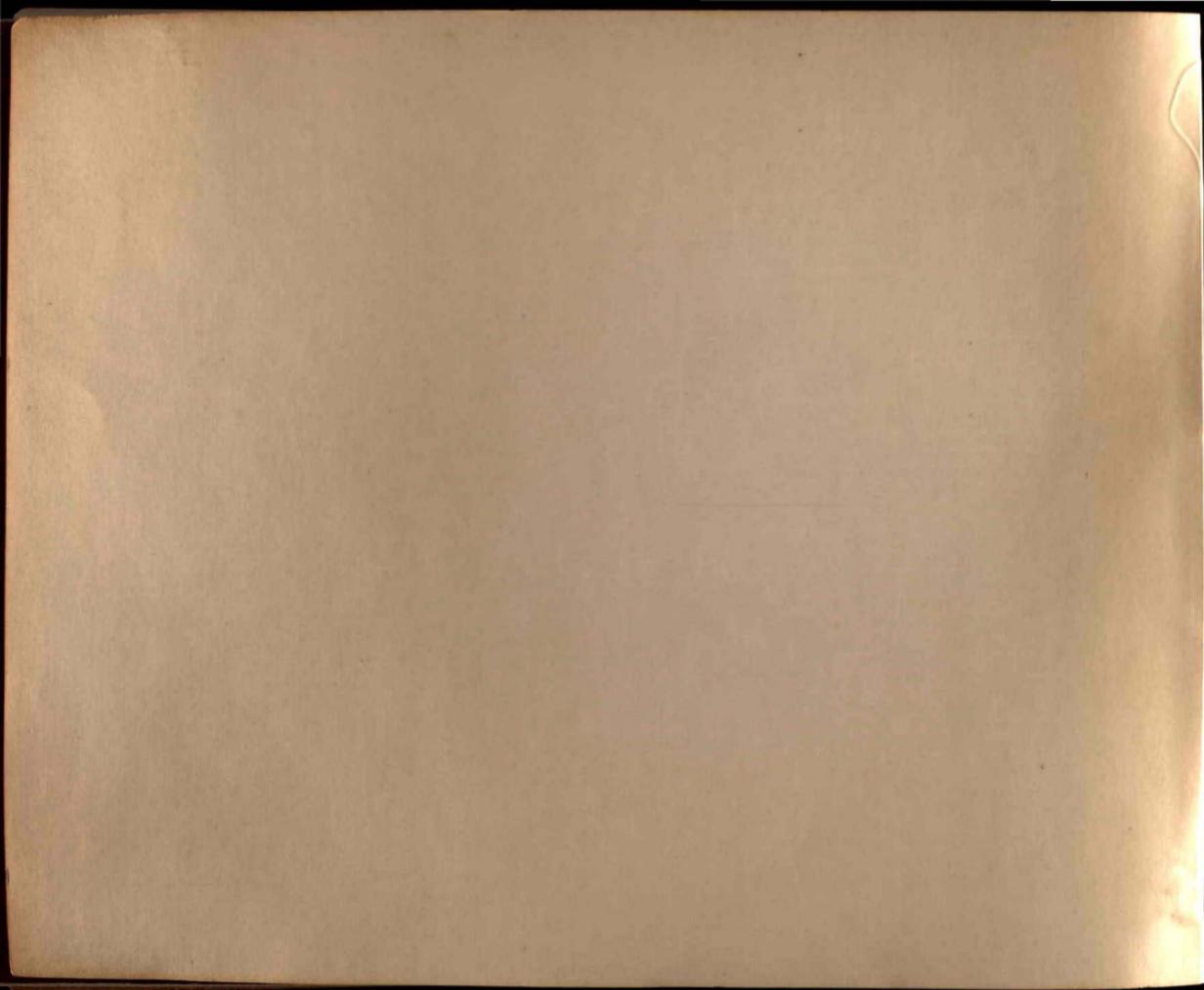
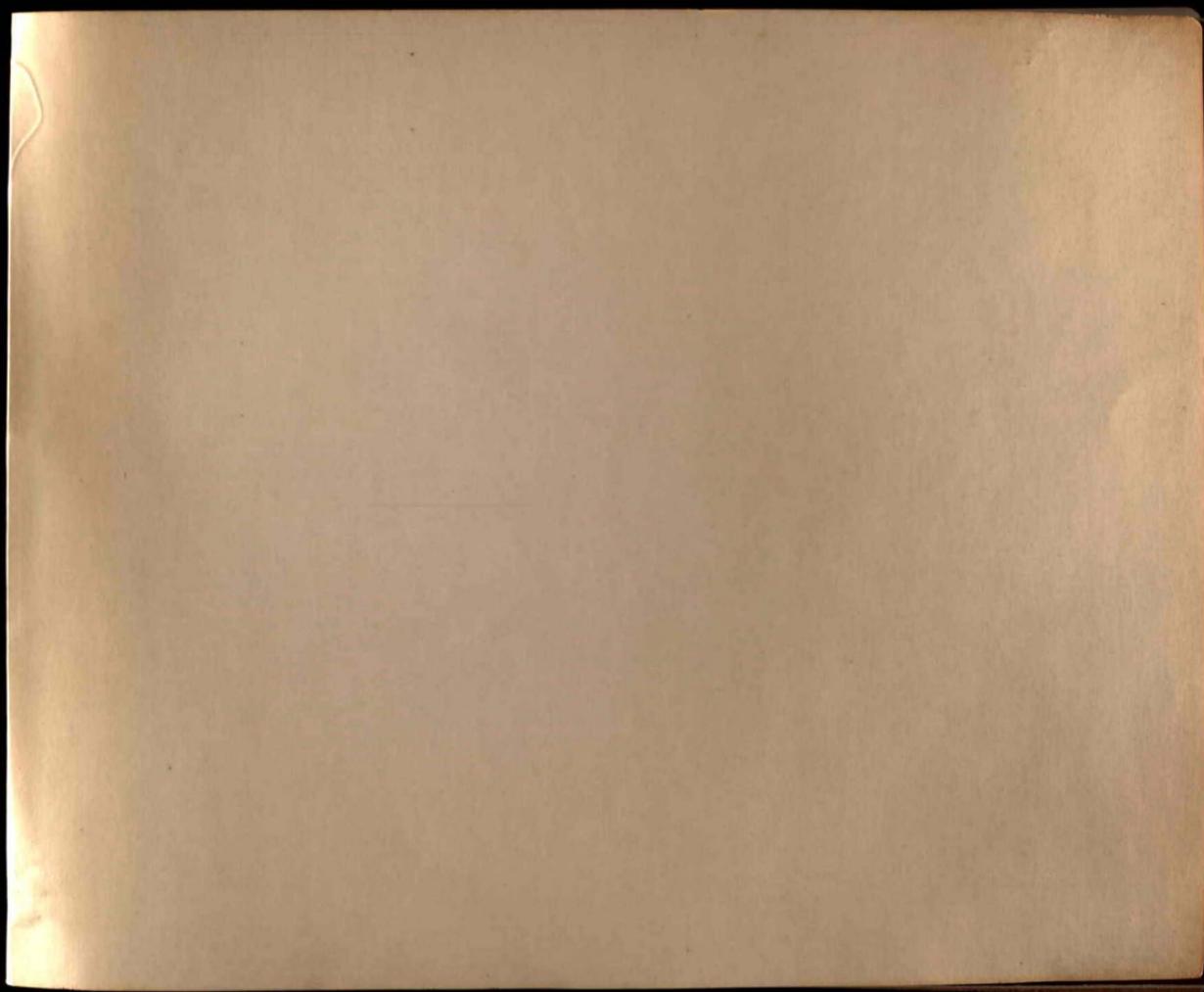


