

OXFORD UNIVERSITY - BODLEIAN LIBRARY

- RF appropriations to the
Bodleian Library 1929-48

The Situation.

The Bodleian Library was founded in 1598 by Sir Thomas Bodley. It is Oxford's central library, and in addition is a national repository under the Copyright Act of all printed matter published in the United Kingdom. By the early Twenties the problem of space was becoming increasingly urgent: Books from the Bodleian "engulfed not only the Bodleian itself but the Schools Quadrangle, the Sheldonian basement, the Old Ashmolean basement, the Examination Schools basement, the Radcliffe Camera, the Underground Book Store, and the branch libraries. Oxford University had literally become undermined by the fast growing shelves of the Bodleian..." (The Trustees Confidential Bulletin, March, 1937.)

It was calculated in the Twenties, that by 1935, at the current rate of growth, existing storage space would be exhausted. This was the primary problem which confronted the Oxford authorities when they approached the Rockefeller Boards for aid for the Bodleian Library.

Early Negotiations with the Rockefeller Boards.

The Oxford authorities made an application for aid to the International Education Board in March of 1927 for the Bodleian Library. For unknown reasons this application was never acted upon. (IEB index: Miss Paul.) However, some discussion evidently took place about this time, for Vincent in later negotiations recalled that one Michael E. Sadler was "chiefly
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responsible for misrepresenting Mr. Fosdick's attitude in preliminary talks

1. RBF was a member of the IEB Board of Trustees at this time. It is possible that he was acting as Mr. Rockefeller's personal representative in this matter, however. RF Bodleian Files indicate Mr. Rockefeller's personal interest in this project at one time: ".../Arthur Woods/was concerned at the beginning when Mr. Rockefeller was negotiating personally." (GEV to EC, 8/3/29.)

with the Oxford people several years ago." (Vincent to Gunn, 12/13/29.)

In February of 1929, Frank Aydelotte, president of Swarthmore College, and American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, wrote Vincent informally to tell him that the Oxford people were considering making an appeal to the RF for funds to aid the Bodleian Library. Aydelotte declared: "Two elements to the proposition I thought might make it appeal to you: The first is that it is distinctly for humanistic studies, ancient as well as modern. The second is that since you have just done a big thing for science at Cambridge where science predominates, it would be a beautiful balance and fitness of things in your doing a similarly much needed service to the University of Oxford where humanistic studies predominate." (Aydelotte to Vincent, 2/1/29.)^(2.)

Apparently in March, the Oxford Congregation voted to attack the Bodleian problem and outlined plans for an expansion of storage facilities. However, no direct appeal for aid had been made to the RF. Vincent, it appeared, had informed himself of the Bodleian situation; he wrote Abraham Flexner that "Aydelotte has talked with us in an indirect way about the library situation there/Oxford/. Evidently this is greatly complicated. We are told that there are all sorts of differences of interest and opinion. Moreover, from our own point of view there is a good deal of question as to how far we ought to go into library program on a large scale which involves contributions to library buildings. In all the circumstances, we hesitate to do anything that might offer the slightest encouragement at present..." (Vincent to AF, 3/19/29.)

Aydelotte thought that under the circumstances, he might suggest to the Oxford people that they ~~ought to~~ make an official request to the RF for aid. Vincent and Capps agreed that this would be a good idea and suggested "this to be done without mention of sums of money or attempt to introduce

2. Actually, in this first letter Aydelotte wrote primarily to inquire about possible aid to Oxford for the Ashmolean Museum and the Taylor Institute. He agreed, however, that these should be secondary considerations in relation to the Bodleian problem. The RF did not take Aydelotte up on his secondary requests.

any detail - if such a request is made before the May meeting, the officers will ask for authority to negotiate..." In addition Aydelotte "is authorized to suggest a visiting commission - if Oxford takes the initiative in proposing this, GEV and EDC say that it would be in harmony with the precedent for the RF to invite such a commission to make such a trip as guest of the RF... A's/Aydelotte's/ relation - it is made explicit and reiterated that A. is not to represent the RF but to serve as a friend of Oxford... If the RF makes a contribution it will be for a plan which in the judgment of the Oxford people and the advisors of the RF offers a satisfactory solution, but the RF has no preconceived scheme to suggest or impose." (GEV Diary, 4/16/29. Swarthmore visit.)

