

1941

Questions ... and the Answers: Why Does Maine Need a New Library

University of Maine - Main

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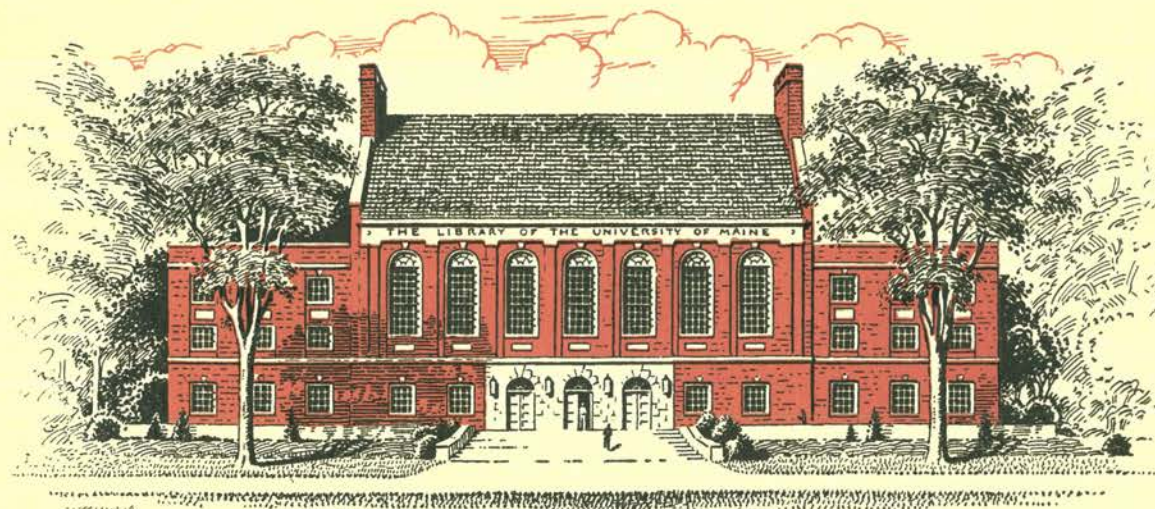
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Maine. University
"

QUESTIONS.....



..... and the **ANSWERS**

BANGOR
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
BANGOR, ME.

Why Does Maine Need a New Library?

FOR more than thirty years the present library has endeavoured to serve a University constantly growing in response to the educational demands of the state and the nation. New departments, new courses, a larger enrollment of students, and a significant trend toward more research, reference reading and outside study have brought a continually growing need for library service.

In 1906 when the present building was constructed, it served a student body of 576. Today it strives to serve over 2,000. The increased student enrollment and particularly a far wider use of the facilities of the library have in recent years rendered the available study space utterly insufficient. The study rooms are crowded far beyond convenience and capacity. Proper concentration is impossible. Such conditions are a hindrance to student efficiency and accomplishment. All colleges and departments of the University are affected.

When built in 1906, the library was designed to accommodate 60,000 volumes. Today, more than 130,000 books are crowded into the stacks and supplementary shelves of the building and stored inaccessibly in the basements of other buildings. These books, so much needed by the varied demands of the University today, have encroached more and more into spaces intended and needed as student study rooms. For the continued progress of the University, provision must be made for even more books, but no place is available for them in our library.

The present building is not fireproof. Over \$250,000 worth of books and rare items are in constant danger of destruction by fire, smoke or water.

The present building cannot be satisfactorily enlarged. Engineers and architects have agreed that fireproofing and needed additions to the structure would cost almost as much as a new building and would make no provisions for future needs.

Research facilities are entirely inadequate. Special exhibits and collections cannot be made available to the students or accepted as gifts because there is no room to house them. Indexing, repairing, cataloging, and other necessary services are handicapped by crowded conditions.

The progress of the University, in which every alumnus has real pride, has rendered the present library insufficient to maintain the high standards of the University. Already these overcrowded and inadequate conditions are a distinct threat to the high academic rating of the University. Continued progress can come only through the construction of a new, adequate, and efficient building. The Maine students of today and of the future who seek the opportunities the University should offer will find these opportunities open to them only if the alumni and friends of the University are able to provide an immediate solution for this grave problem.

Why Are Alumni Being Asked to Participate?

THE problem of a new library, critical though it is, is not the only problem faced by the University today.

