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## 100 Years Ago: Saint John's in 1917

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## **100 Years Ago: Saint John's in 1917**


*(although the photo above is from 1912)*

ca. 1912 photo; Devil's Tower would be added in 1916, Benet Hall in 1922  
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/6643>

This image was published in the front of every *Record* issue in 1917.

**St. John's University**  
Diamond Jubilee  
Year

*Older than the State and Not Less Vigorous*  
"In the Heart of a Landscape Paradise"




**ASK** our "Old Boys."  
St. John's is what  
it is chiefly because of  
Loyal Alumni Support.

Come and see ST. JOHN'S or write for catalog to  
**The VERY REV. RECTOR**  
Collegeville, Minn.

**St. John's University**  
Diamond Jubilee  
Year

*Older than the State and Not Less Vigorous*  
"In the Heart of a Landscape Paradise"



*This was published in front of every 1917 issue.*

**1917-07-01, The Record** p.383

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20601/rec/10>

The July 1917 *Record* had this about commencement:

**COMENCEMENT DAY**

June 14 was indeed a great day in the history of St. John's. It marked not only the sixtieth annual commencement, but we were highly honored that day by the presence of His Excellency, the Most Rev. John Bonzano, D. D., the Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Such an honor of welcoming so distinguished a guest is not met with often in this part of the Northwest, and very willingly did the students remain an extra day in order to have that pleasure.

the students are living in the atmosphere of the Order of St. Benedict, an order which is second only to the Divine Institution, the Church. Benedictine monks are not only missionaries but also learned men and the students may be proud to be under such teachers. He said that he met with such a sincere and cordial of welcome that he was glad to be here and he appreciated the fact that Commencement Day was postponed in his honor. He spoke to the graduates telling them to remember and follow the principles instilled into their hearts by their Benedictine professors.

## Commencement, June 14, 1917

### Degrees

#### M. A.

*The Degree and Diploma of Master of Arts was conferred on*

Gregory M. Endres Basil Stegmann  
Joseph Malley George Froulx

#### B. A.

*The Degree and Diploma of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on*

Frank Hackert Mark Braun  
Walter Reger

SAINT JOHN'S



Walter Reger, OSB  
portrait by Bela Petheo  
*SJU Alumni Magazine*, Fall 1968

Fr. Walter was prefect in Benet Hall, musician, professor of European and Church history, Dean of the Prep School, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Director of Alumni Relations.

Commencement degrees **1917-07-01**, *The Record* p. 425

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20578/rec/10>

Commencement Day account **1917-07-01**, *The Record* p. 417

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20570/rec/10> and

p.418 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20571/rec/10>

Reger image from

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/1017/rec/28>, *SJU Alumni Magazine*, Fall 1968, cover

Fr. Walter was prefect in Benet Hall, musician, professor of European and Church history, Dean of the Prep School, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Director of Alumni Relations.

(<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/24816/rec/37>, Spring 1971 *Alumni Magazine*, p. 1)

## Farewell

**D**ear friend, 'tis time to say farewell!  
A word—a fervent handshake—then,  
While heart throbs pulse and mem'ries swell  
The psalm of class life's great 'amen,'

We part.—What mean these words of fate?  
Our years gone by: these, friendship's bond  
That gathers us where oft we sate,  
And leads us, ever chums beyond.

Our future: you and I,—shall we  
E'er meet to weigh our fortunes, cast  
On life's precarious, fickle sea?  
Will this adieu forever last?

Farewell!—with lightsome, jovial tongue;  
Farewell!—with leaden, aching heart,  
Our hands, in parting, now are wrung—  
Godspeed to all!—and we depart.

*Clarus J. Graves*

Seasonal verse in the June 1917 *Record*

## A Summer in Italy

## The Praise of Toil

**T**HERE is a glory in this endless toil:  
Be it the tilling of the peasant soil,  
Or the steel anvil's clarion alarm,  
The sight and sound of labor has a charm.  
It is the sign of man's arising state  
From savage life to culture high elate.  
The meanest labor builds the step of all  
Whereby mankind ascends to its great call.

