

10-8-2010

# The Life of a Library: A Brief History of the Kresge Law Library at the Notre Dame Law School

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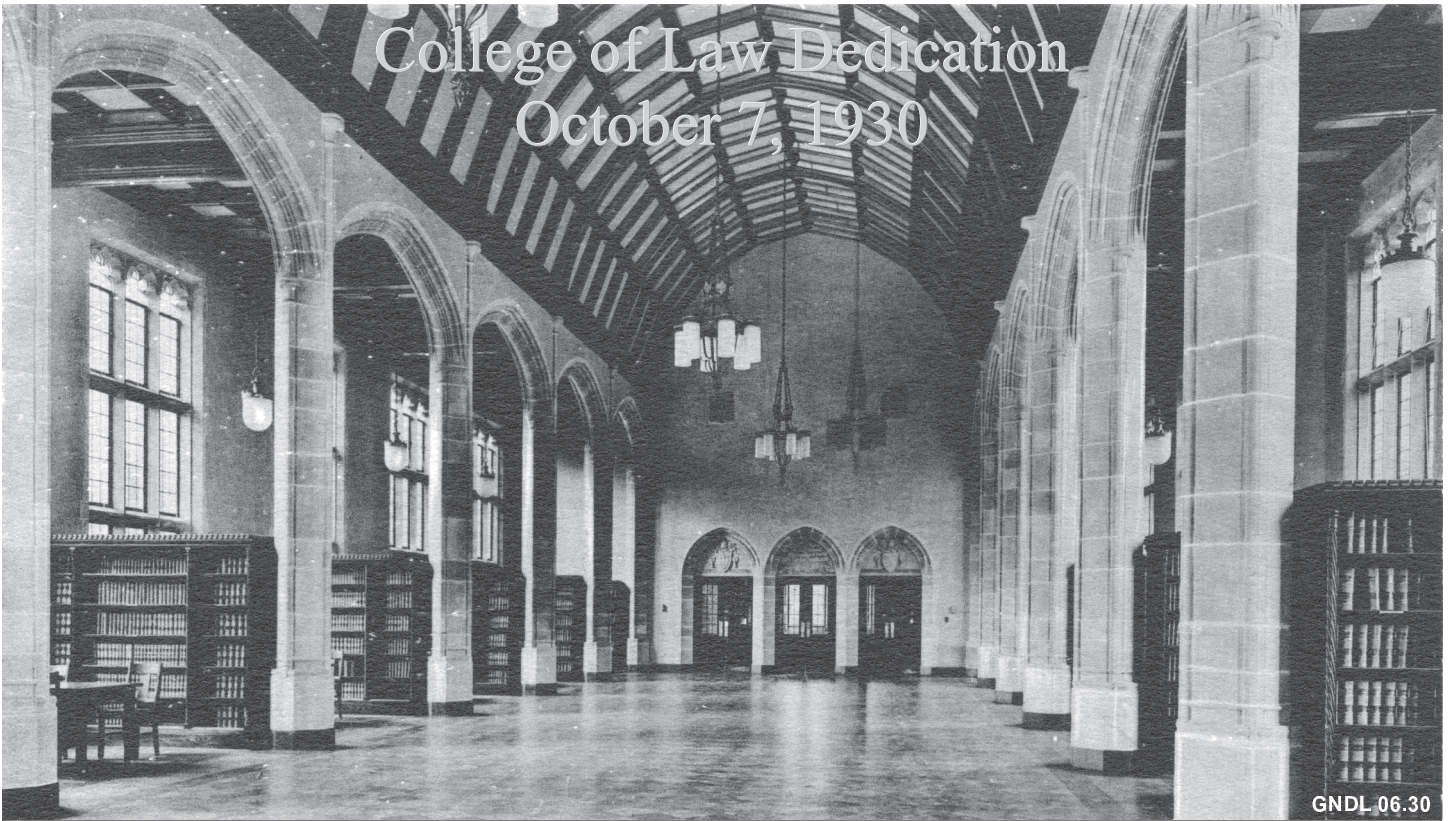
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## Recommended Citation

Klein, Beth G., "The Life of a Library: A Brief History of the Kresge Law Library at the Notre Dame Law School" (2010). *Law Library Staff & Faculty Works*. 17.

