

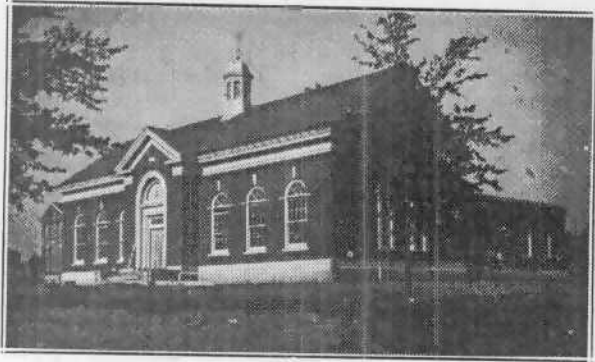


Calvinia

DEAR CALVIN FRIENDS:

This week marks the dedication of the Hekman Memorial Library. As far as Calvinia is concerned, this week will, therefore, constitute a library number.

Herewith is shown a photographic reproduction of the building, taken by Prof. J. Nieuworp, the secretary of the Library Committee. We thank the Grand Rapids Herald for the courtesy of permitting us to use the plate. According to the decision of the Committee, the secretary of this Committee, and the undersigned, as pres-



The New Hekman Memorial Library

dent of this Committee, were to have charge of the publicity work in connection with the dedication exercises.

This article is written mainly for those unable to attend the dedication, for it will appear after this event, although written before.

The architectural style of the building is Colonial in design, red brick, with stone and terra cotta trim. The architects are Robinson & Campau. The surrounding grounds will also be completely landscaped. The architecture is in harmony with that of the main building, which is of very pleasing design, and with the surrounding high class residence section. The building can be enlarged without destroying in any way the design. There are bookstacks on three floors, the main floor, the basement and a second floor. Two seminary rooms have been provided, as well as a workroom for rebinding books. The interior walls are a beautiful picture in plain and ornamental plaster. The floor is of a textile composition, a quiet, sound-absorbent floor—just the thing for a reading room.

In this connection we might mention that this beautiful structure will be in charge of Miss Johanna Timmer, A.M., the present librarian.

The Library is a memorial erected in memory of the late Mr. E. Hekman by the members of his family.

The Building Committee was constituted of the following persons: Mr. Gilbert Daane, President; Mr. Nicholas Brander, Mr. John Hekman, Mr. Benjamin Hertel, an architect; Mr. John Van den Berg, The advisory members of the Committee were Prof. L. Berkhof of the Seminary, President J. Broene of Calvin College, and Prof. R. Stob, the former librarian. As members of the Christian Reformed Church, we all certainly appreciate the many labors of these men in connection with the Library.

The dedication program was as follows: Dedication of Hekman Memorial Library March 8, at 8 o'clock
President J. Broene Presiding

1. Music.
2. Invocation, by the President of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Y. P. De Jong.
3. Presentation of the Keys by the President of the Building Committee, Mr. Gilbert Daane, to the President of Curatorium.
4. Address: "The Library and Higher Education," by Mr. S. H. Ranck of the

5. Grand Rapids Public Library.
6. Music.
7. Address: "The Significance of Our Library," by Prof. L. Berkhof of the Theological School.
8. Music.
9. Announcement and closing prayer by Prof. C. Bouma, rector of Seminary for the current year.

As far as the books are concerned, our Library also has a history. In the old William Street School there was in the southeast corner a separate small room for books, including mostly old Reformed writings.

In the beautiful building at the corner of Madison and Franklin, the library room was at the northeast corner of the main floor. With it are associate many reminiscences of a large number of our alumni and alumnae.

The library on the present campus was housed in two rooms in the basement of the main building. But their capacity is

too small, and the new building will certainly be appreciated.

Various bequests and gifts have been made to the Library. The Ministers Hulst and Meinders and Greve gave their libraries to the School. Many other ministers and professors have donated some books, including, recently, our eighty-eight-year-old nestor, Rev. Noordewier. From Dr. G. Vos of Princeton Seminary important old Reformed writings were secured. The Hekman brothers gave \$1,000 for certain departments of the Seminary Library. Mr. Soodsma of Prairie View, Kans., remembered the Library with \$1,000 for books, the use of which is appreciated as the Soodsma Fund, and Mrs. Van den Berge left land in Minnesota to the Library.

The Library is of great importance to the School. An important way to combat the influence of evil, shoddy or pernicious books is to furnish many useful and good books on many subjects. Next to the classroom, the Library is, perhaps, the most significant moulding agency of a seminary and a college. It deserves much care in the quest for standard works in every department.

Libraries are almost as old as civilization. The oldest known library of the world is probably that excavated at Nippur, Babylon, by the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. It contained thousands of Assyrian and Sumerian tablets. Half of them are at Philadelphia and half at Constantinople.

It is possible to show a fanatical attitude toward a library. When the Mohammedans came to Alexandria, in Egypt, their chieftain ordered them to burn the library of priceless books there, for, said he, what is good in those books is in the Koran also, and what is not in the Koran, is no good.

Books annihilate time and space. They enable you to go back thousands of years; they enable you to travel thousands of miles, and see, as it were, the very treasures of the earth before your eyes. Libraries and museums are visited by scholars from all parts of the world. Science needs up-to-date books.

It takes years to acquire the treasures hidden in books. An ancient Egyptian prince wanted to acquire learning quickly, as he could acquire other things rapidly, but he was told that there was no royal road to geometry.

For the sake of the students who are not desirous of any royal road to knowledge, but who are willing to pay the price

in long years of arduous toil the best is none too good. May they select their reading well, and be moulded into useful citizens of the Kingdom of God and of the nations of the world.

In higher education the library becomes increasingly important as one advances. Graduate work, into which we are just beginning to blossom out, is sometimes carried out almost exclusively in libraries.

May our students, as Christian leaders, in every walk of life try to view all knowledge in the light of God's Word, for "in thy light we see the light." May all our future leaders study to show themselves approved unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing and rightly applying the Word of truth.

Yours fraternally,
M. J. WYNGAARDEN

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CLASSIS HACKENSACK

The regular semi-annual meeting of Classis Hackensack will take place, D.V. on Tuesday, April 17, 1928, at Englewood, N. J. Classis convenes at 1 p.m.

All matters for the agenda are to be sent to the Stated Clerk before March 20. The consistories are requested to mention the name of an elder as a possible delegate to Synod. J. BEEBE, S. C. 23

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