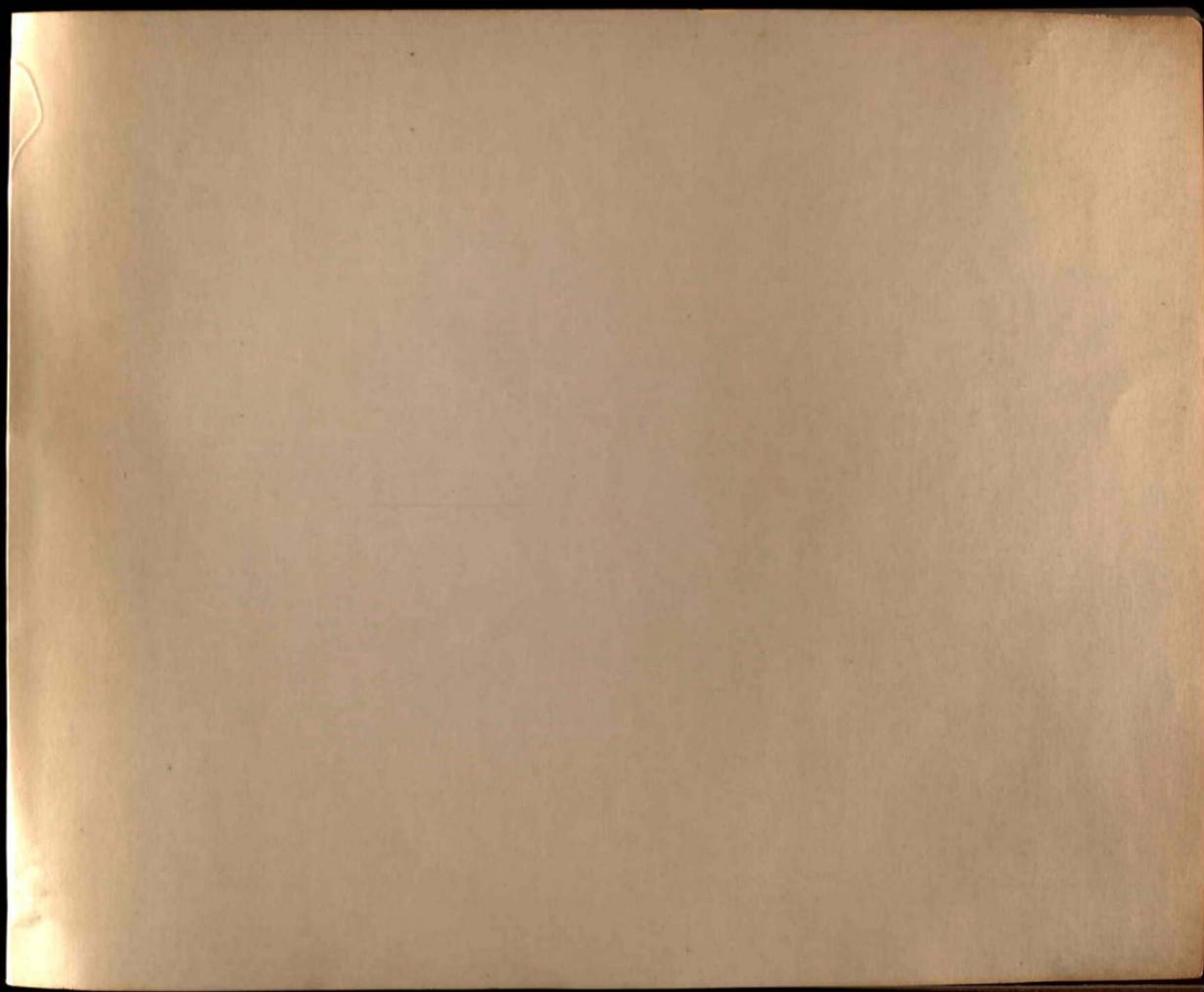
*The Library of Congress
and Its Work
1950*

