Dedication of Library Hall of the American Philosophical Society, November 11, 1959
Remarks Made at the Dinner at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel
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DEDICATION OF LIBRARY HALL OF THE AMERICAN
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

November 11, 1959

Remarks Made at the Dinner at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel

Dr. Henry Allen Moe, President, American Philosophical Society:

Guests of the American Philosophical Society:

On behalf of my colleagues of the Society and myself, I welcome you to this dinner party and to this dedication of our new Library Hall.

In our Society, we think of our Founder, Benjamin Franklin, as a living presence, always to be emulated if we are up to it. And so as I thought about this dinner and this dedication, I wondered what it might have been that Benjamin Franklin had said at the founding of the Philadelphia Library Company in the year of our Lord 1731. I found nothing and, what is more to the point, neither did Dr. Lingelbach, who kindly searched for me. And then I wondered whether or not there exists a record of any speech that Dr. Franklin had made standing on his own two feet. I found nothing and neither did Dr. Lingelbach.

Emulation of our founder would therefore seem to indicate that I say nothing and that would certainly be a happy emulation for me—and for you, too! But our Committee on Meetings had other views, presumably conforming to the old gloss, "other times other manners"; and so here I am on my own two feet making a speech, which Dr. Franklin—having regard to the fact that the negatives of history are hard to prove—apparently never did.

But, happily I had some guidance from our Founder and that is to be brief. For he warned in the Pennsylvania Gazette of October 15, 1731, against "talking overmuch and robbing others of their Share of the Discourse. This," he said, "is not only Incivility but Injustice, for everyone has a natural Right to speak in turn."

The other gentlemen will now get their justice to speak in turn.

First, there is the Honorable Roger Ernst, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

An Act of Congress signed into Law by President Truman in July of 1952 provides, in its opening sentence, "that The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to permit the American Philosophical Society . . ." to build a Library Hall. It is thus plain to be seen that the Secretary of the Interior of the United States had a key role in the subsequent successful negotiations. His authorization "to permit" was exercised in our favor; and we now have, in fact, our Library Hall in its unique and favored location. Hence, it is most fitting that the first to bring greetings should be the United States Department of the Interior represented by Mr. Ernst. Mr. Ernst:

The Honorable Roger Ernst, Assistant Secretary of the Interior:

Distinguished members of the American Philosophical Society:

It is a pleasure to be with you tonight and to bring you greetings from the Secretary of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton.

Benjamin Franklin was the moving force behind establishment of both the Library Company in 1731 and the American Philosophical Society in 1743, and was instrumental in the former institution proceeding in 1789 to construct the original Library Hall, completed in 1790.

In his relationship with the Society's Library, Franklin has been called by Dr. William E. Lingelbach in an article on "Philadelphia's New Library" * as its founder and patron. Dr. Lingelbach notes that as early as 1768, the Library became an integral part of the Society, and that "a collection of books" was by then recognized as essential to its principal function, the promotion of knowledge. By the start of the Revolution, David Rittenhouse had been appointed the Society's first Librarian. Authority for the procuring of books was specifically granted in the Society's Act of Incorporation in 1780.

When a part of what is now Independence Square was ceded to the Society by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1785 for the building...

* Autograph Collector's Jour. 5: 45, 1952.
of Philosophical Hall, one of the acknowledged purposes was that the Library might be housed therein. Until 1949, the Society's Library was maintained continuously in the Hall. Its growth necessitated the addition of a third story to the building in 1890. This addition was removed in 1949 to restore the building to its historic appearance.

The move to acquire a separate home for the American Philosophical Society Library began a number of years ago. In 1941 such a move was recommended by a special committee with the proviso that it be "commensurate with the dignity of the Society and adequate for the needs of the Library." With the establishment of the National Park Project, the prospect of a home for the Library on federally owned land became apparent. Enabling legislation to that end was passed by the 82d Congress and signed by the President on July 10, 1952. The law specified that the plans should be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. In October, 1955, while plans for the building were in preparation, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay and Dr. George W. Corner, Vice-President of the Society, signed the leasing agreement for the lot within the boundaries of Independence National Historical Park on which the library building has been constructed.

