

from the Morgan Library and the New York Public Library, for safe-keeping during the threat of Nazi bombing. As the books were unwrapped from their temporary covers of newspapers which proclaimed the fall of France, the attack at Pearl Harbor and other tragic events of the early years of the war, we were able to realize in one more way the debt of gratitude we owe our Armed Forces.

We have received many gifts during the past year, details of which will be found in the Librarian's report which follows the present one.

I should like to compliment the Library on its two new Trustees, Colonel Arnold Whitridge and the Honorable Nicholas Roosevelt.

In closing, the Trustees would wish me to say a word of special commendation, I am sure, to the members of the Library staff for their faithful service during the trying year just past.

For the Trustees,

HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG,  
Chairman.

April 24, 1945.

*To the Board of Trustees of the New York Society Library.*

Gentlemen: I have the honor to submit to you the 191st annual report of the Library for the year ending March 31, 1945.

The tide of subscriptions continues to rise, with an increase of ten per cent over last year. Although a few members appear to subscribe as to a museum, with the idea of supporting the institution but not actively using it, the majority draw upon the Library's resources in gratifying measure. Balancing the usual decline in subscriptions after the winter, several new ones were taken last spring for the purpose of children's summer reading. One of the private schools decided that their use of the Library warranted two extra memberships, making three in all. Members of the editorial staffs of our daily newspapers and weekly magazines have subscribed during the past year, joining the large number of publishers represented in our membership. It is natural for the Library to attract the literary and academic world but now the movie industry is represented in a recent subscription. It is our author members who kindle in us the warm satisfaction that comes from having a part, however slight, in some lasting project. Names of famous authors grace our subscribers' lists from the earliest days.

We have recently added to our noteworthy collection of New York printing two ordinances of Edward Cornbury, governor of New York and New Jersey, dated Nov. 7, 1704, and April 14, 1705, and printed by William Bradford, the city's first printer. The former revives the High Court of Chancery, which had been suspended by a previous ordinance (June 13, 1702) and establishes a schedule of fees for the court. The 1705 ordinance regulates the fees for the Court of Admiralty. Another unusual acquisition is the *Laws, Statutes, Ordinances and Constitutions . . . of the City of New York . . . Printed and sold by J. Parker at the New Printing Office, in Bever [sic] Street 1749*, only three other copies of which are recorded. The Library has every right to be proud of these three choice items which were the gift of Mr. Christian Zabriskie. The same donor has also presented us with a very early example of the bibliographer's art, *A Catalogue of the most vendible Books in England*, London 1658. We have also received many other gifts during the past year, including 287 volumes from Mrs. W. Romeyn Benjamin and 174 titles from Mrs. Amos Pinchot.