A SELECTION OF PICTURES, WITH DESCRIPTIVE TEXT







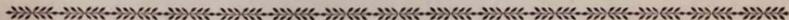


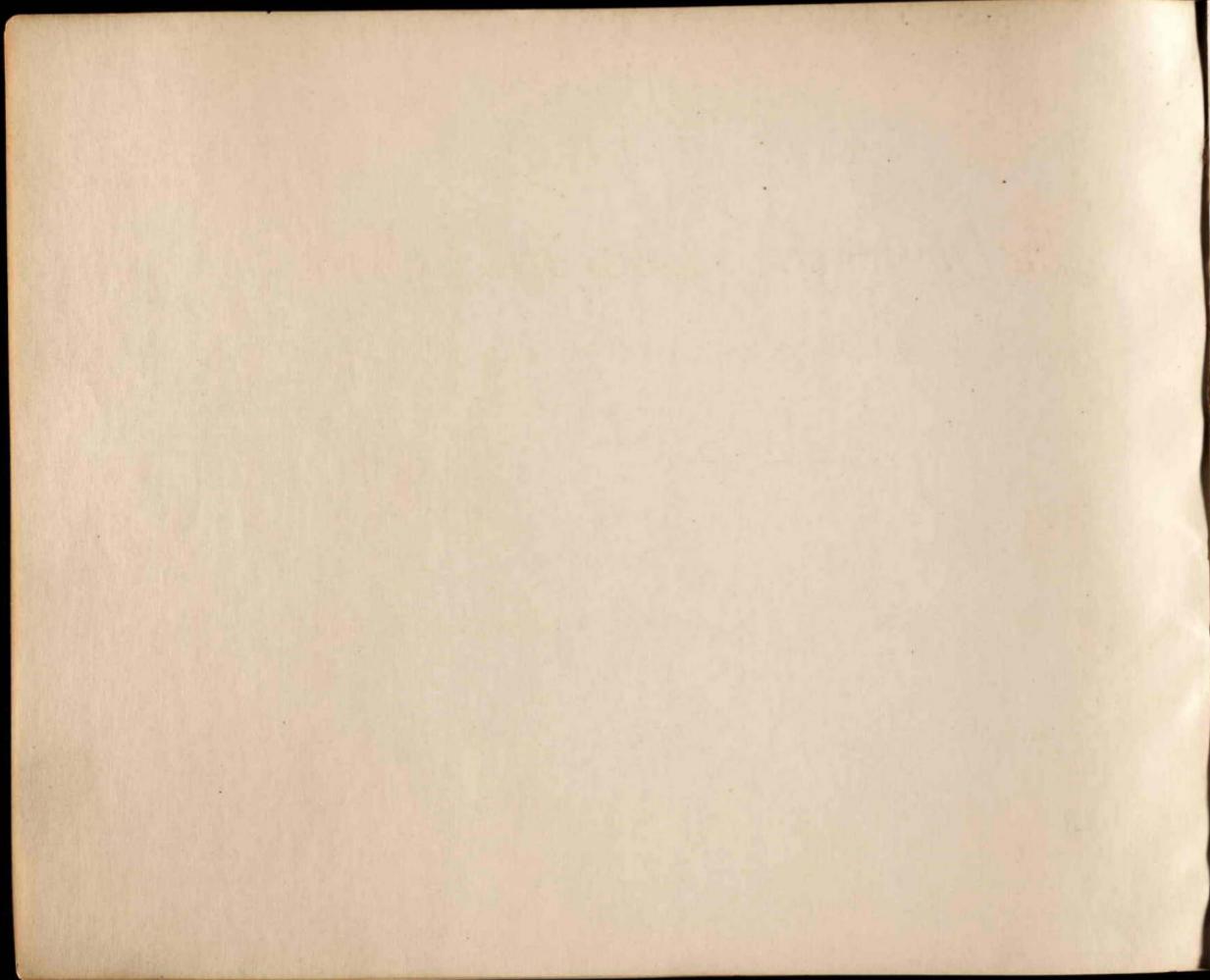
The Library of Congress and Its Work

A SELECTION OF PICTURES

WITH DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

1950 * * * *



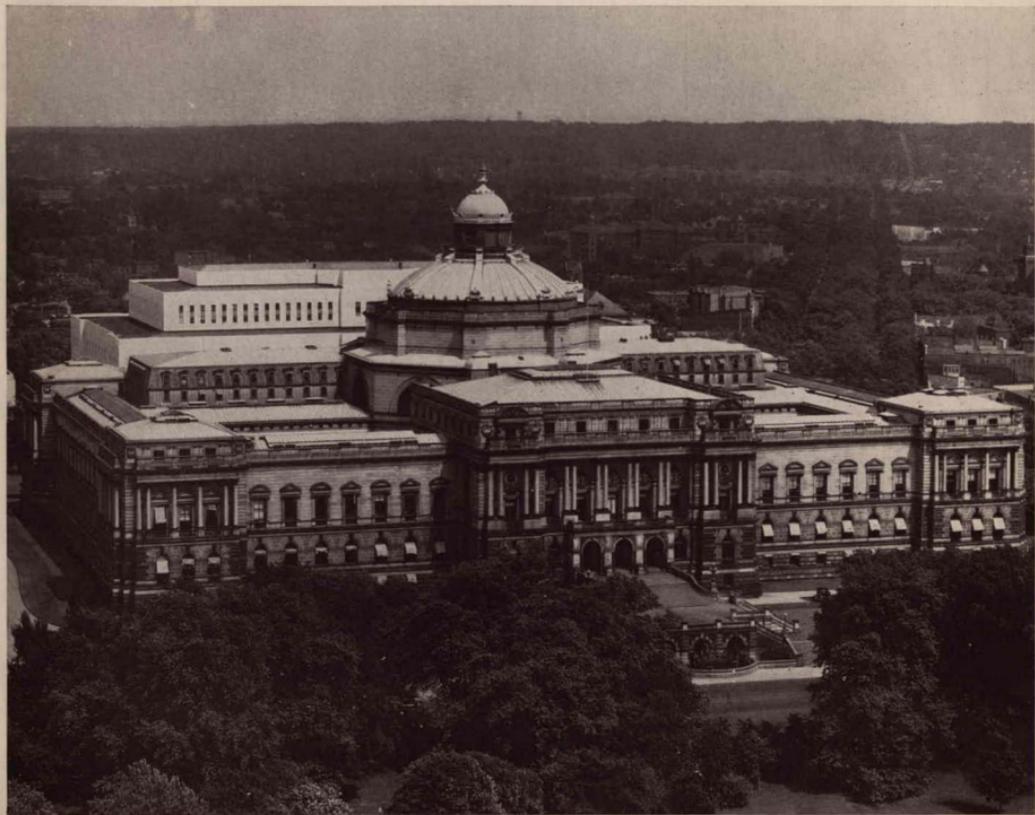


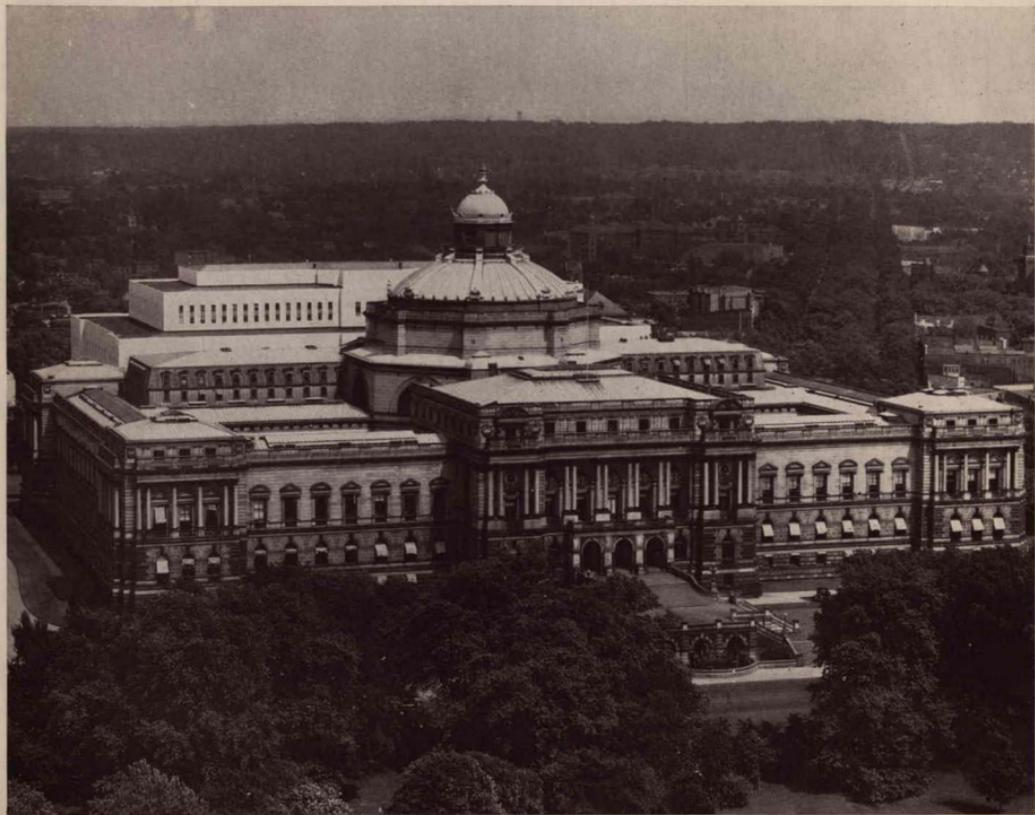
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

IN THE YEAR 1950 the Library of Congress entered its sesquicentennial year of service to the Congress, the United States Government, and the Nation. Established by an act of Congress on April 24, 1800, the Library of Congress in its first years was a small collection of books, appraised at a little more than \$4,000 and occupying a small "apartment" in the Capitol. In 1950 the Library of Congress occupied the two largest buildings in the world devoted exclusively to library purposes. The transfer from the Capitol to the spacious Main Building occurred in 1897, and the expansion into an Annex Building, in 1939. These buildings, constructed at a total cost of \$15,130,656, are situated on 13¾ acres of ground, and contain 1,563,189 square feet of floor space and 250 miles of steel shelving for books. Pneumatic tubes transport the books between the buildings in 30 seconds, and a mechanized carrier carries materials to the Capitol in 7½ minutes (it was installed over 50 years ago).

Within these buildings are carried on the acquisition of library materials on a worldwide basis, the processing of these materials for easy accessibility, and the servicing of them in and outside of the buildings, and often as the last resort in the search for the answer to a question nowhere else answerable.

