

# THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

# In the PUBLIC EYE

**T**O ARRIVE at some understanding of the activities of the Library of Congress as an institution, a brief description of the building, which stands as a lasting monument to American genius in architecture, sculpture and art will be necessary.

The grounds adjoin those of the national Capitol, the outer walls having a frontage on four streets. The building is of the Italian renaissance order of architecture, has three stories covers an area of nearly four acres of ground, with four large inner courts 150 by 75 to 100 feet in size. It is lighted by about 2,000 windows. Its gilded dome, 135 feet high, terminates in a gilded finial representing the ever-burning torch of science.

In front of the main entrance and between the great stone stairways leading to the facade is the great semicircular basin representing the Court of Neptune—the classic god of the sea—whose huge bronze figure forms the center of a group of tritons, sea nymphs, sea horses, seapods and other marine animals and amphibious creatures. This fountain is said to be the most lavishly ornamented creation of its kind in this country.

The exterior of the building is not profusely decorated, but the very simplicity of its classic lines adds to the grandeur of its imposing appearance. The entrance pavilion has sixteen rounded pillars with Corinthian capitals. Four colossal atlantes support the pediment, in which are sculptured American eagles, with supporting figures of children. In the windows are nine great portrait-busts, in granite, of Emerson, Irving, Goethe, Franklin, Macaulay, Hawthorne, Scott, Demosthenes and Dante. The three deep arches of the pavilion terminate in the three massive bronze entrance doors, 14 feet high and 7 1/2 feet wide, weighing 3 1/2 tons each, which are beautiful works of art in themselves in their sculptured designs in relief, typifying Tradition, Writing and the art of Printing.

Beyond these doors is the main vestibule, separated from the staircase hall by piers of Italian marble, ornamented with pilasters supporting marble arches, overlaid being a paneled ceiling finished in white and gold. Impressively rich and elegant in design. The gilded beams of the ceiling are supported by white and gold consoles, in front of each and almost detached from it stand the sculptured figures, in pairs, of the goddess Minerva, one of War, and the other of Peace.

