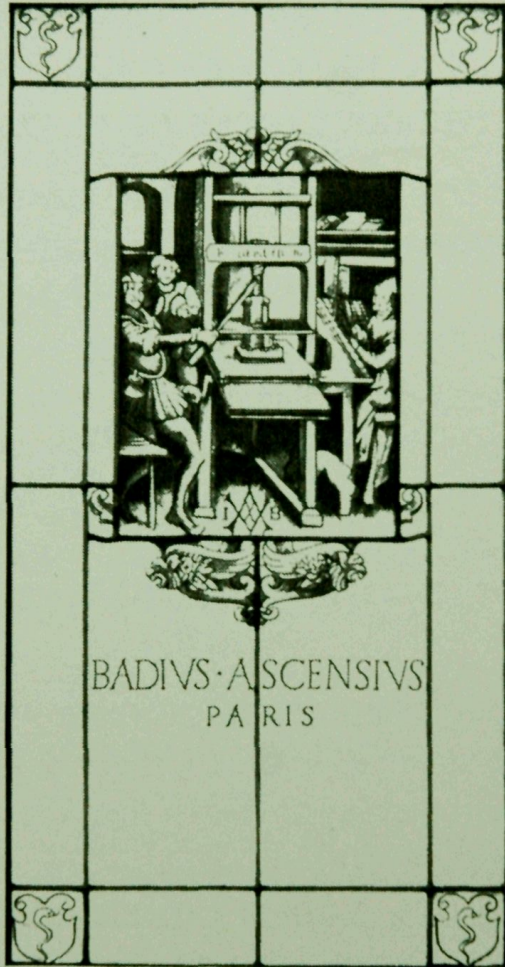


UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE LIBRARY BUILDING



DEDICATED OCTOBER 18, 1929
URBANA ILLINOIS



BADIVS ASCENSIVS
PARIS

THE LIBRARY BUILDING
WAS ERECTED BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
PURSUANT TO ACTS OF THE
FIFTY-THIRD, FIFTY-FOURTH, AND FIFTY-FIFTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

1923-1929

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members Ex-Officio

THE GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS

LEN SMALL, 1921-1929

LOUIS L. EMMERSON, 1929-1933

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

FRANCIS G. BLAIR

Elected Members

1919-1925

CAIRO A. TRIMBLE
MARGARET D. BLAKE
JOHN R. HERBERT

succeeded by

ANNA W. ICKES

1921-1927

LAURA B. EVANS
HELEN M. GRIGSBY
WILLIAM L. NOBLE

1923-1929

J. W. ARMSTRONG
MARY E. BUSEY
MERLE J. TREES

1925-1931

GEORGE A. BARR
ANNA W. ICKES
succeeded by
WALTER T. FISHER
FRED L. WHAM

succeeded by

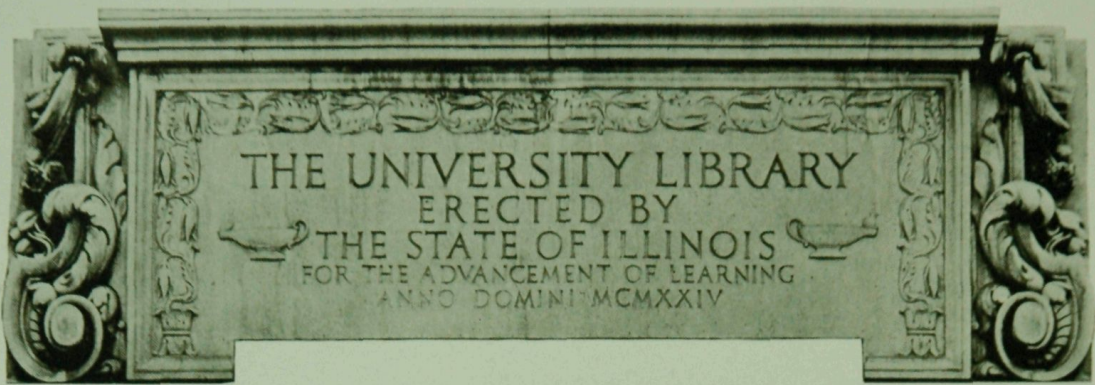
ROBERT R. WARD
who was succeeded by
FRANK H. SIMPSON