Although the RF had never been approached officially by Oxford, the RF officers were conversant with Oxford's plan for attacking the Bodleian problem. There is every reason to believe that the RF did not think Oxford's plan a good one, and this was why Vincent urged Aydelotte to prod the Oxford people into appointing a commission to visit some of the best libraries on the continent, in the United States and Canada to see what was possible in modern library technique. It should be noted that Vincent considered this commission so important that he committed the RF to a financial backing of it should the Oxford authorities propose it.

About this time rumors reached the RF's New York offices that Abraham Flexner, who had at this time retired from the GEB and was in Germany, had been approached by some of his friends at Oxford concerning RF aid for the Bodleian. Flexner's dealings apparently caused some misunderstanding and Vincent must have written him asking him about it. Flexner wrote back explaining that "...no matter what you hear, I have said and done nothing which is likely to embarrass you or which leaves any doubt as to my being completely out of things..." (Flexner to Vincent, 4/11/29.) Vincent replied: "You have protected the situation fully. No one can be responsible for the misunderstandings."

that inevitably arise. As Gregg says from the European point of view we are all known simply as 'those Rockefeller people'." (Vincent to A. Flexner, 4/23/29.)

By May 7th, when no official request had been received, Capps was authorized by Vincent to prepare the Bodleian item for the Docket of the RF May meeting on the assumption that an official request would be received before the 22nd. No official request was received until after the meeting. However, as all indications pointed to the fact that such a request was underway, it was resolved at the meeting that in line with the RF's policy of advancement of knowledge through aid to libraries, ~~that~~ authorization was to be given to the officers to enter into conversations with the Oxford authorities. This was done specifically "looking toward the eventual participation of the Foundation with the University in a problem which may involve an appropriation of a substantial sum in case a comprehensive plan is brought forward for the solution of the Bodleian Library problem." In addition, it was stated that proposals would be considered for a visit of a commission from the University to some of the leading libraries of the continent and of the U.S. and Canada as guests of the RF. The Minutes pointed out, ~~in the statement that~~ "It can safely be said that the problem of the Bodleian Library is the most serious problem at present confronting Oxford University, and the future of Oxford as a University runs in no small measure on the solution of the Bodleian problem." (RF Minutes, 5/22/29.)

The application finally arrived on May 27th and was addressed to Mr. Rockefeller personally rather than to the Foundation. This caused a delay in receiving it by the proper authorities.

As negotiations progressed concerning the Bodleian, it ~~became~~^{be} obvious that that situation was extremely touchy. There were several factions which promised to make any solution difficult: The conservative older scholars who would block^{any} attempt to abolish the traditions of the institution; and The younger scholars who wished the library to modern and up-to-date. No middle of the road solution

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seemed possible for a while. In addition the negotiations were complicated by a certain resentment on the part of the Oxford people against what they believed might be American interference. The RF officers were fully aware of the situation; Capps declared that "it was quite fully realized how delicate the whole business is." (Capps to Aydelotte, 5/28/29.)

Oxford's request had made no mention of a visiting commission and Capps wrote Aydelotte who was supposed to make the suggestion to Oxford. "...it was our understanding that you would 'tip it off' to the right people so that the overture would come from Oxford and the invitation to the be guests of the Foundation should then follow. Do you think we can expect such an intimation/sic/ from official sources?" (Capps to Aydelotte, 6/3/29.)

Vincent, Capps and Flexner discussed the Bodleian problem together in June and agreed that the solution as recommended by the University was really no solution and that the reason that an apparent unanimity had been secured was "because younger men do not want to be put in the position of depriving the univ. of possible funds from the RF and other sources - the younger men see that the present plan is merely a palliative and does not go to the heart of the problem." (GEV Diary, 6/11/29.) V. T. Harlow, Librarian of Rhodes House at Oxford, declared to Aydelotte privately: "Personally I think that this scheme is a very inadequate attempt at a solution of the problem, and I think that it would be in the interest of scholarship in Oxford if the Foundation in question turns it down. Within a very few years the reactionaries here will no longer be in power and then something that is more worthy of Oxford will be possible." (Harlow to Aydelotte, 6/1/29.)

Flexner agreed that the best thing for the RF to do would be "to seek delay so that the younger men will come into influential positions..." (GEV Diary, 6/11/29.) He felt that the Oxford solution to the problem was ~~entirely~~ wrong and that the only solution would be an entirely new library such as Cambridge's. He admitted however, that there would be opposition to this.

