop, Edward G. Mason, Albert Keep, Edson Keith, Simon J. McPherson, John M. Clark and George A. Armour or their survivors. I desire the building to be tasteful, substantial and fireproof, and that a sufficient fund be reserved over and above the cost of its construction to provide, maintain and support a library for all time. I desire the books and periodicals selected with a view to create and sustain a healthy moral and Christian sentiment in the community, and that all nastiness and immorality be excluded. I do not mean by this that there shall not be anything but hymn books and sermons, but I mean that dirty French novels and all skeptical trash and works of questionable moral tone shall never be found in this Library.

I want its atmosphere that of Christian refinement and its aim and object the building up of character, and I rest content that the friends I have named will carry out my wishes in these particulars.



THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1894

George A. Armour,
Community Benefactor

Henry W. Bishop,
Master in Chancery of the Circuit Court of the U.S. for the
Northern District of Illinois

Timothy S. Blackstone,
President, Chicago and Alton Railroad

E. W. Blatchford,
President, E. W. Blatchford & Co.

John M. Clark,
President, Chicago Telephone Company

Marshall Field,
Founder, Marshall Field & Co.

Huntington W. Jackson,
Member, Jackson, Busby and Lyman

Albert Keep,
Chairman, Chicago and Northwestern Railway

Edson Keith,
President, Keith Brothers & Company

Robert T. Lincoln,
President, Pullman Company

Simon J. McPherson,
Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago

Edward G. Mason,
Founder, Mason Brothers

Norman Williams,
Member, Williams, Holt & Wheeler; later Sidley & Austin



THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1984

Samuel B. Casey, Jr.,
Former Executive Director, Merrill Lynch Private Capital, Inc.;
Chairman Emeritus of Pullman, Incorporated

John R. Cortelyou, C.M.,
Chancellor, DePaul University

Lester Crown,
President, Material Service Corporation

William R. Dickinson, Jr.,
Senior Partner, Wilson & McIlvaine

Wesley M. Dixon, Jr.,
Vice Chairman of the Board, G. D. Searle & Co.

Robert C. Guinness,
Former Vice Chairman of the Board and President,
Standard Oil Company (Indiana)

Charles R. Hall,
Former Chairman, Rollins Burdick Hunter Company

Charles W. Lake, Jr.,
Chairman of the Executive Committee,
R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co.

Frank W. Luerssen,
Chairman, Inland Steel Company

Edward A. Mason,
Vice President for Research, Standard Oil Co. (Indiana)

Kenneth Nebenzahl,
President, Kenneth Nebenzahl, Incorporated

Eric Oldberg, M.D.,
Former President of Chicago Board of Health

Mrs. Robert W. Reneker,
Chairman, Crerar Library Associates

THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Theodore R. Sherrod, M.D., Ph.D.,
Professor, Department of Pharmacology,
University of Illinois at the Medical Center

Oliver W. Tuthill,
President, The John Crerar Library

Joseph S. Wright,
Former Chairman of the Board, Zenith Radio Corporation



**COMPLETE ROSTER OF
BOARD MEMBERS,
1894-1984**

NAME	DATE
Edward G. Mason	1894-1895
Edson Keith	1894-1896
George A. Armour	1894-1899
Timothy S. Blackstone	1894-1899
Simon J. McPherson	1894-1899
Norman Williams	1894-1899
Huntington W. Jackson	1894-1901
Marshall Field	1894-1906
Albert Keep	1894-1907
Henry W. Bishop	1894-1913
E. W. Blatchford	1894-1914
John M. Clark	1894-1916
Robert T. Lincoln	1894-1926
Frank S. Johnson, M.D.	1896-1922
Peter S. Grosscup	1897-1913
Arthur J. Caton	1900-1904
John J. Mitchell	1900-1927
Marvin Hughitt	1900-1928
Thomas C. Jones	1900-1930
Leonard A. Busby	1901-1930
Robert Forsyth	1905-1927
Chauncey Keep	1906-1929
Frederick H. Rawson	1908-1928
Walter B. Smith	1914-1945
Albert A. Sprague, II	1914-1946
Chauncey B. Borland	1916-1955
Rollin D. Salisbury	1919-1922
Henry Gordon Gale	1923-1943
Ludvig Hektoen, M.D.	1923-1949
William B. McIlvaine	1926-1943
Sherwood J. Larned	1928-1931
Eugene M. Stevens	1928-1937
Abel Davis	1928-1937
Stanley Field	1928-1941
Britton I. Budd	1930-1953
John A. Holabird	1931-1945
Theodore W. Robinson	1931-1946
Edward L. Ryerson	1933-1965
A. B. Dick, Jr.	1937-1951
Arthur H. Compton	1939-1945
Earl B. Kribben	1942-1949
Harry S. Gradle, M.D.	1943-1946
J. Frank Dammann	1943-1955
Henry T. Heald	1945-1951

