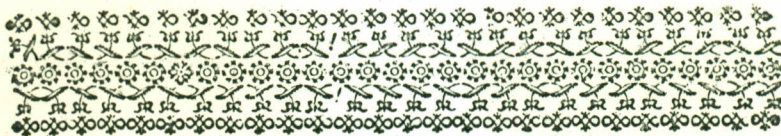


To the young people using the Troy Public Library:

Back in 1760, before the American Revolution, the President of Princeton compiled and published a catalogue of the College Library.

Here is a photograph of the way it began:



The Design of the Publication.

A **LARGE** and well-sorted Collection of Books on the various Branches of Literature, is the most ornamental and useful Furniture of a College, and the most proper and valuable Fund with which it can be endowed. It is one of the best Helps to enrich the Minds both of the Officers and Students with Knowledge; to give them an extensive Acquaintance with Authors; and to lead them beyond the narrow Limits of the Books to which they are confined in their stated Studies and Recitations, that they may expatiate at large thro' the boundless and variegated Fields of Science. If they have Books always at Hand to consult upon every Subject that may occur to them, as demanding a more thoro' Discussion, in their public Disputes, in the Course of their private Studies, in Conversation, or their own fortuitous Tho'ts; it will enable them to investigate TRUTH thro' her intricate Recesses; and to guard against the Stratagems and Assaults of Error: It will teach them Modesty and Self-Diffidence, when they perceive the free and different Sentiments of Men equally great and good; and give at least such Hints, as their Invention may afterwards improve upon, when they appear in public Life, in a Country where Books are so scarce, and private Libraries so poor and few, that their principal Resource must be their own Invention.

The College of New-Jersey is so evidently adapted and intended for the Advancement of Religion and useful Learning among all Denominations of Protestants, that it has been the favourite Object of public Charity, both in Great-Britain and America, from its first Institution: And by that Assistance
alone,

What he was saying in that old-fashioned language was that in a library you get to listen and think for yourself. You get not only entertainment but a chance to find out about all sorts of interesting and important things and you get different ideas and different points of view. Books give you a chance to get the facts, to find out what different people think, and then to make up your own mind. This is even more true today than it was in 1760, and it is one of the reasons why books are important to you.

William S. Dix

William S. Dix
Librarian, Princeton University

April 12, 1971