

NEW LIBRARY TO BE ONE OF CITY'S BEAUTY SPOTS

\$3,000,000 Structure at Logan Square to Be One of Hand-somest in United States

Undecided on Name: "Public" and "Free" Both Favored—Giant Bookstack Feature

By GEORGE NOX McCAIN
SHOULD the letters to be carved on the facade or over the entrance of the great new library building read, "Free Library of Philadelphia" or "Philadelphia Public Library"?

The query is not a new one. It was first raised seven years ago by Doctor Greenburg, of the Bureau of Municipal Research. According to the doctor, it involves both taste and dignity. In a brochure on the subject in 1913 he said:

"Nearly everywhere in the United States tax-supported libraries are known as 'public libraries.' This seems to be a standard name, such as public school and public highway. This being the case, it is rather strange to find the local library known as the Free Library of Philadelphia. This name, perhaps, would be a descriptive one if it were under private control. Would it not be well for the name to be made harmonious with those of the other great community libraries throughout the country before the new central building is erected?"

The new library building in course of erection is five blocks from City Hall, near the Parkway. It covers an entire city square. It is being built on a lot that measures 385 by 219 feet, that cost \$214,885.75.

As to dimensions the building will be 340 feet in length, 200 feet in depth and 100 feet high. There will be two courts inside, 48 by 68 feet. The building will be of Indiana limestone with a base of granite and it will be absolutely fireproof.

A glimpse at the plan would seem to indicate that the east and west walls are of glass, so many and so large are the windows.

Faces Logan Square

The main entrance will face Logan Square and it will consist of three large doorways approached by a broad flight of about a dozen stone steps. An entrance for the employes and staff is on Nineteenth street. There are entrances on every side of the building, slightly below grade.

Every square foot of the building will have ample light and ventilation. This is even true of the basement, which is below the street level, and which will be lighted and ventilated by large airways. In this basement will be placed the machinery for the transmission of books, power plants for the two elevators, engine, boiler and storage rooms, and coal vaults.

The most remarkable feature of the entire structure will be the giant book stack. This stack will consist of thousands of book shelves with aisles or corridors between them on every floor. It will have a capacity of 1,250,000 volumes. It will begin twenty-five feet below the street level and will be seven stories high. It will extend across the entire width of the building, 224 feet in length and fifty feet in width. One could store 31,000 sets of Doctor Eliot's five-foot shelves of books in this vast receptacle.

The ground floor is slightly below street grade on the east and west ends of the building. It will contain a lecture room capable of seating about 800 people; a newspaper and children's room; offices for the staff and a hospital or emergency sickroom.

Large Reference Rooms

As you mount the steps to the main entrance and enter the first floor facing Logan Square on one side the entrance will be found the reference rooms, with a capacity of about 10,000 volumes, and a periodical room of about 30,000 volumes. Besides these a great cataloguing room, with offices and committee rooms,

What's the Matter With Philadelphia?

No lover of books ever dreamed of a finer library than has been planned and started to house the splendid collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

In all its appointments and multiplied conveniences, as well as its situation opposite Logan Square on the Parkway, the new library attains the ideal. But read Colonel McCain's article and wish for the day when you will see and enjoy the reality.

and being thoroughly up-to-date, a room for public stenographers.

The first mezzanine floor will be occupied by filing, bookkeeping and store-rooms.

The second floor will be the main floor. Here will be located the main reading room and circulating department. It will be a vast apartment, 224 feet long and fifty-two feet wide, facing Logan Square, with thirteen great windows looking out on the square. It will be lighted by skylights and the thirteen large windows mentioned. This room will have a capacity of 25,000 volumes.

Another room of equal dimension will face on Wood street and will contain 25,000 books, which may be consulted freely, but not taken from the building.

Every haunter of public and private libraries is familiar with the painful genuflections one must go through to read the titles of books on the lower shelves. This back-breaking necessity will be eliminated in the new building, for the lowest shelf will be placed at a height of fifteen inches from the floor.

There will be a music room with adjoining apartments, deadened to sound, containing pianos; a naproom, also print and manuscript rooms; besides which there will be two special reading rooms.

A second mezzanine floor will contain

individual study and storerooms. The third floor will be taken up by two large exhibition rooms or picture galleries. A rare bookroom, a photographic room with darkroom and other conveniences and a kitchen and storeroom for the staff.