**COMPLETE ROSTER OF
BOARD MEMBERS,
1894-1984**

NAME	DATE
George R. Jones	1945-1955
Solomon B. Smith	1945-1979
Andrew C. Ivy, M.D.	1946-1956
S. DeWitt Clough	1947-1955
Rawleigh Warner	1947-1966
William V. Kahler	1950-1955
Eric Oldberg, M.D.	1950-1984
Eugene W. Kettering	1951-1961
John T. Rettaliata	1952-1973
Herbert P. Sedwick	1953-1976
Joseph D. Stockton	1955-1960
Foster G. McGaw	1955-1961
John G. Searle	1955-1961
Leonard P. Spacek	1955-1973
Edward C. Logelin	1955-1975
Lowell T. Coggeshall, M.D.	1957-1968
E. Hall Taylor	1961-1975
Marvin Chandler	1961-1978
Robert C. Gunness	1961-1984
Oliver W. Tuthill	1961-1984
Robert L. Gibson, Jr.	1965-1967
John R. Cortelyou, C.M.	1965-1984
Joseph S. Wright	1965-1984
Robert W. Reneker	1967-1973
Charles W. Lake, Jr.	1967-1984
Lester Crown	1968-1984
Marshall Field V	1971-1977
John O. Logan	1971-1982
Samuel B. Casey, Jr.	1971-1984
Bryan S. Reid, Jr.	1973-1976
Roger E. Anderson	1973-1977
James A. Campbell, M.D.	1973-1979
Dugald S. McDougall	1973-1979
Theodore R. Sherrod, M.D.	1973-1984
Mrs. Robert W. Reneker	1974-1984
Edward E. David, Jr.	1976-1978
J. Thomas Schanck	1976-1979
Henry Regnery	1977-1983
Charles R. Hall	1977-1984
Kenneth Nebenzahl	1976-1984
Wesley M. Dixon, Jr.	1978-1984
Edward A. Mason	1978-1984
Frank W. Luerssen	1979-1984
William R. Dickinson, Jr.	1980-1984



PRESIDENTS OF THE LIBRARY

1. Norman Williams	1894-1899
2. Huntington W. Jackson	1899-1901
3. Peter Stenger Grosscup	1901-1913
4. Marvin Hughitt	1913-1922
5. Thomas C. Jones	1922-1929
6. Leonard A. Busby	1929-1930
7. Eugene M. Stevens	1930-1937
8. William B. McIlvaine	1937-1943
9. Albert A. Sprague, II	1943-1946
10. Britton I. Budd	1946-1952
11. Edward L. Ryerson	1952-1954
12. Herbert P. Sedwick	1954-1962
13. Robert C. Gunness	1962-1966
14. Oliver W. Tuthill	1966-1984

LIBRARIANS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1. Clement Walker Andrews	1895-1928
2. J. Christian Bay	1928-1946
3. Herman H. Henkle	1947-1969
4. William S. Budington	1969-1984

THE SERVICE PROGRAMS

William S. Budington

From its beginnings, Crerar was organized as a library for reference and research on the premises. Following its 1895 survey of Chicago library resources, the Board's report stated, "In the judgement of the Trustees, a library for the circulation or borrowing of books, in addition to the present Public Library, is not required in Chicago." The first President, Mr. Williams, had already observed, "Any attempt to establish a combination of a reference and circulating library is attended with many technical difficulties of administration at the outset." In essence, a circulating collection was more equated with popular, recreational reading; a purely reference library seemed consonant with Mr. Crerar's aim and object, the building up of character—or, as Mr. Williams projected, "a taste for substantial reading and accurate knowledge."

But also from the beginnings, any person has been welcome to enter, to use these resources as befitted any need—even relaxed browsing. The services normal to research and reference functions in any library have been provided by librarians educated in their profession and, as often as not, with education in one or more of the sciences and technologies. This combination has permitted ready understanding of user problems and questions and knowledgeable delving through bibliographic apparatus and basic sources. Those with marginal understanding of library research methods have received encouragement and guidance in appropriate tools for research. For the experienced researcher, a brief orientation to the Crerar's organization—including its unique classified catalog—sufficed for most. As Mr. Tuthill states in his brief history, of the major discoveries doubtless occurring in such research, we know of only a few, but many are the articles and volumes whose acknowledgements credit Crerar staff for wise assistance and whose authors record amazement at the riches so readily available to them.

Through the years, peripheral services were established to facilitate access to the collections by users the world over, and to

aid researchers in various unique ways. The Photoduplication Service, begun in 1912 and utilizing copying facilities outside the Library proper, was second only to the Library of Congress in the U.S. sequence of establishment. In the late 1940's, photo-static and microfilming equipment was purchased, a dark room arranged, and an innovative deposit account system was offered. In due course, thousands of needed copies of pages in the collections went out each year to every state in the Union and to hundreds of organizations in some three dozen foreign countries.

Sensing a post World War II surge in Chicago corporate research, the Board established in 1946 what was probably the first library-research-for-a-fee arrangement in the country, Research Information Service (RIS). Initially, a base fund was sought and obtained from industrial donors, supporting intensive research performed on demand for the support group. In due course, it became obvious that such "free service" would quickly use up its funding; an hourly fee schedule was set, and contracts obtained from government agencies and corporations happy to find such service available. Under contract to the Atomic Energy Commission, the first three volumes of *Nuclear Science Abstracts* were produced by RIS. Staffed by science degree holders trained on the job to become science information specialists, RIS supplied thousands of retrospective literature search bibliographies, state of the art surveys, several sizeable books (published by the clients), prior art patent investigations, expert witness verifications, etc.

The second RIS specialty was a "current awareness service." All publications received by the Library—periodicals, books, reports, patent gazettes, etc., in dozens of languages—were scanned by RIS staff, spotting material which fitted the interest profiles laid out with and for clients. This material was then processed in any way desired—photocopied, abstracted, indexed, provided with sets of punched cards—and the product forwarded daily, weekly, monthly to the client. A number of abstract bulletin series were published over the years—*Reynolds Aluminum Abstracts*, *Abstracts of Bioanalytic Technology*, *Printed Circuits Abstracts*, *Permanent Magnet Abstracts*, all published by the sponsor (though several were printed and distributed by the Library). *Leukemia*

Abstracts was sent, during some 30 years, free of charge to any researcher in the world requesting it; this was subsidized by a family losing a daughter to the disease and counselled by their doctor to found such a pragmatic memorial. Finally, *Crerar Metals Abstracts* (covering the rare earth metals) survived on its own for a dozen or so years. The great strength of RIS lay in its availability to do the laborious manual index searching and issue scanning required for in-depth information retrieval. In the past ten years, computerized versions of the printed indexes in data bases available (at a cost) to anyone on-line, have exploited the near-magical selectivity of computer logics. While RIS has fully utilized such facilities, need for its previously unique scanning services was vitiated, and volume of business declined to an eventual ending of its past form and operation.

