

America's First Public Library

*The Provincial Library At Charles-Town
In Carolina 1698*



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY
1600 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina

1970

SOUTH CAROLINA'S TRICENTENNIAL AND LIBRARY HISTORY

South Carolina has reason for pride in the fact that the first publicly supported library in the nation was established in Charles Town in 1698. This library owed its organization to the zeal and enthusiasm of the Reverend Dr. Thomas Bray, an Episcopal clergyman of that period. In 1700, the General Assembly of South Carolina confirmed the establishment of a library by official act, but even before that date the General Assembly had appropriated funds for the purchase of books for the new "Publick Library." Recorded in the *Journals of the Commons House of Assembly of South Carolina* during the two sessions in 1698 are several references to the public library, among them the appropriation of fifty-three pounds to be paid in London for "Bookes Belonging to ye Library of Charles Towne in Carolina."

In November, 1698, Jonathan Amory was ordered to "lay out in Drest Skinns to ye fallue of Seaventy Pounds Currant Money . . . for ye paymenty of fifty three Pounds . . . Due (on) a Publick Library" and to spend the surplus for such books for the "Publick Library" that were not already mentioned in the library catalogue. In an essay of Dr. Thomas Bray's supporting the plan for the establishment of libraries in the colonies, he says, "Standing libraries will signifie little in the Country, where Persons must ride some miles to look into a Book; such Journeys being too expensive of Time and Money, but *Lending Libraries*, which come home to 'em without Charge, may tolerably well supply the Vacancies in their own Studies . . ."

Prophetically, Dr. Bray set the pattern for development of South Carolina's present public library program. Today, bookmobiles have replaced the saddle bags which in the early days carried books into remote areas of the State. These bookmobiles are but one part of the general public library program which is making books and educational materials available to all the people in the State. This public library system is coordinated by the South Carolina State Library whose many services supplement the resources and services of the local public library.

Two documents are of particular pertinence to library history in South Carolina and these are herein reprinted.

THE
L A W S
 OF THE
P R O V I N C E
 OF
S O U T H - C A R O L I N A,

In Two Parts.

The *First Part* containing all the PERPETUAL ACTS
 In Force and Use.

With the TITLES of such ACTS as are Repealed, Expired or Obsolete,
 Placed in the Order of Time in which they passed.

The *Second Part* containing all the TEMPORARY ACTS
 In Force and Use.

To which is added the TITLES of all the PRIVATE ACTS,
 And the Two CHARTERS granted by King CHARLES II. to the
 LORDS PROPRIETORS of CAROLINA.

And also the
ACT of PARLIAMENT
 For Establishing an Agreement with Seven of the said Lords Proprietors for the
 Surrender of their Title and Interest to His Majesty.

Collected in Two Volumes.

By NICHOLAS TROTT, LL. D.

Charles-Town, Printed by LEWIS TIMOTHY, MDCCXXXVI.

[77]

A C T S

Passed by the

General Assembly

O F

S O U T H - C A R O L I N A,

*An ACT for Securing the Provincial Library
 at Charles-Town in Carolina.*

Numb. 171.

WHEREAS at the Promotion of the Reverend Dr. *Thomas Bray*, and the Encouragement and Bounty of the Right Honourable the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of this Province, and the aforesaid Dr. *Bray* and the Inhabitants of this Province, a Library hath been sent over to *Charles-Town* for the Use of this Province, and it is justly feared, that the Books belonging to the same will quickly be embezzeled, damaged or lost, excepting a Law be pass for the effectual Preservation of the same, **Be it therefore Enacted** by his Excellency *John Eail of Bath*, Palatine, and the rest of the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of this Province, by and with the Advice and Consent of the rest of the Members of the General Assembly, now met at *Charles-Town* for the South-west Part of this Province, and by the Authority of the same, That the Provincial Library of *Carolina* shall be, continue and remain in the Hands, Custody and Possession, and Safe-keeping of the Incumbent or Minister of the *Church of England* in *Charles-Town*, in this Province, for the Time being, which said Incumbent is, and shall be hereby bound and obliged to keep and preserve the several and respective Books therein from Waste, Damage, Embezzelment and all other Destruction (Fire and all other unavoidable Accidents only excepted) and is and shall be hereby accountable for the same, and every Book thereof, to the Commissioners hereafter nominated: And to that End and Purpose the Incumbent of *Charles-Town*, and his Successors, shall pass

Preamble.

