

# *The* JOURNAL

OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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VOLUME XVI

JUNE 1953

NUMBER 2

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## THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING

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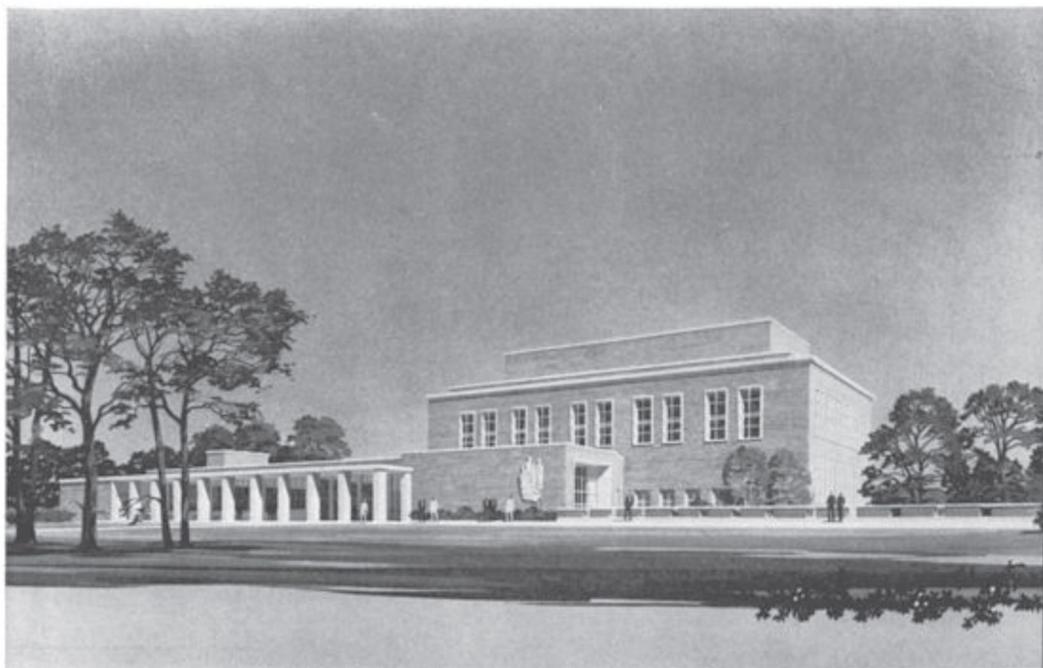
*Librarian of the University*

THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWS for the Friends of the Library is that the second part of the appropriation for the new Library building has been recommended by the Governor, and the Appropriations Committee. It has been approved by the Senate and the House. As a result Rutgers is going to have a new building for its Library which we hope will be completed by the Fall of 1955 or shortly thereafter.

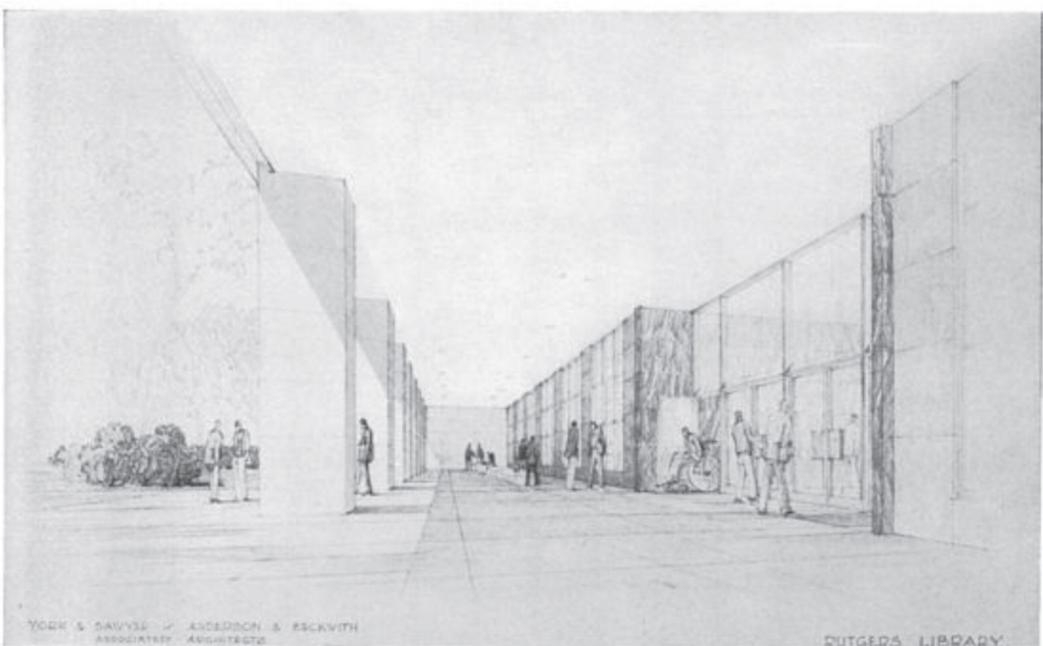
The plans for the new Library have been under discussion for a matter of fifteen years; although it was not until seven years ago that active work began.

