

CLASSICS
Suzanne Griffiths; May 1984
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I. DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose: To support the research and teaching of the Department of Classics from undergraduate programs through doctoral and advanced research in the fields of classical language and literature; ancient history; ancient philosophy, art, architecture and archaeology. The collection also supports work in history, philosophy, religious studies, art, architecture, and linguistics.

B. History of Collection: The "Classics Seminar" was one of the first two separate collections established within the Library, and began in 1908 with 2,500 volumes. In 1910, Professors Oldfather and Pease, who were instrumental in the early development of the collection, selected much of the classics material in the Bookstacks to be added to the original 2,500 volumes. With the acquisition of the Dittenberger Collection, purchased in 1907, a special classification of Greek and Latin authors was devised. The purchase in 1912/13 of the private library of classical philology of Prof. Johannes Vahlen of Vienna and Berlin added 10,000 items plus his "Handapparat"--about 15,000 mostly unbound dissertations, reprints of articles, program publications, and like items. In 1928/29, when most "Seminar" libraries moved to the new Main Library and were integrated into the Bookstacks, Classics retained nearly all of its collection intact. Material selection has historically been done primarily by the Classics faculty and this practice continues in the present.

C. Estimate of Holdings: 66,766 volumes and 17,000 pamphlets. The estimate is based on total holdings in the Classics Library and holdings of Greek and Latin literature only in other locations. The figures for other subject areas of the Classics is not possible to calculate at this time, so the actual volume count is much greater.

D. State, Regional, and National Importance: The breadth of resources of the Classics Library is not duplicated by any other institution between New England and California. The only other singlelocation classics collection approaching that at Illinois is at the University of Cincinnati. The primary strengths are in ancient Greek and Latin languages and literatures.

E. Unit Responsible for Collecting: Classics Library, with some shared responsibility with the Art and Architecture, and History and Philosophy Libraries.

F. Location of Materials: 44,166 volumes and 14,000 pamphlets are located in the Classics Library. 16,000 volumes in Greek and Latin language and literature are held in the Bookstacks, 6,000 volumes in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library, and approximately 4,000 volumes are in the Undergraduate, Art and Architecture, and History and Philosophy Libraries.

G. Citations of Works Describing the Collection:

Downs, pp. 44-45

Major, pp. 14, 36, 45, 51, 120.

II. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Languages: English, some Eastern and all Western European languages, Classical Latin and Greek, medieval and modern Latin.

B. Chronological Guidelines: Ancient history to 500 A.D. (roughly); ancient numismatics only; all other areas have no chronological limits.

C. Geographical Guidelines: Eastern and Western Europe, including North Africa.

D. Treatment of Subject: Standard statement. The field of Classics is roughly the study of Ancient Greek and Roman cultures. Primary focus is on language and literature--grammars, lexicons, critical works as well as actual texts; ancient history includes biographies, commentaries, material in numismatics and archaeology. In general, highly pictorial works are primarily purchased by the Art and Architecture Library.

E. Types of Materials: Standard statement.

F. Date of Publication: Standard statement.

G. Place of Publication: No restrictions, principally Europe and North America.

III. COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY BY SUBJECT SUBDIVISIONS WITH QUALIFICATIONS, LEVELS OF COLLECTING INTENSITY, AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>SUBJECTS</u>	<u>ES</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>DL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>
ARCHAEOLOGY Classical	4	3	4	CLASSICS/ architecture
Other aspects such as field methods, post-ancient period, etc.	4	4	4	ANTHROPOLOGY/ agriculture/ architecture/ classics
ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY	3	3	4	CLASSICS/ philosophy
CLASSICAL NUMISMATICS	3	4	4	CLASSICS
CLASSICAL PALAEOGRAPHY	3	2	2	CLASSICS

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GREEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE				
Classical	4	4	4	CLASSICS
Byzantine	3	2	4	CLASSICS
Modern	1	1	1	comparative literature/ linguistics
HISTORY OF CLASSICAL WORLD				
Near East	2	2	2	CLASSICS/ history
Greek	4	3	4	CLASSICS/ history
Roman	4	3	4	CLASSICS/ history
HISTORY OF BYZANTINE EMPIRE	3	2	4	HISTORY/ classics/ slavic
LATIN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE				
Classical	4	4	4	CLASSICS
Medieval and modern	3	2	2	CLASSICS
PATRISTICS	2	2	3	CLASSICS
ROMAN LAW	3	4	4	LAW/classics