From the Creator to the living dot,  
All action is for man. Shall not his lot  
Then be cooperation with his God?  
Shall he not elevate his sacred clod?  
Hail, then, to labor! Hail to men who work!  
Better the humblest toil than idle shirk.

*J. Gruber.*

1917-06-01, *The Record* p.331

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19500/rec/9>

"Sumer in Italy" 1917-06-01, *The Record* p.332

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19501/rec/9>

"Praise of Toil" by J. Gruber 1917-06-01, *The Record* p. 350

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19519/rec/9>

Seasonal verse in the June 1917 *Record*

### Vacation Days

**W**ELCOME, vacation's happy time!  
Welcome, retreats in summer clime  
Beneath the shade of verdant tree,  
And the gay ramble o'er the sea.

From light of morn till dusk of night  
The hours wing their speedy flight  
In merry tides of sweet reflection,  
In moments of fond retrospection,

Whereon with joy the memory lingers,  
As o'er the harp the master's fingers.  
And days of fishing at the lake,  
Or searchings in a complex brake.

Fair recollections youth did give  
Spring up again and newly live.  
Welcome, vacation's happy time!  
Gladly we hear your opening chime!

*J. Gruber.*



**1917-07-01, The Record** p.389

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20542/rec/10>

Photo in the SJU Archives PC061880-1930s v.1 p.40 1917 Leaving for Easter vacation

Inset photo PC061880-1930s v.1 p.53 1917 Jemmings & McC.



Shades of Harry Potter in *The Record's* frontispiece

Vol. XXX                      OCTOBER 1917                      Number 8

Many of *The Record's* articles, such as this one, were long and on weighty and academic topics (understandably)

### The Recent Progress in Medical Education

**P**ERHAPS in no other branch of education in the United States has so much improvement been made since the opening of the twentieth century as in the line

**1917-10-01, The Record** p. 447, 450

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20738/rec/11>

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20741/rec/11>

### The Recent Progress in Medical Education

**P**ERHAPS in no other branch of education in the United States has so much improvement been made since the opening of the twentieth century as in the line of medical education. The change has come upon us so suddenly that we can scarcely realize that it has taken place. However, to appreciate this fact we have but to look to the just fading past. We all remember well what a simple matter it was to obtain a degree of Doctor of Medicine formerly. Comparatively little or no work beyond high-school was required for entrance into a medical school, and sometimes even that was not necessary. In fact, there were no real premedical requirements, and such as did exist were unsatisfactory or were not enforced.

the cost of educating a medical student has increased proportionally. At the present day the average cost per year of educating a student in eighty-two of the ninety-five medical schools is four hundred and nineteen dollars, while the average tuition fee per year is

**\$419 !!**



**1917-10-01, The Record** p. 447, 450

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20738/rec/11>

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20741/rec/11>



"Ads" in *The Record* in 1917

**Fellow  
Alumnus**



The Record  
welcomes  
not only your  
Subscription  
but also  
interesting  
contributions  
to its  
columns

**Dr. C. M. Houorka,**

**Physician and Surgeon**

Glasses scientifically fitted.

Office above Molitors Drug-store

ST. CLOUD, MINN.

Office Phone 1069 Res. Phone 898

**Dr. Albert E. Bruener**

**—Dentist—**

709 1-2 St. Germain Street

St. Cloud, Minnesota.

1917-07-01, *The Record* p. 446

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20599/rec/10>



Speaking of dentists:

Dr. Delphin Kohler, '12, alias "Dusty", motored down from Albany Sept. 28, to tell us he is now in partnership with Dr. Watson of that "city."

On the same day, Dr. W. E. Kain from Iowa stopped in to tell us how glad he was to see us and to find out what progress St. John's has made since he bolted the famous "black-bread" here in '96. The Doctor has been mining money out of suffering humanity's teeth for the last fifteen years at Algona, Iowa.

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**1917-10-01, The Record**

p.466 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20757/rec/11>

p.471 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20762/rec/11>



We will not attempt to describe in this column the varied autumnal beauty of Nature round about us— we leave that pleasure to the local poets. But we feel in duty bound to review for the benefit of those who have not the privilege of enjoying them in person, the improvements with which Dame Nature has been embellished by our local landscape artists in the past two months.