Two modern dormitories have recently been completed. A new chemistry building must be constructed to maintain academic standing in this field. Additional laboratory and classroom space for agriculture is sorely needed. These and other immediate requirements must be met by the University from regular income. It is not possible, under the agreements of the present Mill Tax Act, to seek from the State special appropriations. Regular operating costs, maintenance, upkeep, and necessary new equipment as well as new construction must all be provided from the regular budget.

For these reasons, the University is not able, unassisted, to build a new library, and the need is so critical that the Alumni Association believes no better token of alumni interest and faith in the University could be given than financial support for this project. This will be our Seventy-fifth Anniversary Gift to Maine.

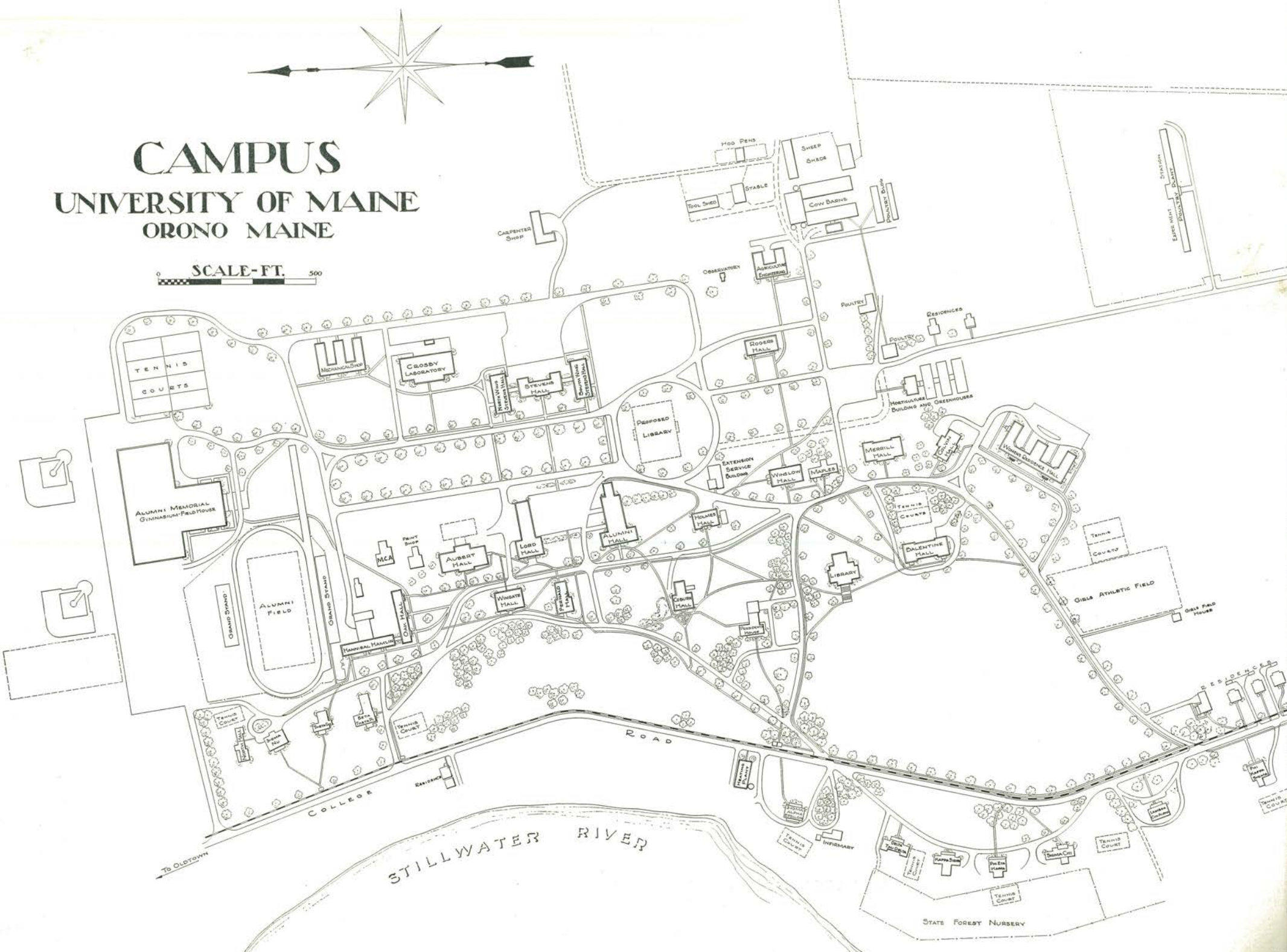
The University has agreed to provide from gifts of interested friends and other sources half of the cost of the new

library. The student body has already contributed generously as an expression of its desire to share in the project. The faculty, too, will be represented. In the same way alumni will take pride in having the opportunity to express their faith in the University by contributing toward the construction of this building which will stand in the future as a memorial of the generous cooperation of all.

