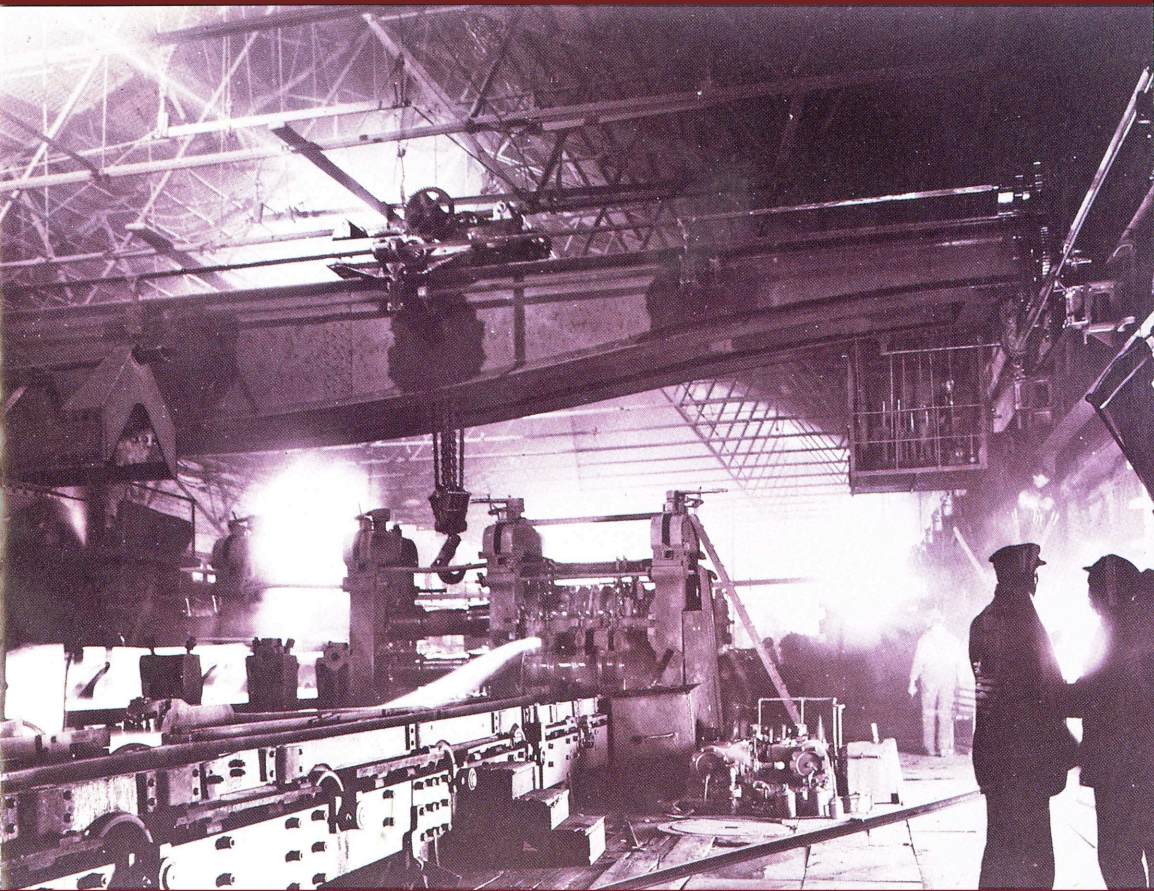


G R E A T I S T H E G I F T T H A T B R I N G E T H K N O W L E D G E



HIGHLIGHTS
FROM THE
HISTORY
OF THE
JOHN
CRERAR
LIBRARY



G R E A T I S T H E G I F T T H A T B R I N G E T H K N O W L E D G E

H I G H L I G H T S F R O M T H E H I S T O R Y

O F T H E

J O H N C R E R A R L I B R A R Y

(Cover illustration)

Antoine Poiteau, *Pomologie Française. Recueil des plus Beaux Fruits Cultivés en France.*
Paris, Langlois et Leclercq, 1846.
Tome IV, Plat 87 Calville Rouge

(Front inside cover illustration)

Illinois Steel Company.
Album of Photographs, Chicago, 1896
Photo: Rail Mill, South Works

The Crerar Library's close relationships with Chicago industry started with the first board of directors. The beginnings of the iron and steel industry in Chicago followed closely on the city's new prominence as a railroad center. The first to take advantage of the market was the Chicago Rolling Mills Company, which began by manufacturing iron rails, then changed to steel rails in 1865. In 1889, it joined with Union Iron and Steel and the Joliet Steel Company to form the Illinois Steel Company, whose capacity made Chicago a rival of Pittsburgh. Among its first directors were Marshall Field and Norman Williams, two key figures in the formation of the Crerar Library.

The cover is one of seventy-five photographs given to the Library in 1914 by Holt, Cutting, & Sidley, a law firm started by Norman Williams as Williams & Thompson, and now called Sidley & Austin. The Illinois Steel Company, which was one of the firm's main clients, eventually was absorbed into U.S. Steel.

(Back cover illustration)

Hieronymus Braunschweig
ca. 1450 - ca. 1512
Dis ist das buch der chirurgia: Hantwirkung der wund artzney.
Augsburg: Johann Schönsperger, 1497

The first of many Renaissance treatises on the problems of gunshot wounds, this work is especially famous for its vivid woodblock illustrations depicting surgeons, their equipment and their techniques.

(Back inside cover illustration)

Frédéric Contet, *Documents de Ferronnerie Ancienne, Epoques Louis XV et Louis XVI*, troisième série, Deuxième édition, Paris. F. Contet, 1913.
Plate 42 Nancy. Place Stanislav.

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Design by William A. Seabright

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

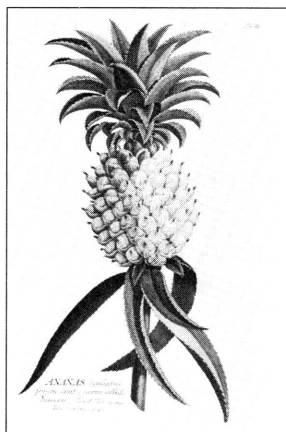
John Crerar himself was the inspiration for this work and for the 1989 exhibition in the Department of Special Collections. His death, one-hundred years ago, made a remarkable institution possible. Celebrating his bequest and recalling how it has been interpreted by those who have shaped the library offers insights into the past and lessons for the future.

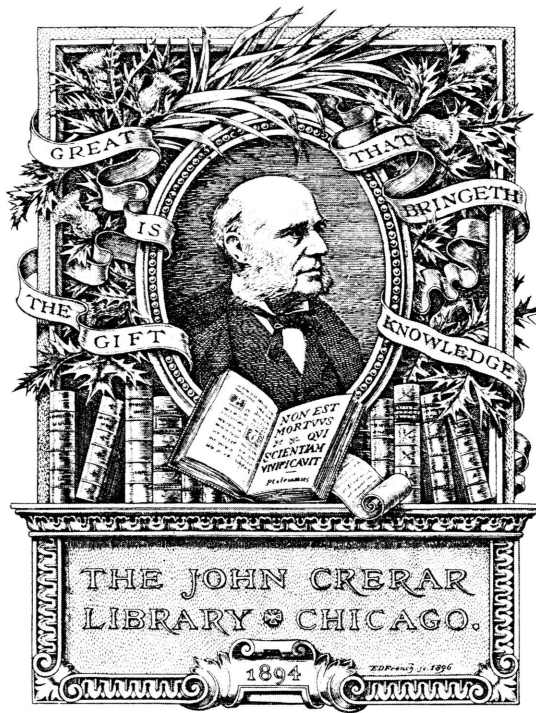
Oliver W. Tuthill made this celebration possible. Under his leadership, the John Crerar Foundation gave financial resources to organize the Crerar Archives, for re-

search staff, and for the publication of this book. Paul Carnahan created the essential order, inventoried the archives and wrote a systematic guide. Richard Meier provided important research assistance. Kim Coventry brought visual excitement to the exhibit and William Seabright's book design transforms the story of a science library into art.