Enacted.

V

LIBRARY.

Numb. 171.

pass two Receipts for the Books belonging to the Library aforesaid, one to the Commissioners hereafter named, and the other to the Church-Wardens of *Charles-Town* for the Time being, in which Receipts the Titles of each Book shall be inserted; and in Case all or any of the Books is or shall be found to be wasted, endamaged or embezzled, or any otherwise destroyed, except as before excepted, the respective Incumbent, his Executors or Administrators are and shall be hereby bound and obliged to answer double the Value of the same; and the said Commissioners are hereby impowered to sue for the same in any Court of Record in this Province, by Bill, Plaint or Information, or other Action, whereia no Essoign, Protection, Injunction or Wager of Law shall be allowed, and what thereby shall be recovered, reasonable Charge and Expences deducted, to employ and dispose towards the compleating and perfecting the aforesaid Library, so wasted, endamaged, embezzled or otherwise destroyed, within the Space of Twelve Months after such Recovery.

II. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case of the Death or Removal of the Incumbent of *Charles-Town* in this Province, that then the respective Church-Wardens of *Charles-Town* shall immediately take into their respective Hands, Custody, Possession and Safe-keeping, all the Books belonging to the said Library, and shall be answerable for the same to the Commissioners hereafter nominated.

III. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Church-Wardens of *Charles-Town*, upon their receiving of the Books belonging to the said Provincial Library into their Custody, shall compare the same with the Catalogue and Receipt for the same in their Custody; and if any of the Books are wanting or damaged, they shall give an Account thereof in Twenty Days Time at farthest, to the Commissioners hereafter mentioned, who are hereby impowered to sue the said Incumbent, or, in case of his Death, his Executors or Administrators for the same, as aforesaid: And in case the said Church-Wardens refuse to give such Account, then they, their Executors and Administrators are hereby made accountable to the Commissioners hereafter named, for all the Books belonging to the said Library, and contained in the Catalogue thereof.

IV. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Inhabitants of this Province shall have Liberty to ^(a) borrow any Book out of the said Provincial Library, giving a Receipt for the same to the Incumbent of *Charles-Town* for the time being, with a Promise to return the said Book or Books; if a *Folio*, in four months time; if a *Quarto*, in two months time; if an *Octavo*, or under, in one Month, upon Penalty of paying three times the full Value of the said Book or Books so borrowed, in case of failure of returning, or damnifying the same. And the said Incumbent is hereby obliged to enter such Receipt in a Book, to be fairly kept for that purpose, and upon the same being returned, shall note it returned on the other Side

OR

(a) Altered; and the Keeper of the Library to refuse the Loan of a book to any person that he suspects will not take care of the book, and return it again. See Num. 315 & 25.

In case of the death or removal of the Incumbent, the Church-Wardens to take Charge of the Books.

Who are to compare the same with the Catalogue.

The Inhabitants of this Province to have liberty to borrow any book out of the Provincial Library, giving receipt for the same.

LIBRARY.

Numb. 171.

or Column of the said Book, and not cross or blot the same. And in case the persons that borrow any Book or Books out of the said Library, doth refuse to return the same, or doth damnify the said Book, upon complaint thereof given by the said Incumbent, his Executors or Administrators, to two or more of the Commissioners, and by them, or any five of them, to the Chief Justice of this Province for the time being, or any two Justices of the Peace, it shall be lawful, and the said Chief Justice, or any two Justices of the Peace, are hereby impowered and required by Warrant of Distress directed to any of the Constables of this Province, to levy three Times the Value of such Book or Books on the Goods and Chattels of the Person so refusing to deliver, or damnifying the same; and for want of such Distress, to commit the Persons to Prison, till Satisfaction be made to the Incumbent.

V. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners hereafter named shall make, or cause to be made, seven Catalogues of all and singular the Books in the said Library, and the same being fairly written, one of which shall be sent to *England* to the Right Honourable the Lords Proprietors of this Province; one to the Right Reverend Father in God the Lord Bishop of *London*; one to the aforesaid Reverend Dr. *Bray*; one to be entered on Record in the Secretary's Office of this Province; one to be in the Custody and for the Use of the Commissioners hereafter named, under which the Incumbent shall sign a Receipt for the respective Books; one to be in the Custody of the Church-Wardens of *Charles-Town*, for the Time being, under which the Incumbent shall also sign a Receipt for the respective Books; and one to be fairly entered in a Book for that Purpose to be kept by the Incumbent in the said Library, that so any Person may know what Books are contained in the said Library.

VI. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners hereafter named, after making an exact Catalogue of all and singular the respective Books in the said Library, shall, and are hereby impowered, to appraise and rate each Book, at a Price certain in the current Money of this Province; which Appraisement shall be an established Rule to judge and determine the Value of the said Books, in case any Suit is brought by the said Commissioners against any Person that shall detain or damnify any of the said Books, or against the Incumbent of *Charles-Town*, or his Executors or Administrators.

VII. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners hereafter named, or any five of them, shall every Year on the ^(b) Fifth Day of *November*, resort to the House built for the Incumbent of *Charles-Town*, where the said Library shall be kept, and there examine the Books thereof by the Catalogue, and see that there be the full Number, and that they are not damnified nor spoiled. And therefore, the Incumbent is hereby required, in Lending of any of the several Books out of the said Library, notwithstanding the Time usually allowed by this Act, to oblige the said Persons to return all such Books as they borrow, to the said Incumbent,

ten

In case of refusal to return the Books or damnifying the same, to pay treble the Value.

The Commissioners to make Catalogues.

The Commissioners impowered to appraise the Books.

And to visit the Library every Year on the fifth day of *November*, and to examine the Books by the Catalogue.

(b) Altered, & the 3d Wednesday in *March* & *Heber* appointed and any other time the Commissioners think fitting. See No. 315, & 25. The Penalties on the Commissioners neglecting to meet & see Num. 315 & 25.

LIBRARY.

Numb. 171.

ten Days before the said (c) Fifth Day of November, That so all and singular the Books belonging to the Library aforesaid, may be exposed to the View of the said Commissioners, the better to enable them to judge if they are any way damnified or spoiled, and to give their Order accordingly.

The Names of the Commissioners.

VIII. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That James Moore Esq; now Governour of Carolina, Joseph Morton, Nicholas Trott, Ralph Izard Esqrs; Capt. Job Howes, Capt. Thomas Smith, Mr. Robert Stevens, Mr. Joseph Croskeys, and Mr. Robert Fenwick, or any five of them, be and are hereby nominated to be Commissioners and Trustees, for the due Inspection and preservation of the Library aforesaid, and all and singular the respective Books to the same belonging: And they, or any five of them, shall have power to commence or bring any Suit or Action given by this Act. AND in case by (d) Death or Absence there be not five of the said Commissioners in this Province, that the Governour for the time being shall nominate such person or persons as shall make the Number of the Commissioners Five, which shall have all the power given the said Commissioners in this Act, and shall so continue till the next Meeting of the General Assembly of this Province, who shall then choose so many Persons as shall make up the full Number of Nine; which Persons so chosen, by an Ordinance of a General Assembly, shall and are hereby declared to be the Commissioners and Trustees required by this Act; and they, or any five of them, to have and execute all and singular the Powers given the Commissioners above named by this Act.

In case of death or absence the Governour to nominate so many as will make the Number of Five, who are to continue to the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Any Books wanting the Commissioners are impowered to summons the persons that have the Books to deliver the same in 20 days after notice.

All the books to be returned on or before the first day of January next.