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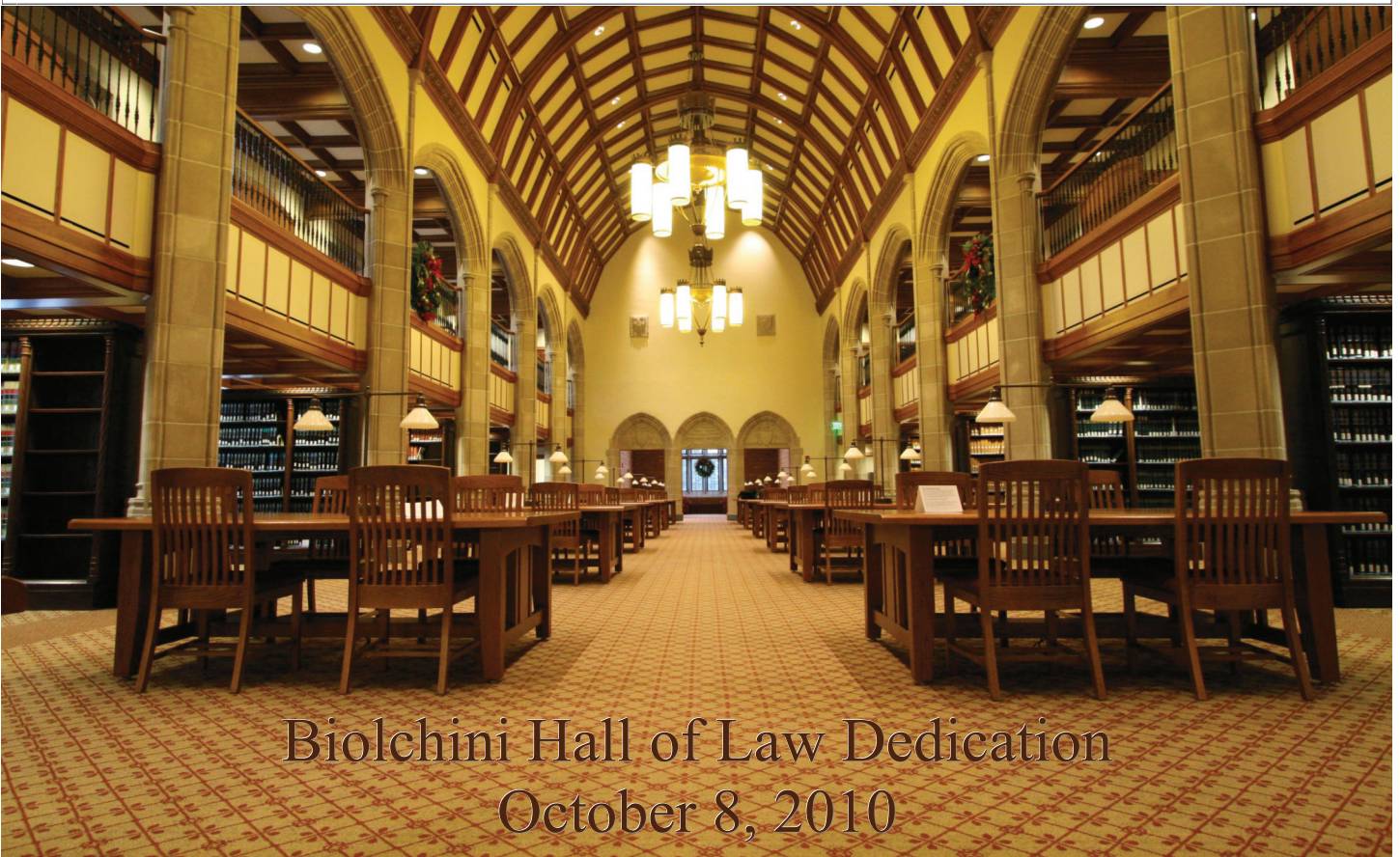
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College of Law Dedication  
October 7, 1930

GNDL 06.30

The Life of a Library: A Brief History of the  
Kresge Law Library at the Notre Dame Law School



Biolchini Hall of Law Dedication  
October 8, 2010

## THE LIFE OF A LIBRARY:

### 1883



"Colonel" William Hoynes is appointed first dean of the law school, and the few books he brought with him from Chicago constitute the library.

### 1888



The Law Department, located in the south end of Sorin Hall, has an "excellent library comprising 2,500 volumes." —*Columbia Law Times*, January 1889.

