

A Bit of History

In August 1826, six young men met at the home of Mr. A. Wilcox in New Haven and founded a society called the Apprentices Literary Association, for the purpose of the study and exchange of books. The pattern for this kind of society had been set by young Ben Franklin 100 years earlier in Philadelphia.

These young men received some guidance and financial assistance from prominent citizens of New Haven, and the young library prospered. Meetings were held and lectures given by many of the most noted men of the period.

In 1828, the name was changed to The Young Mechanic's Institute and a constitution was adopted and signed by 24 members.

A charter was granted in 1838 by the General Assembly of Connecticut to the New Haven Young Men's Institute Library, the present corporate name.

In 1878, the Institute found its permanent home, as sufficient funds had been donated to purchase the land and erect a building at 847 Chapel Street, its present location.

In 1910, William Borden went to India to teach librarians their own system of classification. Our library and the country of India are the only places it is used.

With this historic background the library is as much older than New Haven as the Green itself, and remains as a pleasant reminder of a quieter and gentler age, while serving its members in modern facilities.

The Library Today

The Institute today is a membership library with attractive air conditioned reading rooms for the entire family. Located in the center of New Haven's shopping and business district it is easily accessible from all the surrounding suburbs and offers the facilities of a private club.

Mailing Service

For many, the Institute is the ideal library because members do not have to go to the building itself, but may telephone or write and books will be mailed to them, anywhere in the country, at a special low-cost mailing rate.

Books

The Institute is a library where members may borrow books of fiction and non-fiction from a stock of 28,000 volumes. New books are constantly being purchased, including bestsellers. The Institute is unique in that there are no fines on overdue books. If a wanted book is kept out too long, a "reminder" card is sent to the borrower. If the book requested is out, the member's name is entered on a "reserve" list and he is notified when the book is available.

Magazines

One of the popular features of the library is a collection of magazines, along with the New York and local newspapers, some of which are available for borrowing.

Book Return

There is a Book Return box located at the street entrance of the library where books may be deposited at any hour of the day or night. Books may also be returned by mail at the special reduced book rate.

Staff

The library staff is on hand from 10am to 3pm to give helpful and personal service to the members.

Fee

Because the Institute has been privately endowed by appreciative members over the years, the cost of all these services is nominal.

Parking

We validate parking at the Crown St garage and Temple St. garage (up to two hours).

An Invitation

Applications are now being received for additional members to fill vacancies and the Membership Committee extends to you a cordial invitation to avail yourself of this opportunity.

If you accept, please fill out this form and send it back with your membership fee to:

The Institute Library

847 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06510
203-562-4045

I hereby apply for membership in The Institute Library

Membership fee is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to The Institute Library.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*All applications subject to the approval
of the Membership Committee*