For twenty years Robert Rosenthal has challenged me with his questions, ideas and insights. However, helping me discover and understand Crerar Library from its past has been his great gift to me.

Patricia K. Swanson
December, 1989





INTRODUCTION

Founded in the optimistic milieu of the late nineteenth century, the history of the John Crerar Library is a story of enterprise and industry. Its beginnings were as bold as the entrepreneurs who built Chicago and established its great cultural institutions. The nature and scope of the library, determined not by John Crerar himself but by his best friends who were the first directors, reflected their progressive beliefs in the value of scientific and practical endeavors. The commitment that the library should freely serve all the citizens of Chicago was based on the values of the men of the time who believed that through independent learning individuals could improve themselves.

In the hundred years since John Crerar bequeathed a free public library, both Chicago and the Crerar Library have undergone many changes. The industrial revolution had fueled the growth of Chicago through railroad, steel, and other manufacturing industries, creating a potent combination of economic, educational and cultural forces. In this expansive environment, Chicago's leaders believed progress would continue indefinitely, hence planning for the library was on a grand scale. In the ensuing years, however, progress be-

came more complex to define. In response to major changes in the transportation and manufacturing industries, Chicago's economic profile became more diverse and the Crerar Library adapted to these factors.

Throughout the twentieth century the directors and librarians at Crerar have looked outward and created programs in response to changing external conditions, primarily the needs of Chicago's business and technical community, ever-increasing economic constraints, and increased competition for philanthropic resources.

Some factors remained constant throughout the hundred years. The Library's mission to serve the specialized needs of the scientific and technical community has held steadfast despite the immense growth in scientific literature, which reflects the enormous expansion in scientific research. This growth could not have been imagined by the first directors and librarians.

The mission has been eloquently stated and restated beginning with Norman Williams, the first President of the Board of Directors, who said in 1894: "With a purely reference library . . . those who sought it

would find books which create a taste for substantial reading and accurate knowledge—books which teach readers to muse, to think. With time and tact and patience it is within our power to make our library an education of the people” and also an “influence for good which will increase year by year and lift men upward in thought and life, and at the same time point to fields of life, labor, and support.”

In outlining the scope of the Library, Williams stressed the need for an up-to-date collection with a strong historical component: “I do not sympathize with the suggestion that only the newest and latest publications be selected. Such a library would have neither beginning nor end. The student, every student, requires and demands a knowledge of the history of the subject he pursues, and should have at hand the means of investigation from beginnings.” This philosophy has remained a guiding principle in building the collections.

In 1963, when Crerar Library moved to the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Robert C. Gunness, who was then President of the Board, formally dedicated the new library, reaffirming its traditional mission in the new environment:

This is more than the dedication of a building—we are today re-dedicating the John Crerar Li-

brary to the service of education and research in its special fields . . . With painstaking dedication, the sixty-four trustees and three librarians who have served the Crerar variously during the past 68 years . . . have concluded that the essential function—the business—of the Library is to gather from all over the world significant information in the areas of science and technology and medicine. Beyond that, they conceive it the library's business to make this body of information freely available to everyone. We do not consider the Library's role as passive—as simply collecting and cataloging. We conceive it to be in our province actively to encourage business and industry to participate in one of the newest revolutions—utilizing the discovery of the process of invention—by systematic investment in research and development.

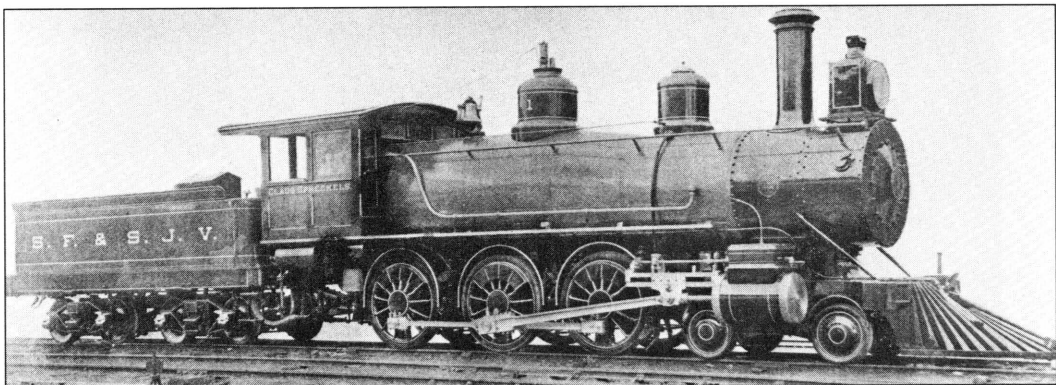
Gunness concluded his dedication with words that capture the spirit of the Library today and for the future: “The very existence of the John Crerar Library is a testament to the essential principles of freedom of information and freedom to pursue the truth, as well as freedom in enterprise.”

With the move to the University of Chicago in 1984, the Crerar Library expanded its role to serve education and research by becoming the primary science library for an institution long devoted to the growth of knowledge. Oliver W. Tuthill, the last President of the Library, wrote of the meaning of this merger.

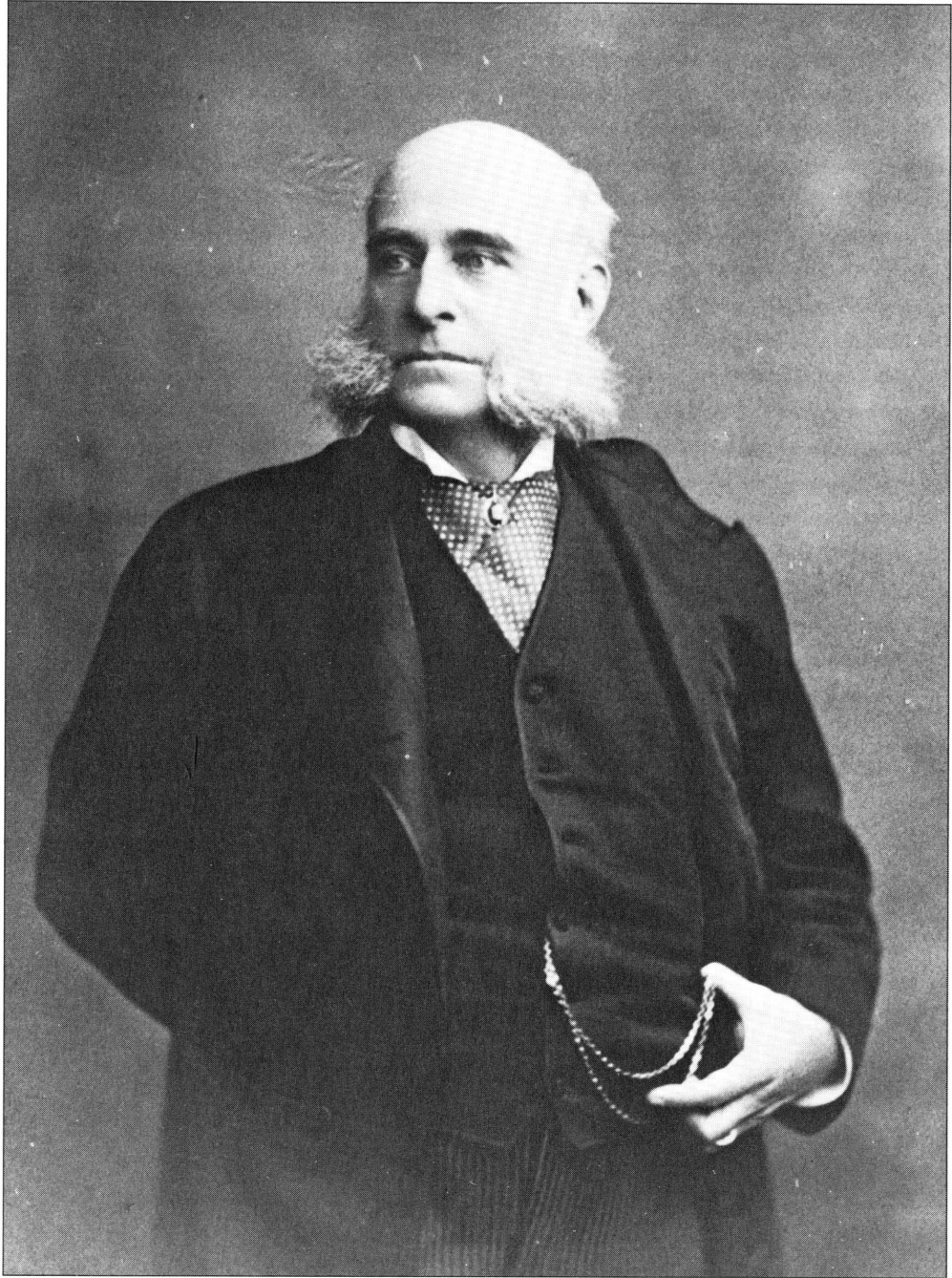
It has created a library, probably without equal, that neither library could maintain alone. It provides Chicago and the nation with the finest library of its kind, strengthening the Crerar mission as it strengthens the nation's research community. The decision to join with the University of Chicago achieved the fundamental objective of ensuring the continuity of a great intellectual and cultural treasure, a uniquely dimensioned resource . . . for use by the citi-