It was decided, that the first thing to be done would be to urge ^{that} the University make preliminary studies of definite and specific plans and costs which would help ^{it} reach a real decision. Flexner felt that the RF might offer to defray the expenses of such studies for these would also aid the RF Trustees in making up their minds. (Ibid.) On June 12, 1929, the RF 29097 Foundation approved an appropriation of \$25,000 to defray the expenses of these studies. (RF Minutes, 6/12/29.)

In July, as it appeared Oxford was not considering any modification of its original plan for the Bodleian, the RF became agitated. The officers of the Foundation knew that while Oxford's application seemed simple and based upon a unanimous decision, there had been differences of opinion and that the plan as submitted was only a compromise. The RF wished to ascertain several facts. Vincent and Gunn visited Oxford and told Lord Grey, the ~~Vice~~ Chancellor, that "RF Trustees are not accustomed merely to contribute to a plan without investigation - for example, in this case, the Trustees will want to know (a) does this compromise sacrifice essential principles and possibilities, was it an ideal plan, or was it adopted because better plan seemed likely to be too costly, and (b) did the Oxford authorities study a number of modern university libraries before the present project was worked out." (GEV Diary, 7/18/29.) Vincent, for the first time, announced to Grey that the RF would pay the expenses of studies of sketches and costs, up to \$25,000. (RF action approving this taken about one month earlier, but Oxford not notified at that time.)

Vincent found the library situation disheartening. He felt that the RF was in a peculiar position: The RF was on record as approving an undetermined amount of aid to Oxford for the Bodleian Library; However, it did not think that the solution offered by Oxford was adequate or solved the problems, for the Oxford plan merely provided for storage facilities for the overflowing book stacks, and did not attempt to deal with any much needed revisions in or centralization of materials in one place. cataloguing, or research facilities. And because ~~the~~, the RF was in the

difficult position of being a foreign agency, ~~and~~ it did not feel that it could suggest a re-study of the whole problem: "For the suggestion to come from us just now would be most unwise. There is a good deal of sensitiveness and resentment already; this might easily break out in a most unfortunate fashion if any provocation were offered." (Vincent to Capps, 7/23/29.) But Vincent wrote Grey in some detail and quite candidly about his impressions of the library problem:

...We found the library problem both complicated and delicate. The preliminary outcome took rather the form of a dilemma:

On the one hand, the compromise plan, ^{was} which was presented to us in the official project of the University, duly adopted by a substantial majority after debate in the legislative body of Oxford. It was laid before us as an accomplished fact and was supported unanimously by a special committee which contained members who earlier favored another and larger proposal. To suggest the re-opening of the question, especially on the initiative of an outside and, worse still, a foreign agency with money to bestow, would undoubtedly arouse deep resentment. The Foundation cannot put itself in the position of asking for reconsideration.

On the other hand, we shall be compelled to report to our Trustees that a larger plan for library development was rejected by the University, and that no one knows whether this rejection was based chiefly upon the probable cost of such a project or upon other grounds. Furthermore, our Trustees are likely to ask whether the present compromise was adopted without any official study of recently constructed university libraries. (Vincent to Grey, 7/25/29.)

Several days later, Vincent wrote Capps what he had said to Grey. He declared "We discussed this with great care here and I think have made no serious blunder in putting ourselves on record. You will note that we have practically cried non possumus, and shifted the initiative to Lord Grey and the Vice-Chancellor. I hope resentment will not be directed towards us, but of course one can never be sure. Our impression is that Oxford is particularly sensitive about Americanization." (Vincent to Capps, 7/26/29.)

Lionel Curtis, Director of the Institute of International Relations in London, was asked by Vincent in an interview to give his opinion of the Bodleian situation. According to Vincent's records, Curtis maintained that "Oxford is in a serious condition as a result of: -(a) lack of efficient

responsible and progressive government, (b) a self satisfaction born of 'ignorance of its own ignorance', (c) the domination of old men who lack vision and energy, (d) need of funds which could be secured if only any one had the faith and courage to ask for them, (e) failure to understand the meaning of university, i.e., advanced graduate work." (Vincent Diary, 8/13/29.)

Curtis also had some interesting remarks concerning the work of the Carnegie Boards. Vincent recorded that : "C/urtis/ very bitter about these - their dilatory methods, the self-seeking of officers, the way they waste the time of people, etc - in contrast the RF people were modest, quiet, effective, and keep their promises - 'perhaps the chief work the RF can do in Europe is to offset the harm done by the C representatives'." (Ibid.)

