The Library
and its
Collections

Corning, New York
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A college dedicated to the study of the liberal arts and sciences and to the preparation of the professional and technical leaders of the coming generation needs at its heart a library devoted to the best in thought past and present.

An academic library of stature must obviously provide those volumes and journals which support the courses of study in all fields of learning. This undertaking the Houghton Library has been pursuing for the past five years, and the collection of 20,000 volumes now on the shelves offers a basic collection from which future growth may develop.

More than being a repository of books, a library must provide the opportunity for the individual student to reach beyond the limitations of the classroom and course structure in order to explore the world of knowledge and wisdom with which the mind of man has been concerned from the earliest of times. An education which is rich and varied can best be pursued when a college library encompasses not only the fields of academic study but opens for the student, through a program of lectures, films, and exhibits. It is just such a library, a window onto the world of the arts, of politics, of literature, of religion, and of the newest findings of the sciences and program that the faculty and friends of this College have been building for the past five years.

It is, we feel, appropriate to present a description of the results of these efforts on the occasion of the dedication of the Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. Library.
IS IT NOT SOMEHOW POSSIBLE to find a rich, nourishing and health giving basic diet in this boundless intellectual smorgasbord that is so lavishly presented to us all? The answer may well lie in the work that is going forward in the smaller colleges and universities, in their stressing the value of a basic general education; in smaller general libraries which contain a broad selection of the best rather than a vast collection of the most; in encouraging each individual to continue his personal education, after his college days, throughout his life.

After graduation, there are no professors in life. But, if the skills and techniques have been learned, and the desire is there, a man can continue to educate himself even in entirely new fields by direct contact with books.

Let him learn to use a reference library by looking upon and using his college library for what it really is—a storehouse of knowledge that is open and available for the asking. Let us see that we do not waste the opportunity to enrich our own lives, and that we leave a record of the achievements of our own generation for which our children's children will have cause to be grateful.

Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.
From a speech at Alfred, N. Y., October 21, 1954
Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.

Arthur Houghton's love of books began at an early age, and his interest in libraries and the printed word has never ceased. He first started collecting books while at school, and this collection of books and manuscripts—primarily in the field of English literature—is today considered one of the finest private libraries in existence. The Houghton Library at Harvard, which houses the collections of rare books and manuscripts of Harvard University, was a gift of Mr. Houghton, and his famous collection of volumes of Keats and Shelley is on exhibit there.

Born in Corning on December 12, 1906, he attended Corning public schools and then St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. He studied at Harvard University (class of 1929) and is an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa at that institution. Later he served as Chairman of the Library Committee and Overseer of Harvard University. Since his college days he has been awarded honorary degrees from ten colleges and universities, including doctorates of Law, Humane Letters, Literature, Letters, and Science.

Mr. Houghton has been active in many intellectual fields. From 1940 to 1942 he was Curator of Rare Books at the Library of Congress in Washington, and he presently serves the Library of Congress as its Honorary Consultant in English Literature.

His memberships and offices in scholarly organizations are numerous. He is past president of the Keats-Shelley Association of America and of the Shakespeare Association of America. He is vice-president of the Pierpont Morgan Library, a trustee of the New York Public Library, and a trustee of the Modern Language Association.

Mr. Houghton is a member of the National Book Committee, the American Library Association, the Manuscript Society, and the Bibliographical Society of America. Overseas he is also a member of the Bibliographical Society of London, the Oxford Bibliographical Society, and the Cambridge Bibliographical Society. He is a member of the National Book League and a governor of the Johnson House Trust, both of London.

Mr. Houghton is President of the Steuben Glass Company of New York City.
The General Collections

THE REFERENCE COLLECTION

Basic to any library is that group of books which covers in brief form the factual information needed by students and scholars. The Houghton Library is particularly fortunate in the richness of its reference holdings. The five thousand volumes which comprise this collection cover all the areas of man's knowledge and experience. The works range from the complete Library of Congress catalogue to the major encyclopedias of Britain and the United States. Indices, biographical works, yearbooks, dictionaries, and bibliographies are among those sources in the Reference Room which are vital for research on all levels and which enable the student to uncover those details necessary for scholarly writing.

At the beginning of each academic year the Reference Librarian meets with all freshmen in order to familiarize them with the many facets of the Library's reference works and to acquaint them with the purpose and the proper use of reference materials. A reference librarian is on duty each day of the academic year to assist users of the Library with reference and research problems.