DAVID KINLEY
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS

CHARLES A. PLATT

JAMES M. WHITE



IN 1921 Mr. Charles A. Platt, of New York City, was retained as consulting architect for the University, and developed a plan for that part of the campus south of the Auditorium, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees; the Board also approved his selection of the Georgian style of architecture for these buildings. The first building to be designed for the South Campus was the Agricultural building, and the second the Library, for both of which Mr. Platt was given the architectural commission. His location for the Library was the same as that which had been in the minds of the University authorities for several years.

The location of the Library may seem open to question because of the feeling that it ought to be the most monumental building in an academic group and that, therefore, it should occupy a dominating axial position. Many university libraries have been located on this principle, the most notable example probably being that of Columbia University in New York City. The difficulty with this arrangement is that the location calls for an initial building completed on all sides, and there is little opportunity for expansion. A library, of all buildings, should be so designed as to permit expansion. Our Library is not centrally located on the campus, but is one of the several buildings bounding the main new South Campus plaza; it is distinguished from the others because of the greater scale of the building, due chiefly to the size of the windows, and because of the definite provision for additions.

The Georgian style of architecture was chosen chiefly because it was so generally employed as an early American style and has



M-1944
CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL
PHOTOGRAPHING COMPANY

withstood the test of time, without which test no architectural style should be employed for a permanent group of buildings to be erected over a considerable span of time. It has also the advantage of being somewhat domestic in feeling.

What may be called the initial working unit of the Library building was built in three sections or units. Appropriations were made by the Legislature of the State in 1923, \$750,000 for the first unit; in 1925, \$500,000 for the second unit, and in 1927, \$500,000 for the third unit, making the total cost of the building, \$1,750,000. The shaded portion of the "plot plan" shows the part of the building now completed, and the rest of the plan shows a possible development to the west, a development which will be built as needed. The present building is 300 by 230 feet; the site will accommodate additions that will make a future building 300 by 465 feet.

The building of the bookstacks is a pioneer bit of construction work because they were built in advance of the surrounding wall and are braced within themselves like a miniature office building so as to transmit all the wind pressure from the west wall through the bookstacks to the ground. Each alternate deck floor is a five inch thick reinforced concrete slab supported on the stack structure. These slabs serve as diaphragms to equalize the wind pressure throughout the entire stack structure. The usual method of construction is to build a large room complete, within which the stacks are erected, carrying no load but the books, and sometimes the roof. This method requires heavy wall and roof construction and usually necessitates some interior steel braces which interfere somewhat with the free use of the stacks. The plan adopted for the bookstacks in this Library permits each successive stack to be built as a complete unit and now that the first unit has been designed to resist the wind pressure, the succeeding units will be the standard type of stack construction, and through them the wind pressure will be transmitted to the braced section already erected. The stacks have a book capacity of about one million volumes.

In the main entrance lobby, are hung oil paintings of the presidents of the University. On the walls over the main stairway lead-



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE HOUSE OF DEMOCRACY
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

