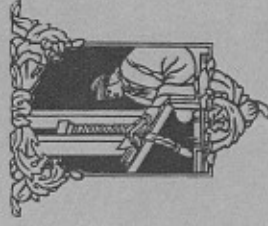


McGREGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Highland Park, Mich.



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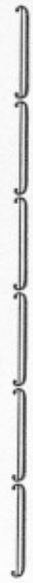
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Jan 20, 1938



McGREGOR
PUBLIC LIBRARY

DEDICATED MARCH 5, 1926



6

PROGRAM

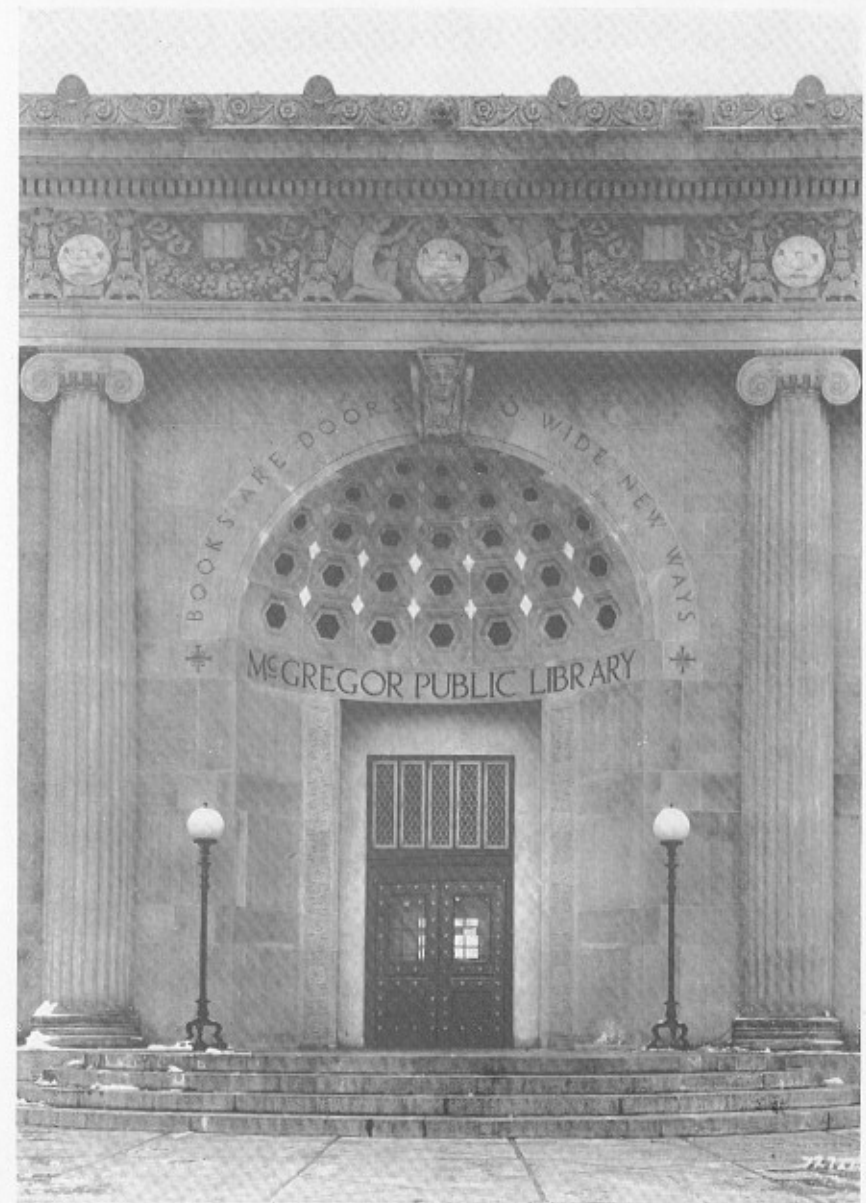


DEDICATION CEREMONIES
 McGREGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
 FRIDAY, MARCH FIFTH
 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX
 2:30 O'CLOCK