The Library of Congress represents a total investment in public moneys of \$117,717,628 as of June 30, 1949. Its annual maintenance in the fiscal year 1949 amounted to a per capita tax of 5 cents on each citizen of the United States. The American people and civilization in general has reason to be proud of a system of government and an arm of that Government which has made, at such a comparatively low cost, these collections available and services on them possible.







THE PRINCIPAL READING ROOMS

THE MAIN READING ROOM, Main Building, first floor, provides space for 260 readers. The Thomas Jefferson Room, Annex Building, fifth floor, accommodates 303 readers. In these magnificent rooms persons may consult any materials in the general classified collections, numbering over 8,000,000 volumes, and may receive reference aid from trained assistants. About 20 minutes should be allowed for delivery of a book. Access to stack areas is obtained through the Chief of the Stack and Reader Division (Alcove 8, Main Reading Room).

THE MAIN READING ROOM



THE PRINCIPAL CATALOGS

THE PUBLIC CATALOG, the principal catalog of the general book collections is found in, and adjacent to, the Main Reading Room. It can be seen in part in the photograph of the Main Reading Room on page 9. It consists of some 8,000,000 cards, contained in 10,000 trays, and is increasing at the rate of a quarter of a million entries a year. The Annex Catalog is located on the fifth floor of the Annex Building adjacent to the Thomas Jefferson Room. Aid in the use of the public catalogs may be obtained from assistants in the reference alcoves and at the reading room desks.

Since 1947 the Library has issued a cumulative "Author Catalog" in book form of the materials currently cataloged by the Library of Congress and other libraries cooperating in its cataloging program. A Subject Catalog in book form began to appear also in 1950. Catalogs of special materials, such as music, maps, prints and photographs, orientalia, microfilm, and rare books, are maintained by the divisions responsible for custody of these materials.



