

Work on the project commenced in April, 1929. The list, from the start, was arranged by departments of instruction rather than in accordance with a library system of classification. Each subject was considerably subdivided, with, first, a list of periodicals; second, a selection of reference books, and thereafter according to a nomenclature which the teacher of the subject would find familiar and helpful. The compilation of the first list--done chiefly by checking such bibliographies as the American Library Association catalog of 1926, the Booklist from 1926 to date, the Mudge Guide to reference books, a year's reserved book lists from two institutions, and various other sorts of sources--was of necessity a hasty affair. The checking of these sources of information, the transfer of the resulting several thousand entries to cards, the arrangement of the cards under subjects, the transfer of entries from the cards to typewritten lists, and the distribution of these lists had to be accomplished between early April and mid-May so that members of the Swarthmore faculty might inspect and ponder before the rush of final examinations, commencement activities, and the exodus of summer vacations. While these processes were going forward letters were sent to a selected group of college teachers throughout the country explaining the project and asking them to contribute their suggestions toward the compilation of the final list. This group included a liberal representation of teachers in the small institutions. Care was taken also to assure a wide geographical distribution.

The help which came from the members of the Swarthmore faculty (and this is true of all the groups of collaborators) varied from perfunctory attention to the devotion of a great deal of time and thought to the project. It is equally true that a considerable number of eminent scholars in the various fields of knowledge gave generously of their knowledge and experience. Many alterations were suggested by the Swarthmore group. During the early summer months of 1929 the appropriate changes were incorporated in the original list and the revised sections typed or mimeographed for distribution to those extra-mural scholars who had agreed to participate. In no subject had less than four teachers agreed to inspect the revised list; in some subjects the number mounted to a dozen. As a sample of the ability and academic standing of these contributors to the project I name the group which assisted in the economics section:

O. F. Boucke, of Pennsylvania State College  
Raymond T. Bye, of University of Pennsylvania  
Paul H. Douglas, of University of Chicago  
Clyde O. Fisher, of Wesleyan University  
Herbert F. Fraser, of Swarthmore College  
Paul F. Gemmill, of University of Pennsylvania  
Emilie J. Hutchinson, of Barnard College  
Malcolm Keir, of Dartmouth College  
R. C. McCrea, of Columbia University  
L. C. Marshall, of Johns Hopkins University  
Willard L. Thorpe, of Amherst College  
Clair Wilcox, of Swarthmore College  
H. A. Wooster, of Oberlin College