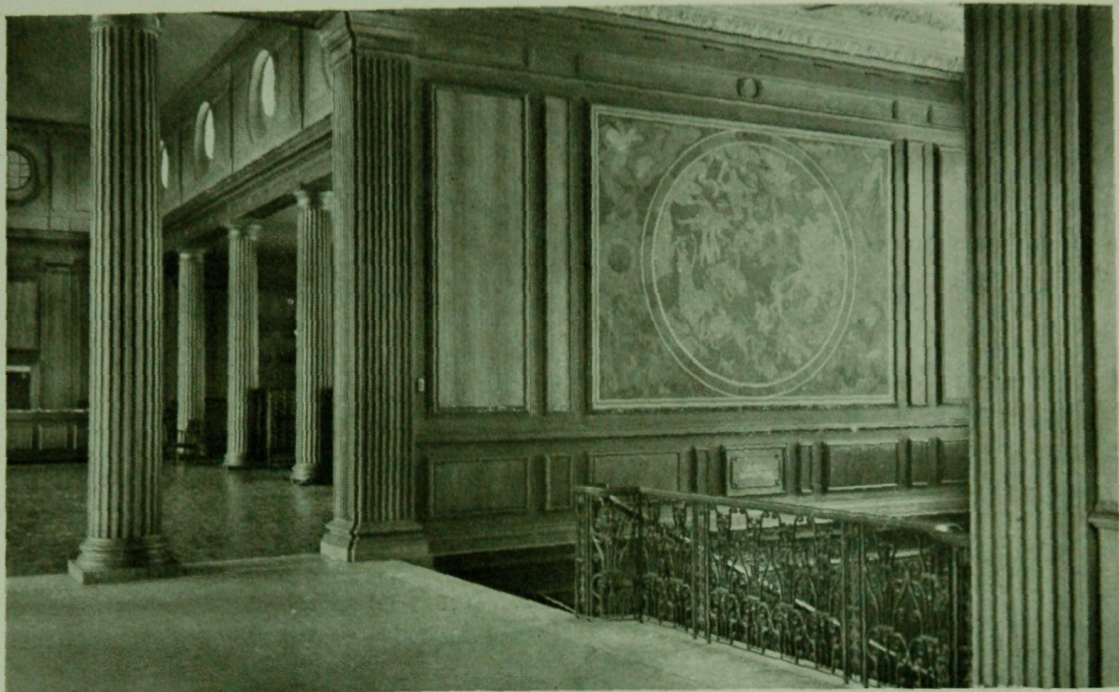
ing to the second floor, are four large decorative maps by Mr. Barry Faulkner.

Conveniently located on each side of the main entrance lobby on the first floor, is a study room for students using books especially reserved for class use; each of these rooms seats 250 persons and has shelves for about 5,000 volumes. On this floor, also, are reading rooms for Classics and for Education, Philosophy and Psychology; a lecture room seating 106; a room for lockers, and one for checking wraps; a room for the receipt and checking of periodicals and newspapers; and a room for the preparation of volumes, chiefly periodicals, for binding.

The Main reading room is on the second floor, extending along the whole front of the building, 300 feet; the proportions of this room are dignified and impressive. At the tables are chairs for 516 students, and around the walls are book shelves for 16,000 volumes. The ample space enclosed by the counter in the center, opposite the entrance doors, provides convenient working room for the reference librarians. The woodwork is in fumed oak. In a central panel of each of the twenty-three large windows, is a reproduction of one of the old printer's marks, done in colors by Mr. J. Scott Williams. These printer's marks add very materially to the attractiveness of the room. The lighting is from over head, though a few tables can be equipped with table lamps.

The Delivery room and Public card catalog room, immediately back of the Main reading room, is large enough to accommodate the card catalog for many years. For the present, there is room for cases in which are exhibited books and manuscripts of public interest. The Loan desk leads to the fifth of the ten floors of bookstacks. No mechanical carrier for books has been included in the equipment, but space has been provided for two, which will be installed when needed.

Between the Delivery room and Order and Catalog departments is a Bibliography room in which are shelved most of the bibliographical, biographical and other reference books consulted most frequently by these two departments. When these two departments are closed, as at night, the Bibliography room can remain open for faculty and students.



The work rooms of the Catalog and Order departments are on the second floor, in the north wing, being located as close as possible to the public card catalog. These two departments occupy one large room, with windows on opposite sides of the room, giving good light and ventilation. The cases for the union card catalog serve as a dividing line between the two departments. Across the corridor are book stacks in which the new and uncataloged books are shelved temporarily. One of the lower floors of these stacks is used for keeping the stock of University publications needed for exchange with other institutions.

A reading room for Commerce, Economics and Sociology is located on the second floor in the south wing.

The Library School occupies on the third floor of the north wing a large study room with desks for about 100 students, six offices for members of the faculty, and two smaller study rooms. The bronze portrait tablet of the first Director of the Library School, Miss Katherine Lucinda Sharp, by Lorado Taft, presented by Alumni of the School, hangs in the Corridor near these rooms.