THE UNION CATALOGS

ONE OF THE GREATEST AIDS to scholarship is the *National Union Catalog*, which records the location of books of research value in over 700 libraries in the United States and Canada. Maintained by the joint efforts of the Library of Congress and other research libraries, it contains over 15,000,000 entries. The *National Union Catalog* is found in the Main Building, first floor. Additional union catalogs of Hebrew, Slavic, Japanese, and Chinese books in the United States are maintained in connection with the corresponding special collections.



Special Reading Rooms

AERONAUTICS

SIGNIFICANT MATERIALS in the science of aeronautics may be used in the reading room of the Aeronautics Division, Annex Building, ground floor. The aeronautics collection totals over 30,000 volumes, and is generally believed to be the largest collection of aeronautical literature in the world. Important papers including those of Frank M. Andrews, Billy Mitchell, Carl Spatz, and the Wright Brothers have been added to the collections of manuscripts.

AERONAUTICS READING ROOM



THE HISPANIC FOUNDATION

IN THE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED HISPANIC ROOM, *Main Building, second floor*, reference and bibliographic assistance in Hispanic culture is provided. Materials from the book-stacks may be delivered here for the use of readers. The Room is maintained with the assistance of a special endowment, the gift of the Hon. Archer M. Huntington. The Foundation responds to questions about virtually every phase of life in the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America, and students from all parts of the Western Hemisphere use the resources of this cultural center.

The annual "*Handbook of Latin American Studies*," compiled by the Hispanic Foundation, reviews significant trends in the humanities and the social sciences, and presents an annotated and selective bibliography of the more important publications relating to those fields.



MANUSCRIPTS

THE NATION'S RICHEST COLLECTION of personal papers of distinguished men and institutions are serviced in the Manuscripts Division, Annex Building, third floor. Included in the collection, which numbers about 11,000,000 pieces, are the manuscripts of most of the Presidents from Washington to Coolidge, many military leaders, statesmen, and scores of economists and scientists, as well as the records of numerous enterprises and institutions. Among the better known collections of papers are: the records of the Continental Congress, the records of the Virginia Company; the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton, Daniel Webster, John Marshall, Clara Barton, and Booker T. Washington, to mention but a few.



MAPS

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS processes the largest collection of cartographic materials in the world, approximately 2,000,000 volumes and map sheets, although less than 100,000 have been cataloged. Its collection of atlases and globes is of equal standing. Among these notable possessions are the only surviving L'Enfant Plan of Washington (1791); Samuel de Champlain's manuscript map of the New England coast, on vellum (1607); eleven Portolan charts; manuscript atlases by Baptista Agnese (ca. 1543), Joao Teixeira (1630), and William Hacke (1690).

Special facilities for the use of these materials are available in the Maps Division, Main Building, first floor.



MUSIC

THE LIBRARY'S collection of music and the literature of music, believed to be the world's most comprehensive, totals more than 1,800,000 pieces. Included are the largest collection of opera librettos, an important body of correspondence of such composers as Beethoven and Brahms, the holograph scores of such masters as Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Liszt, Wagner, and a fair copy of "The Star Spangled Banner," in the hand of Francis Scott Key. These scores may be consulted in the Music Division, Main Building, ground floor.

Through the Coolidge, Whittall, Koussevitzky, and Longworth Foundations and other endowments and gifts, the Library of Congress has become a leader in the presentation and encouragement of various kinds of music but with an emphasis on chamber music. The folklore collections are also consequential.

STATUETTES OF CHINESE GIRLS PLAYING FLUTES AND
PANPIPE, FROM THE MILLER FLUTE COLLECTION



NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, AND GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

IN THE MAIN BUILDING current unbound issues of over 1,300 newspapers, 768 of which are domestic and 554 of which are foreign, as well as a comprehensive collection of periodicals, are available for use in the Periodicals Reading Room, Main Building, ground floor. Bound volumes of newspapers may be consulted in the Newspaper Reference Room, Annex Building, fifth floor. The Government Publications Reading Room, Main Building, first floor, offers reader and reference service on unbound official publications of governments, international organizations, and quasi-governmental bodies.



ORIENTALIA MATERIALS

THE LIBRARY'S collection of Chinese and Japanese books and manuscripts is the largest outside of China and Japan, totaling more than 300,000 pieces. Among the rare Chinese items are 10 books printed in the Sung period (960-1279), 12 in the Mongol period (1279-1368), and nearly 1,500 in the Ming period (1368-1644). The collection is probably stronger than any other in the Western World in Japanese Government publications and in many types of Japanese journals.

Materials written or printed in Chinese, Japanese, Semitic, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and numerous other oriental languages are made available to readers in special reading rooms serviced by the Orientalia Division, Annex Building, fifth floor.



PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

PRINTS, photographs, engravings, etchings, woodcuts, and lithographs are estimated to number more than 7,000,000 items. They are available for use in the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, Main Building, second floor. Books and supplementary illustrative material devoted to architecture, painting, sculpture, and the graphic arts are served in the Main Reading Room, Main Building, first floor. The collections include an outstanding representation of the works of J. A. McNeil Whistler and Joseph Pennell; a superb group of British mezzotints; achievements of such artists as Ernest Haskell, Frank Benson, Donald Shaw McLaughlin, Julian Alden Weir; original photograph collections made by Mathew B. Brady, T. H. O'Sullivan, Alexander Gardner, Arnold Genthe, and others; the photographs and drawings of American buildings erected before 1870 which compose the Historic American Buildings Survey; original drawings and cartoons; and a large group of photographs of Latin American art which have been organized into an Archive of Hispanic Culture.

