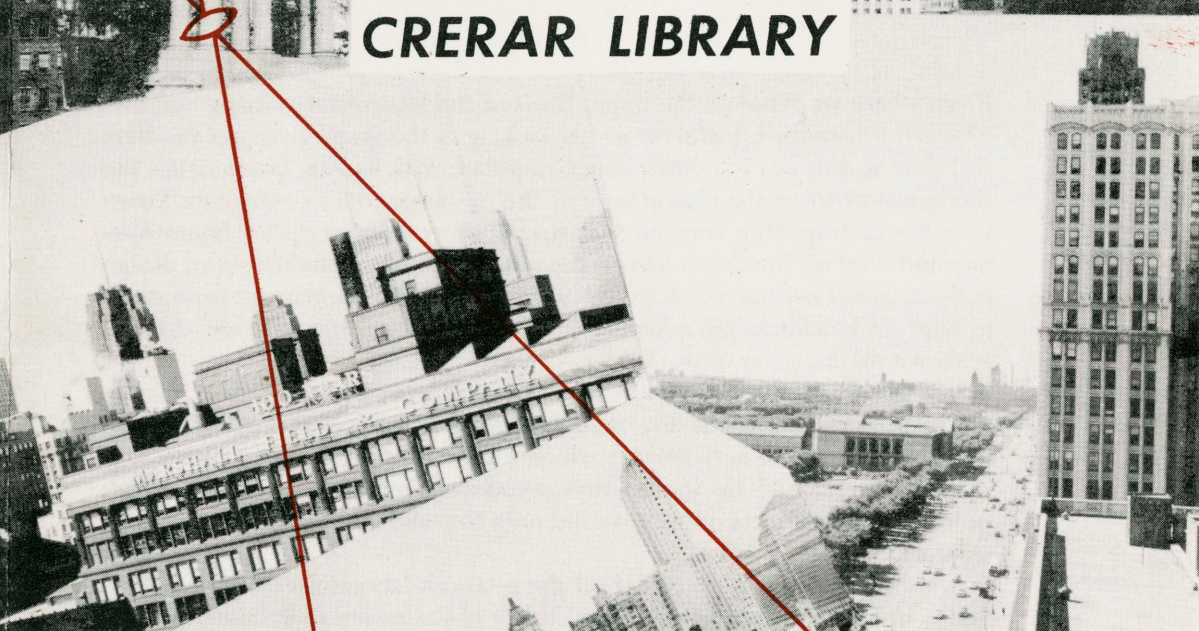
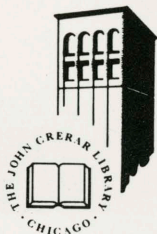


**CRERAR LIBRARY**



**LOOKS AT CHICAGO**



## **The John Crerar Library Looks at Chicago**

From where we stand on the upper floors of the fifteen-story Crerar building Chicago is beautiful. Just now we are looking at the grand sweep of the blue and gray skyline of Lake Michigan; Grant Park with its long green vistas, the thousands of trees, the classic lines of the museums, the Buckingham Fountain; the metropolitan canyons that stretch away from us up Michigan Avenue and west on Randolph Street; the infinite variety of architectural design in the serrated skyline which sweeps around us in a 180 degree arc from south to north. A kaleidoscopic reflection of all these, as picked up by our camera, is shown on the cover of this folder.

But we at Crerar also look at Chicago in a way our camera cannot; for the real picture of Chicago is not its skyline, its streets, its parks, and its buildings, but rather the activities of which all these are only suggestions. Our attention is focused on the creative, producing activities—the ones which produce new products or improve old ones to make our lives safer and more comfortable.

Approximately 10 per cent of all the research laboratories in the United States—more than two hundred and thirty of them—are maintained in Chicago by industry, schools, and government. They will spend nearly two hundred and ninety million dollars for research in 1952 alone. The industries range from abattoirs to zinc mills, and they are interested in products from alcohol to zymase. The number and scope of these in private industry alone is impressive: 60 major laboratories in metals, 48 for minerals, 27 for petroleum, 85 for pharmaceuticals, 133 for chemicals, 26 for building materials, 55 for communications, 40 for electrical machinery, 81 for food, 61 for machinery, 81 for scientific apparatus, 8 for textiles, 31 for wood products, and 50 for transportation equipment. And in addition to these and the government laboratories, dozens of universities, colleges, and professional schools in Chicago train thousands of students every year, teaching them what is already known and guiding research into still wider areas.

But a research laboratory is not all test tubes and microscopes, cyclotrons and electronic computers. If it were all tools and nothing else, a modern laboratory would look little better than a sixteenth-century alchemist's garret

with pelicans and an open charcoal fire. The difference lies in our knowledge of the research done by somebody else, in our ability to begin our work where somebody else left it, in our ability to *advance* knowledge and not have to discover everything all over again repeatedly. This is obvious of course, and it is why you see the Crerar Library in the picture of Chicago, for every year thousands of individuals turn to the Crerar to find the records of research. One time it is a young electrical engineer studying the phenomena of hysteresis and, from the knowledge thus gained, inventing a simple motor for electric clocks. Another time it is an internationally famous petroleum chemist and his staff gathering together the tens of thousands of separate details on hydrocarbons to produce a standard treatise on this important industrial subject. On still another occasion it is a mathematician analyzing statistically the evidence on the causes and treatment of cancer.

We wouldn't be so presumptuous as to call the Crerar the heart of Chicago, but it is nothing less than truth to call it the mind of Chicago, the scientific memory that makes research possible—and sometimes makes it unnecessary by remembering that someone else has already found the answer. And even those who do not do research need to know what the results of research are, need to keep up with new processes and techniques, or be left behind with the alchemist.

For more than half a century the John Crerar Library has been collecting the results of research in science, technology, and medicine, in every language and from every country of the world, until today it is the largest library in the United States, perhaps in the world, devoted exclusively to these scientific fields. It has already spent over nine million dollars in purchasing and housing these materials and in preparing them for use, and it spends tens of thousands of dollars more every year keeping its collections up to date.

All of the library's collections are available for use without charge by anyone interested. Through Interlibrary Loan books or periodicals are sent to other libraries anywhere in the United States, and a complete microfilm and photostat service quickly reproduces material needed for use outside the library.

In addition, the library operates Research Information Service, staffed by subject experts such as chemists, metallurgists, geologists, and pharmacologists who among them read with ease every important language of the world. This Service is available to industries, government agencies, or individuals who wish to have the library carry out library research for them on a fee basis and thus free their own time or personnel for other work.

This, then, is our picture of Chicago. It isn't a picture of all of Chicago by any means, but it is an important part of the picture, and The John Crerar Library is proud to be a part of it.