THE GENERAL BOOK COLLECTION

If the Reference Collection provides not only factual information but the best introduction to many areas of learning, it is the general book collection which offers the depth that adequate research necessitates. The Library's present 15,000 volumes in the general book collection, catalogued under the Dewey Decimal System, are shelved in the stack area on the lower level. All of the major areas of the arts and sciences are encompassed, and these volumes have been chosen by members of the faculty and Library staff from standard academic bibliographies. The Library maintains an open stack policy, and students are free to browse among the collection. A separate "Browsing and New Book" collection may be found in the main reading room. Reserve books are located behind the circulation desk.

Although the Library is comparatively young, the comprehensiveness of the collection has been made possible through the many gifts of out-of-print books donated by friends of the College. To these have been added the purchases made by the Library both within the United States and from overseas.

THE PERIODICAL COLLECTION

The increase in knowledge in recent years has grown at so fast a pace that books (particularly of a technical or scientific nature) are often out of date soon after they have been printed. Thus it is that the scholar is often forced to rely on periodicals and learned journals to keep abreast of developments in his field. With this in mind, the faculty of this College have chosen those periodicals in their own and general fields that they deem important for their students' use. Many courses have their outside read-
ings primarily in periodicals, and thus this collection (one of the stronger holdings of the Library) makes available up-to-date information and reference materials which students might otherwise be unable to obtain.

Current periodicals may be found in the Main Reading Room. The Bound Periodical Collection in the stack areas on the lower level contains not only those journals to which the Library subscribes and considers worthy of permanent retention, but it includes volumes of periodicals dating back into the 19th century which have been donated to the Library. The breadth in holdings in this area provides an excellent additional research and reference collection for students and the community.

THE MICROFILM AND SLIDE COLLECTION

No library can attempt to hold all the volumes or journals of importance for academic work; the bulk of material retained would soon overcrowd the building. The cost and problems involved in obtaining works no longer in print are often prohibitive. Thus a collection of microfilm can solve a dual problem both inexpensively and compactly. The Houghton Library is at present subscribing to the microfilm edition of the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the London Times Literary Supplement, and the Times (London).

The printed word frequently needs to be supplemented by the pictorial, and accordingly the Library has begun a collection of 35mm. slides in mono-

chrome and color to complement its holdings in books and journals. At the present time 3,000 slides cover the areas of art, literature, science, and travel.

THE VERTICAL AND PAMPHLET FILES

Not all the information needed by the student comes between the covers of a book or periodical or on film. Therefore the Library maintains a file of miscellaneous information which includes those topics not sufficiently well covered in other forms. Information printed on individual leaves or in pamphlet form are kept in folders in alphabetical order in the file cabinets in the stack area where they are readily available.

A separate file of catalogues of colleges within the United States and directories and guides to colleges overseas are shelved next to and as an adjunct of the vertical files.

The Special Collections

THE DONALD HYDE LITERATURE COLLECTION

Donald Hyde's interest in the world of books has many facets. A publisher (Constable and Co.), trustee of the New York Public Library, and sometime director or president of the Keats-Shelley Association, Shakespeare Association, Bibliographical
Society, and Grolier Club, his interests have ranged across the literary world. In collaboration with his wife, Mary C. Hyde, he has published Johnson’s Diaries and has built one of the major private collections of books from the eighteenth century.

A gift from Donald Hyde enabled the Library to begin one of its largest book collections: the Donald Hyde Collection of English Literature. These volumes span the centuries of British literature from Anglo-Saxon times through the twentieth century and encompass not only the works of writers both major and minor but critical works and biographies of British men and women of letters.

The Donald Hyde Collection is shelved in the literature section of the stacks on the lower level where students may peruse its holdings.

THE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT TEACHING COLLECTION

Artifacts from the past have a way of telling their own story in a manner that later reproductions never can. To see an original is to partake of history itself. Thus it is that the friends of this Library have gathered a collection of books and manuscripts illustrative of man’s quest for knowledge and love of the written word. The Library has at its command selections illustrating the history of the written word ranging from cuneiform tablets through papyrus, illuminated manuscripts of the medieval era, and early printed books and newspapers. The art of the book from Aldine to William Morris can be illustrated from among the volumes on the shelves of the special collections. Autographed documents, letters, and manuscripts cover many of the British monarchs since James I, most of the Presidents of the United States, and many of the literary and artistic figures of the Anglo-American world. One collection of manuscripts contains leaves from every famous Bible since the 12th century.

THE JAMES HOUSTON COLLECTION OF ESKIMO SCULPTURE

James Houston has studied art not only in the United States and Canada but in Europe as well, and at present he is a designer for Steuben Glass in New York City. Mr. Houston’s interest in the art of primitive people has led to his living with and serious study of both the art and life of the American Indians of the Southwest and the Ainu of the Japanese island of Hokkaido. For ten years he served as civil administrator for the Canadian government among the Eskimo of Baffin Land and encouraged the Eskimo in applying their artistic talent for the benefit of the world beyond the arctic circle.

