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THE NEW LIBRARY

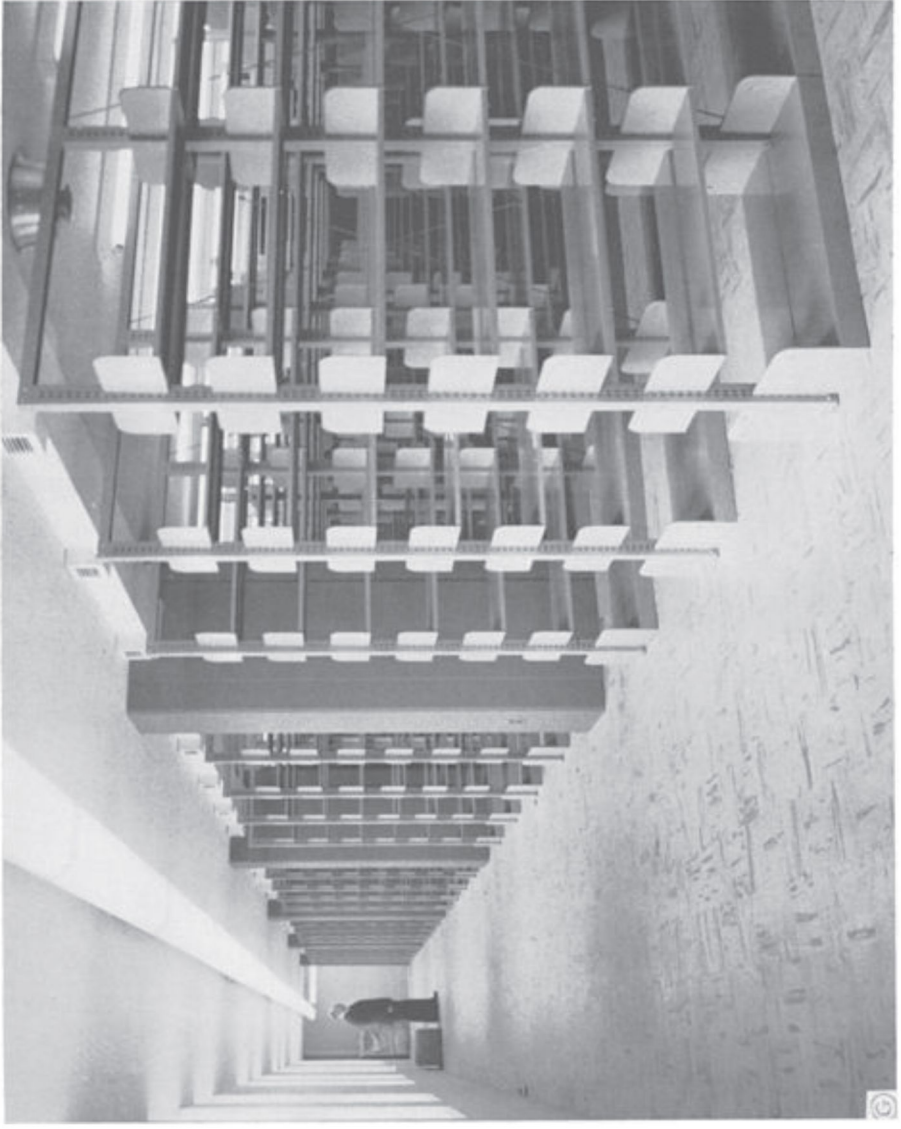
BY DONALD F. CAMERON

University Librarian

THE NEW LIBRARY is rapidly taking shape. The construction itself is almost completed with the exception of the installation of the lighting in the main reading rooms. The landscaping and outside building in connection with the development of the site are going on in a most heartening fashion, and the New Jersey garden, which will be visible from the New Jersey room, is in the process of construction. This particular garden, which will be made up of a brick center in the shape of the map of New Jersey, will have trees, flowers, and shrubs native to the state in the borders. The plan for this unusual garden is being developed by the landscape architect and Professor Korbobo of the College of Agriculture.

Almost all of the furniture has been ordered. Some of it has been delivered. At the present moment 1,000 chairs have been delivered and the rest are expected any day. Other furniture will arrive in the course of the summer so that we expect to be able to promise that the 30 faculty studies, the 75 locked carrells, and the 275 study tables will be in place at the beginning of the college year in September.