Chairman, (Mrs. W. C.) Dora M. Miller
 Chairman of the Commission

1. Music "America"The Audience
2. InvocationRev. Thos. R. Thoburn, D. D.,
 Pastor Trinity M. E. Church
3. "The McGregor Public Library"Fred K. McEldowney,
 Vice-Chairman of the Commission
4. The Key to the BuildingEdward L. Tilton,
 of Tilton and Githens, New York City, Architects of the Building
5. Music "Coronation March"Meyerbeer
 Highland Park High School Band, Philip Wolff, Director
6. The Keys of the BuildingFrank Eurich, Jr.,
 of Burrowes and Eurich, Detroit, Associate Architects of the Building
7. The Keys and the CityFrank T. Lodge,
 Secretary of the Commission
8. The City and the KeysHon. Clarence E. Gittins,
 Mayor of Highland Park
9. The Place of the Public Library in the Community
Dr. Warner W. Bishop,
 Librarian University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
10. Music "March from Tannhauser"Wagner
 Highland Park High School Band
11. BenedictionRev. Ralph M. Crissman, D. D.,
 Pastor Highland Park Presbyterian Church



MAIN ENTRANCE

The Village of Highland Park

ON the Sixteenth day of April, 1889, certain portions of Greenfield and Hamtramck Townships, lying immediately east and west of Woodward Avenue, were legally incorporated into the Village of Highland Park, Wayne County, Michigan.

A long time before that, practically the same territory, or a considerable portion of it, had been formed by Judge A. B. Woodward, one of the outstanding pioneers of Detroit and Michigan, into the Village of Woodwardville, but this ambitious project had vanished into thin air and the hoped-for-metropolitan territory had reverted to farming land.

At that time, practically no buildings except the simple homes of the few inhabitants were located in this territory. A small, two-story brick building stood on the east side of Woodward Avenue, near the present new Library site, which was the Township Hall, later, the Village Town Hall. In it Henry Ford, later, maintained a machine shop which was the forerunner of his Highland Park plant and a small building, near by, was, at that time, occupied by Captain W. W. McAlpine as a shoe factory.

Dr. J. A. B. Jennings, a physician, who claimed to be a bishop of the Anglican Church, maintained a race course in the northern part of the village and a man named French, who operated a traveling circus, used these grounds as winter quarters for his circus.

The village was connected with the City of Detroit by a one-track street railroad, so-called, which was little more than two streaks of rust, over-grown with weeds, extending from the crossing of Woodward Avenue and the Grand Trunk and Lake Shore tracks nearly to a driving park, where the present Ford Motor Company factory now stands.

CAPTAIN WM. H. STEVENS

The outstanding, most forceful character of the entire village was Captain William H. Stevens, a large, powerfully-built man with but one eye, a shock of gray hair and a full gray beard.

He was called Captain because he had been a mining Captain in Colorado. He had been extensively interested in the copper mines of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and at Leadville, Colorado, and was the discoverer of the famous Iron-Silver mine, near Leadville, which was, in its day, a very famous and profitable mine.

He came to Highland Park about 1880 with his wife, Ellen, a very cultured woman and a member of an old Philadelphia family. He acquired large tracts of land, extending from Tennyson Avenue to the

present site of the Ford Motor Company factory, when it was farm land; and, about 1895, he built a spacious and magnificent home of field boulders from the fields on his land and from other farm land near Pontiac. This home was erected on the site of the present McGregor Public Library, now being dedicated, and was the Library's first home.

He also maintained a beautiful home in Detroit, on the west side of Woodward Avenue, which, by a singular coincidence, is the site upon which Detroit's beautiful public library now stands.

Captain Stevens was an interesting and compelling personality. Although very wealthy, he usually dressed roughly, in flannel shirt, a battered hat and trousers tucked in his boots. He dominated the little Highland Park community politically and was always foremost in its civic gatherings.

