

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

An activity at the seat of government of each of the states of the Union, whose first function is the care of what are called historical materials, has become common thought. States, as Iowa, with a well established historical department at the seat of government, constantly respond to the other states which have like activities and wish interchange, and to states without such activities who must rely for historical aid and comfort on their more prudent neighbors and the nation.

A tendency in Iowa to delegate to the Historical Department additional responsibilities has led to one or more acts of each general assembly enlarging and expanding the institution. As in other phases of civic evolution our Code Commission is bringing up to date and into one bill that which, if it becomes law, will reveal more completely the statute foundation of our work.

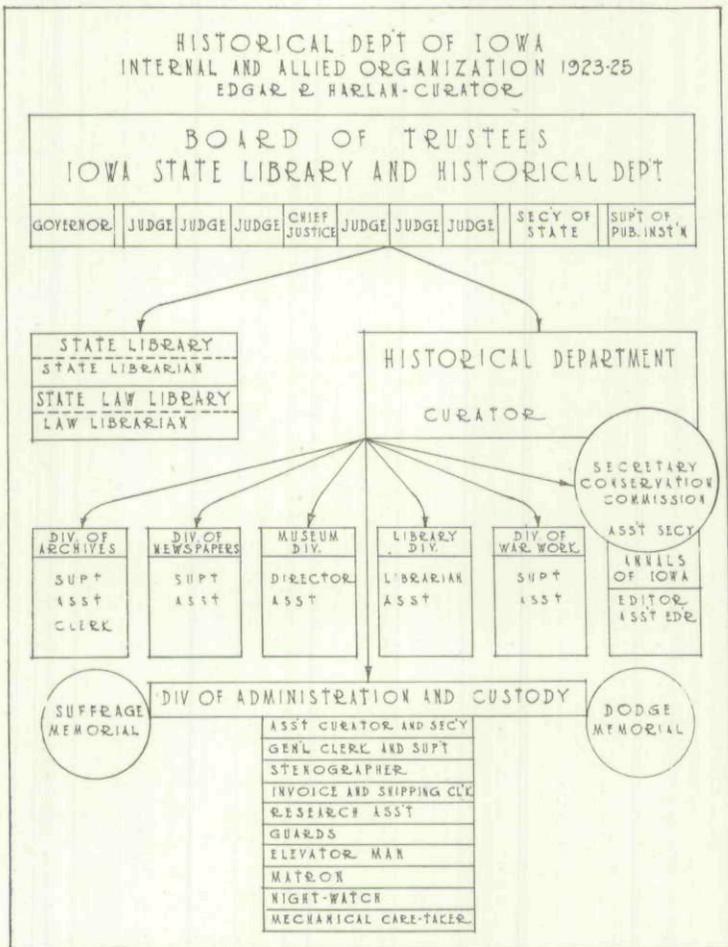
For the more ready apprehension of the relations of the Iowa State Library and the Historical Department of Iowa work and their superiors and workers, a graphic illustration accompanies this article. For a clearer understanding of the statutory relations of the Historical Department of Iowa, the code revision bill prepared for the use of the Fortieth General Assembly is here appended:

A BILL FOR

An act to amend, revise, and codify sections two thousand seven hundred twenty-eight (2728) to two thousand seven hundred thirty-nine (2739), inclusive, two thousand seven hundred forty-six (2746), two thousand seven hundred forty-seven (2747), two thousand seven hundred forty-nine (2749) to two thousand seven hundred fifty-three (2753), inclusive, two thousand seven hundred fifty-six (2756) to two thousand seven hundred sixty-four (2764), inclusive, two thousand

seven hundred sixty-seven (2767), and two thousand seven hundred sixty-eight (2768) of the compiled code of Iowa, and section two thousand seven hundred forty-eight (2748) of the supplement to said code, relating to education.

That sections two thousand seven hundred twenty-eight (2728) to two thousand seven hundred thirty-eight (2738), two thousand seven hundred forty-six (2746), two thousand seven hundred forty-nine (2749), and two thousand seven hundred sixty-three (2763) of the compiled code of Iowa, and section two thousand seven hundred forty-eight (2748) of



Graphic Illustration of Internal and Allied Organization of the Historical Department of Iowa, 1922-1923.

the supplement to said code are amended, revised, and codified to read as follows:

Section 1. STATE LIBRARY.

The state library shall consist of a law section, a legislative reference section, a medical section, and a general section.

Sec. 2. HISTORICAL, MEMORIAL, AND ART DEPARTMENT.

The historical, memorial, and art department shall consist of the historical and art collections, materials gathered for historical research, the museum and the public archives.

Sec. 3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The state library and the historical, memorial, and art department shall be under the control of a board of trustees consisting of the governor, who shall be president of the board, the judges of the supreme court, the secretary of state, and the superintendent of public instruction.

Sec. 4. POWERS OF BOARD—RULES.

