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The Trustees of the New York Society Library present to the members this their report for the year ending March 31, 1945.

My first duty is a sad one—to report the death of our former Chairman, Mr. Lewis Spencer Morris, a member of the Board of Trustees from November 1920 to November 1944. The following resolutions were adopted by the Board at their January meeting:

With deep sorrow the Trustees of the New York Society Library record the death on the 28th of November 1944, of Lewis Spencer Morris, lawyer, World War I artillery officer, good citizen with many roots in old New York, who was elected a Trustee in 1920 and served diligently as Chairman of the Board from May 1930 until May 1944.

During his chairmanship many vital problems confronting the institution were met and solved. He was the guiding force of the Trustees committee, including Messrs. Armstrong, Schermerhorn and Vaughan, that took charge of moving the Library from the obsolete building erected for it in 1856, at 109 University Place, to the present property at No. 53 East 79th Street. His willingness to attend innumerable meetings of the committee and his legal financial advice were invaluable in carrying the project through to a successful conclusion. The new premises were open to the subscribers and public in July 1937, only sixty days after the doors of the old building were closed.

He was never too busy with his profession and with his many responsibilities in other organizations that serve the public to give valuable advice to the Librarian.

Wise, tactful, faithful to all in his duties, Lewis Spencer Morris is described by a Trustee who knew him for more than forty years as “a gentle and determined man.”

The Trustees extend to Mrs. Morris their sympathy and direct that a copy of this Minute be sent to Mrs. Morris and that one be placed upon the records of the New York Society Library.

During the year just closed, the number of books issued for home reading was 48,581 representing an increase of 3,737 over the year before. Subscriptions amounted to \$10,113 or an increase of \$1,076. There was a net gain of 79 in subscribers. A total of 785 subscribers and approximately 300 shareholders now actively use the Library. The Treasurer’s report will show that we are in a sound financial condition.

We are pleased to be able to record that we recently felt it safe to bring home the most valuable items in the Rare Book Collection from Saratoga Springs, where they had been sent, together with treasures