Though strong-willed and opinionated, he judged men carefully and accurately and appreciated and rewarded loyalty wherever found. He was very fond of assisting young men and many successful men owed their business beginnings to his kindly encouragement.

As an instance of his resourcefulness and power over men, it is related that, during the rude, lawless days at Leadville, some of the rough characters out there decided to hang him. They had placed a rope around his neck and thrown it over the limb of a tree, when he asked permission to get on a stump and speak to them before he died. This struck their rude sense of fairness and they consented, with the result that he talked them out of their dangerous plan and saved his own life.

He owned the Highland Park Hotel,—a famous roadside inn of the eighties and nineties, located where the present Ford Motor plant now stands. It was a great gathering place for local politicians and here were discussed and determined all the important local, political questions of the day.

The Stevens school, on East Buena Vista Avenue, the first public school erected in Highland Park, was named for him and he built the original water works plant, at the corner of Highland and Woodward Avenues, which furnished the local water supply from a deep driven well and a steam pump.

Though not, himself, a churchman, he furnished, free, the use of the second floor of the water works building for the first community Sunday School ever established in Highland Park. It was founded by Mrs. Anson Kinsman and a Mrs. Ketcham, and, out of it, finally grew the Highland Park Presbyterian Church, represented on our program today by Dr. Crissman.

When the question of sidewalks for the village came up, Captain Stevens strongly favored cinder walks instead of the longitudinal plank walks then so common. This apparently small matter at once became an important issue in Highland Park politics. The "Com-

munity Boss" did not like opposition in any local matter, however trifling, and he became exceedingly wroth at the brave spirits who dared oppose him.

Besides his interest in politics, Captain Stevens was absorbingly interested in paleontology, and frequently spoke to public gatherings on this subject. He also acquired and maintained Dr. Jennings' driving track and fine horses were among his many hobbies.

KATHERINE WHITNEY McGREGOR

Mr. David Whitney, whose vast fortune began, in an early day, in his extensive lumbering operations in Northern Michigan, was a contemporary and friend of Captain Stevens, and it is interesting to note that, after the death of Captain Stevens, in 1901, his Highland Park home finally came into the possession of David Whitney's daughter, now Mrs. Tracy W. McGregor, who, with her husband, used it as a home for homeless, crippled and backward children, one of their many splendid philanthropies.

Mrs. McGregor was Mr. Whitney's youngest child. The whole family have been very active in a widespread work of philanthropy, Mrs. McGregor's sister, Mrs. Grace Whitney Hoff, now of Paris, France, having been especially prominent in the founding of the Young Women's Christian Association of Detroit.

TRACY W. McGREGOR

Tracy W. McGregor was the son of Rev. Thomas McGregor, who founded, in Detroit, more than 30 years ago, the McGregor Mission, for the rescue and making over into active, earnest, successful business men and good citizens of men who have lost their grip, to whom the future seems to offer no hope and who seem to be headed toward destruction and death.

Soon after its organization, Thomas McGregor died. His son, Tracy, was then a lad in college, but, fired with his father's spirit and feeling that his father's life work had been bequeathed to him, Tracy unhesitatingly gave up his college course, immersed himself in the work of the McGregor Mission, which was then small and struggling, and carried it forward to the permanent, stable, successful institution it now is.

THE LIBRARY'S BEGINNING

On June 29th, 1918, after its discontinuance as a children's home, this property was, by Mrs. McGregor, deeded to Highland Park, (at that time a City, having become such April 4, 1918) upon the express condition that a free public library should be maintained in it and that, within five years, a new library building should be erected on the site "not inferior to the Henry M. Utley Branch Library in the City of Detroit" (which cost \$255,000).



Captain W. H. STEVENS



TRACY W. McGREGOR



MRS. TRACY W. (KATHERINE)
McGREGOR

The gift was formally accepted by the City, July 8th, 1918, and an ordinance was passed March 10th, 1919, creating the McGregor Public Library Commission, to which was entrusted the duty of organizing and maintaining the McGregor Public Library and fulfilling the responsibilities arising from Mr. and Mrs. McGregor's splendid gift.