Graduate reading rooms for History, Political Science and Modern languages, equipped with book shelves for the most used

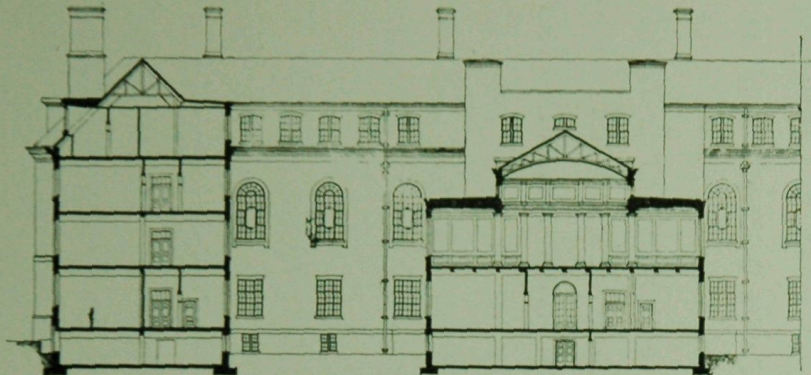


books, are located on the fourth floor, together with a few study and seminar rooms. Similar facilities for English are on the third floor.

In general, it may be said that graduate students and faculty will use chiefly the two upper floors and the 140 cubicles in the book-stacks; undergraduates will use chiefly the two lower floors. There are now seats for 1800 readers in the various rooms.

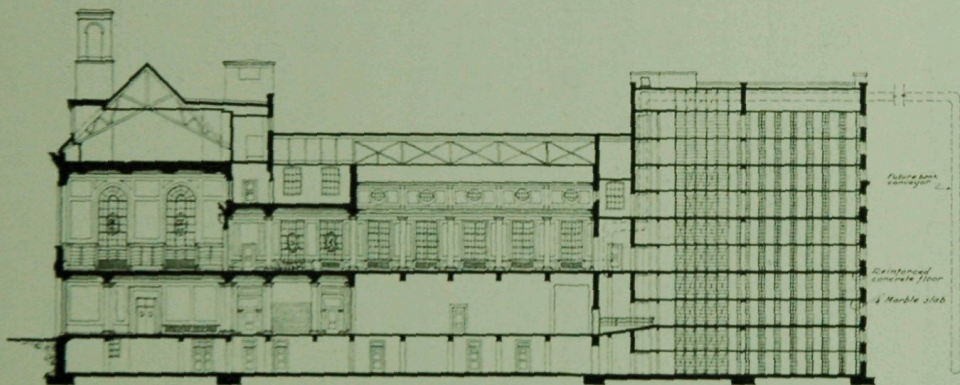
In the basement, are steel book shelves from the old Library building; it is intended to shelve duplicate books and bound volumes of newspapers in these rooms.

The University library on May 1, 1929, contained 800,330 volumes, 164,750 pamphlets, 2,930 maps and 8,260 pieces of sheet music; of these 41,920 volumes and 7,800 pamphlets were in the libraries of the College of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy in Chicago. There were in the University library in Urbana 758,510 volumes and 156,950 pamphlets besides the maps and the sheet music; of these about 120,000 volumes are in college and departmental libraries in other buildings than the Library.



Section "A-A"