The plans for the building were formally approved by Secretary Seaton on June 21, 1956. At a ceremony on November 16 of that year, Director Wirth presented the land to the Society.

The Department of the Interior deeply appreciates the Society's interest in and support of Independence National Historical Park, and the important physical contribution it has made in constructing this magnificent building to house its famed manuscript collection.

Throughout, there has been a fine cooperative spirit from the acquisition of the land by the National Park Service, the demolition of a ten-story building on it, the development of plans, and the construction of the building. The many details involved have been worked out in a most amicable manner. In this we can all take pride.

This is a notable event in the history of the Park as well as in the history of the Society. We are honored to have so distinguished an institution as the Library in the Park. It is fitting that an institution which has contributed so much for so long to the Nation's heritage should be located here.

When I had the pleasure of representing Secretary Seaton at the laying of the cornerstone for the building on April 25, 1958, I saw little of the structure beyond the steel skeleton. It would have been difficult at that time to imagine the beauty of the building that has emerged since. The new Library Hall is indeed a splendid tribute to those who have labored long and hard so that it and the great historical park in which it stands might become a reality.

Dr. Moe:

Mr. Ernst, it is good to have the United States on our side; and I thank you for these greetings.

The greatest of American libraries—libraries of North, South, and Middle America—is the Library of Congress. It was established in 1800 by Act of Congress, was burned in 1814, was re-established by the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's books—Mr. Jefferson having been third President of the United States as he was of our Society—and on that good foundation has gone on to its present size, efficiency, and value. But it is worth mentioning that the first library of the Congress was the Library Company of Philadelphia. The Minutes of the Library Company record that, when Philadelphia was the Capital of the United States, President Washington and all the Members of the Congress were granted special library privileges. We are happy that a representative of the Librarian of Congress, Mr. Rutherford Rogers, will bring us the greetings of our greater though younger-brother library, the Library of Congress. Mr. Rogers:

Mr. Rutherford D. Rogers, Chief Assistant Librarian, Library of Congress, representing Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress:

Thank you, Dr. Moe. Members and guests of the American Philosophical Society:

I bring you personal greetings from the Librarian of Congress, who regrets very much that he cannot be here tonight. Only serious illness in his family could have kept Dr. Mumford from an occasion of such moment. I also bring official congratulations from the Library of Congress for the notable achievement that is marked by this assembly.

The Library of Congress, which has more than a hundred and fifty years of history behind it, finds itself tonight in the enviable position of comparative youth. It bows with respect to the
venerable American Philosophical Society, which had a place of eminence in the world of learning long before the Library of Congress came into being.

There have been many ties between us over the last century and a half—not the least of them being the formative influence exerted on both our institutions by Thomas Jefferson, one of our past presidents, who held the chair from 1797 until 1814. "If Franklin was the principal benefactor of the Library [of the Society] in its early years, Jefferson became its great patron in the second, or national period, of its history," your distinguished former Librarian, William E. Lingelbach, has written. We cannot claim Jefferson as patron, but he was certainly responsible for the transformation of the Library of Congress from a mere parliamentary library into an institution serving all branches of knowledge. As you know, after our collections were destroyed in the War of 1812, the Library of Congress was given new birth and vastly broader scope through the purchase by the Government of Jefferson's personal library.

Our gain was evidently the American Philosophical Society's loss, for one of your members, Jonathan Williams, wrote with disappointment and some asperity to Jefferson on October 21, 1814, the day after news of the authorization of the purchase was made known:

After the Society was adjourned a number of members (all your particular Friends) were conversing on various Subjects when the proposed sale of your Library to Congress was mentioned.

It can hardly be supposed, that in this Room surrounded by a Library consisting almost wholly of donations, with your almost animated Bust looking full in our Faces, we could avoid expressing our regret that the rich collection of so many years of scientific research should be devoted to a political Body, where it cannot produce any benefit to them or to the World.—

Works of History, Law, Government Finance, political Oeconomy, and general information, may with propriety be so deposited, but such Books as would adorn our Library and aid this Society in "the promotion of useful knowledge" must there become moth eaten upon the Shelves.2

Time has happily long since banished any rivalry between the two libraries.