zens of Chicago, of our country and of the world.

This work, taken from an exhibit in the University of Chicago Department of Special Collections, celebrates John Crerar's gift to Chicago. It highlights the Library's many accomplishments—its founding by the talented executors of John Crerar's will, its successes in building excellent collections for current research and for the history of science, and its creative information services to support business and industry. These accomplishments were the work of librarians who were leaders in their fields and of directors who were among the most influential people in Chicago. Their visions, and the risks they took, created a unique institution, resilient and adaptive, showing vitality through change, yet proudly maintaining its traditions of service to science.



Modern Locomotives: Illustrations, Specifications and Details of Typical American and European Steam and Electric Locomotives, New York; Published by the Railroad Gazette, 1901. Plate 60



WHO WAS JOHN CRERAR?

To find John Crerar behind the eulogies and the monuments of his good works requires reading sparse extant correspondence, piecing together secondary sources, and considerable speculation.

The basic facts of his Scottish heritage, his staunch Presbyterianism, and his success in the railway supply business are well-known as are his directorships in the Pullman Palace Car Company and other railroads. What is less known is what motivated him, what interested him, and what he was like.

Crerar (1827-1889) died unmarried and without heir. His brother and step-brother died before him, without heirs. The only biography, written by Thomas Goodspeed is adulatory and without interpretation. No later reminiscences have been found. No one is alive today who knew him.

John Crerar knew he would die without descendants, a fact that must have increased his determination for immortality through other legacies. The aphorism "Non est mortuus qui vivificat scientium", (The person who gives life to knowledge is not

dead) adopted early for the Library, may literally have been his motivation for endowing a library that must bear his name for all time. Although Crerar was an avid reader, he was not a scholar, his personal library is small, consisting of a few bibles, Presbyterian tracts, biographies, and histories of Scotland. Thus we can assume that his library was not the result of a scholarly life nor his endowment the outgrowth of extensive book collecting.

Crerar's large bequest, the remainder of his estate, \$2.5 million, was not only a stake in personal immortality, it also followed a pattern of cultural legacies. Free libraries, available to the public, had been endowed earlier by John Jacob Astor and Samuel J. Tilden in New York, and in the 1880's Enoch Pratt built a library, added an endowment, and gave it to the city of Baltimore. Although as a young man in New York, Crerar served as president of the Mercantile Library, a library whose fees made it available only to members, he must have been sympathetic to the need for free libraries. One can imagine Crerar reading at the Astor Library, which had opened in 1854, and being impressed that Astor's be-

quest was for a library that imposed no fees upon its patrons. Crerar probably recalled that as he was creating his own estate.

In Chicago, he was doubtless influenced by Walter Newberry whose 1868 will, activated in 1885, contains free public library language very similar to Crerar's. John Crerar's friends Norman Williams, Marshall Field and Timothy Blackstone also founded free libraries in New England—in the towns of their births. These endowments not only commended the founders to ongoing recognition but also demonstrated their convictions that libraries were important for any person to better himself economically, socially, and personally.

Yet these influences do not rob Crerar's gift of its originality. He put the stamp of his values on the bequest. He specified that the library must have an atmosphere of Christian refinement and that its aim and object be the building up of character. "I desire that the books and periodicals be selected with a view to create and sustain a healthy moral and Christian sentiment . . . that all nastiness and immorality be excluded."

There is much to ponder in the phrase of the will which contains the famous admonition that "dirty French novels and all skeptical trash and works of questionable moral tone shall never be found in this

library." What did Crerar mean by skeptical trash? Would Crerar with his deep religious convictions have considered Darwin's ideas "skeptical trash"? Or like Andrew Carnegie would Crerar have embraced Darwin and Spencer as evidence that evolution meant "all is well, since all grows better."


In April, 1897, the Committee on Books of the Board of Directors grappled with this issue. An unsigned, handwritten note appended to the minutes reads: "The Committee are compelled to face the question of admitting works, whose authors, in the name of science, hold a skeptical attitude toward the Bible or Christianity. They have no inclination to follow their own personal opinion. We therefore refer to the Board for its interpretation, the phrase "all skeptical trash" found in Mr. Crerar's will. Is the emphasis to be placed on the noun or on the adjective? What principle of interpretation should be followed? How far should Mr. Crerar's supposed opinion control?"

Some commentators hinted that Crerar would not have been sympathetic to science. A letter in the November 1, 1897 *Dial* asserts, "Mr. Crerar unquestionably intended that . . . the library should consist mainly and primarily of literature especially fitted to create and sustain high moral sentiment . . . No attempt . . . has ever

ESTABLISHED 1858.

CRERAR, ADAMS & Co.,

RAILWAY SUPPLIES.



11 AND 13 FIFTH AVENUE
AND
205 AND 207 SOUTH WATER STREET,
CHICAGO.

JOHN CRERAR.

J. MCGREGOR ADAMS

Crerar, Adams, and Company
Railway Supplies. Chicago, [1886?]

John Crerar became a millionaire supplying ties, buckets, rivets, screws, saloon urinals and decorative lamps to the railroads. His substantial influence on railroading grew also from his role in organizing and financing the Pullman Palace Car Company and from his directorships with the Chicago and Alton Railroad and the Chicago and Joliet Railroad which he once served as President.

336 CRERAR, ADAMS & CO., CHICAGO.

CAR SEATS.

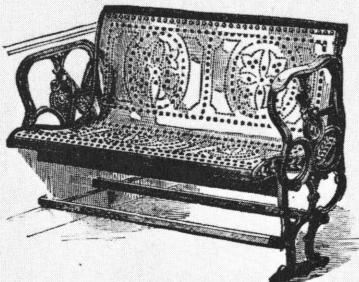


FIG. 658.

Perforated Veneer Car Seat.

No. 10, Buntin's Ends, Nickel Arm Rest, Birch Seat.....	each, \$12 50
" 10, " " " " " Silver Maple Seat.....	" 13 00
" 10, " " " " " Birch Seat	" 11 75
" 10, " " " " " Silver Maple Seat.....	" 12 25

Discount.....