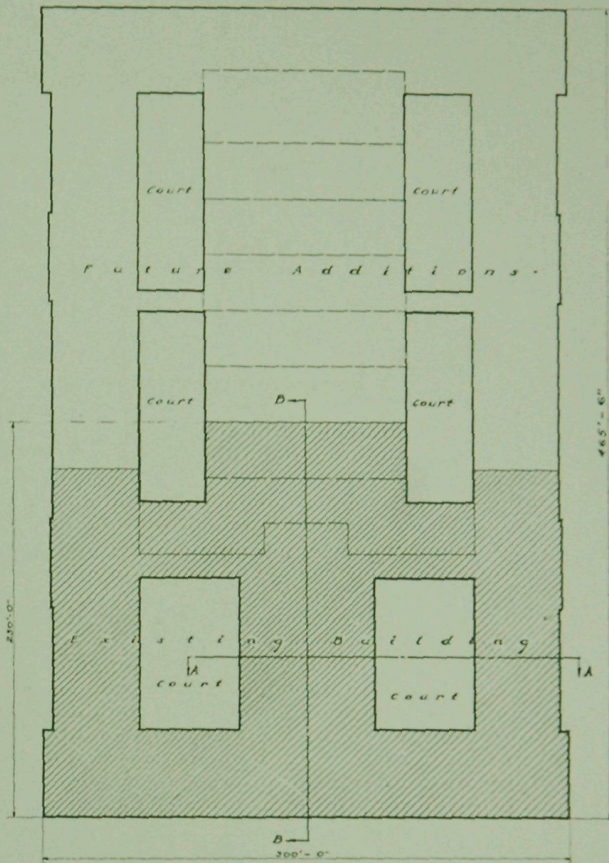
Scale of Feet
4 0 16 32



Section "D-B"

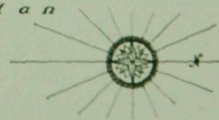
Stacks in the first and
2nd buildings are as shown
by dotted lines to avoid any
structural steel members
through stacks

