

**Letters written by students from Sacred Heart-St. John Consolidated School
to librarians at the James Jerome Hill Reference Library in 1971.**

Hill Ref Lib.

Oct 1971

On Wednesday, October 13, and Thursday, October 14, The seventh grade English classes went in groups on a field trip to the Hill Reference Library in St. Paul. The following are four student reactions to their first experience in a reference library.

I enjoyed the visit to the Hill Reference Library because I had never seen so many books in my life. He said that there were 250,000 books in there. He also said that that was a small amount compared to the University of Minnesota Library, which has two million books. So I figured out how much the Hill Reference has compared to the University and the answer came out to be one-eighth of the books that the University has. But I still couldn't believe the great amount of books that they had.

We saw Mr. Hill's portrait and his roll top desk which was very interesting. The architecture and designing of the building was very fascinating. This place was only used for reference. We also saw many pictures which were painted when watching the Indians. I hope I will visit the Hill Reference again sometime and discover some of the other fascinating things they have there.

Bernard Schulte
(Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Schulte)

At first when I went in the Hill Reference Library, I didn't believe what I saw. There were books so high that there were stairs to go up to see the books. The stairs had floors made of glass. When Jerry Ryan and I went up the stairs, we went way up on the top. But when we looked down, it was so high that we almost got dizzy. Then a lady told us that nobody fell through the glass floor yet. When we were looking around, we saw magazines, and biographies, and history books. We were looking for books on air pollution and then for a science experiment book. In the Hill Reference Library, we learned so many new things.

Arnaldo Garcia
(Mr. and Mrs. Arnaldo Garcia)

Recently I went on a trip to the Hill Reference Library. I wasn't expecting one of the most exciting trips either. But when I stepped into that room, I couldn't believe my eyes. There before me stood 250,000 books. It seemed like a wonderland with all these little levels with shelves of books all over. It looked like a mansion with its tall, sturdy pillars. As I glanced around, it seemed to hold so much secrecy. I think it would take all day to explore all of its little mystery-filled rooms. Each little book holds something we can't capture. And one, in a million years, cannot take it captive.

Kathleen Louis
(Mr. and Mrs. John Louis)

Wow is all I could say as I gazed into a room as huge as a room in a palace in Rome. The place was the St. Paul Hill Reference Library. As you gaze at the large room named after Mr. James J. Hill, your eyes get as large as a small child's eyes when he sights something exciting.

Included in the library are small books and tall books, fat books and skinny books, all sorts of books, thousands and thousands of them. . . huge rooms full of enchantment to fill your mind with all sorts of ideas . . . exhibits and knowledge, pictures and people of old memories. . . places to go and things to see. . . flights of stairs taking you to your destination. . . an elegant building to find most any book from fiction to reference, from A to Z.

So I would like to thank all the parents, students, and teachers that made it possible for us to go. Thanks from

Neysa Selchow
(Mr. and Mrs. Donald Selchow)

NOTES

The Pulse, school newsletter, Sacred Heart-St. John Consolidated School, October 1971, J. J. Hill Center institutional archives, 1.