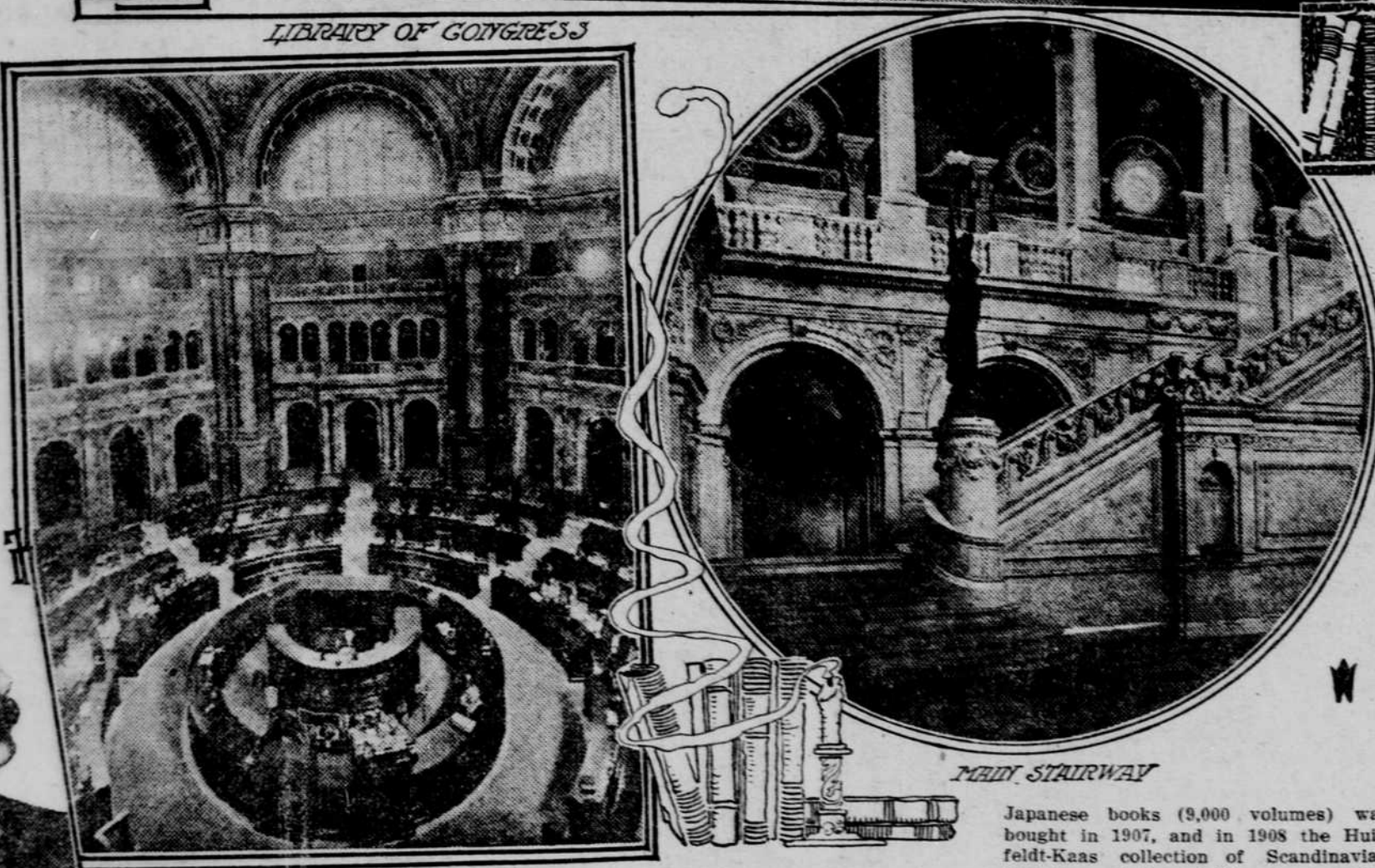
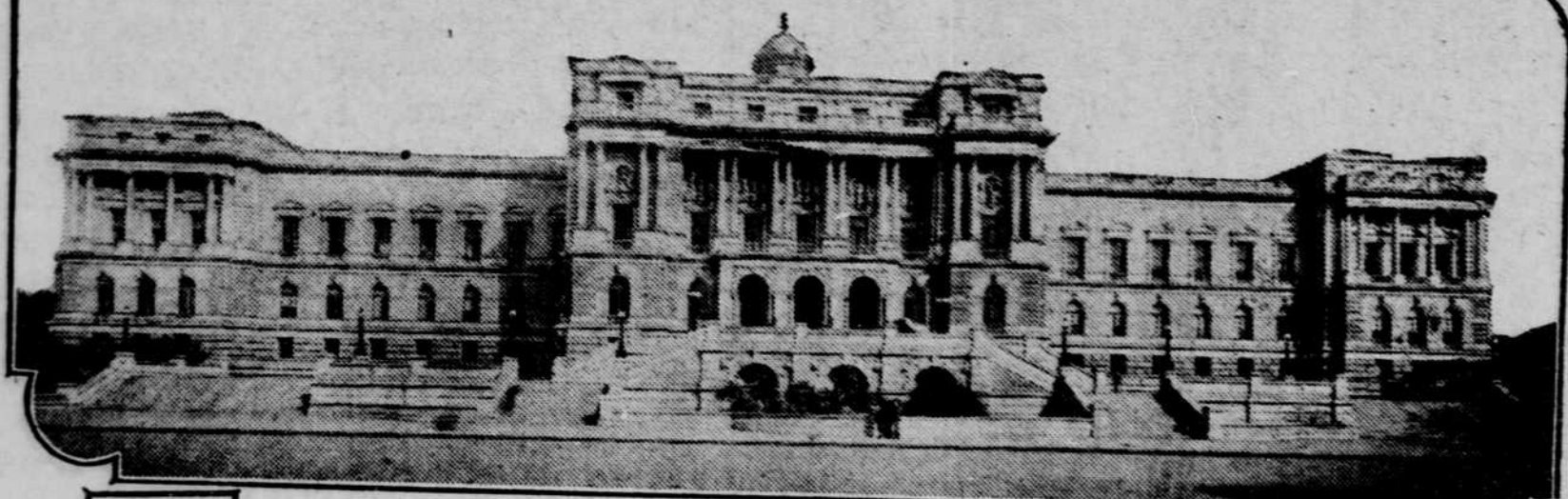
From this vestibule is entered the staircase hall, an apartment unsurpassed in magnificence and artistic beauty by any entrance hall in the world. It is truly "a vision in polished stone," with its vaulted ceiling 72 feet high, its sides lined throughout with fine Italian marble, highly polished, while on the side rises a pair of magnificent marble columns with elaborately carved Corinthian capitals. Through the intervening spaces are seen glimpses of the rich coloring of the mural paintings and the glittering gold of the ceiling decorations of the vaulted arches and galleries of the second floor.