How well the Commission has performed its task, how capably it has fulfilled the obligations resting upon it, an inspection of the new home now being dedicated, and the history of the Library's progress will, it is hoped, make clear.

McGREGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

On the 24th day of March, 1919, Mayor Royal M. Ford appointed the original Commission, consisting of,

Mrs. Dora M. Miller, appointed for one year,

Gerald J. Buckley, appointed for two years,

Frank T. Lodge, appointed for three years.

Upon the removal of Mr. Buckley from the City, Fred K. McEldowney was appointed to the vacancy—the only change that has ever been made in the Commission's personnel, although the Commission has served under three Mayors, Royal M. Ford, Edgar F. Down and Clarence E. Gittins.

The first meeting of the Commission was held at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of May 17, 1919, in the front up-stairs room of the old Stevens homestead, amid the rubbish and odors incident to the uncompleted remodelling of the building for library purposes.

The building was locked; no member of the Commission had a key and entrance was effected by Mr. Lodge's son, Cameron, who climbed through a second story window and admitted the dignified Commissioners.

The second story room was the only room where a meeting could be held and table and seats were improvised from a two-inch plank and two empty nail kegs, on which the august members of the Commission held their first meeting, electing, in the order of their seniority, (a principle which has ever since been preserved), Mrs. Miller, Chairman; Mr. Buckley, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Lodge, Secretary.

Later, the Commission met at the Detroit Athletic Club and invited the counsel of Mr. Adam Strohm and other distinguished librarians and leading officers and citizens of Highland Park, in the problems which confronted them. At this meeting, Mr. Strohm advised the Commissioners to secure as Librarian, if possible, Miss Katharyne G. Sleneau, then librarian of the Port Huron Public Library.



MISS KATHARYNE G.
SLENEAU
Librarian



FRED K. McELDOWNEY
Vice Chairman of the
Commission



(MRS. W. C.) DORA M.
MILLER
Chairman of the
Commission



FRANK T. LODGE
Secretary of the Commission



GERALD J. BUCKLEY
Vice Chairman of the Original Commission

KATHARYNE G. SLENEAU

Miss Sleneau's services were secured from the Port Huron Library with the full consent and approbation of the Port Huron Library Commission, who, though sorry to lose her, were sufficiently fond of her to rejoice at the opportunity for greater usefulness thus offered to her, and to Miss Sleneau is greatly due the credit for the success which the McGregor Public Library has since achieved.

She entered upon her duties as Librarian August 1st, 1919. Two months and ten days later, on October 11th, 1919, with the help of a cataloguer and one assistant, the Library was opened to the public with two thousand books on the shelves, a catalogue of them and a few tables and chairs as furniture. One hundred and ninety-nine books were issued the first afternoon; the reading room was opened, for reading and reference, only, the next day, Sunday, and, at the end of the first week, nearly all of the two thousand books had been issued.

THE LIBRARY'S GROWTH

During the first year, the average daily circulation was two hundred and seven,—nearly five thousand books a month; nine hundred and twelve juvenile and two thousand five hundred and fifty adult cards were issued and nearly seven thousand volumes were purchased and catalogued.

In January, 1920, in connection with the High School Library of the School Board, the first branch library was opened, at the Liberty school, in the extreme northwestern end of the City, where, during the first six months, the circulation was sixteen thousand, five hundred sixty, from a collection of not more than two thousand volumes.

During this year, collections of books were also placed in the three fire engine houses, the police station and the quarters of the Knights of Columbus.

Within a little over twenty months, the Library grew to twelve thousand, seven hundred sixty-two volumes, with seven thousand three hundred four borrowers and the circulation, the second year, was one hundred twenty-two thousand, five hundred ten books, compared with forty-five thousand, seven hundred ninety-three issued during the first nine months.