Scale of Feet
4 0 16 32



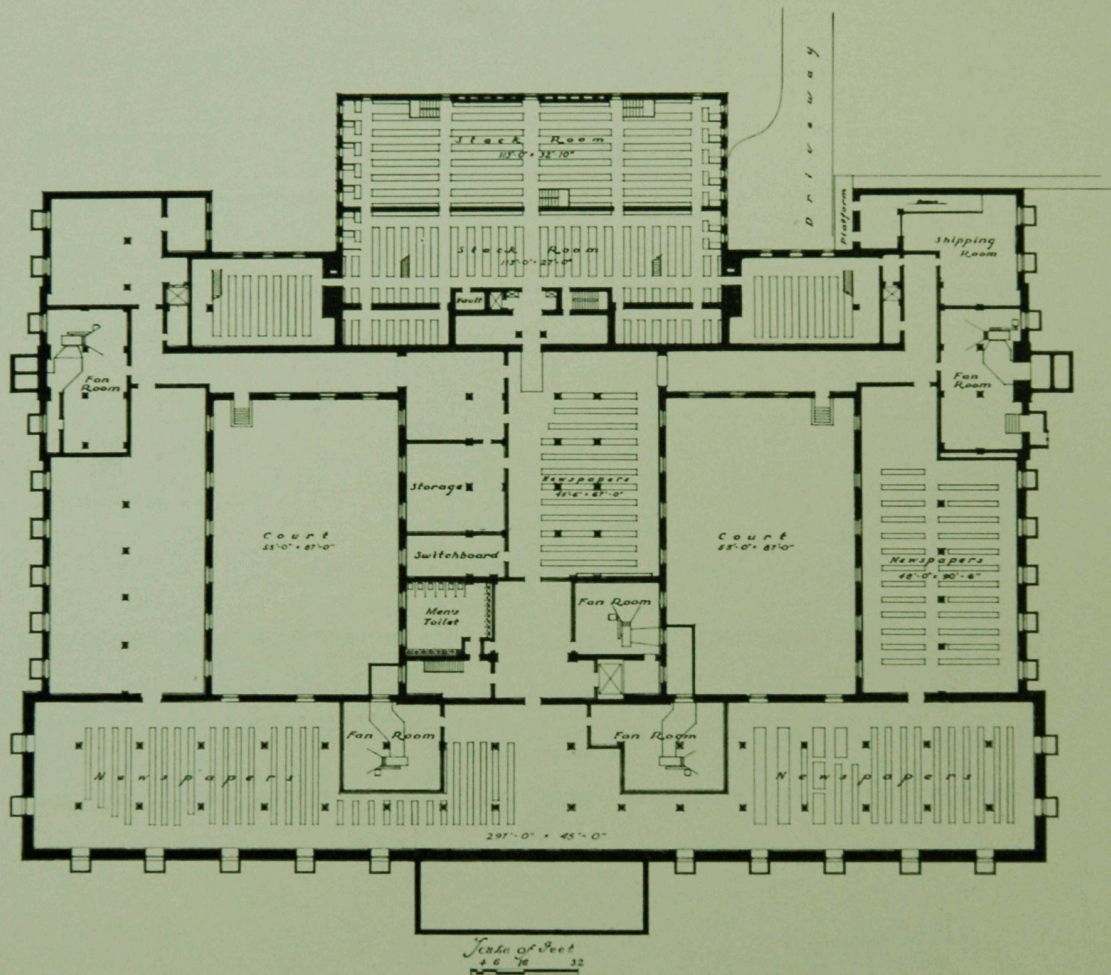
Plot Plan

Scale of Feet
4 0 16 32



Sections & Plot Plan

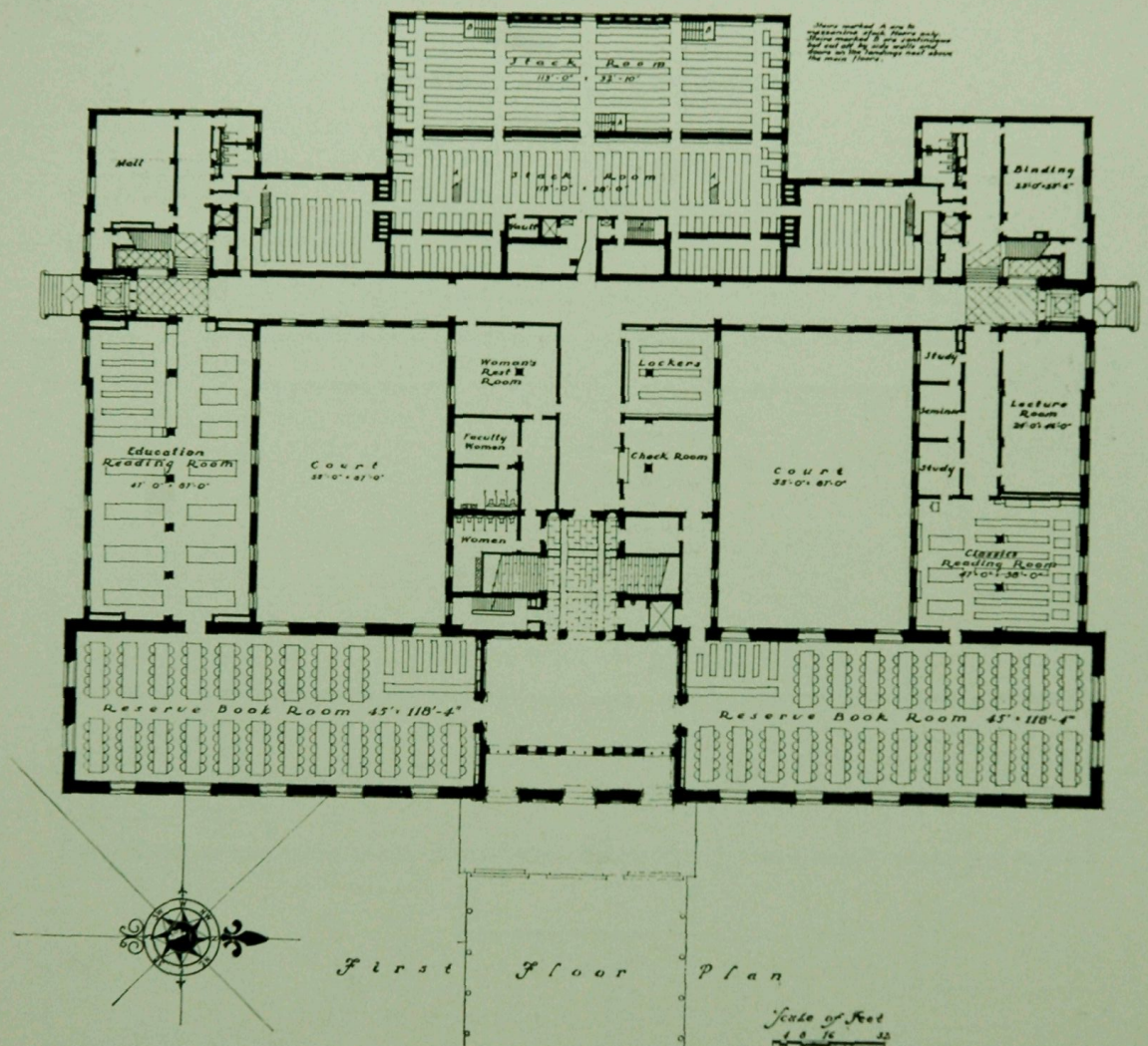
LIBRARY of the UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS
Charles A. Platt & James M White
ARCHITECTS