The stature of your collections does not need enhancing, but your fine new library building will contribute to the continued use of those collections in the enrichment of the intellectual life of the nation—of the world. The Library of Congress salutes you in your effort to advance man's knowledge, and to promote, in Benjamin Franklin's words, "all philosophical Experiments that let Light into the Nature of Things, tend to increase the Power of Man over Matter, and multiply the Conveniencies or Pleasures of Life."3

DR. MÖE:

Mr. Rogers, your contribution to our history is appreciated and has been duly recorded. Thank you very much.

One does not introduce a man in his own house and I shall not introduce our fellow member Sir Charles Darwin, more especially as three generations of Darwins have preceded him as members of our Society. We know him well, partly from his fine talk about his grandfather upon the occasion of our celebration of the centenary of the publication of On the Origin of Species last spring. But this much must be said: Sir Charles will convey to us the greetings of the Royal Society of London, chartered in 1660, in the image of which the American Philosophical Society was founded. The Biblical injunction is that we shall honor our fathers and our mothers; and thus the greetings of the Royal Society will have a special poignancy for those of us who remember our history. Sir Charles:

SIR CHARLES GALTON DARWIN, Fellow, Royal Society of London:

Mr. President, members and guests: When I knew that my present fate was going to be to come here to address you tonight I reflected that I had better begin by taking pity on you all. Some of you will remember I was here in April and then I gave you probably the longest after-dinner speech that I have ever made. I made up my mind, therefore, that tonight I would make the shortest after-dinner speech that I have ever made. I am going to tell you in the first place that I bring to all of you the congratulations of the Royal Society of London for the magnificent work

1 Lingelbach, William E., The Library of the American Philosophical Society, William and Mary Quart., Third Ser. 3 (1) : 56, 1946.

3 Franklin, Benjamin, A Proposal for Promoting Useful Knowledge among the British Plantations in America, May 14, 1743. Broadsheet in the Rare Book Division, Library of Congress.
Adressé présentée par
Julien Cain
Administrateur général de la Bibliothèque nationale
Directeur général des Bibliothèques de France
Membre de l'Institut de France
à la réunion tenue à Philadelphie le 11 novembre 1959
de l'American Philosophical Society.

En appréciant l'American Philosophical Society, à l'occasion de
sa réunion d'automne, le salut de la Bibliothèque nationale de Paris,
je crois pouvoir parler au nom de l'ensemble des établissements
scientifiques français. Sous mes conférences, qu'ils appartiennent aux
diverses académies qui constituent l'Institut de France, aux Universités,
aux centres de recherches, aux Bibliothèques, aux Sociétés savantes,
yous sont dédaignables pour vos magnifiques publications dont les collections
forment une masse imposante, dont la diversité et la qualité se main-
tiennent à travers les générations et font l'admiration universelle.
Mais il est bien le haut exemple que n'a cessé de donner votre Société
depuis deux siècles qui mérite d'être tenu et qui nous apparaît comme
le symbole de ce que votre pays et la voix ont en commun : la volonté
d'assurer le droit éminent de l'esprit dans la conduite des affaires humaines.

Si Benjamin Franklin pût l'initiative hardie de constituer votre
société, c'est que ce grand homme d'action avait appris que l'effort
individuel ne saurait suffire et que le groupement des hommes de sciences
est une nécessité. Le texte de la circulaire qu'il fit imprimer le
14 mai 1743, est dans nos pays un texte classique ; il mérite d'être
parlé et connu. Il a trouvé un écho dans le nôtre, ou dans le même temps
se préparait le grand mouvement d'idées qui devait aboutir à l'Encyclopédie.

Au-delà de la coopération scientifique pour la libre recherche,
l'Amérique a connu de bonne heure les bienfaits de l'association dans tous les domaines.
Ils ont frappé tous les voyageurs, tous les observateurs de voix civilisation.
Le plus éminent de tous parmi nos compatriotes, Alexis de Coqueville, dans
le séjour qu'il fit à Philadelphie visita votre Société le 15 octobre 1831.
Il rencontre plusieurs de ses membres et notamment son président, Monsieur
Du Ponceau, ce Français, né à Saint-Martin de Reux qui était devenu citoyen
de Philadelphie en 1781 et qui fut par la suite, je le souligne correspondant
de l'Institut de France. L'impression qu'il tira de ces contacts ne fut pas
étouffée à une des conclusions de son grand livre : "Il n'y a rien qui mérite
plus d'être noté que les associations intellectuelles et morales de l'Amérique."
ecrivait-il, et il terminait par cette admirable définition : "Dans les
pays démocratiques, la science de l'association est la science même ; le progrès
de toutes les autres dépend des progrès de celle-là." Coqueville voyait là le
moyen le plus sûr, dans une grande démocratie, qui donnait des exemples
au monde, de combattre l'excès de l'individualisme issu de la liberté.

