

## The Hayes Memorial Library

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THE HAYES MEMORIAL LIBRARY originated in the gift by Colonel Webb C. Hayes, son of the nineteenth President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, of his late father's twenty-five acre estate, his papers, books, and mementoes, together with a generous endowment to the state of Ohio. Later he gave part of the cost of a fireproof building to house the library and museum. The whole is under the supervision of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society as a state memorial. An interesting parallel might be drawn by the Hayes Memorial Library and the recently announced Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library to be established at Hyde Park, New York. The plans for the two institutions are strikingly similar.

### *Content of Collection*

The collection is of interest both as a most complete association record of an important public figure and for the intrinsic scholarly value of the books and manuscripts. The lack of unified direction in the purchasing program of the endowment has made the original collection of President Hayes still the main though a notable one. First in uniqueness is the correspondence. It numbers about seventy-five thousand pieces covering the period from 1860 to 1893. There are letters on every

important question, and, in addition, letters which reflect Hayes' interest in humanitarian movements and in education. For this reason, names that could not ordinarily be expected to appear in a set of primarily political papers are very numerous. The papers have all been calendared, arranged, and filmed.

In many respects the pamphlets, which number over ten thousand, correlate with the papers. They, too, reflect the patterns of controversy and the tendencies of the era: social, economic, and political. The Coughlins, the Dies, and the Borahs of that day reached for the pen instead of the microphone to make felt their weight in public opinion and most of the resultant matter made its way to the desk of the President. Fortunately, he saved all of it. Much that was to others trivial, he, with a real sense of the value of a complete image and a highly-developed respect for social documentation, saved.

The subjects covered in some detail in the manuscript and pamphlet collections can only be briefly indicated. Students of education will find material on the establishment of the school system in the South after the Civil War. President Hayes was one of the organizers as well as President of the Board of Trustees of the Slater Fund. He was a trustee, too, of the Peabody Fund. These were not simply nominal posts. He was deeply interested in the work of both agencies and maintained an active correspondence with the general agents, Atticus G. Haygood and

J. L. N. Curry. This material found in the memorial is really a part of other groups scattered in such collections as that of the Home Missionary Society, the University of Chicago, the Oberlin Archives, the Daniel Coit Gilman Papers at Johns Hopkins, and smaller related collections in many of the historical societies of the South.

The interest of both President and Mrs. Hayes in the temperance movement and their concern over prison reform brought material into the collection on questions that are still of immediate social concern. Others that might be mentioned are the civil service reform, resumption of the specie payment, polygamy among the Mormons, Chinese exclusion, and the organization of the United States Geological Survey.

The value of the book collection is somewhat difficult to estimate. It lacks the rounded character that should characterize a library, as distinguished from a private collection. Part of it shares the advantages of the manuscript collection in reflecting the public opinion of the day. This is a more personal part. The rest, which includes almost all of the valuable items, was the result of a vigorous effort on the part of the President to collect a really good library of American history. The original collection of books and pamphlets, together with what has been purchased since, numbers about thirty thousand items. In it can be found an excellent group on New England local history, and much on western travel for the first half of the nineteenth century including the Ohio Valley. The Revolution and the War of 1812 are well covered by early, some of them rare, secondary works. There is a small, interesting collection of Revolutionary War pamphlets.

#### *Purposes of the Memorial*

The conception Colonel Hayes had of the memorial was not that of a static institution. By the establishment of several sections of the endowment fund, he provided for the expansion of the library and the possible undertaking of other projects meant to serve scholarship. A program has been formulated by the director, Dr. Curtis W. Garrison, to pursue these objectives. In order to avoid the unprofitable dispersion of effort over a wide field, activities have been limited to the era of Reconstruction in American history. Part of the income is being spent as a grant-in-aid fund to assist worth-while projects begun by competent scholars who need assistance to complete the research. Larger projects involving collaboration are considered on their merits.

#### *The Library's Rôle*

The library's part in the program is twofold: the first is to aid the foundation, its committees, and its grantees in all ways possible in their work, both in Fremont and elsewhere; second, to develop at the memorial a bibliographical center in its scholarly field of interest. Both of these services will demand the expansion of the resources of the library by the purchase of reference and source material. Through microfilming, the manuscript collection is being filled out by the copying of related material from widely scattered points. A collection of state documents of the South for the Reconstruction Period is being built up. Work has been begun on the assembling of a bibliography on Library of Congress cards and the analysis of other bibliographies.

To supplement the general program of the memorial, the library has under con-

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Mohrhardt, chairman, was editor of *A List of Books for Junior College Libraries* published by the American Library Association in 1937. A supplementary compilation is desired to extend this list, especially in the

direction of vocational and semiprofessional education.

The Commission on Junior College Terminal Education is a subsidiary of the American Association of Junior Colleges.

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sideration a project to put on film bibliographies that have proved uneconomical to publish in the usual way. Many of these are in the hands of individual compilers, institutions, societies, and such agencies as the Historical Records Survey. Only those in the field of Ameri-

can history will be considered, and the work could only be done on the understanding that the films would be made available to libraries and scholars, generally on the basis either of loan or sale. Suggestions and comments on the project are earnestly invited.

## The Hopkins Transportation Library

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In 1870 the Board of Immigration of Iowa issued *Iowa, die Heimath für Einwanderer*. This was also published in English and Dutch. In the Stanford copy of the German edition is laid a leaf addressed (in German) to all Germans who wish to come to America, and signed by Ebenezer Cook, vice-president and land-commissioner of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad. On the recto of this leaf is a map showing the route from Chicago to Council Bluffs.

Probably the most outstanding item of the Pacific railroads material is the report of the chief engineer, William J. Lewis, of the Pacific and Atlantic railroad company dated December 13, 1851. This report is accompanied by a folded map of the route between San Francisco and San Jose as located by Mr. Lewis, September-November, 1851.

There are also extensive manuscript

correspondence files of Mark Hopkins dating from 1863-1885 dealing with the Central Pacific, Western Pacific, and Southern Pacific railroads in matters of construction and administration. These include a large file of letters from Collis P. Huntington.

The comment may be made that emphasis has been placed on the earlier literature. It is true that the demand is more likely to come for contemporary material, but the historical background must not be neglected.

That there is interest in historical material is shown in Mr. Thomas R. Thomson's *Check List of American Publications on Railroads before 1841*, galley sets of which several university and private libraries received for checking. It is to be hoped that the publication of this will prompt the compilation of similar check lists on canals, bridges, roads, etc.