



## Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Carnegie Corp.  
Spring 1934

I have the very great pleasure of appearing before you as the President of the American Library Association and an ambassador of the Executive Board. I am directed by special resolution to express to you in person our deep appreciation of your generous gift of an endowment fund of two million dollars recently completed. You have placed this splendid gift in our hands without conditions and with an implied trust in the administration of the American Library Association that the funds will be used to secure the best possible results in education through library service.

This is also a unique opportunity to express our gratitude for the long time interest of the Corporation in library development, and for numerous other grants for library purposes made through many years. <sup>4</sup>I hold in my hand a statement of additional funds given to the American Library Association in the past ten years amounting to \$835,000.00 for projects carried on by the Association including adult education activities, the American Library at Paris, library extension, a complete library survey, regional field work in the South, library schools, and a series of text-books for curriculums, and numerous other library activities carried on through the Association. Other grants for library purposes since October, 1932 have reached a total of \$10,850,000, including grants for the upbuilding of college libraries, for library extension and demonstration experiments, for publications and research, for education for librarianship, and the recent endowment of the American Library Association. The grants made during the existence of the Corporation since 1911 have totaled \$24,000,000.00 for library purposes, about one-half of which was for library buildings. It is an impressive figure; if we add to that the gifts made by Mr. Carnegie himself it reaches the magnificent total of about \$54,000,000.00. Surely the library movement has been fostered and promoted and owes its present advanced development to the foresight and interest of Mr. Carnegie and the Corporation which he founded.



The total amount of gifts makes an impressive figure. Equally impressive has been the growth of the library movement resulting from these liberal grants. Librarians are idealists by virtue of their task. They deal with the thoughts of men communicated through books. They deal with every type and quality of human beings. They see many possibilities of education and of inspiration which might be accomplished through the institution they serve. They have been hampered by lack of equipment, by lack of a trained personnel, by lack of proper research tools. Your gifts, especially during the past ten years, have enabled many visions to be realized. Your grants to library schools, your awards of scholarships and fellowships, your establishment of a Graduate Library School, have raised the professional standards. Your grants to college libraries have enriched the college curriculums. Your generous donations have made possible many surveys, experiments in new units of service and various demonstrations of library work reaching from Louisiana to British Columbia. Many valuable publications, reading courses, text-books, and research projects have been made possible through the aid of this Corporation. There is one publication issued by the Corporation itself which has had more influence upon librarians than this Board may realize. I refer to Dr. Learned's "The American Public Library and the Diffusion of Knowledge." This far sighted, almost prophetic view of the library field has been and still is a stimulating and inspiring book to all of us. We would like to record our indebtedness to Dr. Learned and this Board for this remarkable book.

There have been other results besides those purchasable with money. The Library Association itself has been stimulated to a new responsibility and a new national viewpoint. It has analyzed its own strength and weakness and has come into a new belief in itself. In the days before us, a new leisure may be coming. This leisure may offer either a great danger or a great promise. If it is to be used constructively and creatively a deep



responsibility rests upon the great social agencies. Your recent generous endowment of the American Library Association in the amount of two million dollars will be used as a trust reposed in us with as much wisdom and judgment as possible. We are even now preparing a clean cut program for the future, in the interest of higher professional standards, nation-wide service, and the building up of cultural, social, and spiritual values.

It has been a rare pleasure to me to be the messenger of our Association and in their united name to offer our appreciative thanks.