The grand double staircase with white marble balustrades, one on the north and the other on the south side of the hall, has probably no equal in the western hemisphere. The newel posts, richly decorated with festoons of flowers and leaves, are surmounted by two huge bronze figures of classically draped women holding aloft a cluster of electric lights. The staircases are highly ornamented with miniature marble figures carved in relief representing in emblematic sculpture the various arts and sciences. On the buttress of the south staircase are the sculptured figures representing America and Africa supporting between them a globe showing these continents, while on the north side a similar group represents Europe and Asia.

This spacious and magnificently decorated hall, taken in connection with the grand corridors and the elaborately and artistically embellished reading room, furnish the finest marble interior in America.

From the east corridor a stairway ascends to the balcony of the reading room. On the wall of the landing of this stairway is a beautiful mosaic of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, by Eliza Vedder. Entering the visitors' gallery an excellent view is afforded of this spacious rotunda or main reading room. Its vastness is but dimly appreciable from the base statement that it is 100 feet in diameter and 125 feet in height, and that the pillars are 49 feet high and the windows 32 feet wide. One of its chief beauties is the harmonious blending of the rich coloring effected by the dark Tuscan, the red Numidian and the yellow shades of Siena marbles, accentuated by the old ivory of the stucco ornamentation of the dome. Upon the eight immense piers supporting the dome are placed female figures of colossal stature, above each being a quotation relative to the phase of learning or achievement further represented by the 16 bronze statues standing in the gallery, two in each of the great arches which encircle the room. In these statues Religion is represented by Moses and Saint Paul; Commerce by Columbus and Fulton; History by Herodotus and Gibbon; Art by Michael Angelo and Beethoven; Philosophy by Plato and Bacon; Poetry by Homer and Shakespeare; Law by Solon Kent; Science by Newton and Henry.

In the collar of the dome, which is 150 feet in circumference, is a symbolism of the twelve nations and epochs which have contributed to the advance of the world, each represented as a seated figure bearing the emblems suggestive of its peculiar attribute. Egypt represents Written Records; Judea, Religion; Greece,



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**THE ROTUNDA, READING ROOM**

Philosophy; Rome, Administration; Islam, Physics; Middle Ages, Modern Languages; Italy, Fine Arts; Germany, Art of Printing; Spain, Discovery; England, Literature; France, Emancipation; and America, Science.

In the crown of the great lantern of the dome is painted The Human Understanding, an allegorical figure of a woman floating among the clouds and attended by two children. The artistic mural decoration of the interior is upon a magnificent scale and the paintings in each of the many pavilions, corridors and galleries are so numerous that no attempt can be made in this article to give a description of them. Every artistic design has purpose and meaning in every stroke of the artist's brush, in every curve and line wrought by the sculptor's chisel. The completed building stands today as the highest expression of American art, the greatest monument yet erected to American genius.

The eight acres of floor space contained in the building are utilized as follows: On the ground floor are the copyright office, reading room for the blind, superintendent's and disbursing office, bookbinding department, printing department, music room, mail room, lockers, etc. The first floor contains the main reading room, the librarian's room, periodical reading room, senators' reading room, representatives' reading room, map and chart rooms, administration rooms. The second floor is taken up with the galleries, pavilions and rooms filled with exhibits of rare engravings, manuscripts, prints, rare books, first editions, portraits of the presidents and other celebrated personages. The attic floor contains a kitchen and restaurant, rooms for print repairs, manuscript repairs, photography documents and copyright storage.