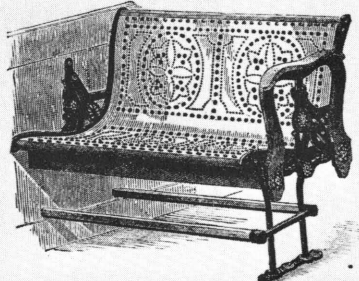
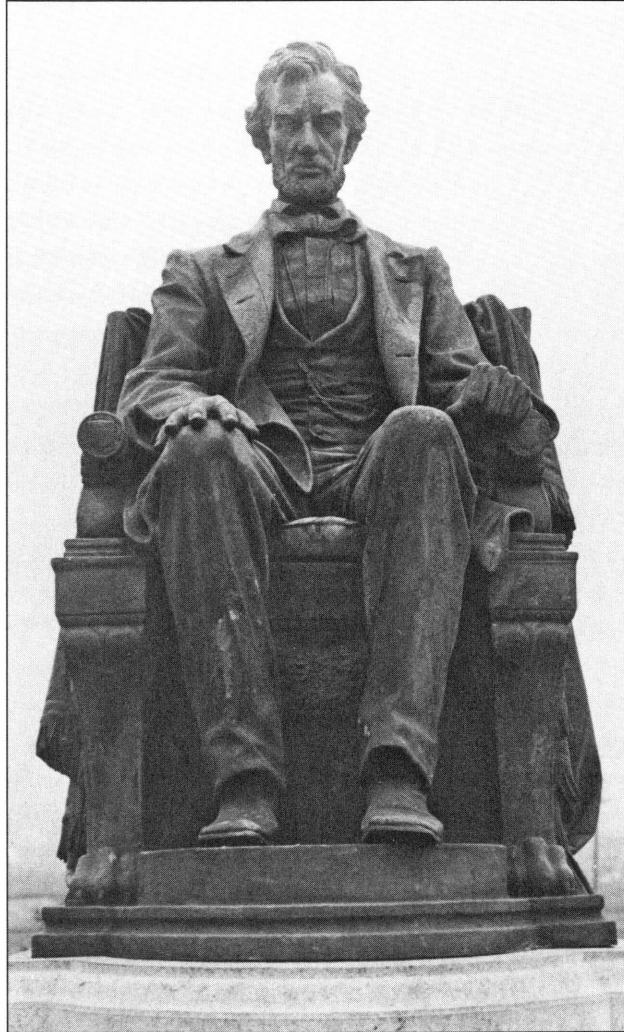


FIG. 659.

Perforated Veneer Car Seat.

No. 15, Wood End, Birch Seat.....	each, \$10 50
" 15, " " " " " Silver Maple Seat	" 11 00

WHO WAS JOHN CRERAR?



The seated Abraham Lincoln
in South Grant Park.

been made to show that an exclusively scientific library . . . will best accomplish the objects mentioned." Despite controversy over the meaning of the phrase (it appears to have been settled by an emphasis on the noun) and the subjects to be covered, in the ensuing decades, the Library has enriched the scholarly and industrial life of Chicago in ways that John Crerar would have given his hearty approval.

Crerar's other large bequest, a monumental statue of Abraham Lincoln, served also the dual purposes of grandly acknowledging an admiration for the great emancipator and for insuring ongoing recognition of the deeds of John Crerar. The expressive and melancholy beauty of this statue created by Augustus Saint Gaudens, the controversies surrounding its placement and upkeep and its refurbishment in 1986 by the Crerar Foundation have indeed kept John Crerar's name in Chicago's consciousness.

During his lifetime, Crerar's impetus to philanthropy was doubtless influenced by prevailing views of the proper way for men of means to use their wealth and also by such famous examples as John Jacob Astor and fellow Scotsman, Andrew Carnegie. But Crerar's giving was more closely inspired by his long-time Chicago business partner Morris Jesup who devoted much time and money to good causes—especially

of a scientific nature. Because of Jesup's support, Commander Peary said "the North Pole is a trophy of this country."

Kathleen D. McCarthy has characterized the role of philanthropy in Chicago during Crerar's mature years:

The model for the Christian gentleman was more than merely a self-serving justification for the stature of the very rich. When transferred to the newer, less stratified cities of the west, it became a means of socializing new leaders to the responsibilities of stewardship. Even in a city as brash and notoriously materialistic as Chicago, men attempted to conform to this role model . . . In assessing each others' achievements, wealthy Chicagoans continually stressed their gentlemanly qualities rather than material accomplishments. Erudition, bibliophilia, charity, cultural patronage, and refined but modest life-styles were the qualities most frequently singled out for commendation.

The obituaries for Crerar and the sermon preached at his memorial service in New York stress these points. Reverend D. Clin-

ton Locke offered: "I consider a life like his a greater sermon than the most eloquent preacher ever delivered." A poem in the *Chicago Daily Tribune* concluded "Heaven send us more men like John Crerar!"

Yet Crerar must certainly have been a real personality behind the noble persona. What was he like? Serious and high-minded are the impressions that predominate. Yet *A History of the Chicago Club* calls him "one of the most original characters we ever had in Chicago In appearance he was the typical British capitalist, with florid complexion, white side whiskers, a beak nose and shrewd but merry blue eyes twinkling under bushy white eyebrows Although he was a cautious investor and a man of unyielding prejudices, socially he was most genial and always ready with some joke or story." If only one joke or story were on record, we would know more about John Crerar!

Some contradictions emerge in the life of John Crerar. The historian of the Chicago Club notes that he was "generous to everyone but himself." One indication is that he never invested in personal real estate or owned a home, instead he lived at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Yet the Grand Hotel was most luxurious. It had promenade concerts every Friday night; it is reputed to be the first American hotel to make it a prac-

tice to put flowers on dinner tables. The dining room was ornate and the service fancy. Crerar's austere personal life was lived in a splendid setting.

John Crerar's bachelorhood is another matter of curiosity. Goodspeed notes that when Crerar was asked why he remained a bachelor he jested that it was because he loved all women. However, his religious values, his caring for children as seen in his generosity to orphans' homes and Sunday schools make it very unlikely that he was a superficial ladies' man, just unable to choose the right wife. His preoccupation with business was intense, but others found time to become millionaires as well as husbands and fathers. Crerar's own family life was not turbulent; from his correspondence he got along famously with William Boyd, his step-father. He was devoted to his mother, but her letters to him do not show an undue pre-occupation with her son.

His letters to her, written when he was in his early thirties reveal some prissy, spinster-like attitudes: "This idea of falling in love—marrying—and living on cold victuals, is not exactly according to my notion of propriety." In another letter he refers to someone "trammeling himself with a wife." Regarding a marriage he wrote: "I wish the couple every joy—but looking at the question in a purely philosophical point