Working in stone and bone, the Eskimo have produced a variety of forms expressive of the world in which they live. The fifty pieces of sculpture on permanent loan from Mr. Houston illustrate Eskimo life in its many phases, as well as the birds and mammals the Eskimo counts as partners in the world of the far north. A separate brochure published by the Library gives a detailed description of
the collection which is on display in the exhibit cases in the Main Gallery.

THE ROBERT ROCKWELL COLLECTION OF WESTERN AMERICAN ART

Robert Rockwell was born in Colorado and had his education at Whittier College and at Stanford University. He later settled in Corning, New York, where he is president of The Rockwell Department Store. Out of his native west has come an interest in that period between the Civil War and the fencing of the grazing lands which Frederic Remington captured in oil and pencil before the frontier faded into history.

Mr. Rockwell's collection of paintings of the American West is now one of the major ones in the United States, and he has graciously placed twelve of Frederic Remington's paintings and five of his bronzes on display in the Library lounge. A separate brochure on the Remington collection has been issued by the Library.

THE CATHERINE MACK MUSIC AND ART COLLECTION

The technical library of the Corning Glass Company grew to its present excellence under the long term guidance afforded it by Catherine Mack. Her untimely death in the summer of 1963 was a loss not only to the Corning Glass Library but to this Library which she aided in innumerable ways. Her many friends have contributed to a fund which has been used to build a collection in music and the arts for use by students. These selections of sculpture and painting may be borrowed to be hung at home or in dormitories, and they range from Greek times to the present.

The record and tape collection includes the works of major composers or authors in music, drama, and the spoken word. These selections are available for use within the Library and may also be heard in the daily Listening Hours which the Library will sponsor in the Library Lounge.

THE CORNING-PAINTED POST HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

With the completion of the new Library building, the local historical society has begun to move its valuable collection of manuscripts and books to the College. Many of the Society's papers will be exhibited in the cases in the Special Collection Room, and as the Society collection is sorted and catalogued in the Library vault, they will be made available to students of local history within the community.

THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE COLLECTION

The Alliance Francaise and the College Library have cooperated in the area of Franco-American interests, and the Library has made browsing space available in the Main Reading Room for the collection of French books and books on France which have been given to the organization by the govern-
ment of France. These volumes are available on long term loan to members of the Alliance Francaise and on short term loan to other users of the Library.

THE FINE ARTS COLLECTION

Aside from the James Houston and Robert Rockwell collections previously mentioned, the Houghton Library has among its holdings a number of selections in the area of the fine arts.

In 1959 Mr. and Mrs. Alanson Houghton presented the college with the Raoul Dufy watercolor Nude at the Seaside which hangs in the Reference Collection Room. A gift from Mr. Arthur Houghton and Mr. Alanson Houghton of the John C. Johansen portrait of Lincoln is on display in the Board Room of the Administration Building. A portrait and autographed letter from Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a gift of the Baron Steuben Hotel, hangs in the office of the Dean. A series of Flemish tapestries from Mrs. Glenn Cole and other friends of the Library are mounted on the walls of the Special Collection Room and in three of the public offices of the Library as well as in the Student Center. A collection of eight watercolors commissioned by the parents of Kenneth Law, the College's first student from overseas, hang in the Reference Collection Room of the Library.

The exhibit gallery on the lower level of the Library is used for displays of collections on loan from other institutions as well as from the Library's own holdings. At present the Library's collection of antique maps is also hung in the Map Gallery in the eastern end of the lower level.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DEPOSITORY

Each year the United States Government prints information ranging from the proceedings of the United States Congress to the journals, yearbooks, and other reports that are the concern of the various Federal departments. This information is invaluable to the student of business, economics, politics, sciences, and foreign policy. In February, 1964, the Library was activated as a selective United States Government Document Depository, and the Library now serves its students and local industry with this information which is not otherwise available. The Houghton Library is one of the two such depositories in the 38th Congressional District.

The College Cultural Program

The Library is responsible, through its Director, for the planning of cultural programs for the College in collaboration with the Faculty Library and Cultural Committee. Each year a series of exhibits films, lectures, discussions, musical, and dramatic programs are presented on campus. A listing of events for the 1963-1964 academic year has been published in a separate brochure. Many of these
events take place in the Student Center and Science Amphitheatre, but with the completion of Houghton Library it will now be possible to hold small seminars, lectures, and discussions in the Conference Room and in the Library Lounge, while small exhibits can be mounted in the exhibit area adjacent to the lounge on the lower level.