The work of the Library has constantly increased. The increase in circulation over the five year period has been one hundred thirty-seven thousand, eight hundred sixty-seven, and, in the number of borrowers of books, twelve thousand, two hundred sixty. The Library now contains thirty thousand, five hundred volumes.



MCGREGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
WOODWARD AVENUE FROM MASSACHUSETTS TO RHODE ISLAND AVENUES

THE NEW HOME

The World War made it impossible to comply strictly with the five-year requirement for the construction of the new building contained in Mrs. McGregor's deed of the property. An extension was, however, very easily obtained. By resolution of the Council, dated February 4th, 1924, a bond issue of \$500,000 for the construction of the new building was initiated and, on March 5th, 1924, two years ago today, was submitted to the people of Highland Park. By, perhaps, the largest majority ever given to a bond issue in this City, they approved the same, thereby providing the necessary funds for the construction of the new building and the Commission at once addressed itself to its new problem.

It was the unanimous feeling of the Commissioners that they should not be limited to the cost of the building which had been named in the McGregor deed as a standard, but that something entirely worthy of the modern city of Highland Park and its progressive citizens should be constructed. In order to obtain as full information as possible, every eastern and central city of the country containing library buildings of the type sought was visited and careful study made of its facilities.

By the unanimous choice of the Librarian and the Commission, the Library building at Wilmington, Delaware, of which Messrs. Edward L. Tilton and Alfred M. Githens were architects, was chosen as a model. Naturally, these two gentlemen were selected as the architects. They have made this class of buildings a specialty for upwards of thirty years, have constructed many notable library edifices and have brought to the problems presented by the proposed building wide knowledge and broad experience.

After their design of this building had been completed and, while the building was under construction, the American Institute of Architects, in session at New York in May, 1925, honored architects and building by awarding the design a gold medal.

This building is, in no sense, an exact duplicate of the Wilmington building. On the contrary, the architects and Commission have availed themselves of every opportunity to profit by the experience gained in the construction of that building and have improved upon it in many important particulars.

While it was considered highly desirable to employ the architects of the Wilmington building, it was also desired to secure all the advantages of having local architects and Messrs. Marcus R. Burrowes and Frank Eurich, Jr., (the latter being the architect of many Highland Park school buildings) were secured as Associate Architects. This combination of outside and local talent has been productive of great good and has resulted in much greater efficiency, convenience, economy and beauty.



VISTA NORTH FROM SECOND FLOOR

The Commission were especially fortunate in the time at which they advertised for bids for the construction of the building, since there happened to be a temporary lull in the building industry at just that time with resulting lower prices of materials and a greater number of contractors looking for construction work. It was, therefore, a matter of common note that the Commission's proposals for bids developed a larger number of high-class bidders and lower prices than had ever been offered for any other public construction work in the City of Highland Park.

The Commission consider themselves especially fortunate that the bid of the Martin-Krausman Company was the lowest and best bid for the construction work. This company,—young and energetic men, ambitious to make a record,—so organized their entire working force as to earn the sincere commendation of architects and competitors; their construction of the building was carried forward without a single hitch, jar or complaint and was completed in record time.

The contractors for the two sub-groups, Leggett, Doll, Foster Company, heating, plumbing and ventilating, and Forbes Electric Company, electric wiring and power work, have loyally and capably co-operated with the general contractors in every way.

The contract was signed February 4th, 1925; ground was broken February 7th, 1925; construction was commenced February 19th, 1925; the corner stone was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, March 28th, 1925; the building was completed ready for equipment, decoration and furnishing October 13th, 1925.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW HOME

From an architectural standpoint, the general arrangement of the building is very interesting, differing, as it does, from other libraries of its size in the open interior of its main story, in its freedom from corridors and its few partitions, one room giving wide and direct access to another and all supervised, in a general way, from the main desk at the entrance. It is also different in having its 200,000 volume book-storage, or stack room, directly below the main floor, instead of at the rear, thus affording direct exterior light on all sides of the main floor for the reading and workrooms and locating the "open shelves" on the main floor, directly accessible to the public.