In August, Grey, vice-Chancellor Pember, Vincent and Gunn met to discuss the problem. It was agreed that perhaps the whole question could safely be reopened at Oxford if the following procedure were adopted: Vincent was to write Grey making the explicit offer of \$25,000 for preliminary sketches and estimates after a commission had made an investigation. (This offer had been made previously to Grey in an interview, but not in writing. It should be observed that the earlier offer did not specify the sketches be made after a commission had made an investigation.) If the offer were accepted by Oxford, then the question would be ipso facto reopened. It was further agreed that Pember would call the Special Committee together in early October to consider the situation. (GEV Diary, 8/13/29.)

Before Vincent wrote the official letter offering the \$25,000^{for sketches}/ he checked to be sure that this had been authorized as he remembered. Evidently this item had been omitted from the official Minutes. (Vincent ^{of} R. Russell, 8/23/29.)
Vincent wrote Russell, pointing out that he had committed the RF^{in his talk} to Lord Grey so "Please therefore get informal approval for this item as soon as possible and cable me authority. In the circumstances I must have this as it is of vital importance to use this offer in the way I have suggested." (Ibid.)

Russell cabled Vincent that such action as he had described took place at the Executive Committee Meeting of June 13th.

Vincent's letter making the offer in writing was sent to Lord Grey September 3rd, 1929. After assurances that the RF's offer to defray the expenses of travel and preliminary sketches in connection with the Bodleian project was essentially a routine procedure, Gunn and Vincent in a visit to London made it clear to Grey that the RF Trustees had no scheme of their own in mind and that they did not desire to interfere or press the University as to the course it should take.

Oxford's ~~Hebdomadal~~ Council ^{of money for the sketches and} unanimously accepted the RF's offers ^{for the} expenses of the Commission to study libraries in Europe and the United States and Canada. Gunn declared that "So far, everything would seem to be going satisfactorily in connection with the project. It would appear probable to me that the Congregation will adopt the decree, particularly in view of the fact that it was unanimously voted by the Hebdomadal Council. The important and delicate question we now have to face is the constitution of the proposed Commission...I feel quite sure that Grey realizes the extraordinary importance of having the right people on the Commission and would use his influence to insure proper representation of the younger group. While the adoption of this decree by the Congregation would not obligate the Foundation to contribute to the plan which undoubtedly will be prepared by the Commission, I think we must face the fact that it would be extremely difficult for us to turn down the proposals later on, even if we were not for it. However, this is an unavoidable risk." (Gunn to Vincent, 11/27/29.)

Vincent replied, "The personnel of the commission is, of course, of vital importance...We count upon the sportsmanship of the Hebdomadal Council not to pack this commission with conservative people already committed to a given plan. At least a minority should represent the more forward-looking liberal ideal of the functions of a modern university library. You will know

how to manage this with Viscount Grey. Possibly it will be best for you to seek a personal interview with him rather than make statements in writing..." (Vincent to Gunn, 12/11/29.) It was agreed that no representative of the Foundation should be on the Commission.

The Commission, appointed by the Congregation in February of the following year included: Sir Henry Miers, Sir Frederick G. Kenyon, Sir Edmund K. Chambers, George N. Clark, Henry R. F. Harrod and Kenneth Sisam. Gunn reassured Mason, the new president of the RF, that "...Oxford has appointed an unusually competent and distinguished group of men.../I am/ highly impressed with the spirit in which the Commission is setting out on its work and we feel that something distinctly valuable which may even go beyond the immediate needs of the Bodleian, will come out of this Commission." (Gunn to Mason, 3/20/30.)

As arrangements for the Commission's trip were being outlined, Gunn realized that he had no authority to pay the expenses of the Commission for no funds had ever been appropriated! He wired Appleget that resolution 29097 "covers only architects studies Stop Our offer includes payment expenses Commission and guarantees five thousand pounds preliminary sketches See Vincent's letter September third to Grey also decree voted by Oxford Congregation Stop Commission already at work begins European travel early April Need authorization deposit seven hundred fifty pounds Oxford bank for current expenses..." (Gunn to Appleget, 3/21/30.) Appleget obtained informal authorization from members of the Executive Committee and Beal was able to wire Gunn the requested authorization on March 25th.