Eighteen years ago, alumni joined in a great project which is today represented by the impressive and extremely useful Memorial Gymnasium and Armory. That building is a permanent tribute to the thousands of alumni and friends who believed that Maine should have better and more adequate athletic facilities. Today, we face a situation even more critical, affecting every department throughout the University. Alumni support for the new library will demonstrate an equal interest in maintaining and increasing the academic standing of the University. Without alumni participation the standards of the University cannot be maintained. Every alumnus, conscious of the great need and keenly aware of the universal values of a truly adequate library, will take pride in feeling "I, too, had a share in that!"

CAMPUS UNIVERSITY OF MAINE ORONO MAINE

0 SCALE-FT. 500



THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY



THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY — NORTH ELEVATION

What Will the New Library Provide?

THE new library building has been carefully planned for the immediate needs of today and the probable demands of the future. It will be efficient and useful in plan, attractive and dignified in appearance: in all respects a fitting symbol of alumni loyalty and confidence.

Its simple Georgian design will harmonize with other campus buildings; its central location, directly opposite the Alumni Memorial Gymnasium, will make it easily accessible to all parts of the campus as befits its universal significance.

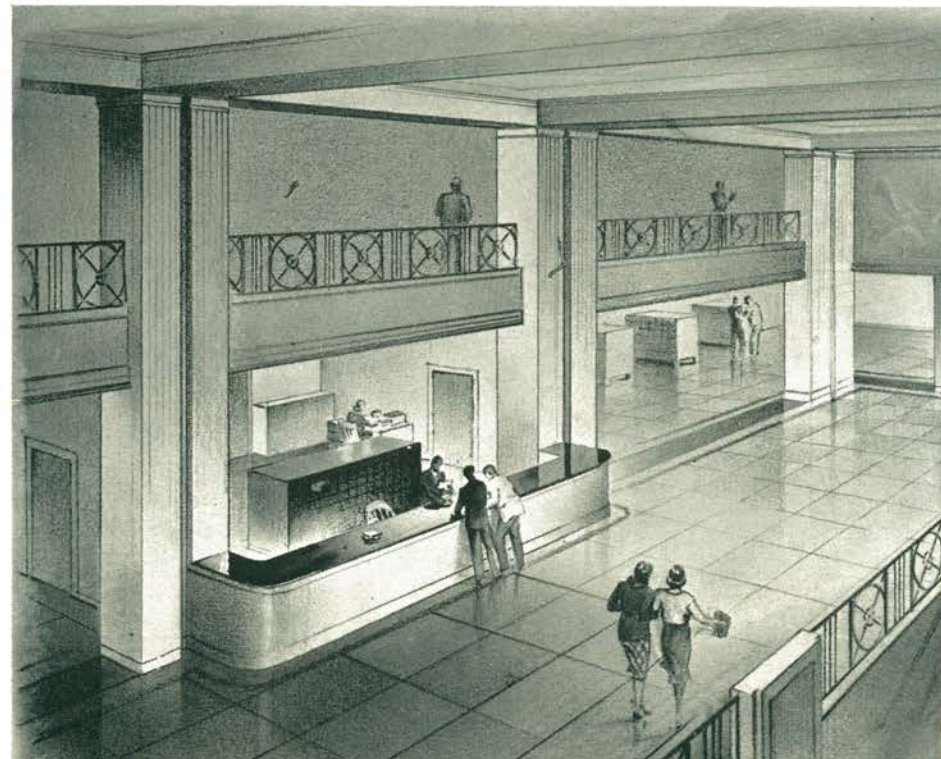
Capacity of the stacks will be 280,000 volumes, over twice the number in the present building. Additional stack capacity for 100,000 more volumes can be made available without new construction. In addition, if necessary, the site and planning of the building will permit almost unlimited expansion to care for future needs.

In contrast to the conditions in our present library, with books overflowing into every available corner and crowding the entire area, the new building will have roomy, convenient stacks, sufficient passage room, individual study desks on each floor, and real opportunity for new accessions.