The board may make and enforce rules not in conflict with law for keeping the records and for the management and care of the property of the state library and the historical, memorial, and art department. It shall designate some officer, assistant, or employee to act as its secretary.

Sec. 5. POWERS OF BOARD—SPACE IN HISTORICAL BUILDING.

The board shall have control of the historical building and may assign space therein to be occupied by the historical, memorial, and art department and each of the several sections of the state library, except the law and legislative reference sections.

Sec. 6. LIBRARIANS—CURATOR—TERMS—VACANCIES—REMOVAL.

The board shall appoint a state librarian, a law librarian, and a curator, whose regular terms of office shall be for six (6) years, and may remove any of them by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote, and fill all vacancies by a majority vote of the board.

Sec. 7. DUTIES OF STATE LIBRARIAN.

The state librarian shall:

1. *Charge of library.* Have general charge of the general and medical sections of the library, both of which shall always be available for free use by the public under proper rules.

2. *When library open.* Give his personal attention to the sections of the library under his charge, and keep them open every day except Sundays and legal holidays, during such hours as the board may direct.

3. *Catalogue—publication.* Label and catalogue the books of said sections, and prepare and publish such catalogues as the board may direct.

4. *Medical librarian.* Appoint an expert librarian trained in medicine and surgery and in the languages in which medical and surgical literature is most commonly written and published.

5. *Report to governor.* Report to the governor biennially, giving the history of said sections of the library for the preceding two (2) years.

6. *Report of books taken out by members of legislature.* Report to the governor, five (5) days before the adjournment of each session of the general assembly, the number of books taken out of the library by the members thereof, giving the names of all members that have any books at the date of such report, with the title and number of such book.

7. *Report to board.* Report to the board semiannually, or oftener if required, all matters pertaining to the condition of the library.

8. *Other duties.* Perform such other duties as may be imposed upon him by law or prescribed by the rules of the board.

Sec. 8. LOCATION OF MEDICAL SECTION—NO DISCRIMINATION.

The medical section shall be separately catalogued and shelved in suitable rooms in connection with the general section. No preference shall be given to any school of medicine, but all shall be treated alike; and books, periodicals, and pamphlets shall be secured for any and every legally recognized school without discrimination.

Sec. 9. LOCATION OF LAW SECTION.

The law section shall be maintained in the capitol or elsewhere in rooms convenient to the supreme court.

Sec. 10. DUTIES OF LAW LIBRARIAN.

The law librarian shall have charge of the law and legislative reference sections of the state library, under the direction of the board, and shall have the same powers and duties in reference thereto that the state librarian has with reference to the general and medical sections of the library.

Sec. 11. TAKING OUT BOOKS.

Members of the general assembly and of congress, judges of the supreme, federal, district, superior, and municipal courts, state officers, and attorneys in attendance upon the supreme court, shall be permitted, under proper restrictions, penalties, and forfeitures, and upon executing a receipt therefor, to take from the state library any books to be used in connection with their official business at the seat of government, save those which the trustees may determine ought not to be removed.

Sec. 12. LOANING OF BOOKS.

The state librarian with the approval of the board may loan from the general section to the Iowa library commission for reloaning to the libraries of the state, such books and pamphlets as in his judgment may be so loaned without impairing the usefulness of the general section.

Sec. 13. LIABILITY FOR LOST BOOKS.

Any person injuring, defacing, destroying, or losing a book shall pay to the librarian twice the value thereof; if it be one of a series, he shall be liable to pay the value of such series, and the librarian shall collect the same by suit if necessary, unless, within a reasonable time to be fixed by him, such person shall replace the book so injured or lost.

Sec. 14. FINES.

All fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed by the rules of the board for any violation of the same may be recovered in an action in the name of the state and applied to the use of the library, under the direction of the board.

That sections two thousand seven hundred thirty-nine (2739), two thousand seven hundred forty-seven (2747), two thousand seven hundred fifty (2750) to two thousand seven hundred fifty-three (2753), inclusive, two thousand seven hundred fifty-six (2756) to two thousand seven hundred sixty-two (2762), inclusive, two thousand seven hundred sixty-four (2764), two thousand seven hundred sixty-seven (2767) and two thousand seven hundred sixty-eight (2768) of the compiled code of Iowa are amended, revised and codified to read as follows:

Sec. 15. DUTIES OF CURATOR.

The curator shall:

1. *Custody of historical building.* Under the direction of the board be custodian of the historical building and collections therein, and shall keep the rooms assigned to the department and the collections open for inspection by the public during such hours of each day as the board may direct, but the curator shall cause the same to be kept open on Sunday afternoons during the sessions of the general assembly.

2. *Custody, display, and publication of material belonging to department.* Under the direction of the board, collect, preserve, organize, arrange, and classify works of art, books, maps, charts, public documents, manuscripts, newspapers, and other objects and materials illustrative of the natural and political history of the territory and state and of the central west, and of the traditions and history of the Indian tribes and prior occupants of the region, and publish such matter and display such material as may be of value and interest to the public.

