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Germany is emphatically the home of large libraries. Her multiplicity of capitals gives her a considerable number of State libraries, and the number of her universities tends to multiply her collections. The eldest is that of the University of Heidelberg, which dates from 1386. The Royal in Berlin dates from 1661, and was founded by Frederick William. The Royal in Munich is the largest collection in Germany.

In Austria the largest library and one of the most important collections in the world is the Imperial in Venice, founded in 1440. It occupies one of the most sumptuous buildings, and is more modern in its methods of administration than most continental libraries. In the Imperial at St. Petersburg, Russia claims the third largest library in the world, consisting of more than a million printed works and many manuscripts.

Probably more than any other library, its accessions have been the spoils of war. Its nucleus was a trophy of war taken by Cesar Peter in the Courland invasion. Its most notable acquisition was taken by force of arms from Poland, in the great Zaluski collection.

Its collection of Aldines and Elzevirs are well-nigh complete. The incunabula are numerous and instructively arranged.

The glory of the manuscript department is the celebrated Codex Sinaiticus of the Greek Bible, brought from the convent of St. Catharine on Mount Sinai by Tischendorf in 1827. The history of printing, so happily coinciding with the revival of true learning and sound science, the modern history of libraries may be said to begin.

As this paper has overran its limits, the British Museum will be spoken of in the next paper.

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## BOOKS FOR SERVICE

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY IDEA IN ENGLAND.

Pope Gregory the Great Founder of  
the First—Sir Hans Sloane and the  
British Museum—Adoption of Amer-  
ican Methods a Notable Step.

BY MRS. W. M. STROTHER.

III.

"The free public library should be the place where the scholars can find their tools sharp and ready; where business men can learn what is doing in their own lines all over the world; where those who have looked on books as toys or play things or time killers can be taught the larger usefulness of them."

"An educated man knows what he knows, is not ashamed of what he does not know, and knows where to find what he wants to know, if he lives in a city which has a public library."

If we accept the authority of the Canterbury chartulary preserved in Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Pope Gregory the Great must be regarded as the founder of the first library in England, by virtue of the "nine holy books," which Augustine brought with him in his mission in 596 A. D. The Pope sent him and a small band of monks to found monasteries and to convert England to his faith.

The monasteries grew and flourished, and many more books were sent from Rome, and much copying was done, so the store of learning were large and very precious in quality, when the decree went forth ordering the dissolution of monasteries and the dispersion of their libraries.

Henry VIII seized upon the monastic properties throughout his realm, and the choicest of their works were appropriated to the Royal library.

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