Three main reading rooms are provided in the new building in addition to a periodical room, a reference room, and a

reserved book room. The total seating capacity of rooms will be over 600, in contrast to the library of today which seats a total of less than 200 students, far below the minimum number recommended as adequate by educational authorities. Comfortable, attractive, quiet and uncrowded reading rooms in the new library will offer study opportunities far different from those in the small and overburdened building now in use.

THE CIRCULATION ROOM



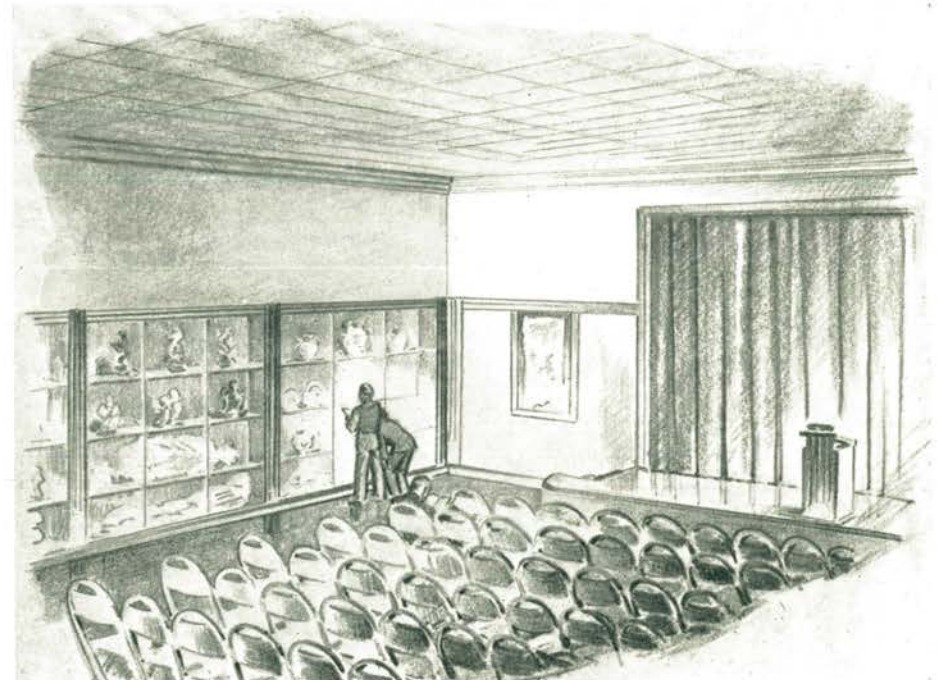


STATE OF MAINE ROOM

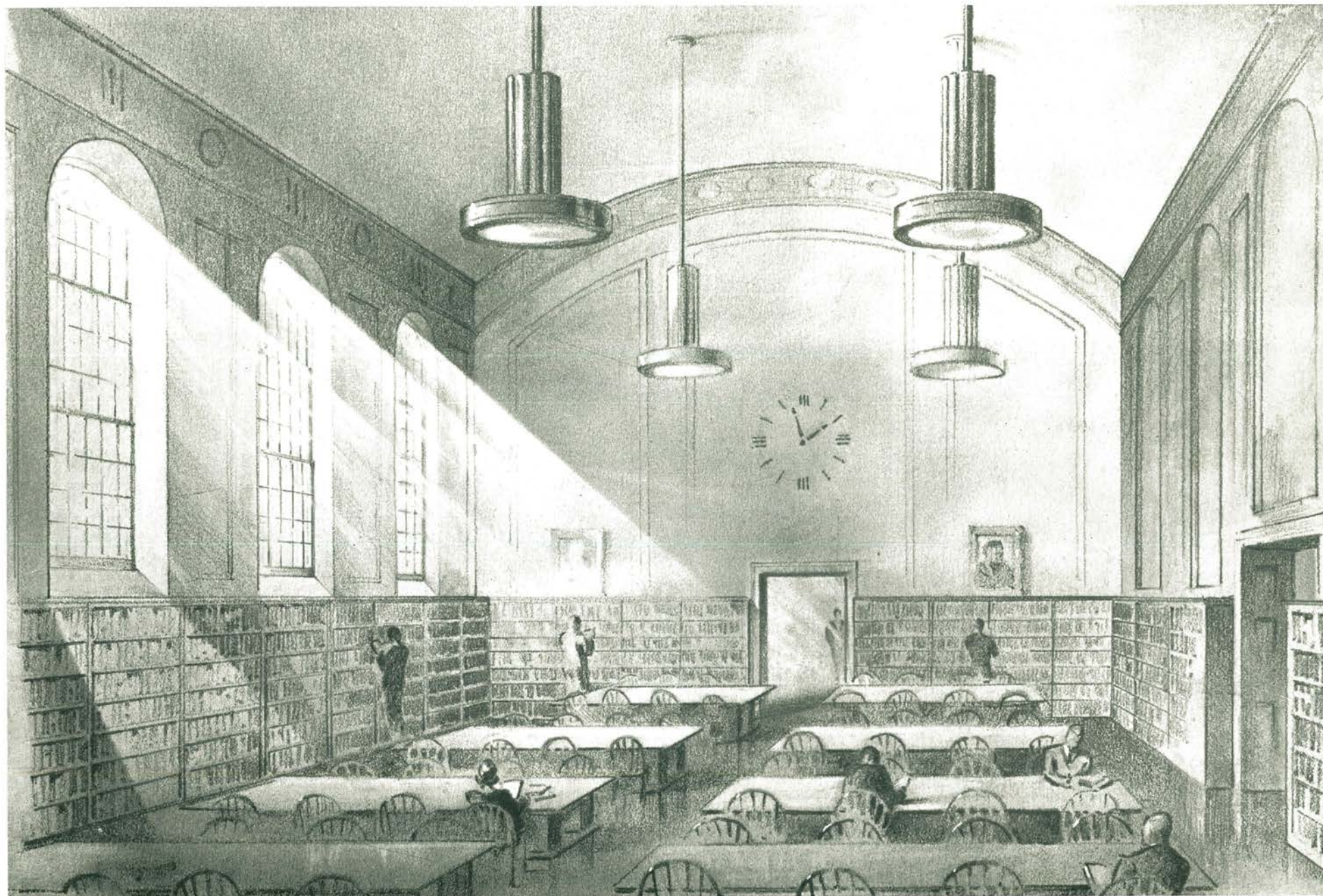
One of the greatest improvements resulting from the building will be increased efficiency in administration. To-day the circulation desk and working space of library officials is crowded into small areas and continually open to student interruption. The new building will provide ample office space for administrators and properly equipped rooms for cataloging, book repairing, indexing, and the many other clerical and technical services by which the library can increase its usefulness to the institution.

The new building will be completely fireproof. Metal stacks, concrete and metal floors and stairways and fireproof roofing will replace the combustible materials in the present building. In addition the most modern methods of air-conditioning and temperature control, lighting fixtures and other equipment will make the building pleasant and comfortable.

A number of special features will be incorporated which have not been available before and which will add to the educational facilities of the University. A number of seminar