IX. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners above named, after having examined the respective Books belonging to the Library aforesaid, if they find any Books wanting, shall summons such Persons as have the said Books in their Custody, to deliver the same in Twenty Days after such Notice in Writing left with the Persons, or their Places of Abode: And in case any Persons shall fail, or refuse to deliver the said respective Books to the said Commissioners, or any five of them; that upon Complaint being made by the said Commissioners, or any five of them, to the Chief Justice of this Province for the Time being, or any two Justices of the Peace, against such Persons refusing to deliver the said Books, that the said Chief Justice, or any two Justices of the Peace, are hereby authorized, impowered and required, by Warrant of Distress, directed to any of the Constables of this Province, to levy to the treble Value of such respective Book or Books, on the Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons so refusing the same, and to make Sale of the same, rendring the Overplus to the Owner; and for want of such Distress, to commit the Persons to Prison till Satisfaction be made.

X. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Persons that have borrowed, or have in their Custody any of the Books belonging to the Provincial Library aforesaid, shall, on or before the first Day of January next, return the same to the present Incumbent

(c) Altered, to return the same ten Days before the 3d Wednesday in March & October. See Num. 315, § 24.

(d) Altered, & the remaining Commissioners impowered to nominate others to supply their places. See Num. 315, § 22.

Wharff of Charles-Town.

Numb. 171.

Incumbent of Charles-Town, upon the Penalty of the Forfeiture of treble the Value of each Book not returned as aforesaid, the better to enable the Commissioners before named to make a perfect Catalogue of the Books belonging to the Library aforesaid.

Read three Times, and Ratified in open Assembly, } November 16. 1700. James Moore, (L.S.) John Wieb, (L.S.) Edm. Bellinger, (L.S.) Robert Gibbes, (L.S.) Henry Noble. (L.S.)

See Numb. 375, 359.

An Act to make Sullivan's Island more Remarkable to Mariners. Ratified November 16, 1700.

172.

WHEREAS the Look-out built on Sullivan's Island was blown down in a Storm, Enacted, The Woods be cut down and cleared, only some remarkable Trees left standing on the said Island.

II. Contained the Names of the Commissioners that were impowered to hire Work-men, and to draw upon the Publick Receiver to defray the Charges thereof.

Obsolete, and a new Look-out built. See No. 303. Par. III. Relating to the High-ways, Repealed. See No. 458, § 29.

See Numb. 225, 359.

An ACT to prevent the Seas further Encroachment upon the Wharff of Charles-Town.

173.

WHEREAS the Seas in a few Years last past by frequent Storms hath undermined and broken down more of the Bank bounding upon Cooper-River before Charles-Town, than is now standing, and will probably in a few Years (if timely Care be not taken) break down and carry away all the remaining Wharff, with the Houses next thereon standing; For the Prevention thereof, Be it Enacted by his Excellency John Earl of Bath, Palatine, and the rest of the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of this Province, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Rest of the Members of the General Assembly, now met at Charles-Town for the South-west Part of this Province, And it is Enacted by the Authority of the same, That every Person or Persons which hold, by what Title soever, any Lot or Lots, or Part of any Lot or Lots which joyn next immediately to that Part of the Northernmost End of the Fort, to the Northernmost Part of Col. Robert Daniel's Northernmost Lot butting upon Cooper-River, shall within Twenty-four Months next after the Ratification hercof, make, or cause to be made before so much of the Wharff as lies before all the Land he hath pointing to Cooper-River,

Preamble.

Enacted,

That all persons that hold Lots on the Bay of Charles-Town shall cause a Brick Wall to be built before their Land.

X

within

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE LIBRARY IN CHARLES TOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

THE lending library of colonial America owes most to the industry and example of an English clergyman, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Bray. Bray was born at Marton in Shropshire in 1656; after studying divinity at Oxford, he entered holy orders. He early attracted attention by his indefatigable zeal and great industry, and his interest in various reform movements. His energies led to his selection as a proper person to model the infant Church of England in the province of Maryland and establish it on a solid foundation. There had been a petition from that province for the assistance of a "superintendent, commissary, or suffragan"; so, in April, 1696, Thomas Bray was appointed commissary, or official representative of the Bishop of London who acted as diocesan of the Church in the American colonies.