### 1904

"All the latest reports of State and Federal courts are in its shelves." —*Law Department Bulletin*, 1904-05.

### 1918-1920

The library holds more than 5,000 volumes but is very inadequate in working space. —*University Bulletin*, 1918-1919.



"The college of Law began a new era, when a new and well equipped building, [Hoynes College of Law, now Crowley Hall of Music] was provided for the exclusive use of the students of Law." —1920-21 *Bulletin*, 280.



"The library has a capacity of twenty thousand volumes." —*Prospectus and Announcement of the College of Law for 1920-21*, 1 NOTRE DAME L. REP. 54 (1920).

Later that year, the College of Law launches a campaign among its graduates to secure state reports published prior to West's reporter system. —*Propaganda*, 2 NOTRE DAME L. REP. 48 (1920).

### 1925



John H. A. Whitman, is appointed by Dean Thomas Konop, as the first law librarian of the growing 7,000-volume library. He previously served the University as a professor of Latin and English. During his tenure as librarian he earned his law degree at Notre Dame.

### 1930



Dedicated on Oct. 7, 1930, the building on Notre Dame Avenue is constructed to house both an expanded law library and the law school. "Even more impressive than the courtroom is the large library on the second floor." —Thomas F. Konop, *History of the Notre Dame College of Law*, 6 NOTRE DAME LAW. 5, 21 (1930).

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KRESGE LAW LIBRARY



The 50 x 100 ft. reading room holds 10,000 volumes. There is additional stack space for 25,000 volumes. "Two stories in height with a double row of stone pillars supporting the arched ceiling, the impression of this room is one almost of vastness. To harmonize with their surroundings the massive bookcases are of dark oak so arranged as to provide study nooks for individuals or small groups of students." —Thomas F. Konop, *History of the Notre Dame College of Law*, 6 NOTRE DAME LAW. 24 (1930).

### 1942



Lora Lashbrook, appointed by Dean Clarence Manion, is the second law librarian. She also serves as teacher of research, registrar, and secretary to both the dean and the faculty. She earned her LL.B. from Indiana University School of Law in 1938 and was a member of the Indiana Bar.

### 1945



Marie Lawrence becomes the third law librarian. She holds a degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan. She worked for the University Libraries for twenty years before coming to the law school.

In his book, *A Century of Law at Notre Dame* 94 (1969) Rev. Moore describes the post-WW II law library collection. "After the war conditions improved, some six thousand volumes had been added by 1952, bringing the total holdings from approximately sixteen thousand volumes in 1941 to twenty-two thousand volumes in 1952."

Dean O'Meara, quotes Arthur C. Pulling of Harvard Law Library regarding the prowess of Miss Lawrence. "She knows her bibliographies and what an excellent law collection should contain....[She] commands the respect of all law librarians, East and West." —*Notre Dame Law School Dean's Report*, 1957-58 16-17 (August 15, 1958).

### 1954-1960

The library contains over 22,000 volumes and Dean O'Meara complains of shelving problems. Books are stored on four of the reading tables. "If we must use the tables as book shelves, where are we to put the students?"—Joseph O'Meara, *Notre Dame Law School, Annual Report of the Dean*, 1953-54 12 (August 14, 1954).

"The jurisdiction over the law library was transferred on October 1 [1957] from the Director of the University Library to the Dean of the Law School.—Joseph O'Meara, *Notre Dame Law School, Dean's Report*, 1957-58 16 (August 15, 1958).

Early in 1958, available stack space had been exceeded by 15,000 volumes; those volumes were stored in the law school tower.

By 1960 "there are 55,000 volumes in the library – two and one-half times as many as in 1950." —Philip S. Moore, C.S.C., *Academic Development: University of Notre Dame*, chapter V in *THE STORY OF NOTRE DAME* at <http://archives.nd.edu/moore/moore05.htm>

### 1966

Dean Joseph O'Meara appoints Mrs. Kathleen Farmann as the fourth law librarian. Her husband, Stanley L. Farmann, is appointed assistant librarian.

## AT THE NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL



Before coming to Notre Dame, Mrs. Farmann was the assistant director of Research Services at Ohio State University Law Library. She holds an LL.B. from the Catholic University of America, where she was first in her class. After law school she practiced law in Washington. She was awarded an M.L.L. in 1957 by the University of Washington.