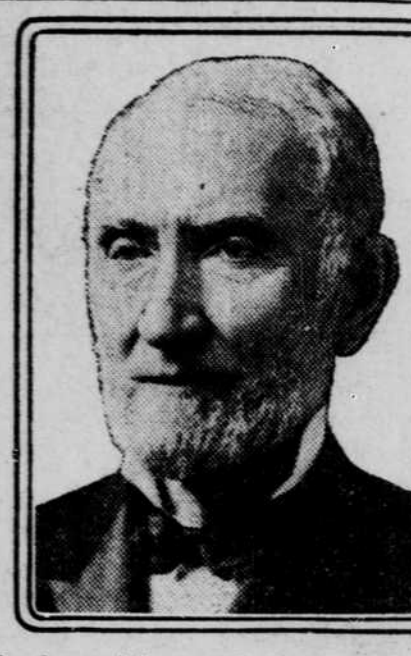
In 1814 the library, consisting of about 3,000 volumes, was burned by the British troops. Congress made a fresh start by purchasing the Thomas Jefferson library of about 7,000 volumes, which grew until in 1851 it had about 55,000 volumes. Another fire then destroyed all but 20,000 of these. The country had grown so much in wealth by this time, however, that this was but a temporary check, and the library quarters in the Capitol were promptly restored and many of the books which had been destroyed were replaced. In 1867 the Peter Force collection of Americana, consisting of about 60,000 articles, was purchased for \$110,000, and the acquisition in the same year of the library of the Smithsonian Institution, consisting of 40,000 volumes, brought the total up to over 200,000 volumes. The copyright law of 1846 required the deposit of one copy of each book copyrighted in the library, and an act was passed in 1870 which placed the registration of copyrights under the care of the librarian of congress, and required the deposit of two copies of each book or article copyrighted, thus assuring the acquisition of books published in the United States.

The rapid progress of the library dates from 1864, when Dr. A. R. Spofford was appointed librarian. His tireless energy and unflagging zeal increased the acquisitions until in 1897, the date of his retirement, it had grown to more than 1,000,000 books and pamphlets, and the necessity for more spacious quarters had been realized for some years. In 1886 the construction of a new building was authorized and eleven years later this was completed at a cost of \$6,347,000, on a site bought for \$585,000. This is the present home of the third largest library in the world. That the cost of

men of which he had been anxious to obtain. While waiting for a box made for his unpleasant pet, he kept it in the glass jar in which it had been sent, replacing the glass stopper with a piece of perforated zinc. One afternoon, having placed the jar upon the table, he was watching the serpent and smoking a cigar. Suddenly he fell asleep. When he awoke it was pitch dark—there being no twilight in those latitudes. He had been roused by a tremendous crash as of glass. His first thought, of course, was of the fer-de-lance, and, not realizing that his slippers had fallen off, he started to rush from the room, when he felt what seemed to be a slight blow on the foot, followed by a burning pain. He instantly drew himself up in the chair, in dread of a second bite, and made frantic efforts to suck the wound. Falling in that, he held out the foot so it would bleed freely, and tried to put a ligature about the ankle, calling madly for help all the time. The servants, hearing him cry that the fer-de-lance was loose, were afraid to come in, but at last his host appeared with lights and ready to dispatch the serpent. It was found still in the jar upon the table. The cause of the alarm was the fall of a jar of hot pickles which was also standing on the table, and which had been overturned in some way. As the Britisher's foot struck the floor it was cut by one of the pieces of broken glass, and the acid or the pickles in the wound produced the intense pain.

## UNCLE JOE, 76, STILL YOUNG

"Uncle Joe" Cannon celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday at Washington the other day under a cloud of grief. The night before he exultantly announced that he was going to observe the day by dissipating wildly. A circus was in town and he was going to take the afternoon and, if necessary, the evening off and go to see the lions and tigers and the hippogriffe and the beautiful lady acrobats and the hair-raising trapezists.



Instead of that he went meekly up to the home on Congressman Weeks, of Massachusetts, with his daughter and spent the evening decorously there. "Thought you were going to the circus," a reporter said to him. "I was," said Uncle Joe, "but it rained. And in the course of seventy-five—I mean seventy-six—years of quiet and irreproachable life I have found that whenever it rains and I go to a circus I always get wet. "The people around me seem to be dry and happy. I always get that wet spot and am miserable. If seventy-five years—I should say seventy-six—teach a man anything, it must be to profit by experience. "It has taken me seventy-five years to learn anything, but now that I'm seventy-six I have learned this lesson, if not any other, and I have just sense enough not to go. "So I'm up here at, John Weeks', with Mrs. Weeks and my daughter, and I've missed the circus, but I'm happy and I'm not damp. "I suppose you got a lot of congratulations?" "Yes," said the ex-speaker, reflectively. "Quite a number of people came up to me and congratulated me on being a year nearer the grave. Funny thing to congratulate a man on, don't you think so? But they meant it kindly. "How does it feel to be seventy-six?" "I don't notice any perceptible difference," said Uncle Joe, taking his cigar out for the first time and pondering. "I'm very well, but I was very well yesterday. I suppose I'm seventy-six because everybody tells me so, but I'm not throwing my hat up about it, and at the same time, son, I'm not weeping about it."