Bray was not able to go promptly. As he was impressed by the fact that it was difficult to secure the best ministers for the colonial field, he began to direct his efforts towards remedying such difficulties as might stand in the way. He found that the clergymen were usually too poor to buy books; and across the sea, shut off from educational opportunities, they must needs deteriorate. He laid the results of his enquiries before the bishops; and declared that without a competent provision of reading matter, the ministers could not prove useful to the design of their mission, and that a library would be the best encouragement to studious and sober men to enter the service.

¹ Edgar Lee Pennington, "The Beginnings of the Library in Charles Town, South Carolina," *American Antiquarian Society. Proceedings* (Worcester, Mass., 1935) LXIV, 159-67, was reprinted through the courtesy of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass. For a list of book titles in the Provincial Library, see Pennington's article, pp. 167-87.

With the endorsement of the bishops, Bray began collecting funds for his libraries. By the middle of July, 1699, he had raised for his libraries the sum of £2483/15s.¹ This sum came from the following sources:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| I. Ladys | £124/5/6. |
| (Of this sum, the principal donor was Princess Anne of Denmark, for whom Annapolis was named. She gave £42.) | |
| II. Lords | £262/13/0. |
| (Lord Weymouth gave £200. The next largest donor in this group was Lord Digby, with a gift of £20.) | |
| III. Knights and Gentlemen | £478/8/0. |
| (Colonel Coddington with £140 and Sir Thomas Cookes with £100 were the most generous of this division.) | |
| III. Clergy | [£472/15/0]. |
| (The list of donors here was the largest, doubtless because Doctor Bray's appeal was appreciated by the cloth. The bishops contributed £266/2/6; the Bishop of Lichfield giving £122 and the Bishop of Sarum giving £50. The "Deans and Chapters and Colleges" gave £45; here the deans and chapters of both Durham and Windsor donating £20 each. The "Divines"—fifty-five contributors—gave £161/12/6 of the amount.) | |
| V. Lawyers and Physitians | £12/7/6. |
| (The donations under this head were small.) | |
| VI. Merchants & Tradesmen | £98/8/0. |
| (Here the largest single gift was £12.) | |
| VII. Societies and Companys | £413/11/0. |
| (Here we shall give the complete list: | |
| "The Religious Societies and of their procurement | £100/0/0. |
| "The Proprietors of Carolina | £30/0/0. |
| "The Colony of Carolina at present and in promise | £225/0/0. |
| "The Colony of Bermudas | £10/0/0. |
| "The Royal African Company | £32/0/0. |
| "The Town of White Haven | £16/11/0." |
| VIII. The Society for propagating Christian Knowledge | £621/7/0. |
| (Under this heading Lord Guilford is credited with £100; "Mr. Franck, by means his pastoral letter," with £175.) ² | |

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¹Dr. Bray's Accounts, Part I. (1695-1699), S. P. G. MSS., pp. 17, 60 (Photofilm in Library of Congress).

²*Ibid.*, pp. 1-17.

Doctor Bray began disbursing the money, without loss of time. His first book of Accounts, which records his expenditures in the most meticulous fashion, shows that by the time he sailed for his post in Maryland (1699), he had sent libraries to various colonies, as follows:

	Estimated Value.
Maryland	£808/08/6.
Virginia	£80/0/0.
New York	£169/1/0.
Pennsylvania	£66/16/0.
Bermuda	£99/19/6.
Carolina	£300/0/0.
Jamaica	£13/8/6.
Barbadoes	£5/10/0.
St. Christopher's	£22/1/0.
Antego	£110/0/0.
Mevis	£3/0/0.
Monserrat	£1/10/0.
Cape Corso Castle in Africa	£33/0/0.
East Indies (South Bengal)	£50/0/0.