The spirit of the edifice, throughout, is Roman rather than Greek, although Roman architecture, having been derived largely from the Greek and many of the buildings of Imperial Rome having been actually designed by subject Greeks and Greek freedmen, there is a close resemblance to the Greek in it. Its style may be termed Roman Classic, the interior showing more markedly its Greek derivation.

The interior sculptured frieze, cast from the Elgin Marbles taken from the Athenian Parthenon, and the Doric columns are, therefore, entirely in keeping.



VISTA SOUTH THROUGH READING ROOM

The entire building contains but one arch,—that at the main entrance.

The whole exterior is as purely Roman as a modern building can be, with, of course, the necessary adaptations to modern conditions.

A substantial base course of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, granite is carried around the building. From base to cornice we find the highest grade selected light gray Indiana limestone, surmounted by a frieze of polychrome modelled terra-cotta and cheneaux and a full moulded cornice of stone.

The building, in general, is quiet and dignified in design, with the transitions from plain to ornamental surfaces carefully considered, and the deeper shadows of the upper openings properly studied with relation to the lighter shadows of the lower openings.

The central feature, the entrance, a highly ornamented coffered niche, between two engaged Ionic columns and flanking pilasters, is similar to the doorways of the Roman temples. It still requires the addition of the contemplated allegorical bronze doors to complete the ensemble, and to sound the final note of dignity and architectural beauty in the main facade.

The construction, throughout, is fireproof, no wood being used except in the trim and furniture and there being no wood in structural details. The valuable collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets and papers housed under the roof of the new library is, therefore, entirely safe from destruction by fire or damage by water.

The principal approach from Woodward Avenue is upon the main, or east and west, axis of the building, through a succession of granite steps and terraces, while approach from the two side streets is maintained by means of approaches on the north and south axis. The service entrances, as well as ample parking facilities for autos belonging to the Library staff, are entirely on the east, or alley, side.

The exterior colored frieze somewhat resembles the frieze of the Temple of Antonius and Faustina in the Roman Forum.

A study of the interior of the building immediately reveals the outstanding feature of the plan, namely, that the entire building may simultaneously be put to its several uses, without disturbance of any by the others. The entire main floor will function purely as a Library. At the same time, by a skilful arrangement of stairways and lobbies on the second floor, a lecture may be conducted in the auditorium at the north end and an art exhibit in the Art Room at the south end of the second floor, with several committees functioning as well.

In both Greek and Roman buildings, the interior center court was open to the sky with colonnades around it and a shallow pool to catch rain water, which they called the Impluvium. This feature of the



CHILDREN'S ROOM

classic past has been carried into this building in a modified form, in that the center "atrium" has been roofed over with glass, thus doing away with the Impluvium.

The large interior columns are Doric, derived from the Greek Doric temples and used by the Romans in Pompeii.

The main entrance opens into a spacious lobby, with wide marble stairways, north and south, leading to the second floor. Crossing the lobby, we enter the large receiving and delivery room, back of which are the "open stacks," with twenty-five thousand books capacity and additional book capacity of ten thousand in the shelves and cases of the reading and reference rooms.

The delivery room opens, on the north, into a large reading room and that opens into a well-equipped reference room; while, on the south, the delivery room opens into the children's room, with a large ornamental fireplace, in the border of which may be inserted removable tiles made to illustrate the children's stories used during the children's "story hour."

On the south, is a separate outside entrance to the children's room, with well equipped toilets, and drinking fountains for girls and for boys on the south lobby.

While a number of workrooms of varying sizes may be found on the main floor, the entire easterly section of the second floor is given over to the use of the Library staff, with their cataloguing and repairing rooms, together with a kitchenette and rest room for the exclusive use of the staff and first aid room, all closed off from the public and served by a separate hall leading directly to a service elevator and stairway.

