

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AID TO DEVASTATED LIBRARIES

A Committee on Aid to Devastated Libraries was appointed by the Council of the American Mathematical Society in May, 1945 (Garrett Birkhoff, H. S. Bray, William Feller, Gabor Szegő, A. W. Tucker, Arnold Dresden), for the purpose of gathering information as to the needs of foreign libraries and formulating plans for meeting their needs. In August, 1946, the Committee was reorganized (P. A. Smith, Leo Zippin, Arnold Dresden), for the task of distributing the material that had been received.

The Trustees of the Society put at the disposal of the Committee available publications of the Society to a value not exceeding \$1500, as well as an amount not exceeding \$300, for operating expenses. This generous aid was supplemented by many gifts in kind and in cash, from the Mathematical Association of America, American Philosophical Society, National Bureau of Standards, the Annals of Mathematics, the Duke Journal, and a considerable number of individuals including groups of students at Mount Holyoke College, Long Island University, and Swarthmore College. The Committee takes this opportunity to express their appreciation to all these contributors.

The distribution of the material thus obtained would not have been possible without the aid of the American Book Center. Thanks are due to former and present officers of this organization, in particular to Mr. Kenneth R. Shaffner, Mr. Lawrence J. Kipp, and to Miss Alice D. Ball. Through their cooperation it has been possible to send packages of periodicals and of books to thirty-five institutions in fifteen countries in Europe and Asia.

That this material has been gratefully received is evidenced by the letters of appreciation which have been received by the Committee. But what has been sent does not begin to fill the great needs which exist in many places, and which are emphasized by the remarkable upsurge of mathematical activity in many parts of the world. A great deal of aid has been given by other groups, such as the University of California (especially to the University of the Philippines), the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, and a group for Aid to Polish mathematicians, and so on. But legitimate requests continue to reach the Committee.

A report presented to the Council and approved at the Annual Meeting of the Society at Columbus, Ohio on December 28, 1948.