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The Library - A Proposal

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THE LIBRARY - A PROPOSAL

We have made a noteworthy, a surprising increase in membership, and this is now larger than ever before. We are proud of that, but our library is important, too. Membership comes first and we cannot let down there, for we must expect to lose members continually and would die without new members. Also, we should have in mind a home for our Society sometime in the future. But shall we not emphasize our library now.

There naturally is a tendency to consider the building up of the library as of lesser importance because the University has an extensive library of Florida history in the same building. But some day we might not be there. Also, a library is the cornerstone of a historical society. Also, too, the collection of Florida historical material during the early years was almost entirely neglected, so now there is much to be done. Should not our library have our constant thought and our earnest efforts to make it what it should be.

To further this, would it not be well to make some recognition of those of our members who give extra help in the work of building-up the library, - perhaps call them *Benefactors of the Library* (or a similar name) giving the title to each member who donates some kind of Florida historical material, or who gives five dollars or more specifically for the library.

A By-law would not be necessary for such a category of the members, for this is only an honor-roll, and imposes no new duties on the members. The Annual Meeting could establish this roll by resolution, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

A section of the *Quarterly* might be included in each issue with notes on this library drive, with the names of recent *Benefactors* and a mention of all contributions of material or funds. Our *News-Letter* is another medium. The *Benefactor's* name

would be inscribed on his contribution - whether it is historical material itself, or a purchase with his donation.

There still must be some undiscovered historical material in the State, of our earlier days. Such a drive should bring some to light. But historical material of the present day also should be procured, and many members are in a position to do this if they were told what is desirable.

Contributions of money are of great importance, for books especially; but for manuscript material also, for much of that now finds its way into dealers hands, and it has become generally known by the public that such has money value. Also much has to be copied on microfilm, which is sometimes expensive.

The Society should have a projector for reading film, as films are becoming the most important source for historical research. Perhaps some *Benefactor*, or a group, might donate one. Often owners do not wish to part with their historical material, especially if it relates to their ancestors, but only a few object to having it filmed.

Our income from dues will never be adequate for the purchase of historical material; so to build up the library, specific contributions are necessary. The donor should feel that he is giving some particular item which is needed and that that item is appreciated. His name added to our roll of *Benefactors* might help.

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