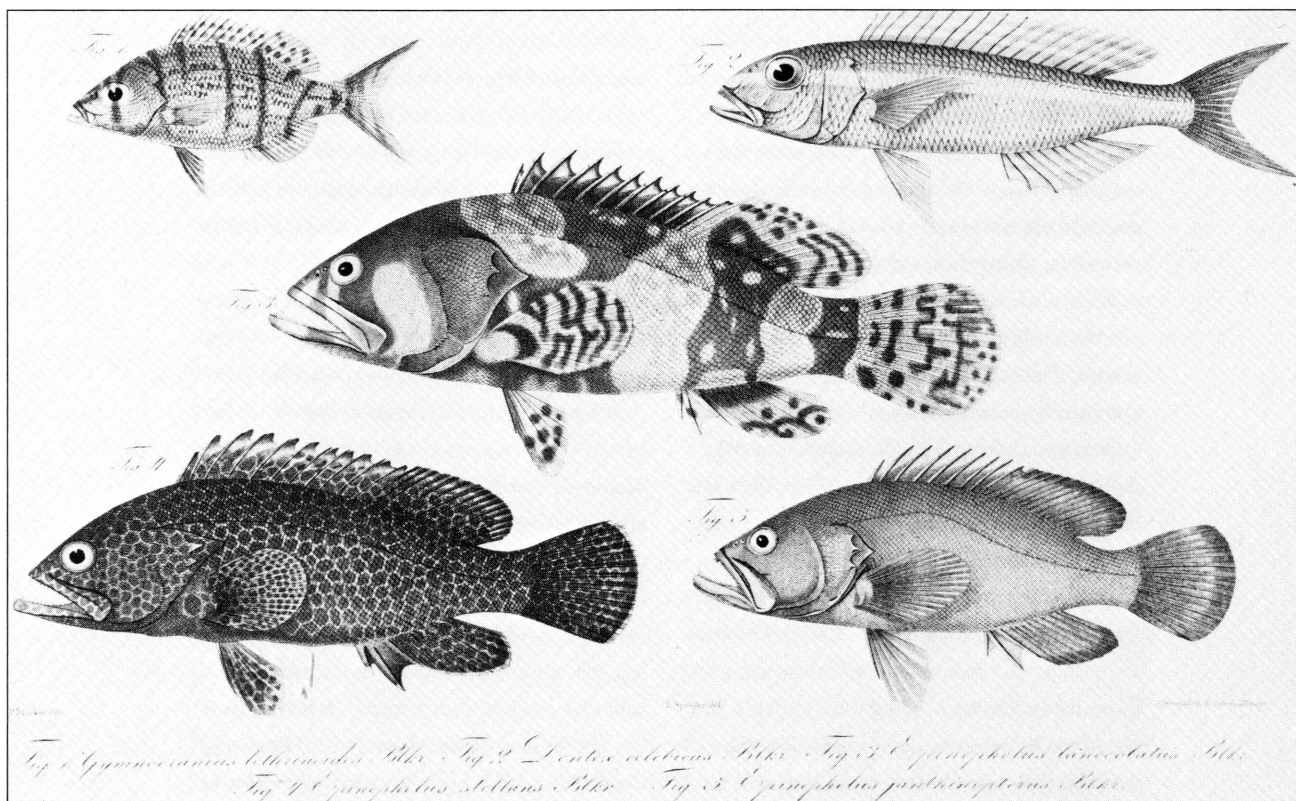
of view—I am opposed to such matches—where two people are supposed to be of consumptive tendencies, it is wrong for them to marry—their’s my sentiments.” Hardly a romantic view for a man just over thirty.

The early correspondence also reveals a fastidious, fretful, possibly hypochondriacal young man. The letters from Boston in the 1850s show a self-preoccupied person, sounding fussy beyond his years on the subjects of his work, health, and the weather. He called Boston, a “one horse town”, “a horrid, stupid place” and “hot enough to roast potatoes” where he was “rusting out from simple ennui.” In May, 1859 he wrote to his mother from Boston: “Here I am in this stupid place with nothing to do and all day trying to do it. This to a person of my nervous, mercurial temperament is rather trying.”

Coming to Chicago in 1862 he quickly hit his stride in business, in civic affairs. Commemorative statements recall him as a genial social companion. The few letters to his mother and step-father from Chicago

reveal a great interest in his new surroundings, that he was busy in his new work, but contain little detail that would shed light on his shrewdness in business. However some of his self-preoccupations must have persisted. Crerar continues to write about health problems—his stuffed nose, baldness, and his delicate bowels. Another writer described Crerar’s life at the Grand Pacific Hotel “where his regular habits were looked on as one of his harmless eccentricities.”

In his will John Crerar asked that “all my letters and correspondence may be gone over by my executors and destroyed . . . my private letters may be returned to the writers if they so desire, otherwise they are to be destroyed.” These letters are not part of the Crerar Archives. Were they saved? Where are they? Whom did John Crerar write to once he arrived in Chicago? Finding more letters would give more insights into the elusive man whose Library is now far more renowned than he is. Perhaps, however, that is exactly what John Crerar intended.



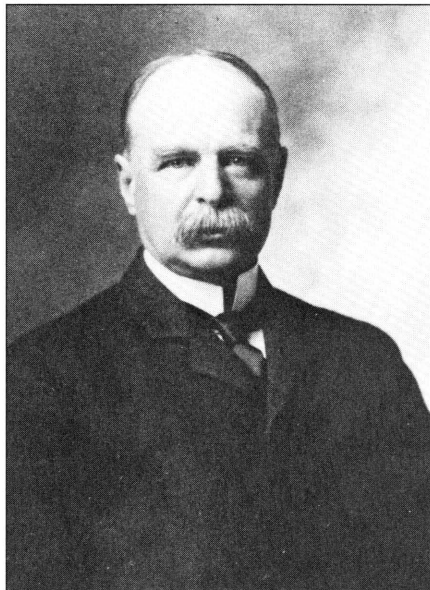
Pieter Bleeker, *Atlas Ichthyologique des
Indes Orientales Néerlandaises.*
Amsterdam, F. Muller. 1862-1878.
Tome VIII

NORMAN WILLIAMS 1835-1899

Norman Williams created the Crerar Library out of the vague, but high-minded legacy of his friend. Williams played as important a role as Crerar himself in making the Library a reality. Williams successfully defended Crerar's estate against litigation from distant relatives not mentioned in the will. His visionary thinking and statesmanlike guidance set the course for science and technology. His interest in libraries, however, extended beyond

Crerar. He served on the board of the Chicago Public Library and founded a library in his home town, Woodstock, Vermont, called the Norman Williams Library, in honor of his father.

A highly successful corporate attorney with the firm now known as Sidley & Austin, one historian called him "the most universally liked man in Chicago."





John Edward Gray, *Gleanings from
the Menagerie and Aviary at Knowsley
Hall. Hoofed Quadrupeds.*
Drawings by Waterhouse Hawkins.
Privately Printed, 1850.