Fig. 1a
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you are doing in founding and building this new library. I must hesitate in telling you exactly what I shall be reporting back to them, because our President has told us we were not to see the library until after this dinner, and so it is obviously right for me to wait till I have actually seen it before describing it to them. However, I have no doubt whatever what my report will be. I shall tell them what a magnificent thing you have done in founding this library. I would also like to thank you for the pleasant time you have given me at this meeting of our Society.

Dr. Moe:

We aim to be, Sir Charles, as Isaac Disraeli—the father of Lord Beaconsfield—wrote of the Royal Society, a “nursery of the human mind.” And we shall be pleased to have you report this in London.

Dr. Franklin did not treat the French with formality and I shall try to emulate our Founder in introducing Monsieur Julien Cain, who will bring us the greetings of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

Madame Cain and he, my wife and I, spent ten days together at Bellagio in Italy in the past month of September, doing what I may, perhaps too vaguely, refer to as a job of thought for the Rockefeller Foundation. There I came to appreciate the quality of Monsieur Cain’s scholarship, the energy of his mind and his capacity for executive action. And we also came to know each other as wounded veterans of the First World War, with all that that implies for common memory and for friendship. But more even than that, this is a veteran of the Second World War’s Buchenwald—a stiff-necked French patriot who compromised nothing.
As our own Judge Learned Hand has said: “Tyranny is tyranny no matter what its form. The free man will resist it if his courage serves.” Monsieur Cain’s courage served.

Madame Cain, too, is here this evening—bright as a button as she always is and a distinguished scholar and author in her own name.

Monsieur Cain, Administrator General of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Director General of all the public libraries of France, I call upon you for the greetings of the library over which you preside, which some, perhaps too enthusiastic, chroniclers date from the days of Charlemagne and Charles the Bold. Monsieur Cain:

MONSIEUR JULIEN CAIN, L’Administrateur Général, Bibliothèque Nationale:

[Monsieur Cain’s remarks are contained in the parchment document, illustrated as figure 1, which was presented to the Society for its Archives.]

DR. MOE:

We all understood it, Monsieur Cain: your French is that clear to us.

Mr. Frank Charlton Francis, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum presides over an institution of much less antiquity, however antiquity be reckoned, than does his friend Monsieur Cain. Founded only in 1753—a mere child in this company as you will appreciate, Mr. Francis—the British Museum has come to rank in importance before all libraries in the world. No more need be said, but this much more I should like to say. Before he was Director of the British Museum, Mr. Francis’ title was Keeper of Printed Books.

The English have a fine sense for simple words: whereas we, before traveling “purchase a reservation,” they “book a ticket”; and whereas we have “curatorial librarians,” they have “keepers of books.”

Mrs. Francis happily is here with her husband, no less cousinly English than he. We welcome them both; and now I ask Mr. Francis to honor us with the greetings of the British Museum. Mr. Francis:

MR. F. C. FRANCIS, Director and Principal Librarian, the British Museum:

Mr. President, members and guests of the American Philosophical Society. This is the first time I have had to fulfill an official duty of this kind. I tread in the footsteps of illustrious men but I regret that I have not their genius nor have I as yet the practice that is necessary to express in adequate terms the greetings of the Trustees of the institution I represent on this auspicious occasion. There is, however, nowhere where I would sooner make my debut than here in the United States of America where I have so many good friends, where I feel completely at home, and where I find so much to admire; and there is nowhere in the whole of the United States more appropriate for this occasion than the American Philosophical Society which has and has had since its foundation a few years, Mr. President, earlier than the British Museum, the same idea of the universality of knowledge and culture as we have in the British Museum.