Two new "bridgelets" have been constructed in the path around Pickerel Point. To the cement bridge, that was constructed at the west outlet of Caesar's Bay last year a very artistic touch was added by extending the bridge and adorning it with concrete work. The other bridge, the Prefects' Bridge, situated at the east outlet of Caesar's Bay on the path around the bounds, is made of rubblework and looks real rustic.



### 1917-10-01, The Record

p.466 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20757/rec/11>

p. 467 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20758/rec/11>

Cement bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\From SJAA\ca 1917 scan016.jpg

Stone bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\from Chapel Walk 20091116 plr\IMG\_7380 W bridge plr 2009 edited.jpg

Covered bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\Covered Bridge 2016\Photos by Robin Pierzina 2016\IMG\_5572.jpg

The covered bridge replaced the cement bridge in 2016.



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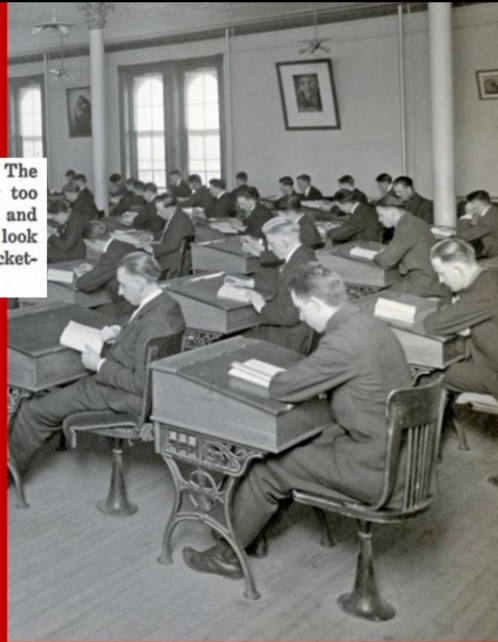
Cement bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\From SJAA\ca 1917 scan016.jpg

Stone bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\from Chapel Walk 20091116 plr\IMG\_7380 W bridge plr 2009 edited.jpg

Covered bridge photo: O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Bridges\Covered Bridge 2016\Photos by Robin Pierzina 2016\IMG\_5572.jpg



Inside the building the smell of fresh paint was abroad. The paint signs frowning at us at every corner kept us from getting too familiar with walls and railings. The desks in the class-rooms and the Commercial Study Hall have been revarnished and now look as good as new, and, we dare say, rather tempting to our pocket-knife artists.