THE FIRST LIBRARIAN

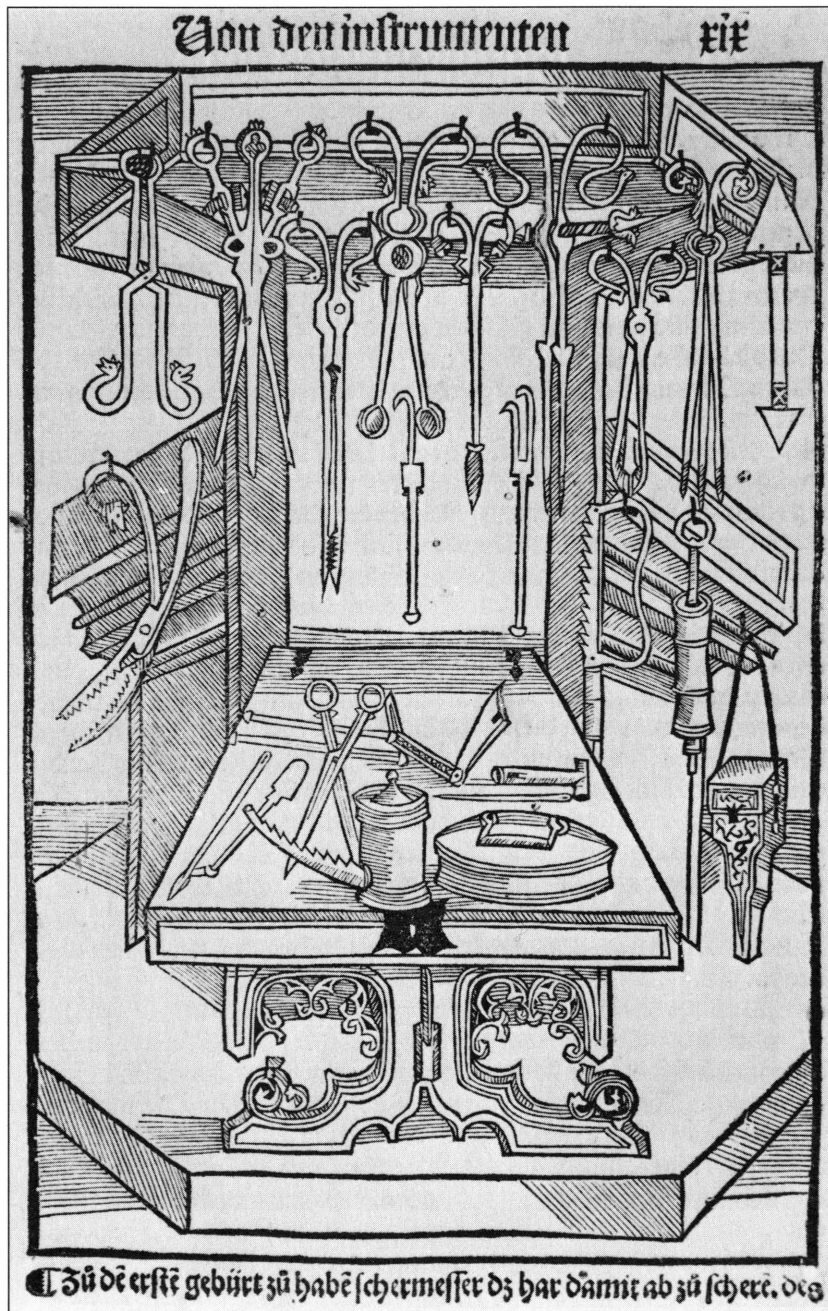
Clement Walker Andrews 1858-1930

Andrews, a scotsman like John Crerar, and a chemist from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was appointed in 1895 before there were any books or a place to put them. Andrews translated the Board's decision to become a science and technology library into a functioning organization. From his own knowledge he compiled long lists of important books and journals and

aggressively purchased them. Establishing subscriptions for current material and seeking older and rare titles from private collections, he built the collections in close consultation with an active group of board members—the Committee on Books. Crerar Library contained more than half a million volumes when Andrews retired in 1928.



Crerar Library Reading Room,
Marshall Field Building, 1897-1921.



Hieronymus Braunschweig

ca. 1450 - ca. 1512

Dis ist das buch der cirurgia:

Hantwirkung der wund artzney.

Augsburg: Johann Schönsperger, 1497

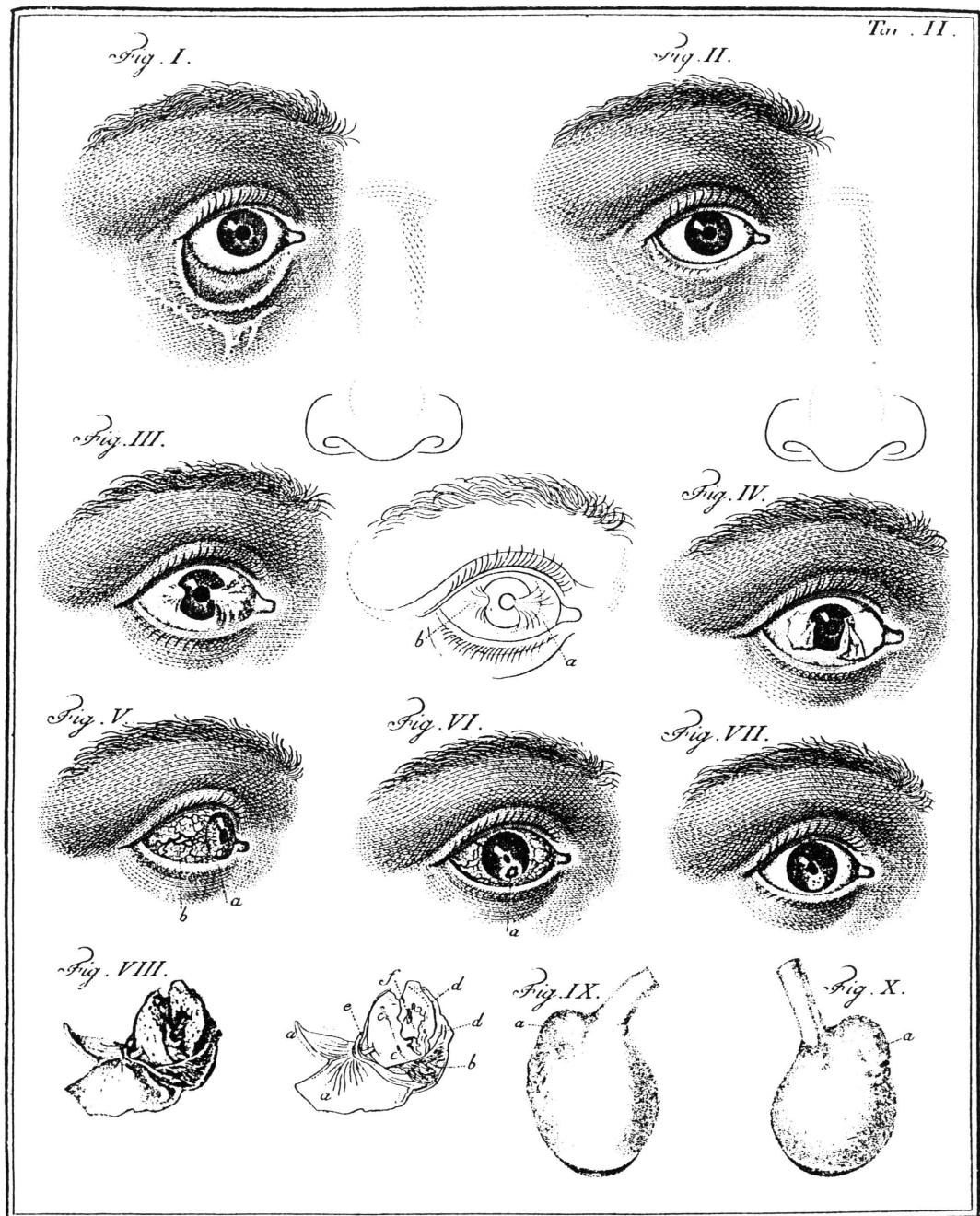
MEDICINE COMES TO THE LIBRARY

Now widely recognized for collections in both science and medicine, Crerar Library opened its doors with no medical books at all. The 1896 agreement between Crerar, Newberry, and the Chicago Public Library stated that the scope of Crerar would exclude medicine since Newberry already had a medical department—noting however, that this situation was “anomalous”.

Although the practice of medicine was flourishing in Chicago by the turn of the century, there was no large, accessible library of the latest medical literature. Small collections were scattered and many young physicians learned from the private libraries of their mentors. To improve this

situation, Crerar would assume responsibility for medical collecting. In 1906, after negotiations, Newberry Library sold and donated a total of 76,696 books and pamphlets to Crerar. A considerable part of the collection had been given to Newberry by Dr. Nicholas Senn, who “heartily endorsed” the transfer.

In subsequent years many prominent physicians, among them Ludwig Hektoen, William T. Belfield, Clifford G. Grulee, and James B. Herrick donated money, their book collections and manuscripts to the library, thus enabling it to become internationally known for research in current and historical medical topics.



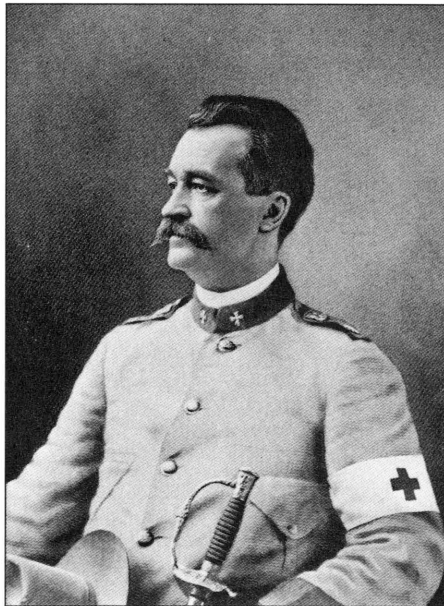
Antonio Scarpa, Saggio Osservazione d'Esperienze
sulle Principali Malatti degli Occhi. 1801.