The substantive record of science and technology appears in dozens of foreign language publications, of which Crerar received many thousands of periodical runs by subscription or exchange. Their presence was one factor in the 1953 request that Crerar assume responsibility for the Special Libraries Association's Translations Pool. In the post-WW II period, industrial librarians were faced with high costs and scarce translating proficiency in their effort to keep up with progress reported in foreign languages. Structured sharing of commissioned translations produced a growing pool which became too burdensome for any small corporate library to manage. In accord with its interest in and capability for providing innovative service programs, the Library took on the operation. In due course, funding was received from corporations, foundations and (the primary source) government contracting and grant agencies. Wide publicity engendered hundreds of cooperative sources of deposited translations. A variety of listings appeared over the years; *Translations Register Index*, issued by the Center has continued for some 17 years. In due course, the Special Libraries Association relinquished its vested interest and the present name was assigned—National Translation Center. Its function is to serve as a depository and information clearinghouse on availability of unpublished translations into English. The original collection of under 1,000 items has grown to about 350,000. In addition, availability of

some 650,000 others at cooperating agencies around the world is registered in the Center's records. Thousands of availability inquiries are received annually from researchers facing a language barrier; nearly 3,000 copies from Center files or referrals to known locations are provided annually. In 31 years, the Center has provided access to some 120,000 needed and requested translations, saving \$50 million in otherwise duplicative translating effort. It is a service unique in the United States and one of only a few in the world.

During most of its 22 years on the IIT campus, Crerar operated the Institute's library facilities on a contractual basis. Personnel costs and overhead for staff engaged in IIT-related operations were reimbursed by IIT to Crerar which was thus engaged in academic library management. Appropriate faculty relations were set up and maintained, budgets prepared, reserve book service arranged and all other normal academic library services arranged, in a rather unique contractual situation.

From 1968 to 1979, Crerar functioned as the Midwest Regional Medical Library, selected by and under contract to the National Library of Medicine. An efficient network was established in a six-state region (Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin) by which medical and hospital libraries were enabled to obtain quickly for their users copies of needed literature. Subsidies were administered for this document delivery, for workshops and training programs, for a variety of publications, for development of local cooperating consortia, for automated information retrieval services and a variety of developmental, promotional activities. Overhead on this contract provided significant support for general library expense.

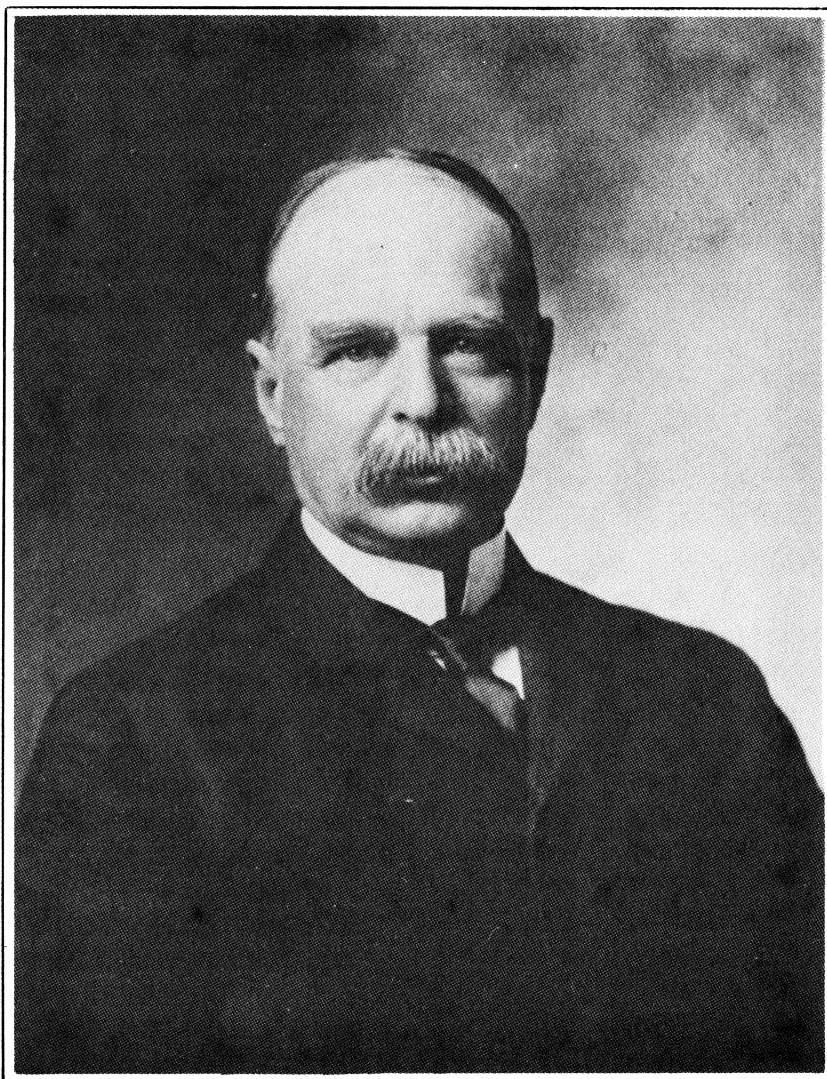
Structured, cooperative service relationships have been an integral part of Crerar's service program since 1970, extending its service capabilities, putting the Library in the forefront of the new information age phenomenon of networks and communication channels. In addition to the medical network, Crerar was an initial "Special Resource Center" contractor to the Illinois State Library and its ILLINET. Reimbursed for each of thousands of transactions annually, the Library extended its resources to many small hamlets as well as researchers in universities.

Computer facilities have been heavily utilized; from the 1952 installation of one of the nation's first Teletype machines in a library, Crerar has made use of centralized library-record data banks, electronic mail, expedited delivery services, experimental facsimile (even in 1984, not fully capable of dealing with scientific matter), satellite communication to other continents, etc.