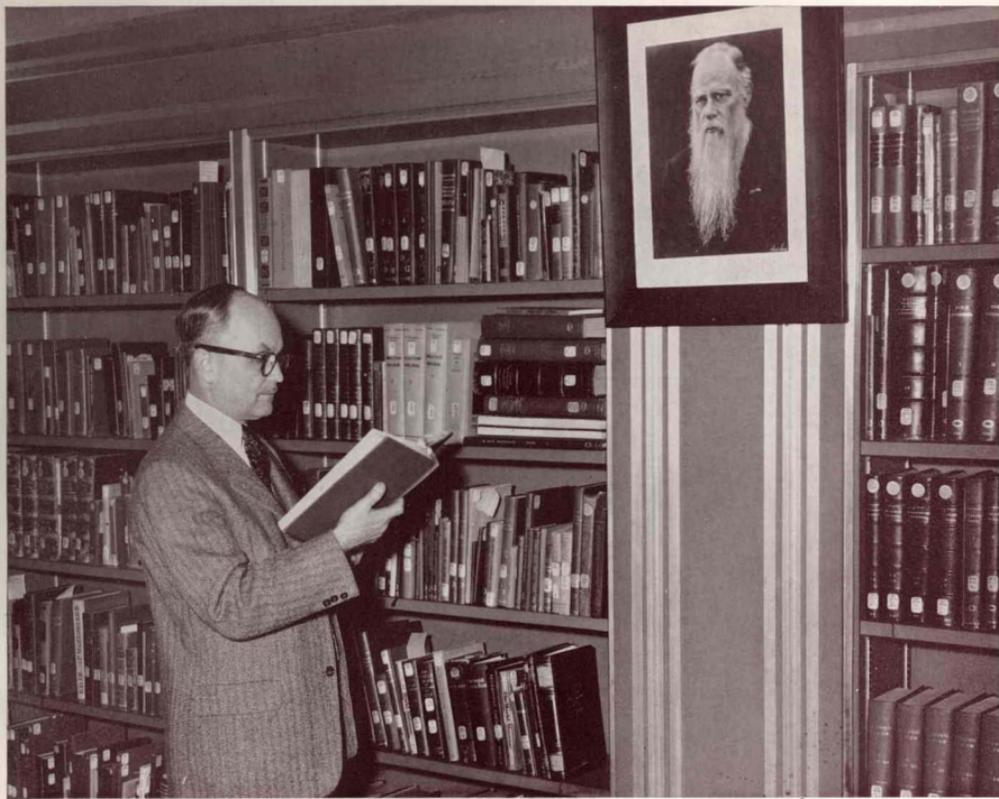
A National Print Exhibition is presented annually; in 1950 it attracted 199 entries.



SLAVICA

THE LARGEST COLLECTION of Russian books outside of Russia, approximately 265,000 volumes and pamphlets, is available for use in the Slavic Literature Alcove, Annex Building, fifth floor. The basis for this collection was the "purchase," in 1907 (at a price making it in large part a gift), of the private library of Gennadius Vasilievich Yudin, of Krasnoiarsk, Siberia, numbering 80,000 volumes, all relating to Russia and Siberia, and all except 12,000 printed in the Russian language.

Current receipts of Russian publications are reported in the "Monthly List of Russian Accessions," issued by the Library since April 1948.



LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

EXTENSIVE RESOURCES in genealogy, heraldry, and local history may be consulted in the Local History and Genealogy Alcove, Annex Building, fifth floor. Few collections in the Library are more assiduously studied than these.

A CORNER OF THE LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY ALCOVE



MATERIALS ON MICROFILM

A RAPIDLY increasing collection of materials on microfilm, now amounting to some 75,000 reels and strips, is available for use in the Library's Microfilm Reading Room, Main Building, Deck 38. The collection includes microfilm copies of manuscripts, books dating back to the beginning of printing, and works in almost every known language and subject. Newspapers on microfilm may be used in the Newspaper Reference Room, Annex Building, fifth floor. Special reading machines are provided for the use of readers.

Extensive microfilming operations are carried on by the Library in the United States, Great Britain, France, Japan, Mexico, and other countries for the purpose of making research materials in foreign archives more accessible to scholars of this country.



RARE BOOKS

A COLLECTION of more than 160,000 rare items is found in air-conditioned vaults adjacent to the Rare Book Room. Rarity is determined by age, excellence of content, printing, fine craftsmanship, as well as association with the great. Here are such treasures as the library of Thomas Jefferson, purchased by the Government after the Library of Congress was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1814, the collection of medicine and local history presented by Joseph M. Toner in 1882, the John Boyd Thacher collection of incunabula, the Vollbehr collection of early printed books purchased by a special appropriation made by Congress in 1930, and the rare books given by Lessing J. Rosenwald.



WOODROW WILSON ROOM

THE WOODROW WILSON ROOM, just opposite the Rare Books Division, houses the personal library of the late President Wilson. It is lined with shelves which hold 9,000 volumes reflecting his interests during each period of his life.

THE WOODROW WILSON ROOM



SPECIAL SERVICE TO CONGRESS

SPECIAL RESEARCH SERVICE is provided to the Members and Committees of Congress by the Legislative Reference Service, which employs specialists in subject fields of Congressional interest for the purpose of preparing objective studies on questions before the Congress. A browsing collection is available in the Congressional Reading Room, Main Building, first floor, for the use of the Members, and bookrooms in the Capitol, House and Senate Office Buildings are maintained by the Loan Division for the purpose of more effectively serving the Congress.



THE LAW LIBRARY

THE COMPREHENSIVE BODY of legal materials exceeds in size any comparable collection in the United States. It totals over 700,000 volumes and pamphlets. It is especially rich in American and British law, most fields of Latin American law, and in Canon and Roman law. These materials, together with unbound issues and bound volumes of legal periodicals, are available in the Law Library Reading Room, Main Building, second floor. Special reference assistance is available on Anglo-American law, Latin American law, and other foreign law. Materials concerned with law in relation to other subjects—e. g., banking, commercial law, criminology, education, insurance, labor, taxation—are classified with the general collections.

A special Law Library on the ground floor of the Capitol is provided for the convenience of Members of Congress.



SPECIAL RESEARCH FACILITIES

A LIMITED NUMBER of study rooms (227) and study tables (189), as well as special book shelves, are available for investigators pursuing advanced scholarly research. Applications for assignments may be made in the Office of the Stack and Reader Division off the Main Reading Room, Main Building, first floor. Assignments are for limited periods, and may not exceed six months.