The main office of the Librarian, with private lavatory and stenographers' room, is located in the southeast corner of the second floor, but subordinate offices for Librarian and Assistant Librarian are arranged on the ground floor for quicker and more direct access to the working units of the building. The entire building is under direct control of the Librarian by means of an inter-communicating system of house telephones, which reduces the management to its simplest elements.

A large rest room has been provided for the staff, with adjoining kitchenette, fully equipped, thus enabling the staff to have their lunches in the building. The cataloguing room and other staff quarters are connected by a private corridor which can communicate with the public corridor upstairs.

At the south end, is the Fine Arts room, out of which two civic committee rooms open.

The quarters of the Library Commission are located in the southwest corner; adjoining, on the north, is a civic committee room which also opens into the Fine Arts room and, next adjoining, is a commodious public kitchenette, completely furnished and well equipped toilet rooms and lavatories open from the west corridor.

For the benefit of girls' and boys' clubs, or other organizations, a club room of comfortable size is provided on the mezzanine floor in the southeast corner.

The Commission hope to have this building freely used as a civic center. To this end, the second story contains a number of different sized committee rooms and an assembly room comfortably seating 400 with stage, footlights and a fine proscenium curtain.

Under proper regulations, these facilities are at the service of the many civic and semi-public clubs with which the city is blessed and, it is hoped, will be freely used by them.

The entire main section of the basement is composed of, and supported by, metal book stacks having an estimated ultimate capacity of 200,000 volumes, adjacent to which are to be found the mechanical equipment and the receiving and workrooms, which, in turn, are in easy reach of service stairs and elevator for communication and the distribution of books through the building.

It is interesting to observe that the stack room, large as it is, is provided with a system of ventilation, so that movement of air is always perceptible, and stagnation or book rot is impossible even after the stacks are filled to capacity.

The public voting booths are a unique feature. It is a peculiar fact that the southeast and northeast corners are located in two separate voting precincts; and, in the interest of public economy, the Commission has arranged for two corner rooms in the ground, or basement, floor to be used as public voting booths on election days, at which times these rooms are entirely separated and disconnected from the rest of the building.

When the temporary building shall have been removed and the landscaping completed, flood lights will be installed at appropriate stations, which, it is expected, will play upon the building a certain portion of every evening.

In general, no effort has been spared to furnish the citizens of Highland Park an attractive and homelike building; one which will be inviting alike to old and young, which will create a desire to linger and produce an atmosphere of quiet, dignity and refinement and increase its usefulness in the community.

CONCLUSION

With joy and pride the McGregor Public Library Commission now present to their home folks the finished product of, days, weeks and months, even years, of painstaking, earnest and devoted effort. From the very nature of the work involved, many months must yet elapse before one outstanding feature of the building, viz., the bronze doors intended for the main entrance, can be completed, since, after the design shall have been settled, complete clay models must first be made by the sculptor for every figure which is to ornament these doors, molds therefor must afterwards be made and the doors finally cast in bronze—a work involving exceedingly difficult and delicate manipulation. We hope to have the main motif of these doors symbolize the automotive spirit which is the basis of the wonderful progressiveness of Detroit and Highland Park and, when completed, it is expected that they will be worthy of the rest of the building and will contribute not a little to its beauty and adornment.

The Commission sincerely believe that they have obtained an honest dollar's worth for every dollar expended. They are proud that they have been able not only to complete the building within the limits of the appropriation but that they are also able to turn back to the Treasury, unexpended, a balance of approximately sixty thousand dollars of that appropriation, from which must be deducted the cost of the bronze doors, the landscape gardening, and a few small items for which bills have not yet been presented.



Mrs. Peudergart,
Davis
Jules Pasen (French)
Kolbe Feininger

Utrillo
Lawrencin, Marie
Derain 5
Despiau (drawing)
Renou 4
Miller
Seganzac
James Ensor
Matisse
de Chirco
de Vlaminck
Klee x

Masereel
Mestovich
Max Kasso
Kokoschka
Paul Klee