It is a great thing in these days of ever closer specialization to ponder on the intellectual and artistic accomplishments of the past and allow the knowledge of them to sink into and enrich our minds. By so doing, our appreciation of the modern problems which beset us is deepened and our minds are rendered that much more fitted to answer them. No man, least of all modern man with the wonders of science constantly unfolding before him and his horizons ever widening, can afford to ignore the past, not only to learn from the experience and failures of our predecessors but to be enriched by their wonderful achievements. Where else better to do this than in institutions like the one that I at the moment have the honor to preside over and the Society whose grateful guest I am today?

It is said that the thing which is generally raised on city land is taxes. Here the contrary is true. The Society has produced a magnificent monument to the spirit of man. May it become in Erasmus’ words a paradise of human spirit. With that introduction Mr. President, I want to present you with the address of the Trustees of the British Museum which we have judged might be more fittingly written in Latin and which has been printed in the type which was used by Bishop Fell at Oxford before our Museum or your Society was founded. May I read this to you and I hope you won’t find false quantities in what I am saying?

[The document read by Mr. Francis is illustrated in figure 2 and was presented to the Society for its Archives.]
SOCIETATI PHILOSOPHICAE AMERICANAЕ
S. P. D.
MUSAЕUM BRITANNICUM

MUSAЕI BRITANNICII Gubernatores Praesidenti Sociisque Societatis Philosophicae Americanae de bibliothecae novae dedicatione vere et amico animo gratulantur.

Recordantur quidem virum clarissimum Benjaminum Franklin se cum priscis conditoribus huius societatis ipsiusque bibliothecae conjunctisse; libenter vident eandem societatem per tot annos tanto veterum rerum doctrinae, tanto novarum inquisitionis amore fuisse accensam; cujus studii quod monumentum praecarios inveniri possit, quam haec lausissima bibliotheca, ubi libri impressi codicesque manuscripti praestantissimi incredibili opulentia collocati sint?

Doctrinas veteres conservare, artes scientiasque liberales fovere, grande certe est munus: eiusdem igitur muneris tantum consortes Musaei Britannici Gubernatores bibliothecariique Praesidenti et Sociis Societatis Philosophicae Americanae salutem plurimam dicunt, perpetuitatem rerum faustarum exoptant, ut bibliotheca fructuose et in omne aevum opus suum efficiat precantur.

F. Franklin

Fig. 2
Dr. Moe:

Mr. Francis, your Latin scroll is as beautiful as it sounded when you read it. Thank you again.

The Very Reverend Anselm Albareda of the Order of St. Benedict is the Prefect of the Vatican Library, as he has been for twenty-two years.

St. Benedict of Nursia, of the fifth and sixth centuries of our era, established the monastery and library of Monte Cassino which for centuries was a principal center for the religious and intellectual life of Western Europe. From Monte Cassino went forth St. Augustine and his companions in 596, carrying their monachism with them to England—with all the consequences that flowed from that gentle invasion. The establishment of schools, the advancement of letters and learning—these are still the principal tenets of the Rule of St. Benedict; and the Abbot is in that tradition. Indeed, as my wife and I came to know the Abbot in Rome last September, it seemed to us that like him must have been that seventh-century English Benedictine, the Venerable Bede, the Father of English History—and the most gentle and shy of men. He was not called the Venerable Bede because he lived to be a great age, but because he was so greatly venerated. In this sense, I give you the venerable Anselm Albareda, who will convey to us the greetings of the Apostolic Vatican Library founded in 1369. In your native Spanish, I now say, Tiene usted la palabra. The Abbot Albareda:

Dom Anselm M. Albareda, Prefect of the Vatican Library:

[The illuminated parchment document read by the Abbot is illustrated in figure 3 and was presented to the Society for its Archives.]

Dr. Moe:

I hold, for you all to see, the scroll which the Abbot Albareda has just handed to me. As you see, it is as beautiful as you heard its words are fitting. It was engrossed by the Abbot Albareda's own calligraphers and illuminators in the Vatican Library. After the good Abbot has signed it I shall turn it over to Dr. Shryock as one of our treasured possessions. Thank you very much.