In sum, Crerar developed over the years a variety of service programs befitting the stature of its collections. As an independent research library, it was enabled to respond flexibly to changing needs of research communities throughout the world. Interns came from other countries—India, Pakistan, Japan, Mexico, Finland—to spend one to twelve months studying and participating in various activities, taking home an enriched experience. Mr. Crerar's wishes have indeed been fulfilled with respect to a substantial resource and service facility for the citizens of Chicago. Well beyond that, the citizens of the USA and the world beyond have reaped the benefit and confirmed that "Great is the gift that bringeth knowledge."

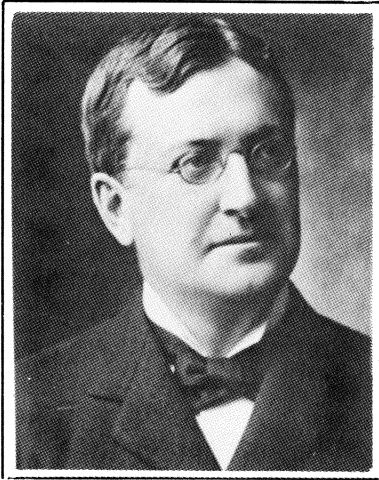


THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

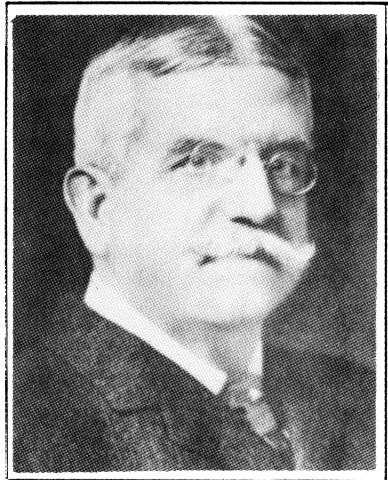


Norman Williams
1894-1899
First President of the Library

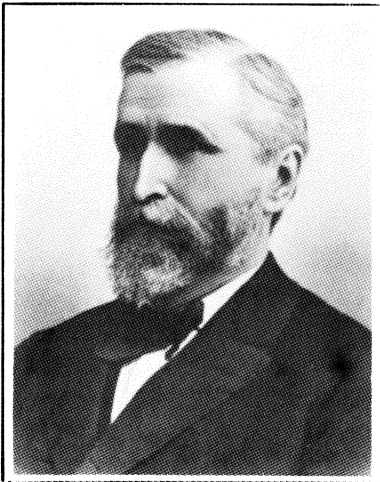
THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS



