

## ANNUAL REPORT

*of*

THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY



The Trustees of the New York Society Library present to the shareholders this their report for the year ending March 31, 1938.

The past year has been one of reconstruction and readjustment. Members were notified that the Library would be closed for two months during the period of moving but that an unlimited number of books might be withdrawn for that time. Promptly on May 1st the moving men arrived and, with almost military precision, the books on the old shelves were dusted, labeled and packed in boxes. These were shipped to the new building in numerical rotation, there to be met and directed by members of the library staff who had previously assigned sections of the stacks to certain classes of books. This was accomplished with remarkably little friction or duplication of effort and eventually 150,000 books were shelved in their new locations, and the Library was reopened for service on July 1, 1937.

Due to the vacation season the formal opening was postponed until December 15th, and on that day the Trustees held a reception and tea for about five hundred guests.

During the past three months over one thousand readers have made use of the Library for reference purposes, which is in far greater numbers than in the past. The new Children's Room has met with great favor. Careful attention has been given to the selection of books for the individual child. Suggestions for gifts have also been made to many a puzzled parent and special reading lists have been compiled.

The outstanding gift of the year was the generous fund given by Mr. A. Coster Schermerhorn for the purchase of children's books in memory of his father Alfred Egmont Schermerhorn.

There was also received from the Estate of Henry E. Gregory a legacy of certain securities having a market value on October 1, 1937 of \$2,800.

The Library was represented by members of the Board of Trustees at two national library conferences during the year in New York City. Mr. Lewis S. Morris spoke at the American Library Association Convention at the Waldorf on June 24th giving a short history of the Society Library to a luncheon audience of over 2,000 guests. At the Special Libraries Association Conference at the Roosevelt Hotel, Mr. A. C. Schermerhorn told of the activities of the Library in the special library field.

Many professional library groups as well as individual librarians from all over the country have visited the Library, and it is interesting to note that we have some new subscribers from the library world.

People unfamiliar with libraries often fail to realize how much depends upon the personnel, and I am glad to make this public recognition of the present staff and the spirit of service and cooperation they have shown during the past year in an effort to make the Library of greater service to the members.

For the Trustees,

LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS,  
*Chairman.*

April 26, 1938