A STUDY ROOM



INTERLIBRARY LOANS AND THE BORROWING PRIVILEGE

MATERIALS from the Library's collections are loaned to the Members and Committees of Congress, other Government agencies for their official use, members of the Diplomatic Corps, educational institutions, and research libraries.

As a special service to scholarship the Library of Congress lends materials not otherwise available to other libraries for the use of scholars pursuing serious research. Materials from the collections are also lent to other libraries for purposes of exhibit.

Arrangements for loans are made through the Loan Division, Main Building, basement floor.



Other Special Services

THE CARD SERVICE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS printed catalog cards have been available for sale since 1902. In fiscal 1949 this service brought to the Treasury of the United States almost \$900,000. The sales stock exceeds 170,000,000 cards. Regular subscribers have averaged over 8,000 for the past five years. About 25,500,000 cards were distributed in 1949, in comparison with 378,000 in 1902. Cards distributed since the beginning of the service total half a billion.



PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

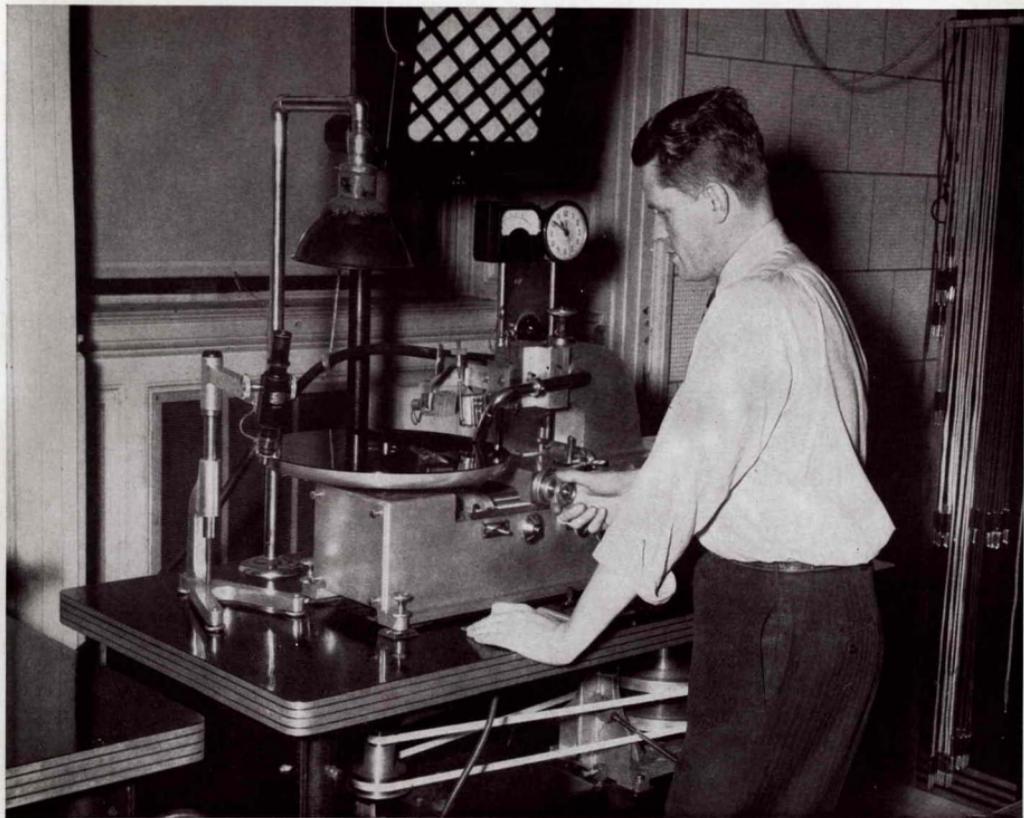
COPIES OF MATERIALS in the Library's collections in photostat, microfilm, and other near-print forms, not subject to copyright or other restrictions, are provided at a moderate charge. The photoduplication laboratory is one of the most modern photoduplication production facilities in existence and is equipped to produce a total of 16,530,000 exposures a year.

THE PHOTOSTAT SECTION



PHONOGRAPH RECORDINGS

THE RECORDING LABORATORY is equipped to make sound recordings on unbreakable vinylite for addition to the Library's notable collection of some 250,000 discs and cylinders. Catalogs of recordings of selected American folk song and poetry, available for purchase, may be obtained at a cost of 15 cents. Folk song collecting expeditions have been sent to 32 states in an effort to preserve a record of American folklore.



SERVICE TO THE BLIND

SINCE 1931 the Library of Congress has procured literature for the blind at a total cost of \$6,489,000. This program has produced editions of 3,485 books in embossed characters (Braille and Moon types), 1,530 sound transcriptions, popularly termed "talking books," and 47,100 phonographs (for the reproduction of talking books), of which 44,100 were electric, and 3,000 were spring-driven. Twenty-five regional libraries and 55 machine lending agencies cooperate in the distribution of these materials to the adult blind of the United States, its territories and possessions.

Printed catalogs of materials available and a manual of instructions for Braille transcription are available through the Division for the Blind. Care is exercised to achieve a proper balance between current popular literature and works of established importance, thus providing the blind with reading resources comparable to those available to the sighted.