To Dr. Nicholas B. Wainwright, as President of the Library Company of Philadelphia, we give our very special thanks. All manner of cooperation has come from him and from the Library Company during the years of planning and building our new Library, including permission to have copied, in so far as that was possible and reconstructed when necessary, the excellingly good statue of Benjamin Franklin which now stands over our main Library entrance, as the original did over the Library Company's door. Mr. Lewis Iselin, Jr., who is here tonight with his wife, was our sculptor working from Lazzarini's original. And it is worth noting that when a plaster model of the statue was being trucked to Mr. Iselin's studio, a taxi driver saluted it with "Hi, Ben!" Such a man, who made such a permanent impress, was our Founder; and yours, Dr. Wainwright. We are more than happy in our joint Founder; and on this cheerful note, I ask you please for the formal greetings of the Library Company of Philadelphia. Dr. Wainwright:

Dr. Nicholas B. Wainwright, President, The Library Company of Philadelphia:

Dr. Moe, members of the Philosophical Society and guests. Sharing with you the tradition, that has just been mentioned, of our mutual founder Benjamin Franklin, the Library Company always takes a great interest in whatever the Philosophical Society does and we are very proud of its many eminent accomplishments. In the case of your new building, our normal interest has become one of excitement. We have watched your library grow on the site of our old library and we feel that in your new library a part of our past is mirrored because your new library is partially a replica of our old library. We occupied our library here for ninety years and then, following the westward drift of the residential section of Philadelphia, we moved out towards Broad Street. Perhaps, in retrospect, we should not have done this, but who knows? We do feel that libraries should not be restless, that there should be a peaceful sense of permanence about them and it is particularly in this regard that the Library Company of Philadelphia congratulates the Philosophical Society. We feel absolutely certain that the Philosophical Society will occupy this new Library Hall for all time.

Dr. Moe:

Dr. Wainwright, your wishes to that effect mean a great deal to us.

Dr. Lingelbach, you are next; and I shall not presume to introduce you, without whom there would be no new Library Hall. Dr. Lingelbach:
Greetings of the Vatican Library
to the American Philosophical Society

on the occasion of the dedication of the Society's new Library
Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with the greatest personal pleasure that I am able to bring to you the greetings of the Vatican Library. And I feel very honored, indeed to have been invited by your President, Doctor Henry Allen Moe, and by your executive officer, Doctor William J. Robbins, to participate in the dedication of your Society's new library. I am well aware of the importance of your library, whose manuscripts and books make it one of the most important in your field of interest and activity. In many ways the Vatican Library has been long associated with cultural institutions in the United States.

When, in the year nineteen-thirty, the former Prefect of the Vatican Library, Achille Ratti, who later became Pope Pius the Eleventh, planned to replace the old shelves of the Library with new ones, a Company of Chicago was asked to supply them.

Our library was the first in Europe to use the rational American system of shelving books, and, if I am not mistaken, also the first in Europe to put at the disposal of scholars a machine to read microfilm. This microfilm reader came from your country.

In more recent years we have established a...
kind of cultural bridge between the United States and the Vatican Library. Microfilms reproducing more than thirty thousand manuscripts have been sent to St. Louis, and in turn, have received a copy of the famous Index of Christian Art from Princeton University. This, then, represents a curious contrast. While several thousand of manuscripts, containing mostly texts of classical and Renaissance pagan authors, came to America from the Library of the Pope, from the United States an enormous quantity of reproductions of Christian art were sent to the Vatican.

But even stronger and deeper connections have been established in the last years. Scholars of every part of the United States, belonging to many institutions, foundations, and societies, among which I am happy to mention, above all, the American Philosophical Society, came to the Vatican Library, where they receive the warmest possible welcome.

Presenting once more my sincerest congratulations to this Society in the name of the Vatican Library, may I express the heartfelt hope that this new library may reach not only the same reputation but also the same age of the Vatican Library.

