

Go in' to the Library

YOUR LIBRARY

... It's An Amazing Place

Are you interested in sports? history? theology? music? science? art? literature? economics? drama? fiction? languages? world affairs? . . . or maybe the daily comicstrips? Then it's time you discovered Acadia's treasure-house: the Emerson Memorial Library, where you'll find all this and loads more.

Sure, you know the building all right—the one next to the dining hall. You were shown through it in the fall of your freshman year and maybe you've ventured in once or twice during exams. Well, it's time you got acquainted.

Way back in the last century, three years after the University was founded, the first campus library came into existence. There was no special building for it — and no actual need for one. The small collection of books came to occupy the West Wing of the first college building, constructed in 1854. When this burned — twenty-three years later — the books (damaged though they were) were salvaged, along with portraits of the founders which had adorned the walls.

The building was reconstructed in 1879, when the library gained possession of a large room on the second floor. The books were catalogued and indexed, and by 1892 the room was open for use five afternoons a week.

By means of generous donations, the supply of books was swiftly increasing. In 1910 it totaled 15,000 volumes, besides many pamphlets.

Space for additional books was indeed scarce by 1915, so the present building was constructed for library purposes only.

Today we have a structure that's fire-proof, centrally-heated, and up-to-date. The books and periodicals are systematically arranged and distributed in separate rooms and compartments according to content.

On the main floor are two reading rooms: one, the periodical room, on the left of the entrance, and the other, the reference room, on the right, where an index of the library's chief contents may be found.

Indexing takes two forms — the Library of Congress system and the Dewey Decimal system. Periodicals are now filed in a new Kardex index.

A passageway behind the central desk at the entrance leads to stacks of assorted books, arranged alphabetically. At one end the ordering, numbering and cataloguing of new books takes place.

Winding stairs lead up to a second floor of stacked books similar to the first, and stretching from end to end. If you stop for a minute you'll be there for an hour. But perhaps you're looking specifically for something Canadian. Just follow the winding stairs. They'll take you to a gate bearing the inscription "The Eric R. Dennis Collection of Canadiana . . ." beyond which lies a vast conglomeration of Canadian literature. It's absolutely fascinating! And if you've a spark of interest at all in any aspect of Canada . . . well, it's right there at your fingertips, beckoning.

But the material is not all concentrated in the upper regions. The basement is divided into a large reading room, a "graduate room" containing information on music and art, a library science room, and a room full of special Baptist and Acadia material. A store room, which used to house the furnace, now is stacked with duplicate material.

Above the main floor, in the extreme front of the building, the periodicals are kept until sent to the binders.

There are probably some on the campus who have wondered just what is the long narrow building connected to the library by an indoor passageway. This is known as the annex, which, during the war, was used for a study room. It has since acquired a number of additional shelves and is now strictly confined to the storing of books and supplies.

All this would seem to add up to a pretty big collection. It does, too: over 97,000 books and more than 300 periodicals, which include everything from the latest issue of *Time* to today's newspaper.

You can guess how much work goes into keeping everything in the right places, ordering, cataloguing and indexing, continually revising and rearranging, and above all — keeping everybody happy. This is where our librarians come into the picture. The present staff comprises Mr. H. W. Ganong (head librarian), Mrs. Jessie Richards, Miss Annie McKay, Mrs. Grace Murray, and Mr. John Swettenham. It is to them we owe much gratitude for efficiency and patience.

They are assisted part-time by five students, who put books away, keep the stacks in order and look after the branch libraries — biology, chemistry, geology, home economics, mathematics, music and physics. Al Baker, Barbara Beck, Gertrude Pitcher, Ross Graves and Lee Beach have the positions this year. As the senior students are graduating, openings will be available next year for three undergraduates, preferably sophomores.

An M.A. student is employed each year as librarian for another section of the library located in Faculty Hall. This, the William Inglis Morse Library, is a huge collection of books donated by its namesake, an Acadia alumnus, in 1926. Miss Anna Hamilton is now supervisor.

This library comprises the best of the standard reference books (about 2,000 volumes) with the most important recent publications in the fields of philosophy, religion, history, science, education, archaeology, literature, the fine arts, besides many old and rare books of unique value.

The Emerson Memorial Library, too, contains many priceless gems and its range of material is truly remarkable. The oldest book, "The Nuremberg Chronicle" printed in Germany in 1493 is a history of mankind from Creation to the author's time. Every issue of Harper's magazine from 1850 is stacked on the shelves. A complete set of Everyman's Library—788 volumes—was donated in 1929 by the Honorable R. B. Bennett. The library's Thomas Burton Haliburton collection is the best in Canada. And so it goes.