NICHOLAS SENN 1844 - 1908

A great surgeon, Nicholas Senn was also a writer, educator and book collector. Upon becoming a professor at Rush Medical College in 1890, Senn was instrumental in upgrading its educational standards to the best in the city. His service in Cuba during the Spanish-American War as a military surgeon led to pioneering work in antiseptic surgery and a life-long interest in military medicine. Senn served as Surgeon General of Wisconsin and later as a Brigadier General in the National Guard of Illinois. A prolific writer of medical and travel books and articles, he also filled his house on Schiller street with more than 10,000

books from the fifteenth century to his own day. This collection, one of the largest private medical collections of its time, was given to Newberry Library in 1894 and later transferred to Crerar.

Senn's manuscripts, over 150 volumes, document a rich professional life. He was a prolific recorder of his medical cases, travels, observations on the practice of medicine and his new ideas for reducing infections associated with surgery. These handwritten papers are part of the Crerar Rare Book and Manuscript Collection of the University of Chicago.





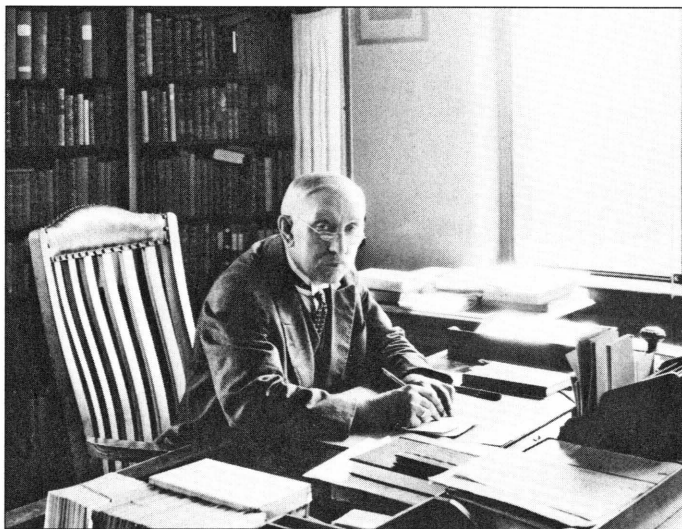
The grand building at Randolph
and Michigan, 1921-1962.
Holabird & Roche

THE BIBLIOPHILE'S KINGDOM

Jens Christian Bay and the Crerar Library

Botanist, bibliophile, bookman, and author, Crerar's second librarian continued building scholarly collections, yet enlarged the fame of the library by his own writings, lectures and consulting. His advice was widely sought by those establishing libraries or seeking books to buy. Bay wrote in both English and and Danish, publishing over 110 works include small Christmas books, bibliographies and histories. A proud Dane, Bay also devoted much time to promoting Danish culture. He was made a knight of the Royal Order of Dannebrog while on a visit to his native land in 1932.

Bay worked at the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Library of Congress before coming to Crerar as the medical reference librarian in 1905. Bay's work and writing earned him recognition, including honorary degrees from Northwestern University and Elmhurst College. He became librarian in 1928. Bay guided the Library through the difficult years of the depression and led Crerar to maturity as a traditional, scholarly library. When he retired reluctantly in 1947, the post-war information explosion was beginning and the scope of the library's purchasing was no longer sustainable.





Crerar Library at the Illinois Institute of
Technology, 1962-1984. Skidmore,
Owings, & Merrill

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

After World War II scientific and technical research changed and so did the Crerar Library. The pace of research and the quantity of scientific publication increased dramatically, heralding the information explosion which the founders and early librarians could not have imagined.

In the early 1940s the directors of the Crerar Library anticipated these dramatic changes, adopted a strategy of partnership with industry and, under the guidance of Herman H. Henkle, appointed librarian in 1947, established the Research Information Service. In the first year the Library offered customized research support to over 300 corporations and government agencies, including the Atomic Energy Commission through the compilation of descriptive and evaluative reports and searches of the rapidly-growing scientific literature. The Research Information Service was very likely the first fee-for-service arrangement housed in a research library. Now dozens of libraries operate fee-based information services. Many are modelled on the pioneering efforts of Herman H. Henkle.

The National Translations Center came to Crerar Library at Herman Henkle's instigation. Serving as a clearinghouse for unpublished scientific translations, this unique service remained at Crerar until 1989 when it became part of the Library of Congress.

William S. Budington succeeded Henkle and continued the efforts to make Crerar a scientific information center. When the National Library of Medicine established a nationwide network to enhance services to physicians, Budington assumed responsibility for the Midwest region. Crerar Library was one of the first libraries able to search MEDLINE, now the most widely available electronic database. One of the profession's highest honors was given to Budington when he was named Academic Librarian of the Year in 1982 by the American Library Association. He guided the Crerar Library to the merger with the University of Chicago, mindful of Crerar's great traditions, yet firm in the belief that the merger was the best option for the future.

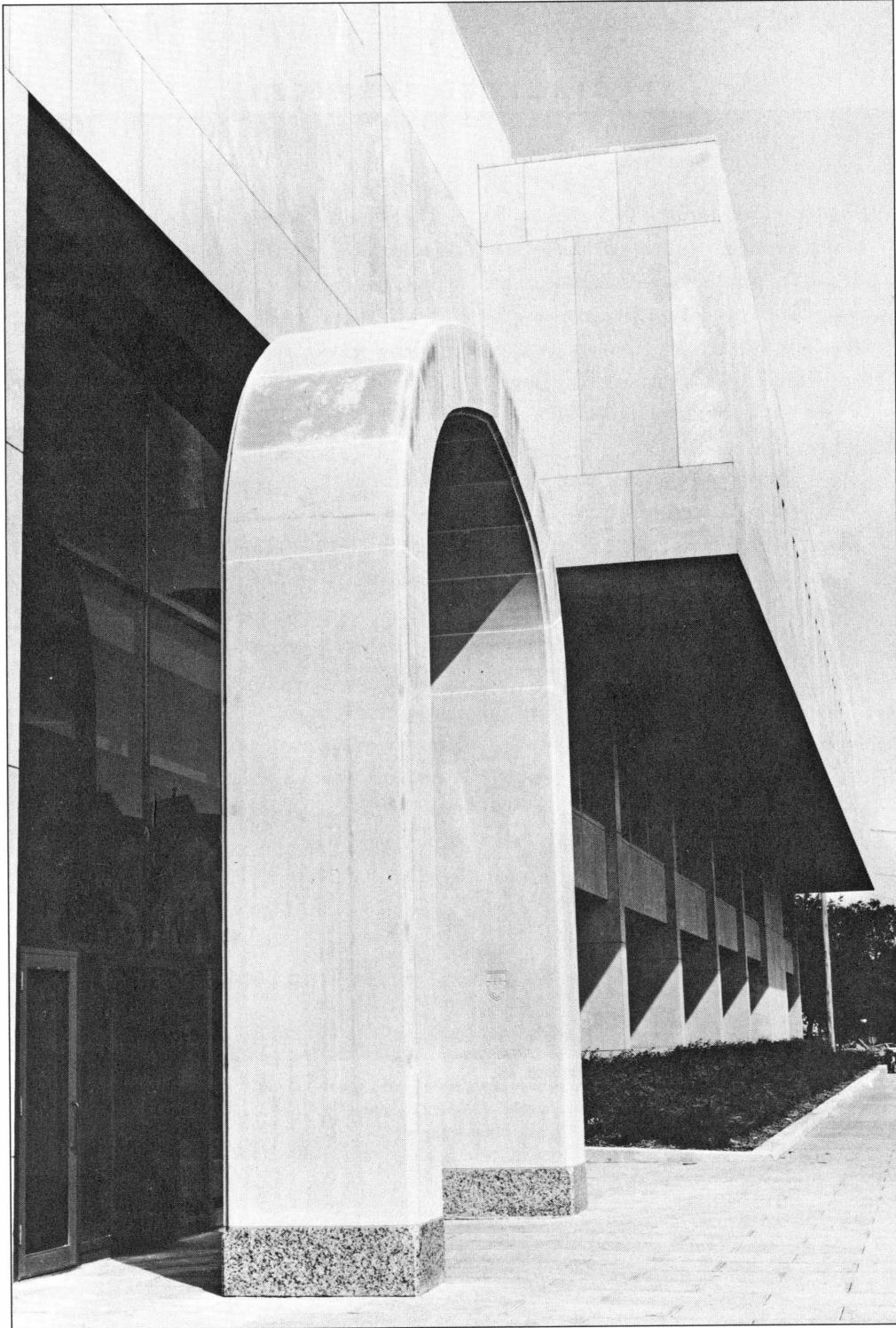


Photo by Jim Wright

The new building at the
University of Chicago, 1984.
The Stubbins Associates

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CONNECTIONS

The merger of the John Crerar Library with the University of Chicago was realized in 1984. However, there were many antecedents which suggest this merger was more an inevitable coming together than an abrupt change. With startling prescience, in 1894, an anonymous writer in *Dial*, a weekly magazine of essays, news and opinion, discussed the best location for the yet-to-be-built Crerar library “. . . the future as well as the present should be considered—a consideration which indicates the neighborhood of the University.” Ninety years later it arrived.

