

~~5/6~~ 5-10-68.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL OPENING

of the

STROUD BRANCH LIBRARY EXTENSION

LANSDOWN COST: £56,590.

Saturday, 5th October, 1968

STROUD LIBRARY EXTENSION

It is 80 years since the building in Lansdown opened its doors as a public library. Those who promoted the scheme had estimated that £3,000 would be needed for premises and that £150 a year would cover the cost of maintenance. Faced with a stern negative to a request for financial help from the ratepayers, the promoters launched a scheme for public subscriptions for a library as a permanent memorial of Queen Victoria's jubilee. This resulted in the gift of the existing building known as the Grammar School by Mr. J. G. Strachan. Important alterations were needed and full details of how the library worked are described by Mr. John Libby, Vice-Chairman of the "Free Library Jubilee Memorial Committee", in his book "Twenty years history of Stroud 1870 to 1890".

In 1930, further alterations became necessary when the District Council decided to surrender its library powers under the Public Library Acts to the County Council. So popular has this service become in recent years that it was apparent that only a rebuilding programme would meet Stroud's needs. An opportunity occurred to purchase the Old Vicarage next door (together with the steps which led to the Parish Church) and this has been used as a site for the new building.

The extension now completed forms the first part of a three phase building operation to provide the town and district with up-to-date library accommodation. The second and third phases will involve the demolition of the existing nineteenth century building and the erection of a new wing. Set on a steeply sloping site, the new building is inevitably on two floors with with an entrance from Lansdown. Externally the building is constructed with buff facing bricks and some exposed concrete, and its bold cantilevered sections make a distinctive contribution to a street scene already strongly influenced by the museum building opposite. Internally, materials are quiet in colour and tone, consisting of grey facing bricks, African hardwood floors and fittings in sycamore and walnut. A relief model in the Reference Library providing a bird's eye view of the locality was made by Patrick and Karen Churchill.

Architects Peter Bosanquet and Partners 32 Beaumont Street, Oxford,
in collaboration with the County Architect Philip L. Davison, Dip. Arch.,
A.R.I.B.A. and Assistant County Architect D. D. Bridle, A.R.I.B.A.
Heating and Electrical Consultants — H. D. Lockwood and Partners.
Structural Consultants — Ove Arup and Partners.
Quantity Surveyors — Light and Partners.
General Contractors — Orchard and Peer Ltd.
Clerk of Works — R. B. Hughes.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction by the Chairman, ALDERMAN T. H. MERCER, F.C.A.,
Chairman of Stroud and Stonehouse Local Library Committee

Dedication

by

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester
THE RIGHT REVEREND BASIL GUY, M.A.

Address and Formal Opening

by

ALDERMAN G. T. ST. J. SANDERS, T.D.,
Chairman of the Library Committee

Vote of Thanks

Proposed by COUNCILLOR J. HILLIER
Chairman, Stroud Urban District Council
Seconded by COUNCILLOR W. ENGLAND
Vice-Chairman, Stroud Rural District Council

Inspection of the Library

Sherry

COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Chairman:

G. T. St. J. Sanders, T.D.

Vice-Chairman:

N. E. I. Thomas

Mrs. M. W. W. Aitchison

A. A. Brain

Mrs. G. Hart

T. H. Mercer, F.C.A.

L. T. C. Rolt

J. G. Thomas

Mrs. G. S. Ward

Major P. D. Birchall

(Chairman of County Council)

W. P. Cripps, C.B.E.

F. H. Knight

F. G. Little

(Vice-Chairman of County Council)

W. N. Scott

C. H. Tortonese

W. R. Watkin, M.A.

STROUD AND STONEHOUSE LOCAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Chairman:

T. H. Mercer, F.C.A.

J. H. A. Anderson

Mrs. E. Burtt

Mrs. A. Dickinson

W. H. Maddocks

Mrs. P. E. Parker

J. C. Sollars

Mrs. J. Bennett

Mrs. M. M. Clarke, LL.B.

J. Hillier

J. Nottingham

W. J. Preston

W. E. Duncan Young

COUNTY LIBRARIAN Miss E. M. T. Markwick, M.A., F.L.A.

STROUD AREA LIBRARIAN Mr. A. M. Morley, F.L.A.