

One Hundred Years Ago

(From the National Gazette of May 5, 1832)

WE regard the Philadelphia Library as an institution of great importance for the community. It is already so rich in books fitted to improve and amuse all the best descriptions of readers and inquirers that the main consideration now is not the increase of the stock, but how so extensive and available a collection may be turned to the best account. For this object the first means is evidently to render it accessible to the public during the greater part of the day. At present it is open in the afternoon only and closed at sunset, an arrangement which, in the winter, embraces but a few hours. We refer all who are concerned in the matter to an ingenious and pleasant article in Dennie's Portfolio of July 10th, 1802, thirty years ago, which concludes:

"It has been darkly hinted that pecuniary considerations affect the liberality of the establishment and that an early passage to the library is obstructed by the figures of arithmetic. But this we look on as a downright calumny. The very genius and characteristic of literature is liberality. Let not the avenue of science be blockaded by the pence table. Let not learning be locked up for lack of a golden key. But let all who have the exalted privilege of standing around the well spring of literary refreshment exclaim in a munificent spirit, generous accents and the eloquent phrase of a Jewish classic—'Ho, every one that thirstest, come ye to the waters.'"

One Hundred Years

From the National Gazette of April 27
 The Library Company of Philadelphia
 Philadelphia has now had a successful
 centenary of 100 years, the first meeting
 having been in 1731. It is an admir-
 able foundation on which to raise a
 superstructure to rival any of the lit-
 erary institutions of America. This
 it has long continued to do. The books
 and funds, accumulated with an ex-
 tremely limited income, are creditable
 to the city in which it is located, and
 the institution is justly the pride of
 Philadelphia. The annual payment of
 two dollars is now acknowledged, how-
 ever, to be inadequate to keep pace
 with the increase of the productions
 of the press, or to accommodate the
 wants of the members. One copy of
 a popular work is insufficient for 830
 persons. Supposing each member to
 retain a work in universal request
 only two weeks, the time allowed for
 an octavo or two duodecimo volumes,
 it would require at least 31 years be-
 fore the 830th could procure it from
 the Library. To obviate this difficulty
 a plan is proposed and the stockhold-
 ers will meet on Saturday, the 28th
 inst., for the purpose of voting an in-
 crease in the annual payments of the
 members to four dollars.

This Library is the only one of any
 great magnitude in Philadelphia in
 which ladies are admitted to all the
 privileges. Is there a father, a hus-
 band or a brother in the community
 who values the happiness and the
 home enjoyment of his female rela-
 tives who would not gladly co-operate
 in a plan which should increase their
 mental resources? Is there a single
 public library, except this, to which
 ladies have access, and are not those
 who are deprived by the want of a
 share in it compelled to resort to the
 expensive method of purchasing what
 they require, or to the unfurnished,
 I will not say trashy, contents of cir-
 culating libraries.

The press never was so prolific, and
 the demands of the age and the im-
 provements in printing are rendering
 it every day more necessary for a
 Library to have funds at command.
 It is not too much to anticipate that
 when these arrangements are com-
 pleted the Library will have 2,000
 members, for it is well known that
 the utter impossibility of getting new
 books has deterred numbers from pur-
 chasing shares. In a wealthy city
 like Philadelphia, with an increasing
 population of intelligent and educated
 inhabitants, such a result may be con-
 fidently anticipated.

MOTHER NATURE

Mother Nature made her bed,
 Smoothed the snow-sheets over;
 Then blankets soft and green she spread
 Of woven grass and clover.

A dozen colors next she took
 And pieced a quilt again;
 Her thread was sun and running brook,
 Her needles were the rain.

CATHERINE CATE COBLENTZ

Bulletin
 4/27/32

centimeters 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4

inches 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4

Colors by Munsell Color Services Lab

16(M)	17	18(B)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
49.25	38.62	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.46	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87
0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	24.43	60.80	13.06	-36.91	30.01	81.29	50.88	-27.17
0.75	0.98	1.24	1.67	2.04	2.42		55.93	68.80	48.49	30.77				-29.46

D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer

Density

Golden Thread

Don Williams

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inches 4 3 2 1

Don Williams
Colors by Munsell Color Services Lab

16(M)	17	18(B)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
38.62	38.62	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.46	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87
49.25	49.25	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.46	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87
0.01	0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	68.80	-48.49	30.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-23.46
0.75	0.98	1.24	1.67	2.04	2.42									

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