The sum total of all libraries sent by Doctor Bray into the plantations at the making of his report was £1772/13/6.¹ Marking the covers of the books cost £102/19/0. An additional sum of £469/14/2 was expended on "practical books"—tracts, copies of the Bishop's pastoral letter, popular religious expositions; they were sent to the clergy to be distributed at their discretion among their parishioners. There were other items of expenditure, such as the cost of book-presses, of packing the books, of shipping them, as well as the necessary outlay in soliciting the funds. Doctor Bray's total disbursements at the time of leaving amounted to £2958/13/4. There was a balance due him of £474/18/4.²

Bray drew up and published elaborate rules and suggestions as to the best use to be made of the libraries, the proper care of the books, the regulations

¹Dr. Bray's accounts, Part I. (1695-1699), S. P. G. MSS., pp. 18-23. In the following pages, the other items of expenditure are listed, with the balance due on p. 60.

²*Ibid.*

concerning lending them and keeping account of their whereabouts. In his *Essay Towards Promoting all Necessary and Useful Knowledge, both Divine and Human*, printed in 1697, he outlined a preliminary classification of the books to be desired, and expanded his idea of a parochial library for the minister's use into a lending library. He declared that he hoped "to provide for both clergy and gentry at home and abroad, and to allow them to carry the books to their homes." Furthermore, he said: "Standing libraries will signify little in the Country, where Persons must ride some miles to look into a Book; such Journeys being too expensive of Time and Money, but *Lending Libraries*, which come home to 'em without Charge, may tolerably well supply the Vacancies in their own Studies, till such time as these *Lending* may be improv'd into Parochial Libraries."

In this *Essay*, Doctor Bray sought to interest the public in the furtherance of his ideas. He submitted proposals to the gentry and clergy for purchasing lending libraries in all the deaneries of England, and parochial libraries for the foreign plantations. One-third of the parochial clergy, he declared, were not able to purchase one-fourth of the books necessary for every pastor to peruse, notwithstanding the fact that great knowledge was expected of those men. After giving an estimate of the cost of a library, he outlined the method of purchase in considerable detail. Subscriptions, he advised, should be raised among the clergy and gentry; the clergy should subscribe in proportion to the value of their living, the gentry according to their generosity. Gratis books should be set apart for foreign parochial libraries.

The list of benefactors, which we have just outlined, shows how seriously his appeal was regarded.

* * *

It is with the Charles Town library that we are primarily concerned. The original shipment of books from Doctor Bray to South Carolina must have gone

forward early in 1698, for we find the following entry in the first book of Accounts, already cited, under the date March 28th, 1698:

"for paper to Cover y^e Bottoms and Sides of y^e Boxes and to lay between y^e Books belonging to y^e Library y^t was Sent wth Mr. Marshall to Carolina 0/2/0"

"for a Truss of fine Hay to fill y^e Corners of y^e Boxes up tite y^t y^e Books might not have Room to Shake 0/2/0"¹

This would imply that when the Reverend Samuel Marshall left to take charge of the church in Charles Town, the books were sent in his care. Mr. Marshall had been influenced to go to Carolina by Doctor Bray, who was desirous of getting clergymen of high character for the colonies;² and he is mentioned in the minutes of the Commons House of Assembly, September 20th, 1698, as having lately arrived.³ The same session, provision was made for his maintenance as clergyman out of the public treasury.⁴

Doctor Bray estimated the value of the books sent to Charles Town for a library at £300.⁵ The number of books was two hundred and twenty-five.⁶ In addition, he sent the usual lot of practical books, to be distributed by the minister—1500 copies of the Bishop's pastoral letter, "to be given one into every family," worth £4/10s.⁷ and 250 copies of the "Discourses on the Covenant of Grace," especially designed for those preparing for holy communion, and valued at £18/15s.⁸

We are fortunate in having a complete list of the books sent by Doctor Bray to Charles Town.⁹ The

¹Dr. Bray's Accounts, Part I. (1695-1699) S. P. G. MSS., p. 36.

²Life of Bray attributed to Rawlinson, in Maryland Historical Society Fund Publication No. 37, p. 18.

³Journals, Commons House of Assembly, S. C., 1698, p. 14.

