

by Helen Ritter
1965 or 1966

HISTORY OF SIO LIBRARY

The first origins of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library go back to Professor H. B. Torrey of Berkeley campus who came in the summer^s with Ritter to the Marine Biological Station's headquarters at Coronado in 1903 and later at the La Jolla Cove in 1905 and who assumed responsibility for the library at the station.

As soon as the first building of the Marine Biological Association, the George Scripps Laboratory, was placed on the lonely mesa over looking the Pacific, a room in this building was assigned for the library. In 1910 Nina Wadell was named as a part time Librarian. January 1, 1913 the Institution, now part of the University of California, had Dr. S. S. Berry of Stanford University appointed as first part-time Librarian and a \$15,000 was now allocated to the building up of the library. Also serving at this period was Mr. E.P. Van Duzee who assisted with the library during Dr. Berry's absence and until July, 1914.

In 1914, 1905 new books were added and also many sets of journals. Director Wm. E. Ritter donated 2200 pamphlets and the library area in the Scripps building was expanded as Ritter moved into the newly completed, Director's house and out of the top floor of the George Scripps Building.

By 1916 due to gifts from benefactress Miss Ellen Scripps the contract was let, Jan 12, 1916, for a Library-Museum building, designed by Robert Halley, Jr. and to be built by Messrs. N Winter & Nicholson. The cost of this 60 by 60 foot building with some furnishings was \$24,938.00. It was completed by July, 1916 and formally dedicated August 9, 1916.

The dedication event was held in conjunction with the San Diego meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

* Dr. Samuel Stillman Berry

The dedication exercises included the following: the Right Reverend Joseph H. Johnson, Bishop of Southern California; Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California; David Starr Jordan, Chancellor Emeritus of Leland Stanford Junior University; D. T. Mac Dougal, Director of Botanical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington; G. H. Parker, Professor of Zoology, Harvard University, and Wm. E. Ritter, Scientific Director, Scripps Institution ~~for~~ Biological Research.

At this time the total number of bound books included was 5300. Soon a \$1800 gift from E. W. Scripps helped the library to grow and 585 new book acquisitions were added in 1919-1920 and by 1921 the total books were 7780, pamphlets 7165.

When Professor Ellis Michael died, his books were given to the library as well as his journals and by 1922 the books now numbered 8,638 and pamphlets 7,601.

Wm. E. Ritter retired in 1924 and T. Wayland Vaughan of the USGS became Director bringing some of his books as gifts to the library. He also made his personal library available. At this time Tillie Genter, secretary, was in charge of the library and very soon Miss Ruth Ragan began to also assist in this capacity.

In 1924 the library had 9466 volumes, 10,094 separates. The library was made an official depository of the publications of USGS and the Carnegie Institute of Washington presented a large number of charts. By 1925 there were 9686 volumes and 10,815 reprints.

The Biological Institution had now become an Oceanographic Institution and in 1926 the name of the Institution was placed over the door of the library in antique bronze letter Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California. At that time a bridge existed on the second floor connecting the library

with the Scripps building behind it.

In 1927 the books increased to 10, 152, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ periodicals and pamphlets to 15,500 not all catalogued. The exchange list of the institution was considerably larger. It was mentioned that the \$1200 subscription to periodicals should be increased to \$1800 at this time. In 1930 VAughan presented his personal scientific library to the Institution and \$1500 was given anonymously ~~to have some of them bound.~~ *for binding.*

In 1933 and 34 when Director VAughan was on a world tour 1000 volumes, reprints and charts were received from various countries in Europe as a result of his trip around the world. At this time the total of bound volumes had increased to 13, 684 and 25,789 catalogued separates. The library at the end of Director VAughan's era had 14,550 bound volumes and 27,720 catalogued separates.

With the advent of ^{Director} Harl Sverdrup it was stated that since August 1937 almost the full time of Miss Ruth Ragan, assistant secretary had been given to the library, also two other workers from WPA full time and a trained cataloguer was added from the WPA project. His yearly report states that physical improvements were made and now the library was open four evenings a week.

Cooperation in the preparation of a Union List of Serials of the libraries of southern California furnish information to ourselves as to missing numbers of sets or volumes of periodicals. Many of these were procured to complete sets. Concentrated time and effort was put into the binding of publications.....During the past year the binding of most of our current periodicals has been brought up to date. Through the binding project of the WPA in San Diego about five hundred volumes of publications not frequently used but valuable if bound and available for occasional reference, were bound....

Exchange lists have been revised, with addition of oceanographic and marine laboratories. Series published by the latter have been added to the shelves. Arrangements have been completed for subscription to periodicals through one

dealer, thus saving time and money."

" A shelf -list of publications in the library has been begun. A beginning has also been made of gathering together the available material relating to the Scripps Institution, -not only scientific papers published by members of the staff, but all material bearing on the history of the Institution." Such says Sverdrups 1938 annual report. We are indebted to Miss Ragan for much of this and especially for her preservation of the SIO history. She collected all the reports and had these bound.

Also at this time Sverdrup says that recataloguing the library according to the Library of Congress system began. " For this highly specialized scientific library the old Dewey system in use was fast becoming valueless, since it left off where our needs began. This was accordingly done with the help from the cataloguer of ~~the~~ ~~WRx~~ furnished by the WPA.

From this time matters improved, the library grew and in 1939-1940 the bound volumes reached 18,205. Ruth Ragan in charge of the library retired in 1949 with Dorothea Fox Librarian pro-tem.

By 1950 when W. Roy Holloman was appointed Librarian the catalogue stated that the books numbered over 25,000 volumes and 60,000 reprints and pamphlets, with 530 journals and a large collection of charts especially of the North Pacific Ocean.

During these years the Library room, which housed gift portraits of Ritter and Miss Ellen Scripps, busts of Scripps and Sverdrup, photographs of Baker, Vaughan and others, it was the scene of many festivities and events, Christmas parties, dances for ship departures, lectures, etc.

With the advent of the new University, Mr. Melvin Voigt was made Librarian and many changes occurred between 1960 and ~~196~~ 1965.

Mr. Voigt assisted in preserving all historical documents which now make this report possible. Present Librarian Mr. Joseph Gantner has now a great Oceanographic Library which he is constantly improving, that once was just a dream in the minds of the early Librarians. Only could such an unusual and valuable library develop in the United States as at Scripps where the history of a new science, Oceanography made its beginning and great growth in this century.