In order to accomplish the opening in September the moving will be taking place in June, July, and August although the concentrated effort will be in August immediately after the close of Summer School. The ordinary vacation schedules have been suspended, and the staff will take what vacation they can find at most inconvenient times this year. Before the concentrated moving in August, we hope to be able to start the transfer of many special collections. For ex-



A VIEW OF THE STACKS IN THE NEW LIBRARY



ample, it seems probable that we will be able to transfer the bulk of the rare books, manuscripts, maps, and unbound pamphlets during the month of June. During July we hope to make a start in moving the material which is presently in storage three miles away. The bulk of this material is almost 25 per cent of the total of half a million books to be moved. We expect to have that part of the moving done before we move the main body of material in August.

During this concentrated period we will try to move three trailer loads of boxes per day for 20 days with the help of a staff of students already being recruited. In addition, we will use mechanical conveyors, specially constructed trucks, and every device that Professor Kuebler of our Department of Civil Engineering can lay his hands on.

We have been most fortunate in the cooperation of the U.S. Army. The Quartermasters Corps has offered to lend-lease wooden boxes to us in which we expect to place the books before we put them in the trucks. We will use mechanical conveyors to bring the boxes of books from the lower floors of our old building to the truck level. At that point they will be loaded by the trucking people into their trucks. They will then transfer them to the loading platform of the new Library where our student crews will take over. Under expert direction of the Librarians they will proceed to put them on the shelves.

Like every moving the most difficult part of the process is to get out of the old building. The problem of bringing bundles of unbound periodicals down spiral staircases and up dark stairs from cellars has required a great deal of study. When that problem is solved the most disagreeable part of the moving will be a thing of the past.

Although the building we expect will be open and ready for occupancy in September, the formal dedication will take place later in the autumn when a program which all friends of the Library will be invited to attend will be announced. Everyone at the Library is waiting with great impatience for the opening in the fall. The long and somewhat tedious period which has elapsed since the breaking of ground is now coming to an end, and a new sense of urgency is among us when we realize that the circulation of books this year promises to be 16 to 20 per cent greater than it was last year with

no corresponding increase in student population. It is interesting to speculate on the cause of this increase which is by no means limited to the main Library. Increases of a similar nature are reported from the Law Library in Newark and the Arts and Sciences Library in Newark. In Camden the increase is not unexpected because the undergraduate population has been increasing proportionately there more rapidly than in the rest of the Institution. It may be that the amount of individual and independent work which is going on in the University is increasing steadily. Everything seems to point to the fact that the new Library is more desperately needed than ever. It was, of course, to meet this increasing need that the new Library was planned. In this instance, the need has been increasing even more rapidly than the most optimistic predictions.

Reservations for the use of faculty studies have been coming in, and the Faculty Library Committee has been engaged in the process of drawing up suggested rules and regulations for the allocation of these highly desirable work rooms. At the present moment the decision has been to give priority to the applicants who are engaged in using material which is of such a character that it may not be taken from the building, such as rare books, manuscripts, and material received on inter-library loan which has been restricted in circulation by the lending library.

We are also planning to save a few studies for individuals on the faculty who will be in need of such space for only a few days at a time. Likewise we plan to save a small number for visiting scholars who will be given the kind of accommodation we have long wanted to offer them when they come to work on our special collections.

A special committee has been at work for some time on an exhibit for the opening of the new Library. This exhibit as presently planned will be limited to material relating to New Jersey and for the first time the University Library will have an opportunity to display the riches which it has been gathering in this field over the years. A special brochure describing the Library and explaining some of its uses is also in the preparation stage. The only matter concerning the Voorhees Library which is at the moment of less than the greatest interest to the staff is the disposition of the present building after we leave.

According to rumor fourteen organizations on the Campus have

applied for a priority in allocation. The Library staff is maintaining an elaborate and aggressive neutrality.

In many places the ancient library has not only become unmanageable but has represented the kind of architecture best forgotten. This is by no means the case in New Brunswick. The old Library has many charms however ill adapted it was in its original design. With imagination we are all sure that it will be made a useful and serviceable building for many years to come.

April 25, 1956.