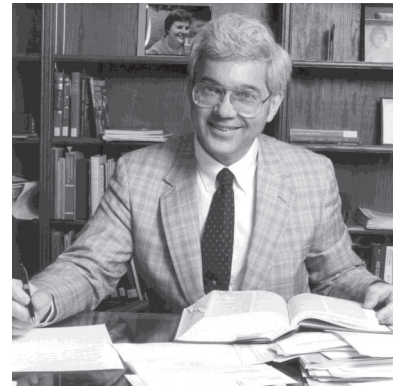
Mr. Stanley L. Farmann was the senior bibliographer and instructor in Library Administration at Ohio State University. He holds a B.A. and an M.L.S., with distinction, from the University of Washington where he met his wife Kathleen.

### 1971



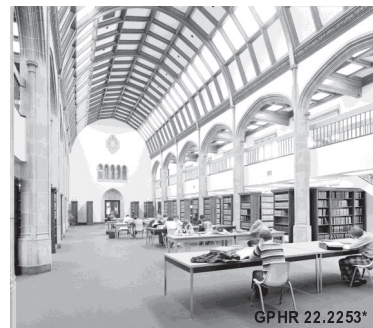
Stanley Sebastian Kresge, Dean Thomas L. Shaffer, and University President, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. pose in front of the wall marking The Kresge Foundation's \$750,000 donation for the law building expansion. Prior to the expansion the law library holds 83,000 volumes. —Thomas L. Shaffer, *Report of the Dean, 1971-1972*, 48 NOTRE DAME

### 1985



Roger F. Jacobs, hired as the fifth law librarian by Dean David T. Link, served the Library of the United States Supreme Court as head librarian. (Photograph from the collection of The Supreme Court of the United States, Office of the Curator, #E-98-8A.)

### 1986



LAW. 232, 242, 251 (1973). "For the first time in 20 years we have enough room. We can seat every law student in the splendid new Kresge Law Library." —Thomas L. Shaffer, *Report of the Dean, 1972-1973*, 49 NOTRE DAME LAW. 214 (1974).



The law building expansion adds the East Reading Room, expands stack space, and creates the reference librarian offices.

## UPDATED AND EXPANDED 2010

### 1990



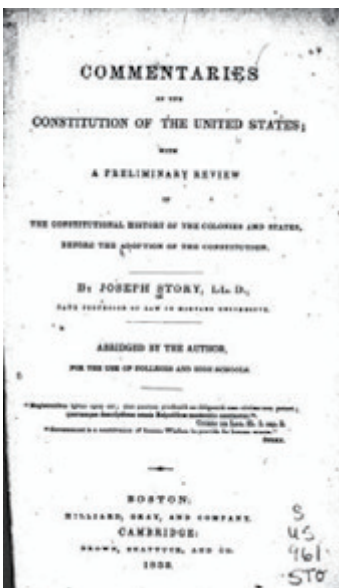
Alumnus John Sandner provides funding for the acquisition of the entire 120,000-volume collection of the Chicago Bar Association Library. Thirty-thousand books are immediately added to the Kresge Library collection.

### 2000-2001



Roger Jacobs receives the University's Presidential Award from Father Malloy in recognition of his fifteen years of service to the law library in 2000. The following year, Roger is presented with the Grenville Clark Award honoring members of the University Community whose voluntary activities have advanced the causes of peace and human rights.

### 2004



The Kresge Law Library is one of a select group of academic law libraries holding at least 600,000 volumes. Story's *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States* (1833) is the 600,000<sup>th</sup> volume.

### 2006

Roger Jacobs retires. During his 25 years of leadership, library staff, seating, and shelf space more than doubled and the physical space increased by a third. Kresge Library contains more than 634,000 volumes.

The sixth law librarian, Ed Edmonds, Associate Dean for Library and Information Technology and Professor of Law, is appointed by Dean Patricia A. O'Hara. He is a 1973 Notre Dame graduate. Previously, he directed the Schoenecker Law Library and was a Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas School



of Law in Minneapolis. Ed Edmonds is responsible for the renovation of the law library over the next four years.

### 2010



October 8, 2010, Biolchini Hall of Law is dedicated. Robert F. Biolchini and his wife, Frances, endowed the University's Biolchini Family Chair in Law in 1995. Now they underwrite the renovation of the Notre Dame Law School and Kresge Law Library building, which is re-named Biolchini Hall of Law. Robert is a 1962 graduate of Notre Dame and holds a law degree from George Washington University.