Amelio M. Collae

Fig. 3c

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DR. WILLIAM E. LINGELBACH, Librarian Emeritus, American Philosophical Society:

Mr. President, I have the honor to join with our architect, Mr. Sydney E. Martin, in presenting to the American Philosophical Society through you our President, Library Hall, our new library building in which are now housed our priceless collections of books and manuscripts. Situated on the site once occupied by the Library Company here in historic Philadelphia, our Library, with its lovely garden dedicated to Thomas Jefferson, occupies a highly privileged location, possession of which is assured the Society in perpetuity by Public Law 497 of the 82nd Congress on the sole condition that we maintain our Library in it. It provides a superb basis here in the heart of the Independence National Historical Park, for the expansion, beyond the confines of Philosophical Hall, of the continued activities and usefulness of the oldest and increasingly vital scientific and learned society of America. Our faithful reconstruction of Library Hall, a building of rare historic and architectural distinction, derives an especial significance from the fact that it affords an adequate basis for the continuance of the work of a live and venerable society in this historic area replete with architectural monuments and other cherished symbols of the nation's heritage.

This very satisfactory solution of our library problem is the result of many factors quite apart from the well-directed activities of the officers, the Committee on Library, and the staff. We note with gratitude the effective cooperation of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior, the good will of our friends of the Library Company, and especially the generosity of members and benefactors of our Society who established the Wood and other funds in anticipation of more than $2,000,000 needed for its construction.

In the long search for a permanent home for its Library, the American Philosophical Society developed a strong sentiment of loyalty for Independence Square and its environs. On several occasions this sentiment defeated heavy pressures to follow the movement of population, business, and cultural institutions westward—the last, still fresh in the memory of many, involving plans for a marble palace on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The Society's decision to remain here in its historic setting imposed several important obligations of a civic and patriotic nature in relation to the growing concern, during and after World War II, for the Nation's heritage, and the conservation of its cultural resources. The Society's first response was to put its own house in order by removing the incongruous third story superimposed on Philosophical Hall in 1890 to accommodate its library. This restoration of our Hall brought it again into harmony with the charm and dignity of the Independence Square group of buildings. Not so well known, however, is the Society's active participation in the redevelopment and conservation of historic Philadelphia in general, out of which there gradually emerged the plan to reconstruct Library Hall. But that is too long a story for this evening save for a passing reference to the organization in our Hall of the Independence Hall Association, the group that has done so much in promoting the redevelopment of this historic section of our city.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I want to emphasize especially that our new Library—its handsome new building, great collections, and new leadership—represents as nothing else could in so concrete a manner, Franklin's profound faith in the dynamic power of ideas, of knowledge—combined with a realistic concern for its dissemination by means of books and libraries.

To you, Sir, and to your successors in the illustrious line of our Presidents, we entrust Library Hall of the American Philosophical Society held in Philadelphia for Promoting Useful Knowledge, founded by Benjamin Franklin, one of America's first, and still foremost patron of libraries.

DR. MOE:

Dr. Lingelbach, I urge you, historian that you are, to leave a record of all those of our membership and others whose heads and devotion, and practical experience and munificence and skill in negotiation, made our new Library Hall a reality. It is beyond my knowledge to do so myself; for I had no part in it except to vote "Aye" for appropriations.

One name, however, must be mentioned tonight, and that is Dr. William J. Robbins' whom I had the honor to succeed as President and who is now our Executive Officer. Dr. Robbins, you have been the indispensable man ever since the construction of Library Hall was begun.
And now I have the pleasure of calling upon Mr. Sydney Martin, the artist who was the architect of our new Library Hall. Mr. Martin:

Mr. Sydney E. Martin, Architect:

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

A letter from Dr. Lingelbach indicating that we had been selected to design the building that you are dedicating today is dated January 14, 1952. I am glad to have survived long enough to be present on this occasion. The letter included a program covering the desires of the Library Committee. It called for that element of the building that faces on Fifth Street to be an exact replica of the building that occupied this site from 1790 until 1884. It had been the home of the Philadelphia Library Company, another institution founded by Benjamin Franklin. It was designed by Dr. Wm. Thornton, a versatile doctor of medicine turned architect, among whose other architectural achievements was the winning of the competition for our National Capitol in Washington. The Library Company’s building was the most ornate Georgian structure erected in Philadelphia, perhaps even in the Colonies, prior to 1900. Our job was not only to produce a replica but to design additions that would exceed in size by 60 per cent the original structure. Our research located no drawings of the original building, other than an insurance plan that gave us the over-all dimensions of the perimeter of the ground floor as being 70 feet long by 48 feet wide. There had been preserved, however, the original statue of Franklin, although it was somewhat the worse for wear, a rain conductor cap, and one of the stylized flambeaux that surmounted the pedestals that divided the railing that separated the roof from the cornice. There were also a few small faded photographs that had probably been taken just prior to the demolition of Library Hall. We had them blown up to several times their size and by the aid of a magnifying glass were able to determine the character of much of the original details.