Basement Floor Plan

LIBRARY of the UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS
Charles A. Platt & James M. White
 ARCHITECTS

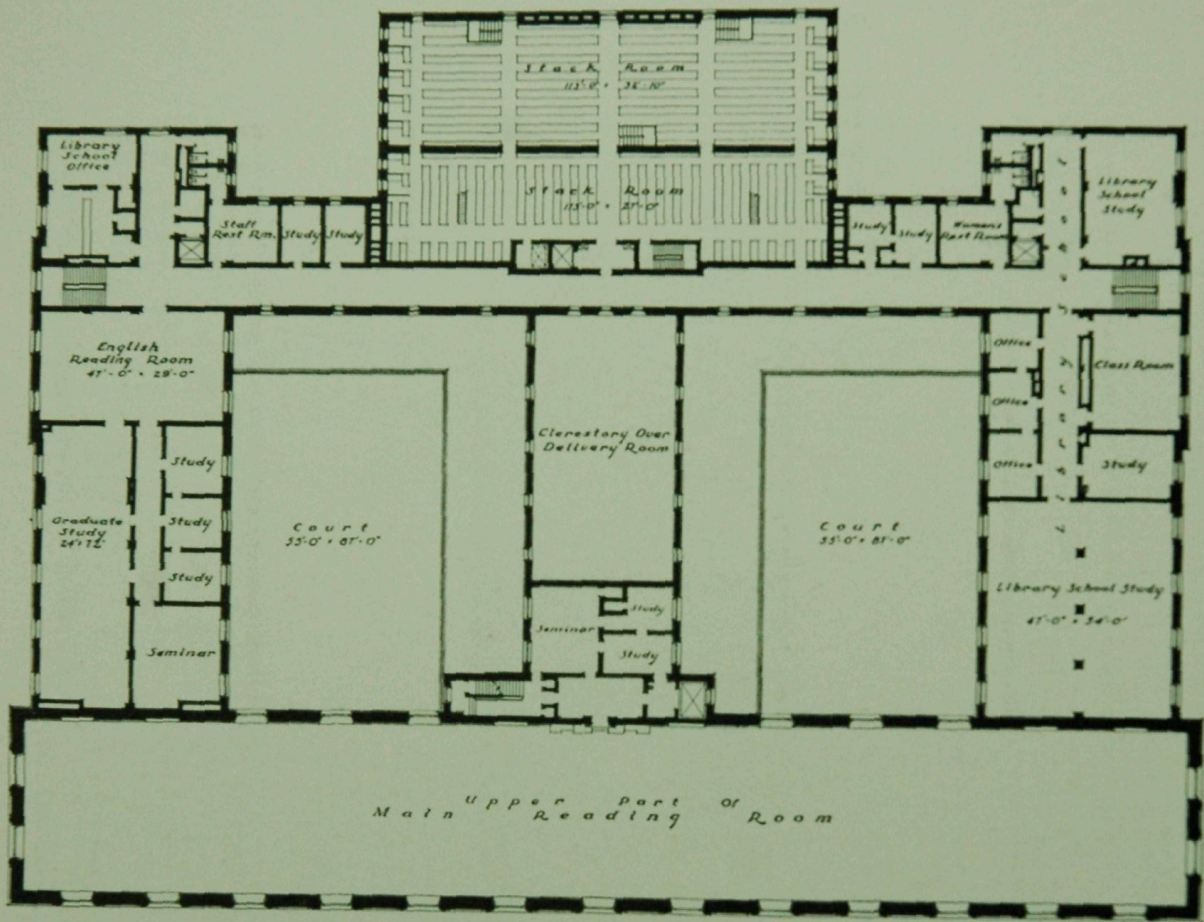
These numbers refer to the
 dimensions of the rooms only
 and not to the width of the
 doors or the thickness of the
 walls or the height of the
 book cases.