## SULTAN A MEDIATIZED RULER



On March 30, France inaugurated a change in her political dealings with Morocco, by the signing of a treaty with the Sultan, Mulla-Abdel-Hafid, establishing a French protectorate. France has had much experience in the government of the North African countries, which line the Mediterranean from Tripoli to the Atlantic ocean, and the decision to leave the government nominally in native hands is a wise one. It is evidently based on the success of her peaceful conquest of Tunis where the external of Arab rule have been preserved. In Algeria, on the other hand, where the administration is directly and openly French, her domination aroused the bitter jealousy and hostility of the natives who saw in the elimination of their native rulers a threatened subversion of the Mohammedan religion, with the result that France has had to maintain her footing by rigorous military rule. Mulla Hafid, the present Sultan and nominal ruler of Morocco, is known to his subjects as a Prince of True Believers and is the thirty-sixth lineal descendant of Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Mahomet. He revolted against his brother, the Sultan Mulla Aziz, in 1907, and his usurpation of the throne was recognized by the powers in January, 1909. He is a learned and devoted adherent of Islamism and has written several books on theology and philology.

## GOV. WEST TRUSTS CONVICTS

"The only honor lacking in the average criminal is that which is wrenched from him by incivility, distrust and inhumanity. Extend to a convict the courtesy, confidence and trust due him as a man and he will respond with more honor than the average person who has never seen the bars, the dungeon or the dismal gray walls of a penitentiary." Basing his action on this bit of philosophy, Gov. Oswald West of Oregon recently threw open the barred doors of the Oregon state penitentiary and turned more than 200 convicts out into the inviting forests and fields to serve the remainder of their terms without guards, stripes, chains or stocks.



With one sweep the dungeon, the dark cell, the striped suits, the ball and chain and the gallows were wiped out as unnecessary parts of the institution and in their stead was established a unique and revolutionary honor system. Since the first wholesale liberation convicts have been added to the list as they have proven eligible until the total number today is about 500. Honor is the only guard over fifteen convict camps which are maintained permanently in various parts of the state, in some cases many miles from the dingy walls of the prison, and in all cases in the forests where the only effort required to make an escape is to leisurely disappear.

On every side are hiding places where detection by the officers would be difficult if they learned of the escape before the convict had time to reach any of the cities of the northwest where chances for permanent escape would be good. Out of the fifteen convict camps in which are now about 300 men one-half are so far from the state prison that the convicts are not required to report in at night. In some cases the entire camp could desert and the officials would not know about it for two or three days. But Governor West has too much confidence in yegmen, burglars, holdup men, murderers and sneak thieves to believe that they would break the pledges which they make before being liberated.

The men are engaged in building roads, operating rock quarries and clearing land.

## VICE-PRESIDENT OF BIG SHOW



Reuben B. Hale, the vice-president of the Panama-Pacific International exposition, to be held in San Francisco in 1915, celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal, was one of a special commission appointed to make a trip abroad to lay before ministers of foreign affairs and army and navy authorities, the details and scope of the enterprise. The commission sailed on the Mauretania April 24th. Mr. Hale is a well-known merchant of San Francisco, who was the first person to suggest the holding of an exposition to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. The commission consists of Mr. John Hays Hammond, president; Mr. Reuben B. Hale, vice-president of the Panama-Pacific International exposition; Brigadier-General Clarence B. Edwards, U. S. A.; Mr. William T. Sesson, vice-president of the San Francisco chamber of commerce; Mr. Theodore Hardee, executive officer; Mr. Charles F. Wilson, diplomatic officer, and Mr. Archibald C. Emery, secretary. General Edwards and Admiral Staunton were detailed by President Taft to represent the army and navy. The commission is accredited by the department of state to American ambassadors and ministers abroad, and bear letters to the highest government authorities of the various countries visited.

## He Was Stung By Pickles

Britisher Spends Bad Quarter of an Hour During a Visit to West Indies. The French are fond of saying that one "spends a bad quarter of an hour" when it is his lot to endure some disagreeable experience. No one could have spent a worse quarter of an hour than an Englishman had during a visit to St. Lucia, in the West Indies. This Britisher had been hospitably entertained by the neighboring planters, who, as he was preparing to return, had sent him gifts of guava jelly, pine jam limes, peppers and the like. Among other gifts he received a live fer-de-lance, one of the deadliest serpents in the world, a spect-