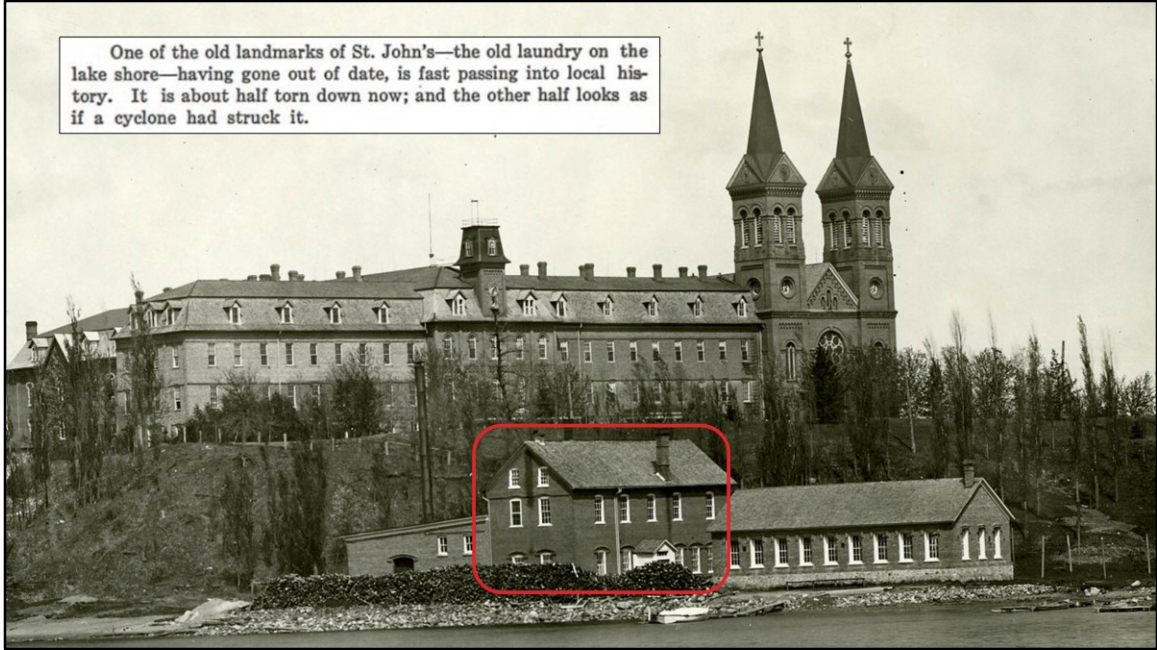


### 1917-10-01, The Record

p. 467 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20758/rec/11>

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O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Ascheman Coll.- historical photos\LP052.1918.LectoreRoom [empty desks]



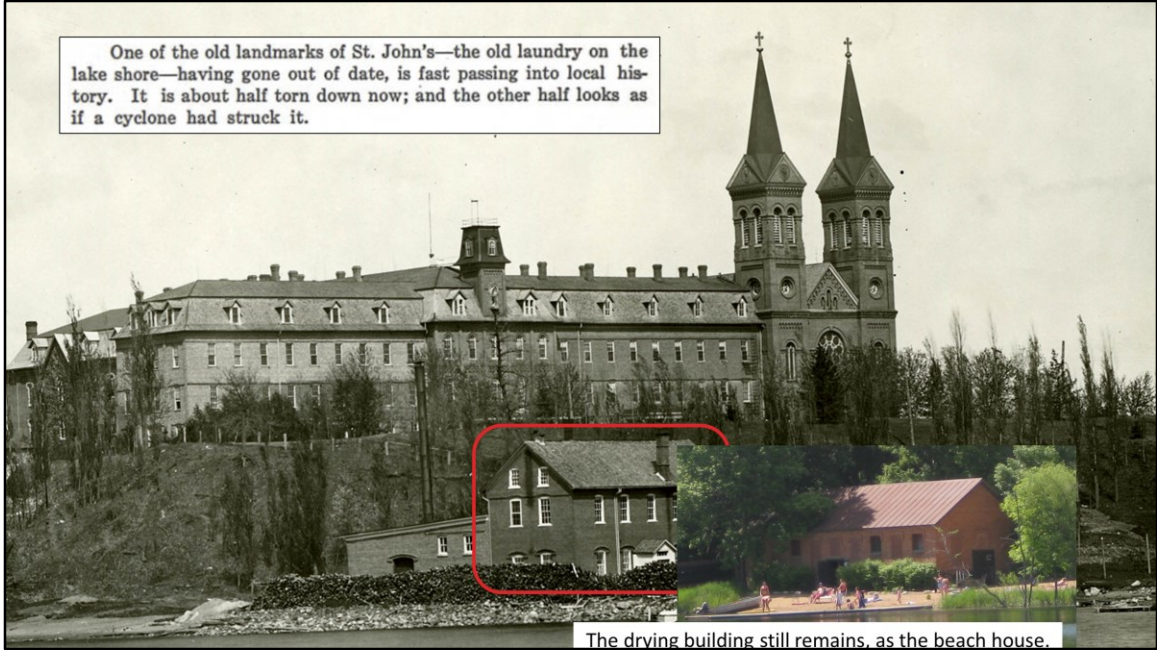
**1917-10-01, The Record**

p. 467 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20758/rec/11>

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**1917-10-01, The Record**

p. 467 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20758/rec/11>  
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Aschman Coll.- historical photos\  
O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Buildings\Laundry & Beach\2013 by  
plr\IMG\_4325.jpg

The Stella Maris Chapel on the island is fairly completed. For several weeks this summer, Mr. A. Hipp and Mr. Edmund Kopfmann, '14, decorators from Minneapolis, were busily engaged in frescoing the interior and endeavoring to bring it up to the artistic standard of the exterior.



STELLA MARIS CHAPEL, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,  
COLLEGEVILLE, MINN.