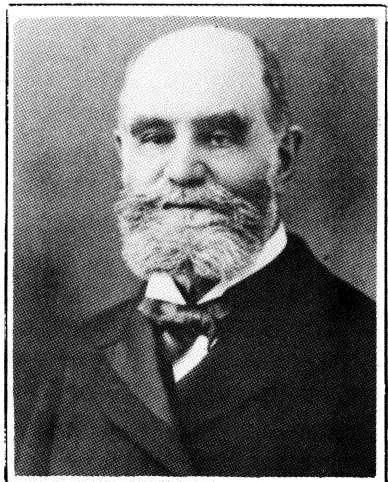
George A. Armour
1894-1899



Henry W. Bishop
1894-1913

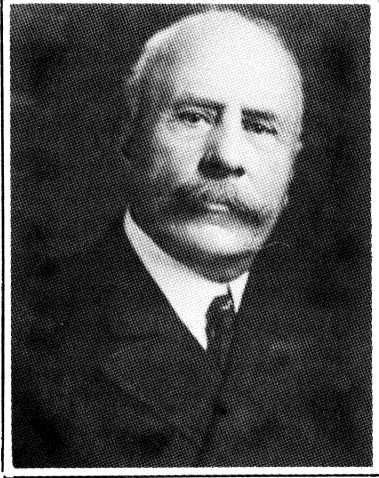


Timothy S. Blackstone
1894-1899

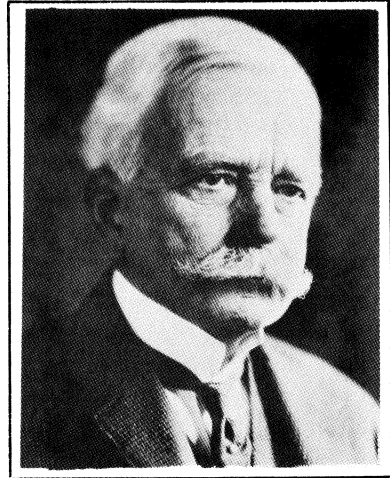


Eliphalet W. Blatchford
1894-1914

THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS



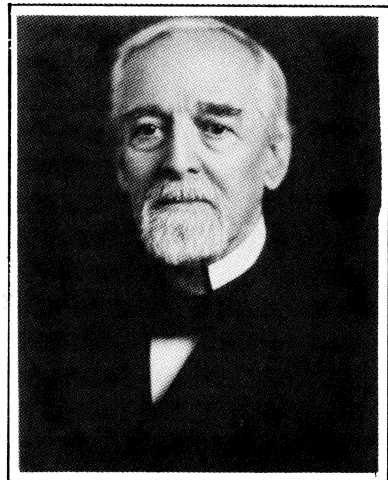
John M. Clark
1894-1916



Marshall Field
1894-1906

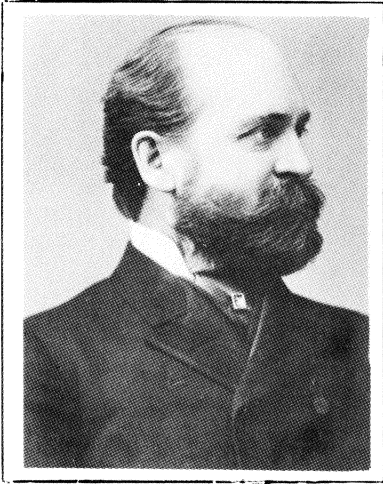


Huntington W. Jackson
1894-1901



Albert Keep
1894-1907

THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Edson Keith
1894-1896



Robert T. Lincoln
1894-1926

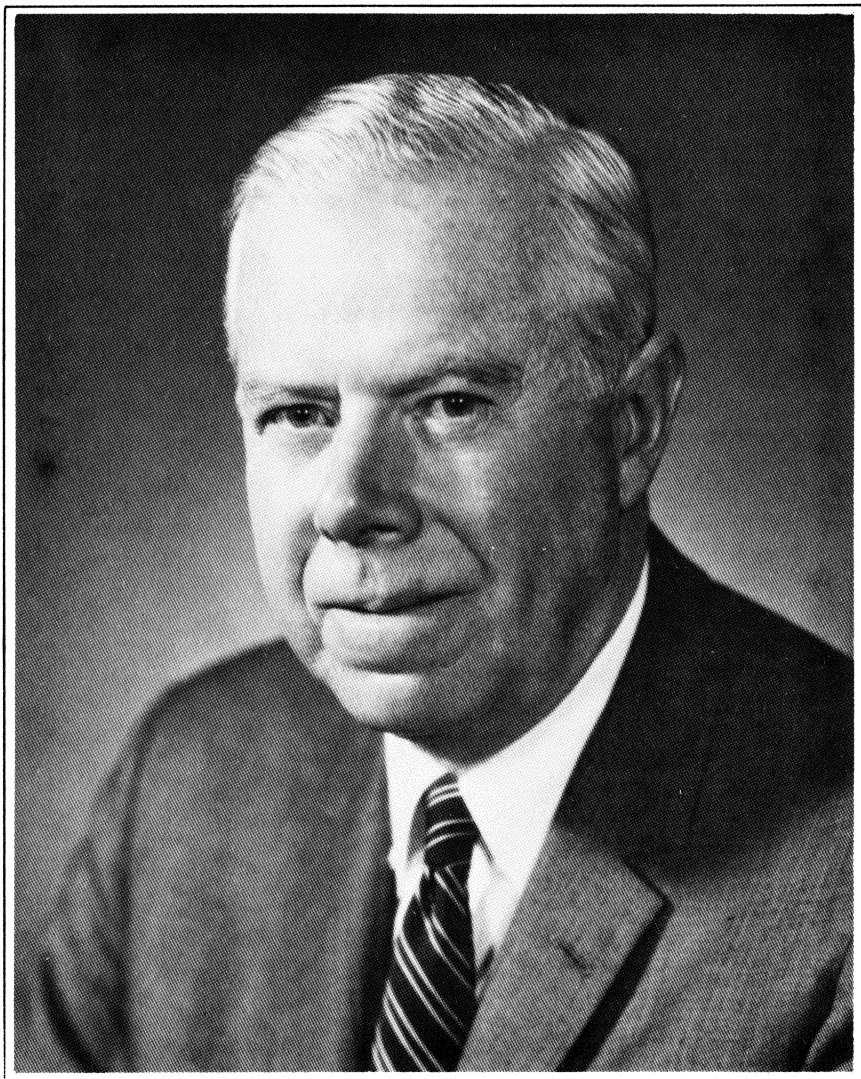


Simon J. McPherson
1894-1899



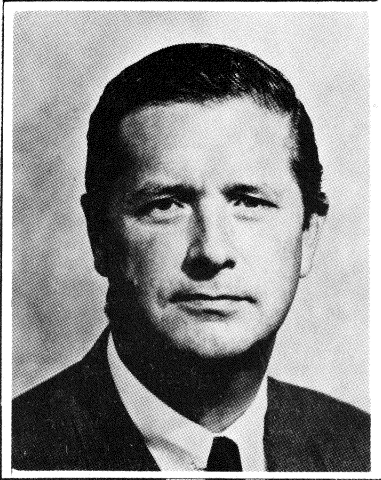
Edward G. Mason
1894-1895

THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

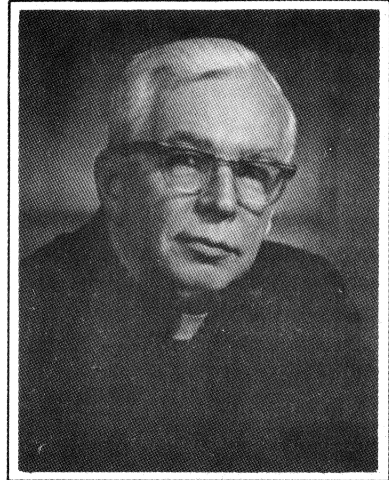


Oliver W. Tuthill
1961-1984
Final President of the Library

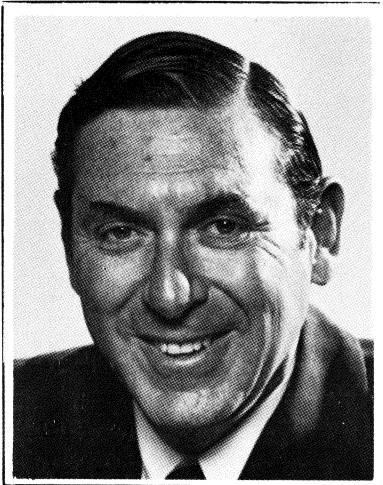
THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