The official recorded action did not take place until the April meeting of the Board when \$25,000, or so much as ^{might} may be necessary, was appropriated for the expenses of a commission of Oxford incurred in visiting libraries in Europe and the United States and Canada during 1930. (RF Minutes, 4/11/30.)

William W. Bishop of the General Library of the University of Michigan was asked by Mason if he could undertake to guide the Commission to chief libraries of interest during its visit to the United States and Canada. Bishop accepted and spent the summer in drawing up an itinerary for the visit which was to begin in the middle of September and continue for six weeks.

During the summer, John M. Manly of the Department of English of the University of Chicago, wrote Mason that after a summer visit to Oxford he ~~knew~~ that Kenyon and Sisam, both members of the Commission "had been much troubled by the ideas in circulation around Oxford concerning the attitude of the Rockefeller Foundation, which they regarded as absurd and probably untrue. The ideas were to the general effect that the Foundation was so anxious to spend its money that it cared nothing for accurate estimates as to costs and was better pleased the larger the amount asked for was. Of course, I assured them that this was, as they themselves had thought, an entirely false idea. I said that their delegation would find, on the contrary, that while the Board was not deterred from carrying out any project which it was convinced should be carried out, there was no person or organization in the world which was more insistent upon careful and sound estimates of cost and upon definite and well considered plans for expenditures... (Manly to Mason, 9/11/30.) Manly's observation showed a typical difficulty which beset ~~and~~ the Foundation in its dealings with Oxford in the Bodleian project.

The Commission arrived in the Middle of September and during its six weeks stay in the United States visited most of the important libraries of the East and some of the Middle West. On returning home, the Commission submitted a Majority Report and a Minority one on plans for the Bodleian.

The opinion of the RF and Bishop was that the results were disappointing. Gunn declared to Mason: "It is a disappointing document/
/ Majority Report/
and the majority report

is not much of an improvement over the original proposal. The minority report on the other hand strikes me as good and embodies the main points to be considered in a modern University Library...The whole matter is very disturbing from our point of view. I have discussed it with Flexner and Vincent.../Vincent/ and I have been all over the case and are in agreement that some kind of action on our part is probably necessary. The only action which we have thought of, consists of a more or less confidential conversation with Dudden the Vice-Chancellor explaining our point of view, frankly indicating our disappointment in the majority report and essentially sparring for time. Flexner believes that things will clear up when the present librarian retires...Come what may we are not going to be able to please everybody. We are deep in this matter..." (Gunn to Mason, 4/17/31.)

John van Sickle of the RF staff wrote to Gunn, that a Jacob Viner of Rappard's Institute had just been to see him and "was very much upset about the way in which the /Bodleian/ Library project is developing...Those who signed the Majority Report are now urging unanimity on the ground that any serious difference of opinion may mean the loss of Rockefeller Foundation support. Harrod/the only signer of the minority report/ is going to attempt to secure a postponement of the vote on the project in order to give his group a chance to mobilize their forces. His position is difficult, however, because the idea is generally held by the middle group that unless they support the old guard, RF support will be withdrawn. Harrod thinks that if it were known that this is not the case and the RF would be equally interested in the project if more account were taken of the needs of research, some important improvements in the project could be worked out...It seems to me that the Oxford Majority Report people are misrepresenting the attitude of the Foundation..." (JvS to Gunn, 4/2/31.)(This is in a confidential sealed envelope in the files.)

In May, ^{however,} the University's plan for the enlargement and improvement of the Bodleian was voted unanimously by Congregation. The plan as adopted was

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not an American solution to the problem, and did not entirely meet the RF's approval. Nevertheless it did give consideration to certain sentimental and historical aspects of Oxford which had made the problem unique. In general the plan embodied the recommendations of the Majority Report, but left enough leeway for some freedom of action.

The principal features of the plan are outlined below:

- 1) The continuance of the historic Bodleian mainly as an enlarged range of reading rooms with direct and easy access to about 100,000 of the books most in demand.
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2) The continuance of the upper floor of the Radcliffe Camera as a reading room for undergraduates, with additional seating accommodations; the ground floor of the Camera now used for the storage of books to be converted into an exhibition room.
- 3) The concentration of storage in a special building on the Broad Street site capable of holding about 5,000,000^{books}, also rooms for handling and cataloguing of books and space for special collections.
- 4) The maintenance of rapid service of books by mechanical means through a tunnel between the Bodleian and Broad Street.
- 5) Some extension, at the discretion of the Librarian, of the privilege of direct access to the storehouse shelves.
- 6) The enlargement of the Taylorian Modern Language Library on a site adjoining the Institute.
- 7) The enlargement of the Radcliffe Science Library by the addition of a new wing.
- 8) The development of the existing system of subsidiary special libraries under the control of the faculties by the provision of accommodation in a new building adjacent to the Examination Schools.
- 9) The preparation of a new working catalogue for the Bodleian.
- 10) An improvement in the salaries of the Bodleian staff.