John Crerar's biographer, Thomas Goodspeed, was a University faculty member. Goodspeed wrote that Crerar withdrew as a trustee of the “first” University of Chicago because he was distrustful of its prospects. The public movement to form the present University was inaugurated only a few months before Crerar's death, but the plans for it would have been presented to him. Goodspeed is confident that Crerar, had he lived, would have given them “sympathetic consideration”.

One of Crerar's legacies did, in fact, come to the University of Chicago. In 1902 when the Manual Training School became part of the University High School, the Crerar bequest of \$50,000 was included in that merger. The funds were used for scholarships and fellowships. Many “Lab School” students benefitted from these scholarships over the years.

In the early 1980s, University of Chicago faculty encouraged the merger. Many had realized the benefits of Crerar Library for decades. Indeed, one professor influenced its beginnings. George E. Hale, an eminent astronomer, wrote Norman Williams in 1895, “to urge the claims of science.” Hale went on, “Those of us who have devoted ourselves to research in science have sadly felt the lack of a large collection of scientific books in Chicago. A collection of scientific books would have double value; it would appeal to the scholar . . . It would also be of the highest service to the manufacturer, the skilled mechanic—in fact to all those whose work is directly or in-directly connected with the application of science to the

arts.” Nearly one hundred years later, the Crerar Library of the University of Chicago is fulfilling exactly these functions.

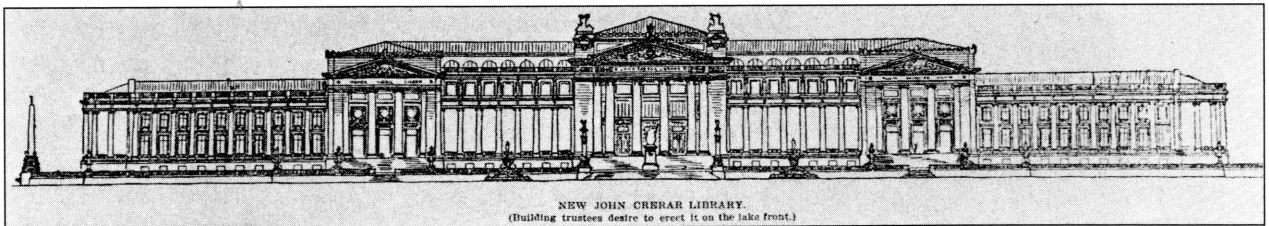
In 1905, President Harper got approval from University trustees to enter into a guaranty for “an amount not exceeding \$200” to permit members of the University to take books from the Crerar Library. This would have been a special arrangement because the collections were non-circulating.

After World War I and World War II, both libraries joined together in special efforts to seek scholarly material from a Europe whose regular booktrade had been severely disrupted. In 1928, the older portion of the Crerar map collection was transferred to the University library, “compensation to

be fixed at a sum between \$250 and \$500.”

In the early 1950’s when Crerar Library redefined its scope and eliminated social sciences, some political and legal material—including a large set of nineteenth century British parliamentary papers—came to the University of Chicago.

For many years the University of Chicago and Crerar Library exchanged dignitaries for ceremonial events. In 1910 Clement Andrews, the first Crerar librarian, spoke when the cornerstone of Harper Library was laid. In an otherwise tedious talk, Andrews anticipated the future by calling attention to the “community of interest which should exist between university and public libraries, as being both engaged in the diffusion of knowledge.” When the Crerar Library at Randolph and Michigan



Interrupted Plans

In 1901 the directors planned to build this library in Grant Park, north of the Art Institute. They designed a monumental building in the classical style, to be 300 feet in length, to hold one million volumes and to accommodate 600 readers. Montgomery Ward, known as the “watchdog of the lakefront”, blocked the plans and the building was not constructed. The plans of the past are uncannily reflected in the new library on the campus of the University of Chicago. Although in a different style, it is 300 feet in length, holds slightly over one million volumes and accommodates 680 readers.

was dedicated in 1921, Shailer Mathews, Dean of the University's Divinity School heralded the event. In 1969 when the Crerar Library celebrated its 75th anniversary, Dean Don R. Swanson of the Graduate Library School gave the keynote address.

Thus by 1980, to the trustees and librarians of both institutions, a merger must have seemed a permanent recognition of existing

ties. Their decisive action, made manifest in a new building, created a library that "would greatly enlarge the ability of both institutions to serve those who endeavor to advance knowledge and make it available in the meeting of human needs and the realization of human aspirations."

This merger assured that John Crerar's great gift would endure.

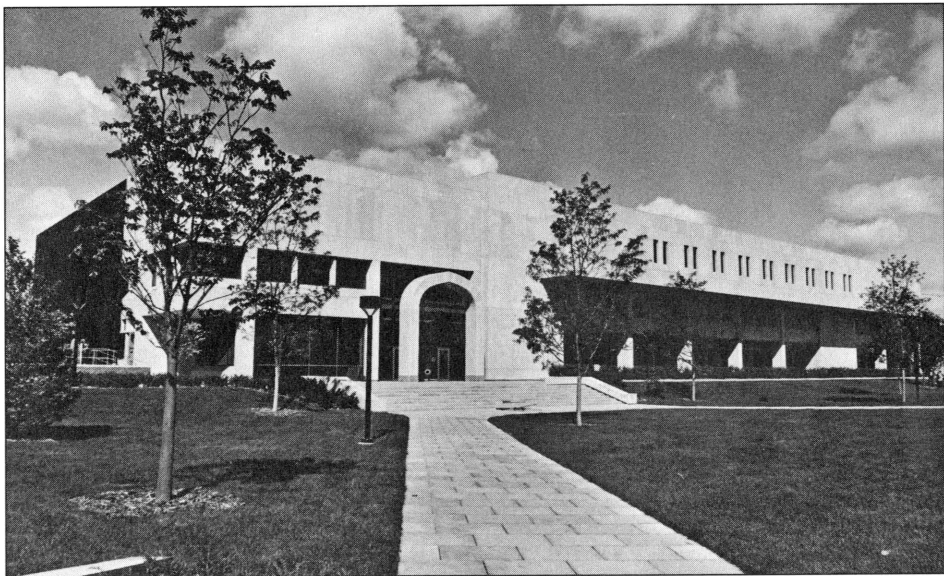


Photo by Jim Wright

John Crerar Library, The University of Chicago



*Flora Danica Icones plantarum sponte
nascentium in regnis Daniae et Norvegiae . . .
Copenhagen: Nicolaus Möller,
1766-1883 Volume II, Plate CLXXXV*



Photog. A. Fourdenc, Cluses

F. Gault, Encreux Paris

Nancy. Rue Stanislas. Détails des panneaux des grilles de la place.

Das .xliii. Capitel des andern Tractatz

Das .xliii. Capitel des andern tractatz wirt sagen
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