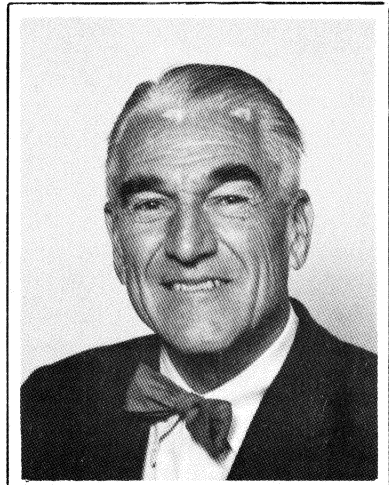
Samuel B. Casey, Jr.
1971-1984



John R. Cortelyou, C.M.
1965-1984

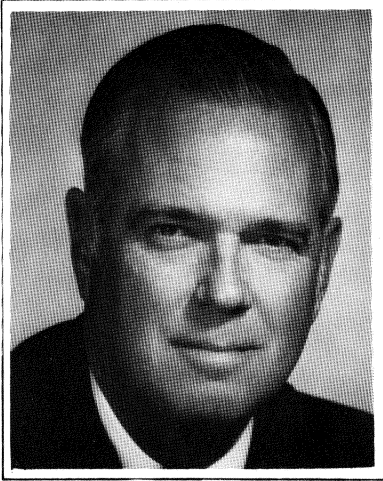


Lester Crown
1968-1984

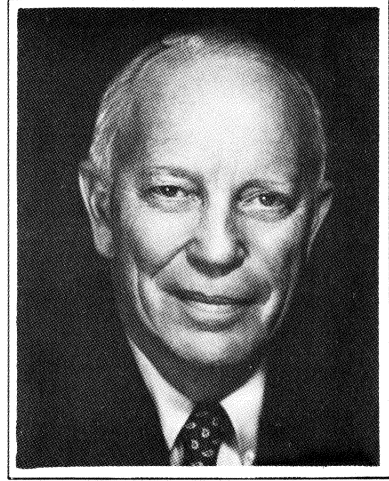


William R. Dickinson, Jr.
1980-1984

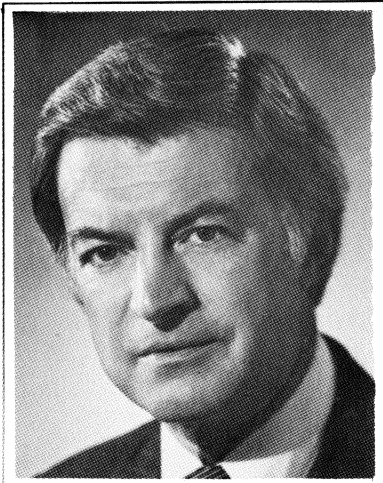
THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



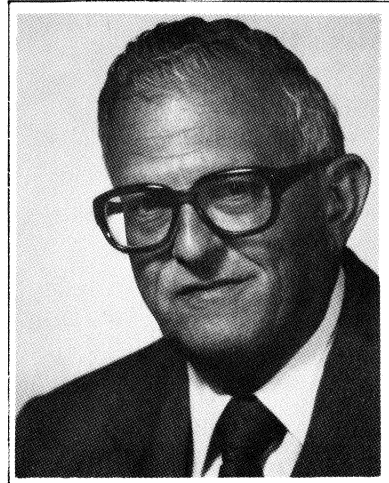
Wesley M. Dixon, Jr.
1978-1984



Robert C. Gunness
1961-1984

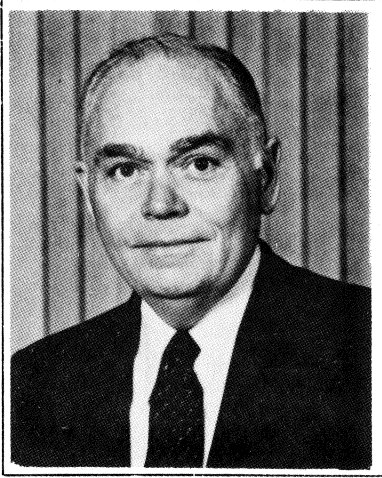


Charles R. Hall
1977-1984

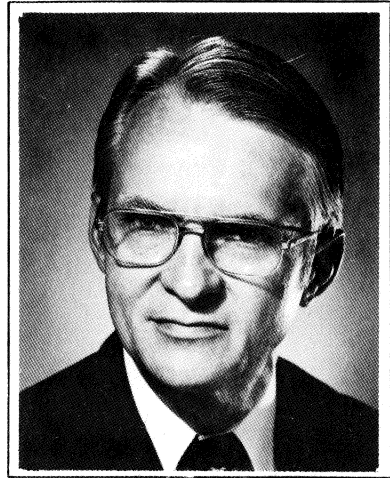


Charles W. Lake, Jr.
1967-1984

THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



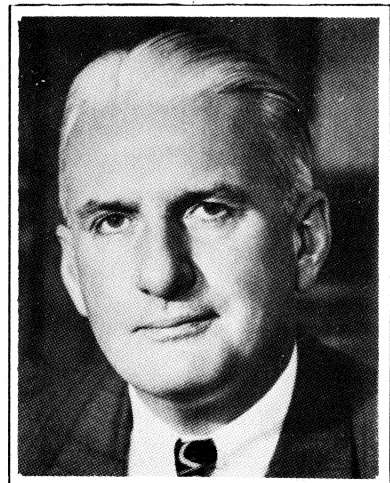
Frank W. Luerssen
1979-1984



Edward A. Mason
1978-1984



Kenneth Nebenzahl
1976-1984

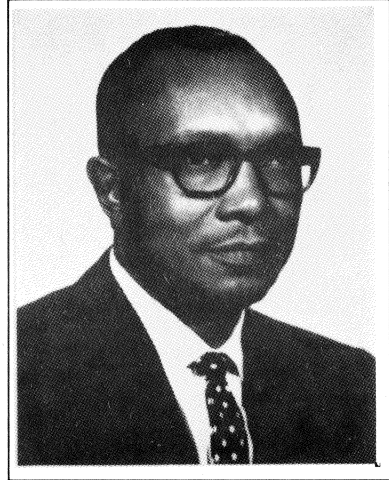


Eric Oldberg, M.D.
1950-1984

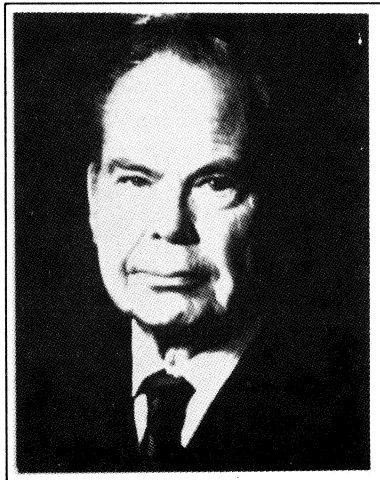
THE FINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mrs. Robert W. Reneker
1974-1984