The objectives, in terms of size, are already fairly well known. It is to have an ultimate capacity of a million and a half volumes, seating capacity for twelve hundred students, and work space for some sixty people. According to our best estimates, facilities on this scale will solve the library problem at the Colleges for Men for many years to come.

In 1944 Rutgers joined a group of colleges which were interested in new library construction, and from time to time—at about six-month intervals—the architects and librarians representing as many as twenty colleges have been meeting to discuss common problems. During this time a number of new libraries have been erected. In particular new buildings of great size have appeared at Princeton, Harvard, M.I.T., the University of Iowa, and another is to be opened next fall at the University of Wisconsin. The librarians and architects representing these institutions have been members of the group. As a result Rutgers has been fortunate enough to profit by the dis-



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING



ARCHITECT'S SKETCH SHOWING THE LIBRARY ENTRANCE

cussion of the plans of these buildings. While it is clear that each university has its local problem to solve, it has also become apparent that there are certain problems which we have in common in the construction of new university libraries. The various solutions to those problems have been carefully worked out and made available to such people as ourselves. Probably the greatest change from the older type of library construction is to be seen in the thinking of the planners of the new buildings. The ancient function of the library solely as a storehouse with a monumental architectural approach is no longer the major consideration.

In the modern university the library is, in addition to being a storehouse and a place where scholars and students can consult books, a teaching instrument as well. It is recognized that with the growth of printed matter of all kinds it is part of an education to learn the printed sources of knowledge which have in the past been the possession of bibliographers and advanced scholars only. The modern library is so constructed that it is a pleasant place in which to work, and, in addition to that, a place that has become the laboratory for the students in the humanities and social sciences. A review of the different reading areas will probably serve as well as anything to indicate that the Library we propose to build will not be a mere storehouse.

In the first place, the building will be erected on the site of the old Prep School dormitories, high on a bluff overlooking the Raritan. The entrance will be from the College Avenue side. Reading rooms, for the most part, are to be on the North and East overlooking the valley, and taking advantage of as much north light as possible. One reading area will be the Reserve Reading Room where students, undergraduates for the most part, will find all the reading which has been assigned to them by their instructors. The capacity of this room is about two hundred. Immediately above it and enjoying the same northern and eastern exposure, will be the Reference Reading Room of similar size which will house about ten thousand volumes. It will be adjacent to the main stacks, and of course, close to the catalog.

On the same floor will be another area with a seating capacity of about forty where the two thousand or more current periodicals will be available. It will be possible to go to this area without going through any of the reading rooms.

Near the circulation desk on this floor will be another reading

area of an informal character where it will be possible for a student, as he passes, to see some of the more interesting titles that have been added to the university collection. There will be comfortable chairs in this area. Here the student will be able to sit and examine these selected books before they go to their proper place in the stack. In this way we hope to bring to the attention of the undergraduates the variety of material of interest to them which is being accumulated month by month.

Within the stack itself there will be four reasonably sized reading areas with seating capacity of about sixty each. One will be devoted to the humanities, one to economics, one to the other social sciences, and one to science and technology. Each of these areas will be within the space in the stack which houses the material appropriate to it. It is expected that upperclassmen and graduate students will find these places most convenient. Like the main reading rooms, they will be on the northern and eastern ends of the building so that steady light, and for that matter a magnificent outlook, will we hope make them very popular.

It has been proved again and again in the more recent libraries that many students like to take advantage of a single, separate reading area which they can call their own. Rutgers intends to have about three hundred and fifty of them, most of which will be unlocked and open to any student who finds one unoccupied. A number, probably not more than fifty, will be locked in recognition of the desirability of having a small place available for advanced students where books may be kept together—a space which can be called, at least during the time it is assigned, a private space within the stack. In addition, it is planned to have twenty or more individual faculty studies which will be larger than the carrels mentioned above. They will be large enough to house a desk, two chairs, some book shelves, and a microfilm reader, and will be assigned by a committee to faculty members on application for a limited period of time.

