

CHICAGO'S NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY, ITS ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTIES AND COMMON SENSE FACILITIES.

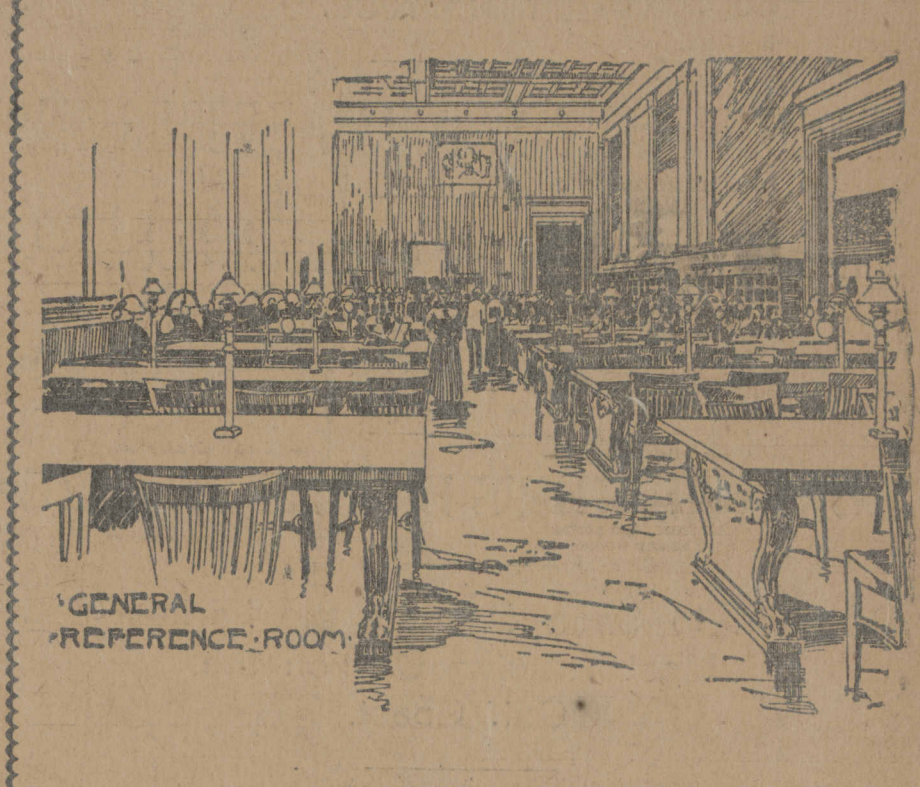
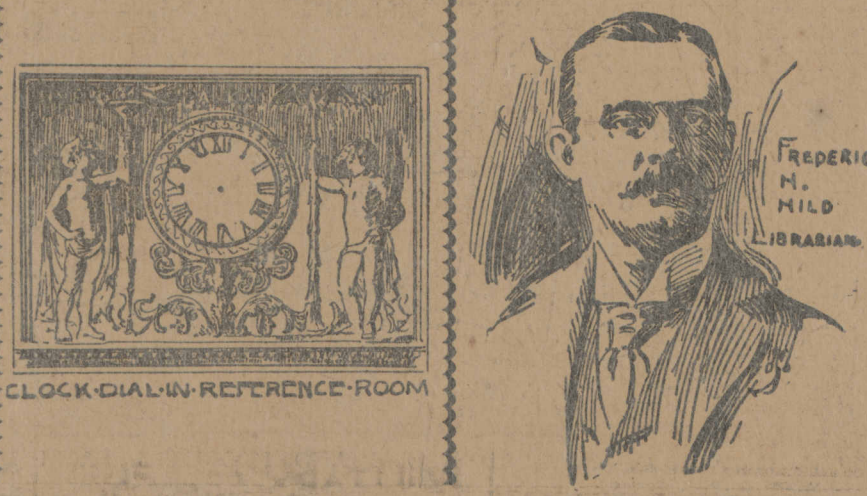
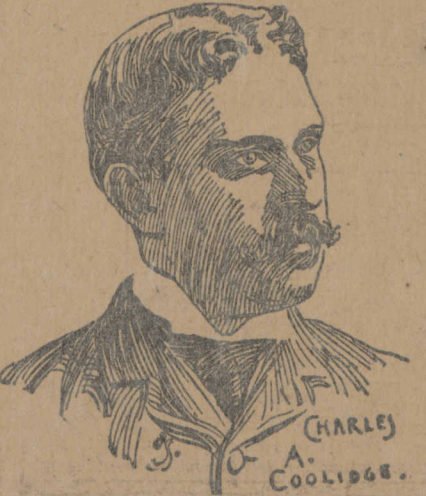
Books are the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind. They are delivered down from generation to generation as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn.