Philosophical Hall, across the street, had been built the previous year and Old City Hall, Fifth and Chestnut, had been started the following year. The photographs of Library Hall convinced us that all three buildings had been built of the same brick and with about the same width of joint. By averaging the courses on the two existing buildings, we arrived at a dimension of 2-3/16 inches per course. By again referring to the insurance plan, we estimated the length of each subdivision appearing on the Fifth Street façade. The spaces from the corner of the building to the first pilaster, where there were uninterrupted courses of brick, we established as being 16 feet wide. Again, by use of the magnifying glass, we were able to count the headers and stretchers and thus determine their average length. We were then in a position to set up a scale and to determine the sizes of all the elements occurring on the exterior of the building. When it came to designing the additions, it seemed to us that it would be a mistake to carry out the entire composition in the grand manner of the Fifth Street façade and that, regardless of the size of the additions, they must be supplementary to and less ornate than the original structure.

How well we have carried out our assignment is not for me to say, but, before presenting the keys of the building to Dr. Moe, I do want to take this occasion to acknowledge our debt to Dr. Lingelbach, Mrs. Hess, and Dr. Eisenhart, who with me have borne the heat of the day during the six years prior to construction; to Dr. Robbins, who came to the scene about the time estimates were being taken and, through whose practical approach, items over which there had been some controversy were soon resolved; finally, to my good friend, John Cornell, whose fine organization has built a structure that should endure beyond the vision of those of us who are living today.

Sir, I take much pleasure in presenting to you the key of the building.

Dr. Moe:

Mr. Martin, it is good to have this master key in my possession for even a little while. But I shall turn it over promptly to Dr. Shryock, who will have the creative management of the building you created and of its contents.

For the rest, ladies and gentlemen, I shall let Dr. Franklin speak for me.

According to the Minute Book of the Philadelphia Library Company, on July 13, 1741, “B. Franklin read a paper containing a brief account of the Library which he said he wrote to fill a Blank that happens to be at the end of a Catalogue he is printing, of which he desired the Opinion of the other Directors present, and they approved of his design.” And Dr. Franklin concluded his “brief account”: 
"It is now ten years since the Company was first established and we have the pleasure of observing that tho' 'tis composed of so many persons of different Sects, Parties, and Ways of Thinking, yet no differences relating to the Affairs of the Library, have arisen among us; but everything has been conducted with great Harmony, to general Satisfaction—which happy Circumstances will, we hope, be always continued." So do we also hope for our new Library Hall!

Dr. Franklin did not live to see the Library Company's building completed in 1790, the year he died; but until his death he had a part in everything connected with it, even to the inscription on the cornerstone. For the following is recorded in the Minutes of the September 3, 1789, meeting of the Philadelphia Library Company:

"The Building Committee reported that the first stone of the edifice was laid on the 31st of August last; that upon the suggestion of Dr. B. F. a large stone was prepared and laid at the SW corner of the building with the following inscription composed by the Dr., except so far as related to him, which the Committee have taken the liberty of adding to it:

Be it remembered
in Honor of the PHILADELPHIAN Youth,
(Then chiefly Artificers)
That in MDCCXXXI
They cheerfully,
At the Instance of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,
One of their Number,
INSTITUTED the PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY,
which, though small at first,
Is become highly valuable,
And extensively useful;
And which the Walls of this Edifice
Are now destined to contain and preserve;"

A building of the quality of Dr. Thornton's should have lasted longer than from 1790 to 1884, and we may hope that ours will fare better. For ours, too—our Library collections—have "become highly valuable and extensively useful"; and we have built a building destined, we hope, "to contain and preserve" them through many centuries—during which, under God and supported by an Act of Congress of the United States, in the heart of our country's Independence National Park and Dr. Franklin's City of Philadelphia, we shall continue our work of promoting useful knowledge.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, we are due at the American Philosophical Society's new Library Hall; and this meeting is adjourned.