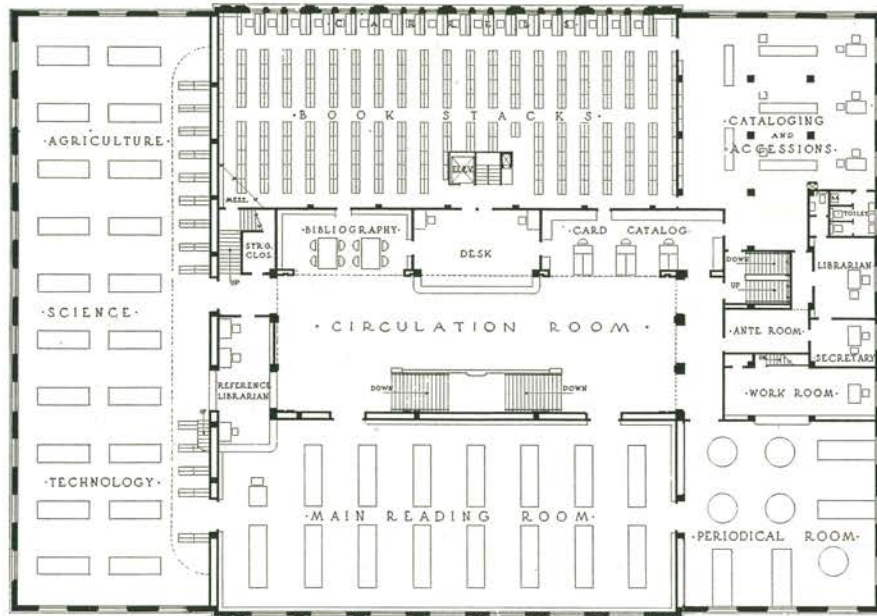


LECTURE AND EXHIBITION ROOM

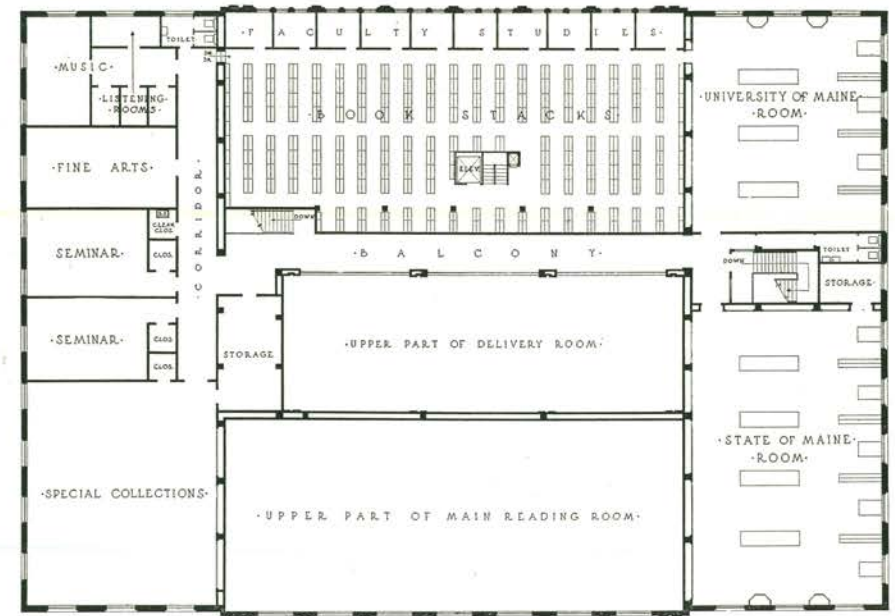


THE MAIN READING ROOM

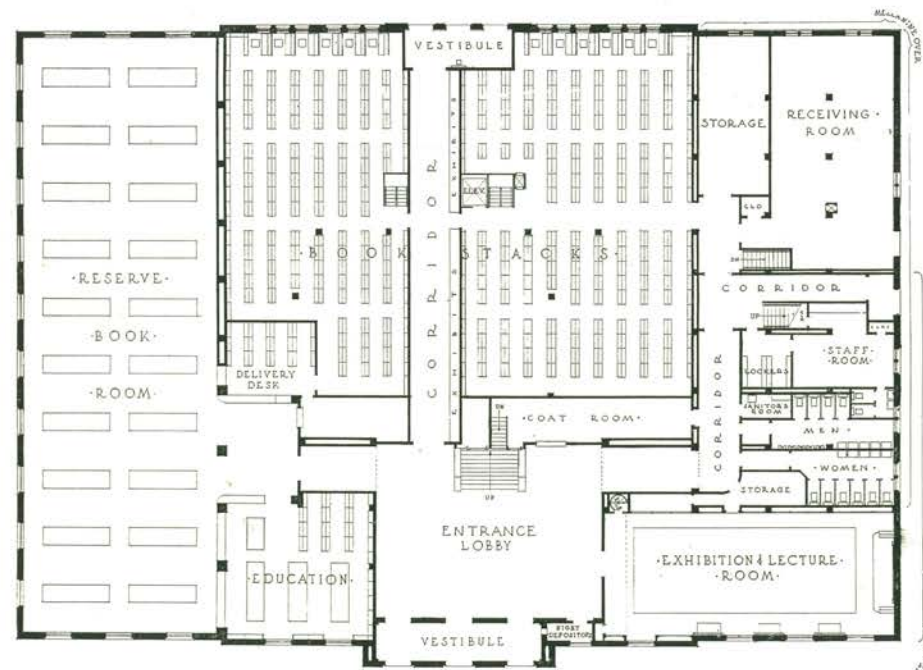
THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY



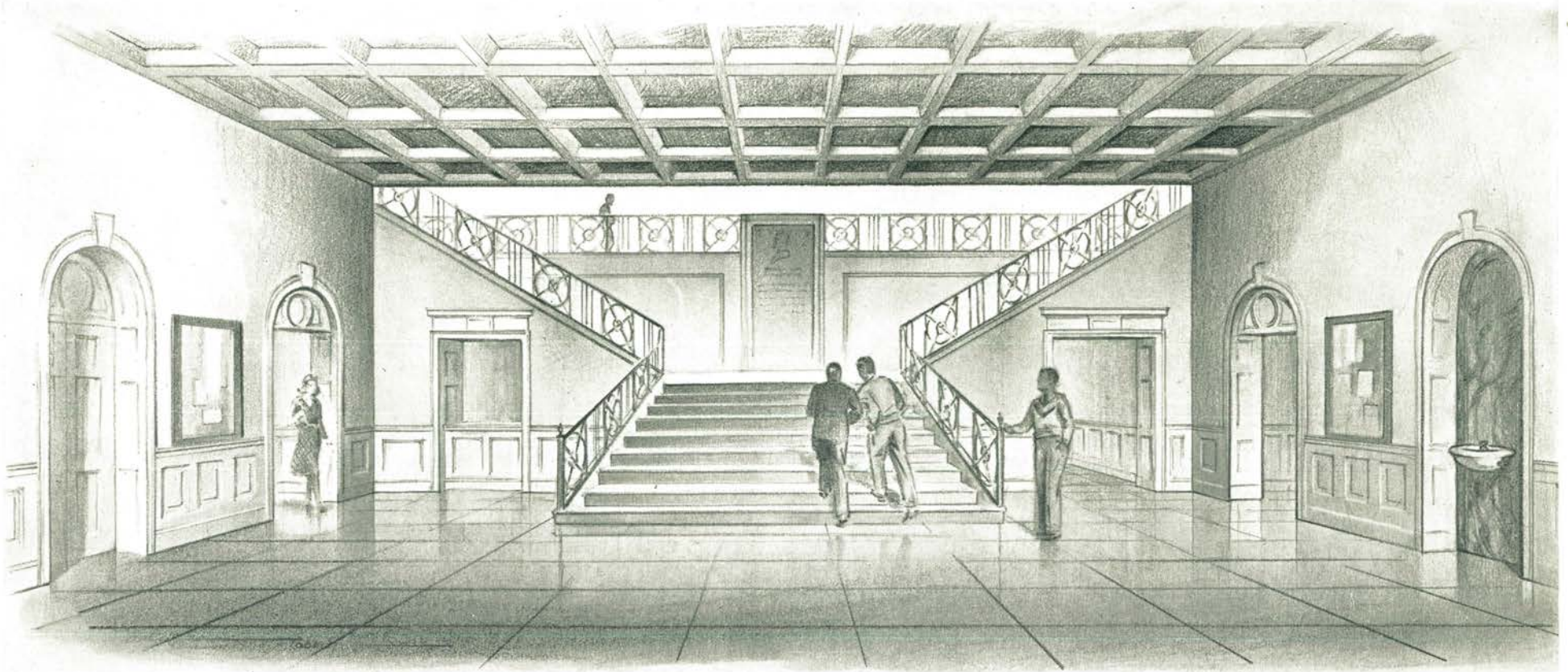
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



THE MAIN LOBBY PROVIDES AN ATTRACTIVE AND INVITING ENTRANCE

rooms and faculty studies will encourage advanced work and research. A State of Maine room and a University of Maine room will offer opportunities to collect and display historical data of great value. A lecture and exhibition room fitted with display cases will permit regular exhibits of works of art, historical collections, models, and other material for visual education.

The central location of the new Library, easily accessible

from all parts of the campus, will make it truly the physical as well as the intellectual center of the University. Constructed with the utmost attention to permanence and utility as well as beauty, yet without extravagance, the new Library will be a lasting and fitting evidence of University progress. To those whose contributions help to make possible this important structure it will stand always as a significant emblem of their loyalty and interest.



What Will Be Done With the Present Building?

GIFTS to the new Library will accomplish a double purpose. Arrangements have been made by the Trustees with the approval of the Carnegie Foundation to convert the present Library building into a Student Union. Thus on completion of the new Library the University will also have available a building to provide this much needed social center. Through alumni gifts to the Library the University and students will benefit in two ways.

A Student Union at Maine has been a dream of many years. With a great number of students living off-campus because of the problems of accommodation and expense, a campus center of student life, activities, and interests is of particular value to Maine. Here will be a chance at last for student group activities to have a real and comfortable home of their own. Offices and meeting rooms, a much needed cafeteria, and opportunity for informal social gatherings will be made available.