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵Dr. Bray's Accounts, Part I. (1695-1699), S. P. G. MSS., p. 20 (Photofilm in Library of Congress).

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 27.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 29.

⁹Bibliothecae Provinciales Americanae, II., pp. 58-78 (Photofilm in Library of Congress).

great handsome folios, stamped for identification and bound in the finest leather, must have made an impressive gift. The few original Bray books, which have survived the ravages of time, fire, and heedless desecration, are priceless treasures to-day.

* * *

The South Carolina Assembly showed their gratitude for the library. On the 20th of September, 1698, at the very session at which provision was made for the new minister, Mr. Marshall, that body appropriated money for books. We find the following entries in the journal of that date:

"M^r Robert Stevens Reporting to This House that their Remaines Due to m^r Clavell of London Bookseller The Sume of fitty Three Pounds To be paid in London for Bookes Belonging to y^e Library of Charles Towne in Carolina,

"Resolved by This House that y^e s^d fifty Three Pounds be Paid/And y^t m^r John Buckley and m^r George Loggan Do Enquire The Easiest way of Paying the said Money and Report y^e Same to this House."¹

On the 8th of October, the Assembly:

"Ordered y^t Cap^t Job Howes and m^r Ralph Izard be a Committe to Joyne wth whome y^e upper House shall Appoynt, and that they Doe write Lett^{rs}/ to y^e Lord Bishopp of London and Doct^r Thomas Bray and give them the Thanks of this house for their Pious Care and Paines in Provideing and sending a minister of y^e Church of England and Laying a foundation for a Good & Publick Library, and y^t m^r Speaker Signe y^e above Lett^{rs} of Thanks in y^e behalfe of this House."²

November 19th, the House took definite action, looking to the payment of the £53 and the creation of a fund for the purchase of additional books.

"Ordered y^t m^r Jonathan Amory Receiver General Do lay out in Drest Skinns to y^e vallue of Seaventy Pounds Currant Money and y^e Same Shipp for London in Some Vessell bound thither, on acco^t and Risque of m^r Robert Clavill book seller in London for y^e paymenty of fifty three Pounds y^t is Due to y^e s^d Robert Clavell being part Payment of a Publick Library bought of him, And y^t the s^d Skinns be Consigned for sales to William Thornburgh Esq^r—And y^t he be Desired to Lay out

¹Journals, Commons House of Assembly, S. C., 1698, pp. 13-14.

²*Ibid.*, p. 28.

y^e over plus (if any) in Such Bookes as he Shall Thinke Proper for y^e Publick Library That are not allready Mentioned in the Catalogue of y^e s^d Library And y^t this ord^e be sent to y^e Upper House for their Concurrance And y^t M^r Speaker Signe y^e Same—/

“The above ord^r Assented to by this House.”¹

Ralph Izard, Esq., Mr. Robert Stevens, and Captain Job Howes were ordered a committee to write a letter to the Lords Proprietors, containing, among other things, the “Thankes of This House for y^r Generous P^rsent of Soe Considerable Part of our PublicLibrary.”²

In expressing their gratitude to Doctor Bray, November 25th, 1698, the Assembly declared:

“We can not but now think it our Duty, to make it our Endeavours to encourage Religion and Learning amongst us, according to the best of our Ability, seeing that your self (though a Stranger) have been so kind and generous, as to set the first example towards the promotion of so Good and Necessary a Work.”

* * *

With such data as we have in hand, it is apparent that the Library of Charles Town owed its inception to the Reverend Doctor Bray's philanthropic zeal. Unique among the American beneficiaries, however, the Lords Proprietors and the Assembly of the province contributed to the enterprise a sum equal to about five-sixths of the estimated cost of the library—that is, if the total subscription was paid. As we have seen, the Proprietors gave thirty pounds, and the “colony of Carolina at present and in promise” gave two hundred and twenty-five.