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3. The Curator of the Bodleian had been responsible for collections in six branch libraries: The Radcliffe Camera, Radcliffe Science Library, Library of the India Institute, Library of Rhodes House, The Law Library in the Examination Schools, The Maitland Library in the Examination Schools. This was to remain unchanged.

While the RF was not altogether pleased with the new plan, especially and facilities for research, and centralization of materials in regard to the provisions made for recataloguing, ~~it was felt~~ "There was a general agreement as to the RF's position, namely, that a moral obligation exists to carry our participation..." (Staff Meeting, 10/20/31.)

Appleget visited Oxford in July of 1931 and felt that "the solution reached is sound. The Oxford problem is unique. Oxford does not want a central library serving all colleges and classes of students. It wants space for books and reading rooms for scholars. Oxford simply would not see the old Bodleian scrapped. The present plan puts the Bodleian into nearly original condition and enlarges it/s/ usefulness as a very pleasant reading room for advanced research..." (TBA Diary, 7/2/31.)

It was planned that the Bodleian matter should be brought up at the December meeting of the Board, but that no public announcement of any kind would be made until April. Appleget wrote Gunn that "A great deal of sympathetic consideration went into the framing of the docket item and particularly into the framing of the resolution. The matter is too complicated to discuss at this time except to say that I hope when you receive the story of the Foundation action, it will be one which you will yourself approve." (Appleget to Gunn, 12/4/31.)

At the RF meeting of December 16, 1931, the Officers recommended an RF 31121 appropriation not to exceed \$2,300,000 for the development of the Bodleian and other libraries. It ~~was~~ was resolved that no payments should be made until the University had received a total of £377,720 in cash and/or collectible pledges from other sources for the same purpose. Payments by the RF up to the total appropriation to be made in English Pounds Sterling at the rate of £60 for every £40 secured in cash from other sources for the same purpose on or before December 31, 1936; it being understood that the University guarantees of increased annual maintenance up to a total of £12,725 ^{would} ~~will~~ be accepted in lieu of cash and/or collectible pledges up to a total of £254,500. (RF Minutes, 12/16/31.)

The explanation of the fact that the maximum total which the RF was willing to pay was stated in dollars rather than pounds is given succinctly by Appleget: "The Foundation is interested in the completion of the University's plan; in view of the present uncertainty in the rate of exchange which may prevail between the currencies of two countries, it was considered advisable not to specify, in pounds, the exact total to which the Foundation was contributing." (Appleget to Gunn, 2/23/32.)

The general opinion of the officers was that the appropriation was extremely liberal. Appleget declared that "I really believe that the English worked out a good solution. One can talk American library efficiency all one pleases. The main point in humanistic research is to give a man comfortable access, under stimulating surroundings, to the manuscripts and books which he wants. Personally, I would rather browse in the dusty Duke Humphries than be efficiently handled in the Harkness Library at Yale." (Appleget to Gunn, 1/23/32.)

Subsequent Negotiations with the Rockefeller Foundation .

The following is a brief summary of the subsequent actions and negotiations concerning the Bodleian Library project.

In April, 1933, Oxford notified the RF officers that her share of the funds had been raised and that the RF could begin paying off its obligation. At this same time, Oxford submitted a schedule of the work showing when each aspect of the project would be undertaken. In July of this same year the Registrar of Oxford asked if a part of the RF payment could be deferred for the further development of the Broad Street site and building, until 1966(sic) or thereafter. The Foundation, however, indicated to Oxford "that the interest of the Foundation is in assisting with the basic program as conceived for the present generation, not with funding future building." The Officers resolved therefore that "the Trustees express their willingness to make payments as needed and as qualified for under its pledge to Oxford

University for building operations within the period ending December 31, 1941." (RF Minutes, 12/13/33.) This was an extension of five years on the original terminal date of the appropriation.