3. *Collection of memorials and mementoes.* With the approval of the board, collect memorials and mementoes of the pioneers of Iowa and the soldiers of all our wars, including portraits, specimens of arms, clothing, army letters, commissions of officers, and other military papers and documents.

4. *Ethnology and archaeology.* Receive and arrange in cases, objects illustrative of the ethnology and prehistoric archaeology of this and surrounding states.

5. *Inventory of property of department.* As soon as practicable, prepare a classified index and inventory of all the property belonging to the department or in its custody, and determine through the aid of experts the money value thereof, so far as practicable, and when done a summary of the same shall be included in his biennial report, and thereafter such reports shall set forth all additions thereto with their money value, if any, and give a list of items lost or dropped from the collections. His report shall also contain a separate statement of materials obtained by gift and by purchase during each biennium.

6. *Subscription for newspapers.* Subscribe for and preserve files of at least two (2) newspapers of each county in the state containing the official publications, and cause the same to be bound at the end of each four-year period.

7. *Custodian of works of art.* Except as otherwise specifically provided, be custodian of and care for and preserve the monuments, memorials, and works of art on the grounds and in the buildings at the seat of government, and report from time to time to the proper officer or board the condition and his recommendations in respect thereto.

8. *Report to governor.* Report to the governor biennially all collections made and the progress and condition of the department under his charge, and such other matters as he may deem of value in maintaining and building up the department.

9. *Report to board.* Report to the board semiannually or oftener as required, all matters pertaining to the condition of the department.

10. *Other duties.* Perform such other duties as may be imposed upon him by law or prescribed by the rules of the board.

Sec. 16. CURATOR AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT GIFTS.

The curator is hereby authorized and empowered, as trustee for the state, to accept gifts of property, real, personal, or mixed, for the benefit or endowment of the historical, memorial, and art department, or for the commemoration of the lives of worthy citizens, or for the purpose of perpetuating records of historic events, or for scientific purposes. Any gift accepted shall be immediately reported to the board of trustees; but any gift imposing unusual monetary obligations on the department shall be approved by the board before acceptance.

Sec. 17. INVESTMENTS—RULES.

The curator and the board of trustees shall have authority and power to invest, in accordance with the provisions of the trust, any such gifts or endowments, and establish and enforce rules for the purpose of governing and maintaining such endowments or memorials, as may be created, or established under and pursuant to the preceding section.

Sec. 18. CUSTODIAN OF ARCHIVES—ARCHIVES DEFINED.

He shall be the trustee and custodian of the archives of Iowa, and of such county, and municipal archives as are voluntarily deposited. The term "archives" shall mean those manuscripts and materials originating under or passing through the hands of public officials in the regular course and performance of their duties, over ten (10) years old, and not in current use; but the executive council shall have power and authority to order the transfer of such archives or any part thereof at any time prior to the expiration of the ten (10) years, or cause them to be retained in the respective offices beyond such limit if in its judgment the public interests or convenience shall require it.

Sec. 19. RECORDS DELIVERED.

The several state, executive, and administrative departments, officers or offices, councils, boards, bureaus, and commissioners, are hereby au-

thorized and directed to transfer and deliver to the historical, memorial, and art department such of the public archives as are designated in the preceding section, except such as in the judgment of the executive council should be retained longer in the respective offices, and the curator is authorized to receive the same.

Sec. 20. REMOVAL OF ORIGINAL.

After any public archives have been received into the division of public archives by the curator, they shall not be removed from his custody without his consent, except in obedience to a subpoena of a court of record or a written order of the officer from whose office they were received.

Sec. 21. CERTIFIED COPIES—FEES.

Upon request of any person, the curator shall make a certified copy of any document contained in said archives, and when such copy is properly authenticated by him it shall have the same legal effect as though certified by the officer from whose office it was obtained or by the secretary of state. Said curator shall charge and collect for such copies the fees allowed by law to the secretary of state for such certified copies, and all such fees shall be turned into the state treasury.

Sec. 22. BONDS.

Bonds of the state librarian, the law librarian, and the curator shall be approved by the board.

Sec. 23. APPROPRIATIONS.

There is hereby appropriated annually from any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the use of the state library, and the historical, memorial, and art department, as follows:

1. Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for the purchase of books and periodicals and for other uses deemed necessary to the upbuilding of the medical section, and for the purchase and transmission of material and information to the physicians and surgeons of the state.
2. Six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) for the use of the law section and the legislative reference bureau.
3. Six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) for the use of the general section.
4. Six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) for the use of the historical, memorial, and art department.

THE FIRST OF IOWA CONSERVATIONISTS

Theodore S. Parvin made a name in early Iowa that stands out in every view the founders took for better things. He served in a score of public and fraternal offices, but at whatever job his service was never petty. His vision was clearer than that of any other public official of his time, and his visions often were registered in documents prepared in whole or in part by him,

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