The present building can be converted into an efficient and serviceable Union at moderate cost. The University will assume full responsibility for this development once the generosity of alumni and friends makes possible the new Library.

Such a building will fill a much needed place in campus life. It will help students to benefit more from their extra-curricular activities which are such an important part of college life. The creation of a Student Union for Maine is in itself a worthy and appropriate object of alumni interest and support.

You Can Help Provide the Answer!

RECOGNIZING the imperative need for a new Library the Alumni Council and the Alumni Association voted unanimously last year to proceed with a campaign to raise funds for a building which will stand as our answer to the University's great need. This campaign is already underway. The Special Gifts Committee has been working for weeks. On the Seventy-fifth Founders' Day Anniversary, February 26, this committee announced that already over \$50,000 had been donated for the project.

Students are doing their share. A student campaign has been carried out with enthusiasm and loyalty. The tremendous amount of work done by their leaders, the widespread interest, and the splendid support of the students is an unmistakable indication of their belief in the program. The Faculty, too, will join in the project. A beginning has been made.

These signs of interest are a clear challenge to alumni. The only real hope for a new Library in the near future lies in the generous loyalty and interest of every alumnus everywhere. If in 1942 the University of Maine can build a Library which will really offer adequate opportunities to the men and women of Maine that building will be YOUR answer, for your generous contribution can help make it possible.

Within a few days you will receive a personal call soliciting your contribution to this great cooperative effort. The University is facing one of the most critical questions of its history. That question must be answered. It can be answered if every alumnus gives gladly to the limit of his ability.

How Will the Campaign Be Conducted?

THE fund raising efforts of the alumni will be carried out entirely on a basis of personal solicitation through the voluntary efforts of over 1200 alumni throughout the country. Each one of these alumni is not only giving freely of his time but is also paying the expenses incidental to his work in this campaign. And every solicitor has made his pledge before requesting pledges from others.

The goal of the campaign is a net gift of \$200,000, half the cost of the projected building. The cost of the campaign is being kept low with no professional organization being employed. The balance of the construction cost will be provided by the University through gifts from interested friends and from other sources. The University has definitely gone on record that as soon as the alumni gift of \$200,000 is available, all further obligations for the complete construction will be assumed by the University.

Solicitation will proceed on an area basis following a progressive time schedule. The period of solicitation in each area is thirty days. The entire campaign is scheduled to close before Commencement, 1940.

A quota has been set for each area. This quota has been determined by the composite judgment of ten alumni located in widely separated points. The attainment of each quota is essential to the goal of the campaign.

The Library Committee, after careful study of several successful campaigns, adopted the unit plan of giving. The amount of the unit adopted is \$60.00. Some alumni will be in a position to give a single unit; a few must subscribe less than one unit. Most alumni, however, are in a position to give several units. Each one is urged to give according to his means; each one is urged to have a share in this worthy project.

Subscriptions can be made payable over a thirty-months period on a quarterly basis. This will provide for convenience of giving and will also permit alumni to spread income tax deductions over a period of three fiscal years.

Alumni solicitors have volunteered to cover each area by personal calls. They will be working for your University. A friendly reception of these workers and a generous gift will contribute greatly toward the success of the campaign.

ALUMNI COMMITTEE

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Chairman

GEORGE D. BEARCE '11
Bucksport
Vice Chairman

RAYMOND H. FOGLER '15
Chicago
Vice Chairman

GERTRUDE D. PEABODY '20
Philadelphia
Vice Chairman

JAMES A. GANNETT '08, Orono, Treasurer

CHARLES E. CROSSLAND '17 Orono, Executive Secretary

ALBERT BELIVEAU '11
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RAYMOND DOUGLASS '15
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EARLE GOWELL '30
Rockland

ALTON LITTLEFIELD '21
Augusta

HARRY RIDDLE '07
Rangeley

SAMUEL COLLINS '19
Caribou

WALTER HANSON '12
Bangor

GERALD MARBLE '17
Skowhegan

MRS. HAMLYN ROBBINS '19
Scarboro

ARTHUR DEERING '12
Orono

EVERETT INGALLS '15
Westbrook

MAYLAND MORSE '17
Concord, N. H.

HAROLD SHAW '14
Sanford

MAX WILDER '14, Augusta