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At the April 1934 meeting of the Board, an appropriation of \$4,000 was made to Oxford for the expenses of visits by the architect and the librarian of the Bodleian on the continent and to the United States and Canada, any balance as of June 30, 1935, to revert to the RF. (RF Minutes, 4/20/34.)

This same year, a fellowship was given for a period of three months to Reginald Harrison Hill, Secretary of the Bodleian Library, to study the administration of book collections in the United States, principally at Columbia, the Library of Congress, the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. The amount of this fellowship was estimated to approximate \$1,500 to begin July 1, 1934. (RF Minutes, 9/28/34. Approximate figure given by EB.) The first new construction was completed in 1934, and the Radcliffe Science Library opened in November.

In 1935, at the request of the Oxford authorities, it was resolved by the officers of the RF to accept the modification of the Oxford plan for the development of the Bodleian and other university libraries to enable the authorities of Oxford to transfer from capital charges to capitalization of recurring expenditures, a sum of approximately £35,000 in order to provide an addition to the annual income of about £450. (RF Minutes, 4/10/35.) Systematic work began on the revision of the Bodleian catalogue during this year.

An extension of time on the large RF appropriation of \$2,300,000 was granted, making the terminal date December 31, 1946. This extension of time was given on the remaining balance of \$535,635, which the RF had not yet paid. It should be noted that although an extension of time was granted, it was agreed that under the war conditions then extant, five years was the least time which should be granted for an extension to enable the Bodleian

to complete this project. (RF Minutes, 4/1/42.)

The new library on the Broad Street site was almost completed by 1942, although the war had postponed the formal opening. According to a description of the building in the RF Minutes: "The New Library is a square block with a central stack 78 feet in height and with ample provision for studies adjacent to the special collections. The stack space will care for a maximum of 6,300,000 books. Improvement in other parts of the Library buildings and the erection of the new Radcliffe Science Library give flexibility to the entire program for the University for the future." (Ibid.) The Bodleian Library extension scheme was believed to be "the most notable advance in library practice in Europe since the cataloguing of the Vatican Library" under help from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (Ibid.)

A third extension of time on the large appropriation to the Bodleian was given in February of 1946, stipulating that the appropriation had until December 31, 1951 to run. (RF Minutes, 2/15/46.). It was pointed out that no expenditures had been made in 1944 and that only a small expenditure had been made in 1945 because of the war. In 1946, the work would probably proceed on a limited scale due to the prevailing decision in England that construction to meet private housing needs must have priority over all other work.

In 1948, the appropriation RF 31121, the large Bodleian appropriation, was amended to make the full unpaid balance available without restriction other than as to the date of final payment. This meant that the balance of funds available in the RF's reserve fund to meet the obligations of the Bodleian resolution 31121 would be available as needed and requested by the Bodleian Curator. This balance approximated \$135,618.23. The Officers felt that this appropriation should be amended in this way because the costs of operation were about 100% higher than in 1933-34, and further increase of 50% was forecast by 1951-52. Although these increases are somewhat

taken into account in awards of the University Grants Committee, the next opportunity of increase from that source would not offer itself until the five year period beginning 1951-52. (RF Minutes, 4/6-7/48.)

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During the beginning of the War, Sisam wrote Stevens that "I am always very thankful that in outlining the plan for the new Bodleian building we provided for deep basements, and resisted an attempt to eliminate them on the score of economy. They are precious under present conditions: I doubt if there is anything more bomb-proof in Europe, and the Bodleian has been relieved of a great anxiety in wartime. Incidentally, the building is being used for other temporary storage of a most helpful kind, and, coming into usefulness just when it did, it has been of in-estimable value to Oxford."

(Sisam to Stevens, 2/29/40.)

In 1946, for the dedication ceremonies, and again
In 1948, Stevens visited Oxford. He felt at this time that "In general references to British library growth, both in resources and administrative controls, the Oxford situation is valuable. The United States has methods of library administration too costly for imitation abroad, to say nothing of duplication. The more reason, therefore, that the United States library forces be internationally active through government and UNESCO. RF has too slight resources to do more in this regard than to keep personnel in production for overseas duties, and if possible to prepare men of other nationalities than our own for external services. Again this ^s is a natural field of work for nationally limited philanthropy once it has been educated to action - and for the Carnegie units..." (Stevens, Interview, Oxford, 7/20/48.)

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