



Main reading room
Library of Congress

At Your Service

The Library of Congress

Milton M. Plumb, Jr.

Information Officer

Library materials by the millions—7,606,576 pieces in fiscal 1948—pour into the Library of Congress annually. Almost half of this material is acquired through the activities of the Exchange and Gift Division, a unit of the Library's processing department.

Established in 1943, the Exchange and Gift Division is responsible for the acquisition of materials by gift, official deposits and donations, and for exchanges and transfers which are effected under statutory obligations. The Library of Congress is the depository of publications received by the United States from foreign governments in return for its own publications under the Brussels Conventions of 1886 and other treaty arrangements, and a number of States have statutory provisions by which copies of their publications are sent to the Library.

Of some 3,225,768 pieces channeled into the Library's collections through the exchange section in fiscal 1948, more than half (1,899,942) came through transfer from other Federal agencies. Gifts from private individuals and institutions amounted to 78,659 pieces in addition to an estimated 174,790 manuscripts in 194 collections.

One of the more interesting activities of the Exchange and Gift Division results from the fact that it acquires State publications on behalf of the Library. Some 78,868 pieces of material published by State legislative bodies, executive departments, boards, commissions, and other agencies, as well as by institutions, colleges, universities, and other organizations subsidized wholly or partially by a State, were received in the last fiscal year. From this mass a total of 14,028 different titles were listed in a monthly publication prepared by the Division entitled *Monthly Checklist of State Publications*. This listing covered all important items received except periodical publications, since only the first issues of serials are reported.

The Library of Congress has been publishing the monthly checklist since 1910. It is sent free to State agencies which furnish copies of their publications for listing, and the Library also has a limited number of copies available for exchange. Others may purchase copies from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents a copy; annual subscription rate is \$1.50, except to countries that do not extend the franking privilege, where the rate is \$2.25.

St. Augustine's Horse-Drawn Carriages

Albert C. Colee

One of St. Augustine's prime tourist attractions is its horse-drawn carriages driven by old Negro coachmen in high silk hats whose fabulous tales of the history of the country's oldest city are as amusing and interesting as the authentic data.

A leisurely ride down the streets steeped in history in a surrey with the fringe on top is a perfect way for visitors to enjoy the present while remembering the past. The surreys are parked along the many tree-shaded streets ready to give tourists a complete sightseeing trip of the forty-odd places of interest including the Fountain of Youth, Fort San Marcos, the Oldest House, Old Spanish Quarters, and other historic and picturesque places.

The story of these carriages goes back to the days before Henry Flagler came to St. Augustine and made it famous by building the beautiful Hotel Ponce de Leon. The sightseeing carriage business for the pleasure of the traveling public was founded over 80 years ago by J. L. Colee, grandfather of the present operator—Colee's Sightseeing Carriage Co.

Some of the original equipment is still in use.

Most of the hack drivers have been with the company for over a quarter of a century, and are very proud of their knowledge of the city's history.

The horses are so well trained they practically take the tours without reins, stopping at the red lights and continuing through the green. The drivers have tales about the almost human intelligence of their horses. One coachman claims his horse "Harry" always looks around when his carriage is being loaded to see how many people he will have to pull.

When traveling the east coast of Florida it is pleasant to stop in St. Augustine, climb into one of the sightseeing surreys, and clip-clop through sunny streets on a tour of some of the oldest history in the United States.