It is likely that the appropriation of £53 by the Assembly was a part payment of the pledge made by the province towards the library benefaction. The subject of the expenditure was brought up shortly after the arrival of the Reverend Mr. Marshall, whom Doctor Bray had selected for Charles Town and to whose care the library was entrusted; in fact, it was at the

¹Journals, Commons House of Assembly, S. C., 1698, p. 33.

²*Ibid.*, p. 36.

identical session at which provision was made for Mr. Marshall's maintenance. That the money was meant to apply to books sent by Doctor Bray seems probable, since the bookseller named in the resolution was Doctor Bray's own representative. Both the *Bibliotheca Parochialis* and the *Essay Towards Promoting all Necessary and Useful Knowledge*, two of the clergyman's most important works, were printed in London in 1697, by E. Holt “for Robert Clavel, at the Peacock in St. Paul's Church-Yard.”¹

Doctor Bray's interest in the Charles Town library did not terminate with the initial shipment. On October 25th, 1699, he noted in his account book:

“One Box with Books to Carolina . . . 0/3/6.”²

In 1701, he sent books valued at £3/12/6, to augment the library there.³

From the beginning, the inhabitants of the province felt their obligation to maintain the library. On the 16th of November, 1700, an act was ratified by the Assembly for securing the provincial library in Charles Town. It stated in its preamble:

“Whereas at the Promotion of the Reverend Dr. Thomas Bray, and the Encouragement and Bounty of the Right Honourable the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of this Province, and the aforesaid Dr. Bray, and the Inhabitants of this Province, a Library hath been sent over to Charles-Town, for the Use of this Province * * *.”⁴

Under this law, the library was placed in charge of the incumbent of the Church in Charles Town (at that time, the Reverend Edward Marston), who should be held accountable for the same. He was required to give a receipt for the books to the commissioners and the church-wardens, to answer double for the value of books damaged, embezzled, or destroyed. In case of his death, the church-wardens were required to take charge of the books. “The Inhabitants of this Province

¹Bray: *Bibliotheca Parochialis*, title-page; *Essay Towards Promoting all Necessary and Useful Knowledge*, title-page.

²Dr. Bray's Account Book (without title), p. 36 (Photofilm in Library of Congress).

³Dr. Bray's Accounts, Part II., S. P. G. MSS., p. 69 (Photofilm in Library of Congress).

⁴Trott's Laws (1725), p. 1. The entire act is printed in pp. 1-5.

shall have Liberty to (a) Borrow any Book out of the said Provincial Library, giving a Receipt for the same to the Incumbent of Charles Town * * * with a Promise to return the said Book or Books." Folios must be returned in four months' time; quartos or under could be kept on loan for one month. The commissioners were to make seven catalogues of all the books—one for the Lords Proprietors in England, one for the Bishop of London, one for Doctor Bray, one to be entered on record in the office of the Secretary of the province, one for the custody of the commissioners, one for the church-wardens of Charles Town, and one for the incumbent of the Church, to be kept in the library, "so any person may know what Books are contained in the said Library." The commissioners were empowered to appraise the value of the books, their appraisal to constitute the standard for levying fines. On the 5th of November each year, the commissioners were to visit the library and examine the books.

The act named the following commissioners: Governor James Moore, Joseph Morton, Nicholas Trott, Ralph Izard, Captain Job Howes, Captain Thomas Smith, Robert Stevens, Joseph Croskeys, and Robert Fenwick.

South Carolinians may take pride in the way in which their ancestors responded to what must have seemed to many an impractical, visionary scheme. In no other colony did Doctor Bray's efforts receive the same cordial acknowledgment—an acknowledgment which involved a substantial outlay of public funds to promote and foster the good work, and to assume its continuance as a provincial responsibility.

THE TITLES SENT TO CHARLES TOWN

A Register/of the Library/of Charles Town/Carolina.¹

A Register of the Books Sent tow^{ds} Laying the Foundaçon of a Provincial Library at Charles Town in Carolina.

¹Bibliothecae Provinciales Americanae . . . Vol II. By Thomas Bray, D. D., pp. 57-78. Photofilm enlargement in Library of Congress, from S. P. G. manuscript. The titles are identified in the appendix.