First Floor Plan

Scale of Feet
 0 16 32

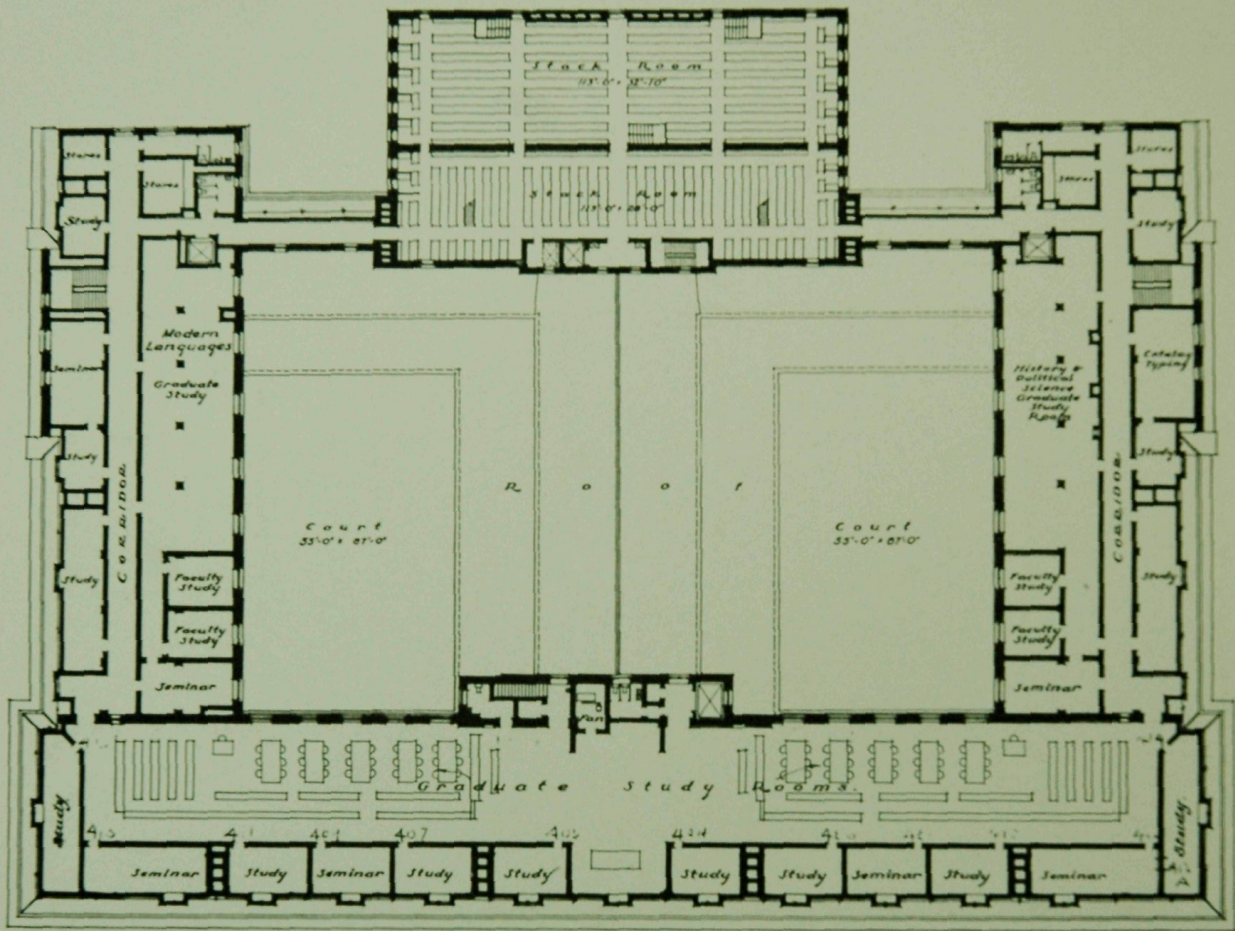
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 ARCHITECTS



Scale of Feet
 0 10 20 30

Third Floor Plan

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 ARCHITECTS



Scale of Feet
 1" = 32'

Fourth Floor Plan

LIBRARY of the UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS
 Charles A. Platt & James M. White
 ARCHITECTS