

FOREWORD

Many additions to the Library of the Society have been made since the publication of its last Catalogue six and one half years ago. The Library now contains 7480 volumes. Of volumes listed in our last Catalogue, 75, which were of no mathematical interest, have been withdrawn and presented to Columbia University, which had been in the past always so generous in unostentatiously enriching the Library by presentations from among its duplicates, valuable in mathematical content.

As in the past there are two main sections of the Catalogue, the contents of Section I being chiefly determined by the similar contents of the great *Union List of Serials* (New York, 1927) and its *Supplement* (1930-31). The arrangement of our Section I is practically that in the *Union List*, except for some amplifying notes, and lists: periodicals, the parts of the completed volumes of the *Encyklopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften*, and publications which might possibly be regarded as serial in their nature like those of the U. S. government, of societies, of academies, of universities, and of technical schools. Section II contains the titles of other books and pamphlets in the Library. But especially in the matter of reprints this classification has not been rigorously followed. For example, many American doctoral dissertations are listed in the alphabetical arrangement of this Section rather than as publications of the American Mathematical Society, in whose *Transactions* they were published. Except in the case of biographical notices, and in the collective listing of authors of well known series of mathematical works, no subject catalogue has been attempted in Section II. From various points of view a Dictionary Catalogue of the Library with many subject headings would be valuable, but the cost of such a publication at the present time would be prohibitive.

In so far as possible any but obvious abbreviations have been avoided in this Catalogue. For doctoral dissertations the names of both the institution conferring the degree, and the place of publication are given. When these names are the same, such as a dissertation of the University of Leipzig published in Leipzig, "Diss., Leipzig" has been regarded as sufficient indication of the facts. Parallels (||) signify that the series or publication closed with the preceding volume or date. The abbreviations v for volume, s for series, n for new as in new series and no for number are used freely.

Whatever merit the Catalogue may have from the point of view of accuracy, in accordance with the plan decided upon, is due to the meticulous checking of Miss Ethel McKechnie of Brown University, and work done under the direction of Doctor Caroline E. Seely of New York. Doctor Seely has long been active as an assistant to the Librarian, and the Library owes much to her watchful care.

For some time it has been a dream of a few members of the Society that its Library and that of Professor David Eugene Smith might be brought together. It seems at present that within the next five years this dream is likely to be realized at Columbia University, in commodious quarters with attractive facilities for research workers. It is hoped that money may then become available for developing these libraries in perpetuity, and for carrying out other projects which may notably serve mathematicians not only in this country, but throughout the world.

In such new quarters the great Catalogue of the late Professor W. E. Story (in 156 drawers and 35 boxes of cards) will first become readily available. The Catalogue has been recently acquired by the Society through the generosity of Clark University and the initiative of Professor Frank B. Williams. Another notable gift to the Library during the past year was a complete set of Cayley's *Collected Mathematical Papers* from Professor E. B. Van Vleck. It may be remarked in conclusion that gifts of things mathematical, whether already in the library or not, will be always most welcome at the Library's headquarters. Such gifts might be reprints, for the care of which provision is later to be made, or mathematical books of all kinds. The Library would also welcome the gift of mathematical instruments, especially such as are of historic interest.

R. C. ARCHIBALD

Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island
October 1931.