The roof will be reached by stairs and elevators. It will consist mostly of an open-air roof garden or reading room, extending across nearly the whole front of the building. This is for summer use, while a glass-enclosed reading room is available for winter use. The rest of the space will be taken up by a rest-

room for the staff and lunchroom for all the employes.

Nothing that architectural skill can devise for the comfort of the public and the working staff has been omitted. There are public lavatories on every floor. The ventilating system includes devices for washing the air, while the heating system will represent the latest developments in radiation.

The contents of the building are about 7,000,000 cubic feet and it has a

book capacity of 1,500,000 volumes. A feature that will add to the comfort of readers is an outside gallery on the second floor whose balustrade supports great fluted columns. It opens from the main reading room, and read-

ers will be privileged to sit here in the sunshine and indulge in the pleasure of perusing the volumes which are so often a source and joy to the book lover.

Philadelphia's new library building is an assured fact. It will be one of

the most graceful and beautiful buildings in the country. There is nothing that can hinder its progress to completion, an event which should be one of the signal features of Mayor Moore's administration.

Gifts for the Table

Many articles at moderate prices are to be found among our large stock of sterling silver.

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ОТЧЕГО ТАКЪ НЕОЖИДАННО ИЗМЕНИЛАСЯ ПОЛИТИКА ПО ОТНОШЕНИЮ КЪ РОССИИ?

From the New York Times, Friday, January 16th, 1920.

BRITAIN, FACING WAR WITH REDS, CALLS COUNCIL IN PARIS; ALLIES TO ARM POLES; LONDON SEES STORM COMING—SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENT WARNS NATION NEAR EAST IS ASTIR

"London, January 15th—Before peace with Germany is a week old, the British public has been brought up sharply against the possibility of another war."

The Next Day, from the New York Times of Saturday, January 17th

NO WAR WITH RUSSIA, ALLIES TO TRADE WITH HER; BLOCKADE SUDDENLY RAISED BY PARIS COUNCIL; PREMIERS REVERSE STAND

"Paris, January 16th—The Allies will reopen commercial relations with the Russians at once. This momentous decision was taken here late today and completely reverses the former Allied policy of a pacific blockade."

Why This Shift About Russia Overnight?

Do you know why this shift was made overnight? Do you know why the United States allowed itself to be drawn by Europe into a Russian policy for two years, only to be left holding the sack? If the new policy of trading with Russia is the right one, why have the people of the United States allowed themselves to be so long misled?

What Does It Mean?

A thousand questions are in your mind and in ours. Is the Bolshevik army a real fighting power or a shambling crew? What brains are back of it? Where are the Czar's old Generals? Is the Red Army for defense or for a great drive on Europe and Asia? Are the peasants really supporting the Bolsheviks? What was Bolshevism in 1917? What is it now? Are ignorant peasants and workmen managing great factories or has industry been put back under the control of experienced technical men? Are the peasants working land in a communistic system or are they holding it in private ownership? Are children brought up by the state instead of by their parents? Do men and women marry?

Is Eastern Siberia to be cut off as a new State under permanent Japanese domination? Is Great Britain preparing to deal with the Soviet Government following the lifting of the blockade? Is it to be peace or war with the Soviet Government? If war, are we to send an army? If peace, will we recognize the Soviet Government?

ASIA

The American MAGAZINE on the Orient

You have these questions answered by the Honorable Paul S. Reinsch, who lately resigned as minister to China, and who knows the inside of the Siberian situation; Norman Haggood; John Ford, editor of ASIA, eminent student of economics and commerce; Isaac McBride and Wilfred Humphries, both eye witnesses of what has been going on inside Soviet Russia; Jackson Fleming, who tells of what is happening in the Caucasus, that link of world-wide importance to the British Empire.

In this issue of ASIA you will find an all-round story of Russia, for Russia is too vast to be approached from one point of view. You will find the personal story, the military story, the political and social story. And with this you will find the story of the spirit of the Russian people. You will come in contact with the bigness and greatness of Russia's people and of her resources. You will see America's wonderful opportunity for winning the eternal friendship of the Russian people.

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ASIA is a magazine produced with great care, to be read with leisurely pleasure, but it must be bought quickly. Twice in the last few months complete issues have disappeared from the newsstands, shortly after publication leaving hundreds of people unable to get their copy.

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