CHICAGO LIBRARY SOON TO OPEN

Gem of Art, Fitted with Every Known Convenience, and Ready for Inspection Four Days Next Week, Will Be Dedicated on Oct. 9—Cost \$2,000,000.

"Let there be light." This command was the first one given to the architect years ago by the Public Library Trustees when they resolved upon a serious planning for a great free library, and its realization will be one of the most noticeable features of that grand institution now triumphantly completed, when it is thrown open for its first public inspection on Monday morning next.

famous H. H. Richardson. Mr. Coolidge moved to Chicago from Boston so that he might personally superintend the work. Entering the Washington street, or main, entrance, the most direct means of access to the delivery-room and the circulating department of the library, as well as to the offices of the librarian, beyond this is a bewildering gleam of pure white Italian marble, ornamented with mosaics to produce a green effect.



Dedication on Oct. 9. The Board of Directors will hold a public reception or dedication on Oct. 9, as a feature of Chicago's centennial. The officials of the city will be present, as far as is possible. As many invited guests will be there, Mayor Harrison will speak for the city and President Asa P. Hatch for the board. The oration will be delivered by Dr. Emil G. Hirsch.

Looking back at the mighty Roman arch under which entrance to the building has been gained one sees new beauties. Imbedded in this arch are the names of the classic authors: Livy, Horace, Virgil, Cicero, Plato, and Homer. A second arch of proportion not quite so lofty, yet of exceeding grace, crosses the stairway, forming the second landing. In this are recorded the names of famous American writers: Longfellow, Emerson, Whittier, Bryant, Hawthorne, and Irving.

View of Memorial Tablets. The construction of this stairway is as graceful as it is original, and solves once for all the problem of the appropriate stairway for wide halls, where the ceilings are lofty. At the top of the first flight the stairway separates into a "Y," and a second backward glance—the last chance to see the entrance—may reward the visitor with the best view of the great bronze memorial tablets. Ingeniously worked into the pavement of the first landing is the design of an open book and the word:

Notice. They are to be in iron cases, and electric book lifts will carry the volumes from the isolated stacks to the delivery desk. In front of the delivery desk is a handsome classic Roman grille of bronze, and upon the side counters are Roman bronze torches. The lights of the main room are disguised in Florentine brackets suspended from the ceiling by decorative iron chains and united with this by bronze masks.

Study for Careful Work. Passing through the repository for reference books and the complete public card catalogue, compiled at a cost of \$50,000, the visitor to these halls of learning finds himself in the study, a comfortable and secluded spot in one corner of the building, where every facility for careful research and thoughtful literary work will be given to the ambitious student. Special individual saving shelves are supplied so that his books may be retained for him for days and weeks at a time that his important study shall not be interrupted.

Down on the mezzanine floor, in the southwest corner, are the rooms set apart for the directors, in which the meetings of the board will be held. The wainscoting is of old English oak and the walls are of deep red. The great table in the center of the main room and the capacious chairs are also of oak. Rich rugs adorn the rooms.

Books and Periodicals. The twenty-fifth annual report shows the following data regarding books and periodicals: BOOKS. Home circulation (main library) 584,405. Reference circulation 531,643. Periodicals 41,798. Total circulation of books 1,177,846.

- Public ground, forever to remain vacant buildings. When the directors of the Public Library decided that they wanted this plot for the new building they met a great deal of opposition, especially on the part of the G. A. R. men, who had cast their eyes upon the same spot for a great memorial hall.

- On either side of this testimonial are these quotations: A library implies an act of faith which generations still in darkness bid sign in their night in witness of the dawn. VICTOR HUGO.

- They who by genius, and by power of brain. The rank of man's enlighteners attain; Not even they emerge from this dark night. But tell their dreams, and fall asleep again.—Omar Khayyam.

- Where Books are Received. On the mezzanine floor below, on the corner of Michigan avenue and Washington street, are two rooms, 52x50 feet each, in which all the books and pamphlets for the library are put through a process as soon as they are received. They are stamped and labeled, and are written for them to put in the card catalogue, and they are sent through a long passage into the stacks.

- Prices of the Tablets. The lobby to which this vestibule leads is forty feet square and opens on either side into minor reading-rooms, the patent reference rooms, the bound newspaper rooms, and the reading-rooms for the blind. These last are purposely placed on the ground floor, so that those afflicted shall not be obliged to climb any stairs. In the bound newspaper room there is a most complete lot of newspaper files, the Chicago papers all extending back without a break to 1872, and the files of The Register go back unbroken to 1826.

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