Theodore R. Sherrod, M.D.
1973-1984

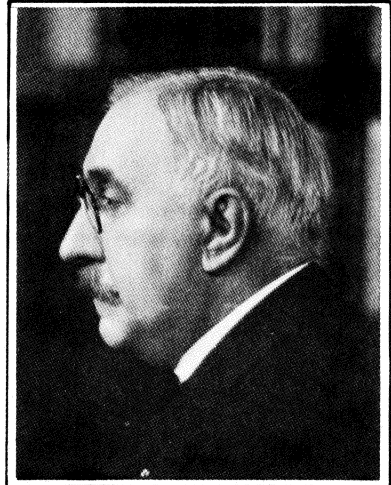


Joseph S. Wright
1965-1984

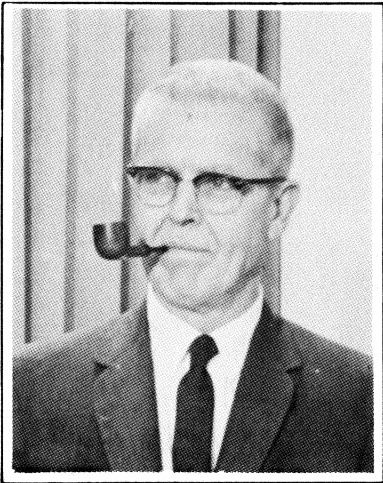
THE FOUR LIBRARIANS



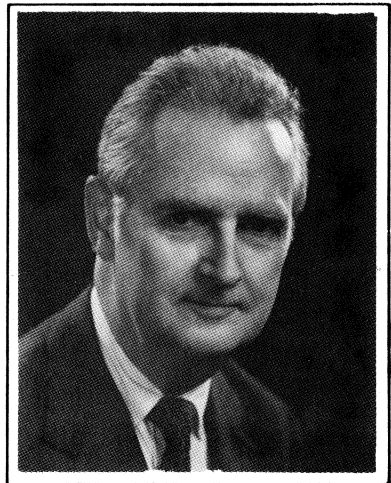
Clement W. Andrews
1895-1928



J. Christian Bay
1928-1946



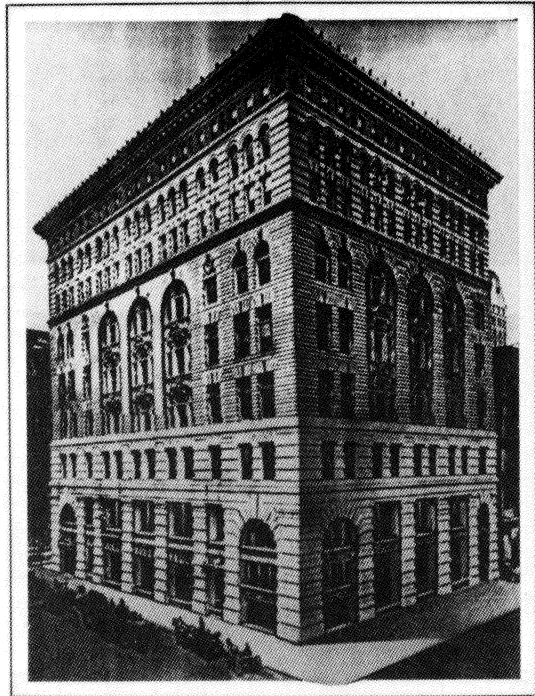
Herman H. Henkle
1947-1969



William S. Budington
1969-1984

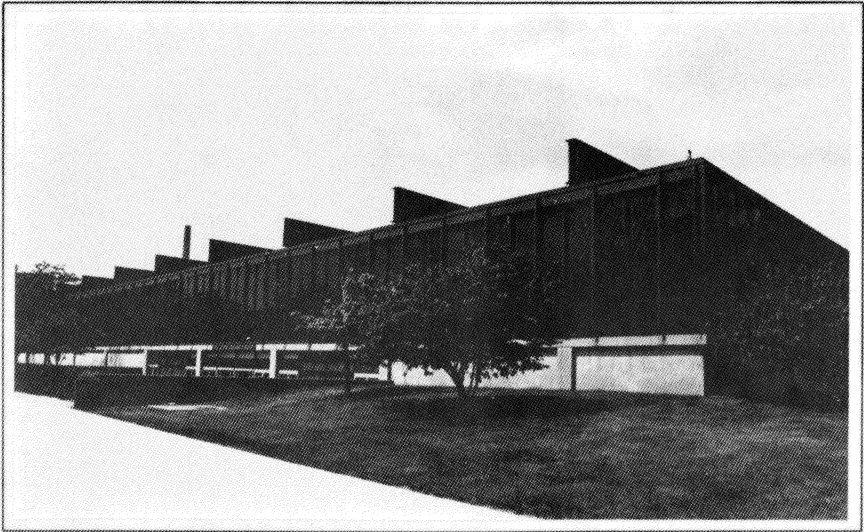
**THE FOUR
BUILDINGS**

Marshall Field Building
(5th and 6th Floors)
Washington and
Wabash Streets
1895-1920