For the first time in the history of the College the staff which manages the Library will also have adequate facilities and space to do the job which they most want to do. As in the past, the stack will be completely open to all students. As in the past, the Library will continue to operate without fines. Following the tradition established by the late George Osborn, the Library staff is dedicated to the principle that any barrier between the students and the books should be

removed entirely or at least be made as low as possible. This policy remains even though some of the housekeeping problems of a building as large and as complicated as the one planned will undoubtedly call upon the ingenuity of the staff and the forbearance of the readers.

The location of the workrooms adjacent to the catalogue and Reference Room and immediately above the receiving room will accomplish two things which seemed to us to be desirable. For example we will be able for the first time to gather all the technical services and place them in one continuous space. The books which come to the library will come to a receiving room immediately below this area so that there will be a minimum of book traffic. This arrangement will not only make the whole operation more efficient and pleasant for the workers, but it will accomplish what seems to the Librarian to be equally important. It will make it possible for the staff to carry out its function without appearing to be conspicuous. We shall devise ways of making the reader aware that a very important part of the functioning of a modern library has to do with the technical processes involved in management. On the other hand we will make every effort to see to it that the management is not conspicuous or interfering as the student goes about his daily affairs in this building.

From certain points of view it would be possible to say that the construction of a new University Library is likely to give the planners an opportunity to do nearly everything in a way as different as possible from the way in which it has been done before. We have labored so long under the handicap, for example, of inadequate space, and lack of facilities for treatment of rare and unusual material, that most people connected with the Rutgers University Library are convinced that the public has very little idea of the treasures which we possess. As a result, we have kept uppermost in our minds the possibilities of exhibits which can be brought to the attention of students who do not necessarily come to the library to see them, but who will be interested in the exhibits if they come upon them. Therefore, in the lobby there is adequate wall space for exhibitions of all kinds, but the chief area will be in the New Jersey Room, which will serve for Rutgers as the "Rare Book Room." It will be necessary to go past some exhibits to get into this room, but in it we will gather together all the special collections of which we are proud. Our Curator, Mr. Donald A. Sinclair, will have

his office there, and his staff will, for the first time, be assembled in one place. At present, they are working in offices far apart from each other. As a result, we look forward to a new era of special collections at Rutgers. Within the New Jersey Room and the stack area immediately adjacent to it, we will be able to house not only New Jerseyiana and Americana, but all other rare material including maps, pamphlets, manuscripts, Rutgersensia, and other material which is too valuable to be circulated in the ordinary fashion.

Within this area we will also have, for the first time, areas convenient for visiting scholars and of course for our own research workers who will find space to do their research in agreeable surroundings among the shelves which house the material in which they are interested.

At the present moment our plans are still in the working drawing stage, but it is not likely that there will be major changes in the specifications which have been more or less fixed for months. York and Sawyer and Anderson and Beckwith are the architects who have been working so faithfully with us over the months. President Jones about a year ago appointed a Faculty Library Building Committee. This faculty group was headed by Dr. L. Ethan Ellis, Professor of History, and includes Dr. James E. Gunckel, Associate Professor of Botany; C. Willard Heckel, Associate Professor of Law; Dr. Edward Huberman, Associate Professor of English; Dr. Cyril Nelson, Professor of Mathematics, New Jersey College for Women; Helmut H. von Erffa, Associate Professor of Fine Arts; Dr. Edward B. Wilkens, Architect and Professor of Regional Planning. In most of the preliminary discussions, leading up to the formulation of a Library program, Professors Ellis and Wilkens represented this Committee, along with librarians and architects. An advisory committee which has been most helpful, also appointed by the President, included Roger McDonough, State Librarian of New Jersey, Julian P. Boyd, Professor of History and formerly Librarian at Princeton University, John B. Kaiser, Librarian of the Newark Public Library, and Howard L. Hughes, Librarian of the Trenton Public Library. They went over the building program in great detail and have been most helpful with their advice and suggestions as the plans took shape. The Trustees Standing Committee on the Library composed of Dr. Roy F. Nichols, Mrs. Edward L. Katzenbach, Ralph G. Wright, Clarence Case, and Judge Phillip Forman now see realiza-

tion of their plans and hopes. The Trustees Committee on Buildings and Grounds joined in the deliberations under the leadership of Lansing P. Shield.

The understanding and initiative of many people in the University administration, of course, have helped make this possible. No one, however, has been more understanding of the entire problem of establishing an adequate library for the State University of New Jersey than has Governor Alfred E. Driscoll. He has recognized from the beginning the handicap placed on any dynamic educational institution by having to struggle with inadequate library facilities. His leadership in bringing about the new Library is acknowledged by everyone on the Rutgers Library staff. He recognizes that this is not merely a building problem, but is an educational problem, and that education as it is to be developed in the years to come at Rutgers will take full advantage of the new modern Library as a vital teaching instrument as well as a vast storehouse of knowledge.