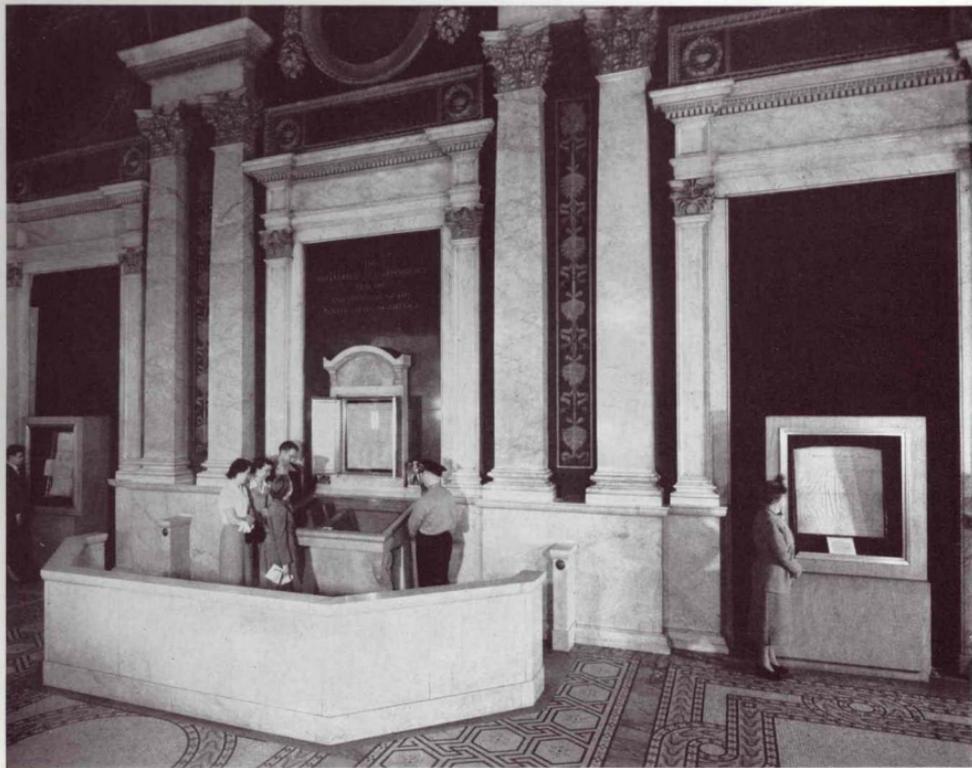
A TALKING BOOK READER
HELEN KELLER READING BRAILLE



EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITS of selected materials in the Library's collections are installed in exhibit areas of both Library buildings. Among the more popular permanent exhibits are the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address, and the Gutenberg Bible, all on the second floor of the Main Building. A special series of State exhibitions commemorates significant anniversaries of individual States. Announcements of current exhibits are available at all entrances.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES



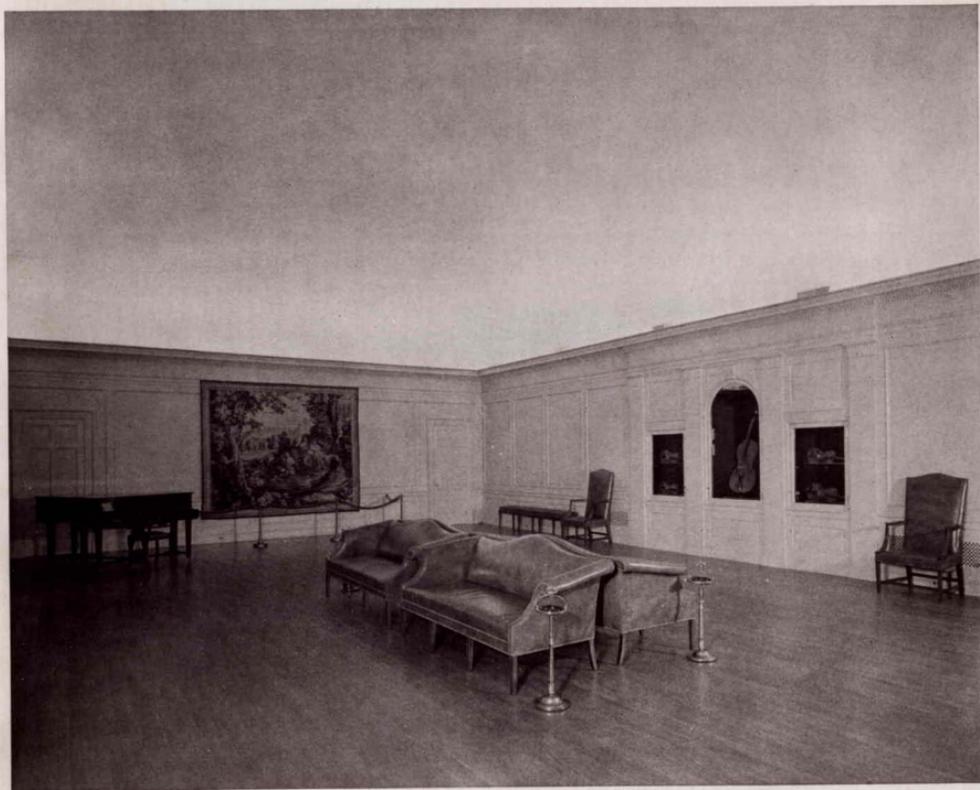
CONCERTS AND LECTURES

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS is the largest producer of chamber music concerts (1,359 since 1925; 592 in the Library, 767 extension concerts). These concerts, as well as poetry readings, are sponsored by the Coolidge Foundation and the Whittall Foundation and are presented in the Coolidge Auditorium, Main Building, basement floor, where staff meetings are also held as in the photograph on the opposite page. The Coolidge Auditorium was the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge.

STAFF FORUM IN THE COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

WHITTALL PAVILION

THE WHITTALL PAVILION, adjacent to the Coolidge Auditorium, was the gift of Mrs. Gertrude Clarke Whittall, and houses the rare Stradivari instruments which she presented to the Library. The Budapest Quartet is the principal user of the Strads.



COPYRIGHT

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, has had since 1870 the responsibility for registering claims to copyright. As a consequence of depository requirement for copyright registration, the Copyright Office is the greatest single source of acquisition for current materials (other than documents) as well as an important source of foreign works. Included among the materials registered are domestic and foreign books, pamphlets, musical and dramatic compositions, motion pictures, maps, newspapers, and works of art numbering more than 1,000,000 registrations during the past five years. In the last 50 years copyright fees deposited into the Treasury of the United States have totaled over \$10,000,000. Catalogs of copyright entries are published periodically.

The Copyright Office is located in the Annex Building, first floor.

THE MAIL BRINGS AN AVERAGE OF 1,000 PIECES
TO THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE EVERY DAY



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1930