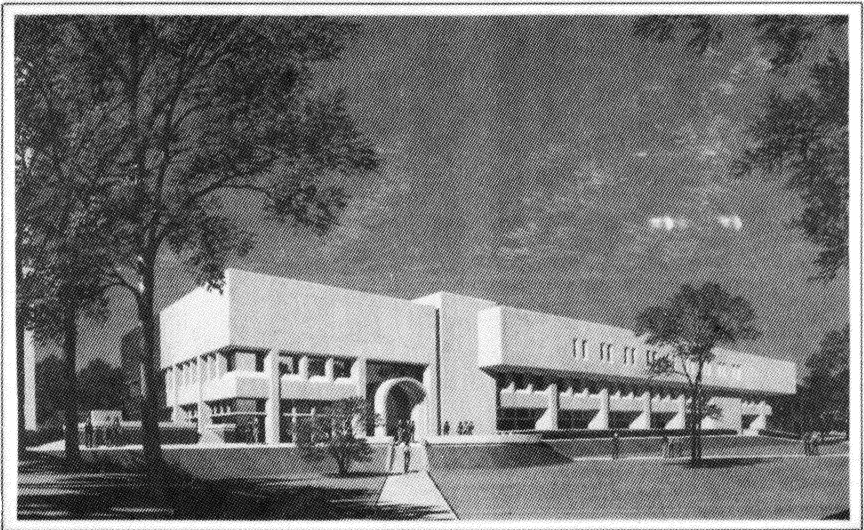


Michigan Avenue
and Randolph Street
1920-1962





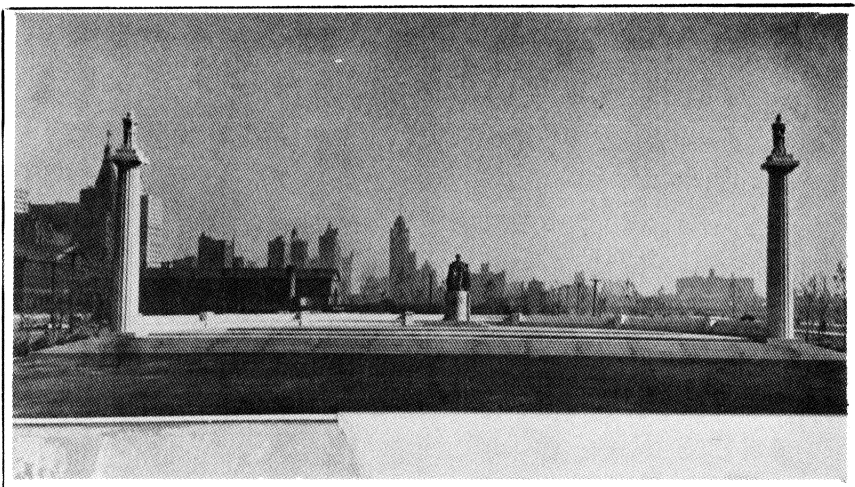
Illinois Institute of Technology Campus
1962-1984



University of Chicago Campus
1984 +

ST. GAUDENS STATUE OF LINCOLN, GRANT PARK

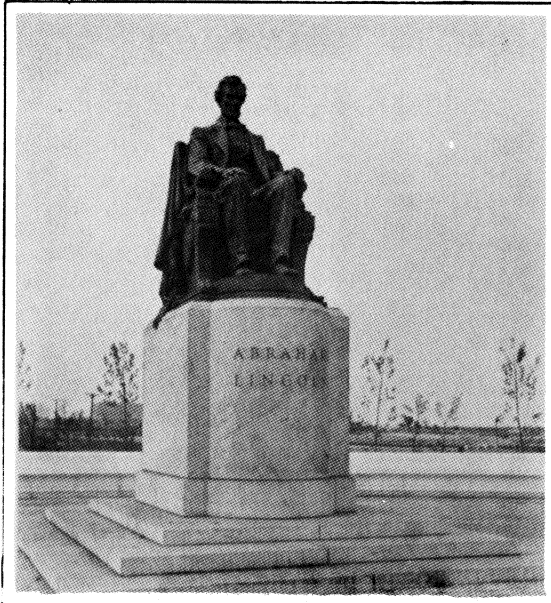
1926



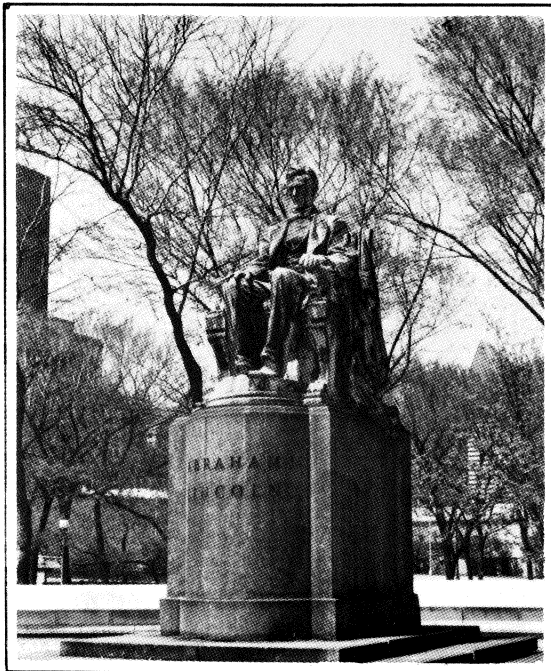
1984



ST. GAUDENS STATUE OF LINCOLN, GRANT PARK



1926



1984

AVE ATQUE VALE

History is not only a record of events, people and circumstances that surrounded and influenced them, but it is also an expression of the dynamics of change. This last meeting of the Board of Directors of the John Crerar Library is a major change in the history of the Library wherein we transfer its direction to the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago. We hope and pray that its history will provide them some guidance in the directions they will take in the future. We extend to them our sincerest best wishes for success in keeping with the memory, spirit and vision of John Crerar in the library that has been entrusted to their care.

The Board of Directors

This privately printed book is set in Baskerville bold & regular and is limited to 88 copies printed on hand made German Bütten paper of which 23 copies have been specially bound in full Moroccan goatskin, and 65 copies bound in Belgian linen cloth by Monastery Hill Bindery, Chicago.