**1917-10-01, The Record**

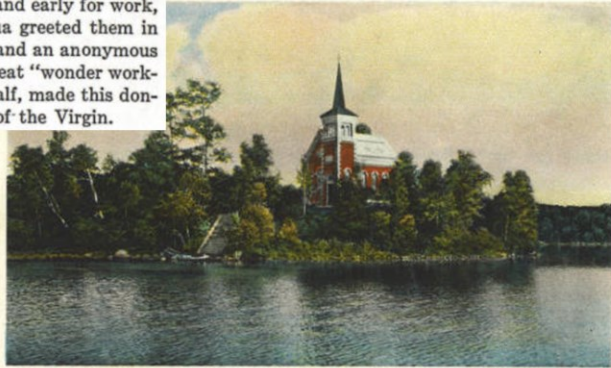
p.471 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20762/rec/11>

Stella Maris Chapel Postcard

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/41754>



The Stella Maris Chapel on the island is fairly completed. For several weeks this summer, Mr. A. Hipp and Mr. Edmund Kopfmann, '14, decorators from Minneapolis, were busily engaged in frescoing the interior and endeavoring to bring it up to the artistic standard of the exterior. Some devout soul was certainly impressed with their work and wished to add his contribution toward the ornamentation. On Sept. 5, as they arrived bright and early for work, a beautiful votive statue of St. Anthony of Padua greeted them in the entrance, accompanied by twenty-five dollars and an anonymous note of explanation. Some pious devotee of the great "wonder worker," out of gratitude for a cure wrought in his behalf, made this donation, under cover of night, to our little Chapel of the Virgin.



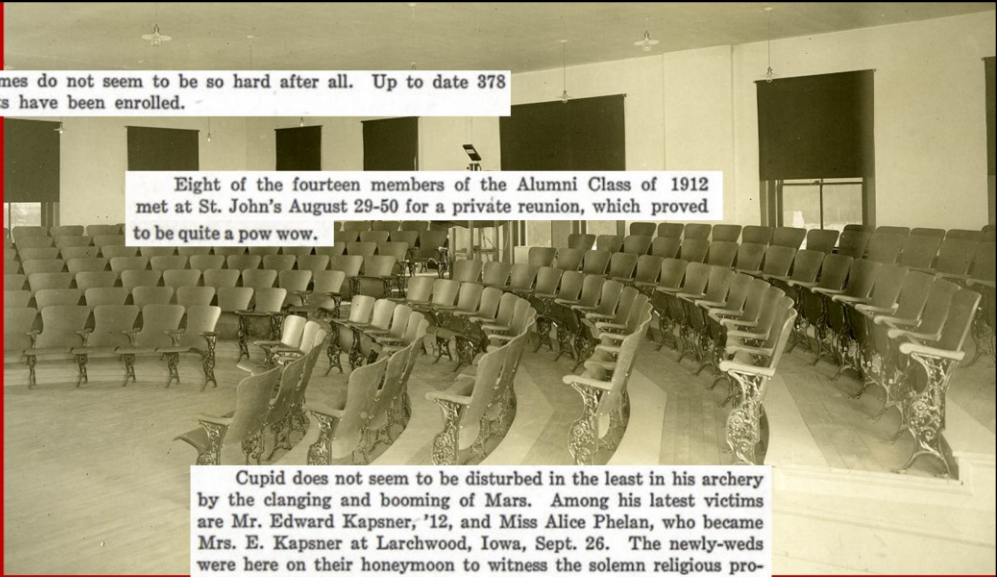
STELLA MARIS CHAPEL, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,  
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p.471 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20762/rec/11>

Stella Maris Chapel Postcard

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/41754>



Times do not seem to be so hard after all. Up to date 378 students have been enrolled.

Eight of the fourteen members of the Alumni Class of 1912 met at St. John's August 29-30 for a private reunion, which proved to be quite a pow wow.

Cupid does not seem to be disturbed in the least in his archery by the clanging and booming of Mars. Among his latest victims are Mr. Edward Kapsner, '12, and Miss Alice Phelan, who became Mrs. E. Kapsner at Larchwood, Iowa, Sept. 26. The newly-weds were here on their honeymoon to witness the solemn religious profession of Fr. Celestine, brother of the groom.

### 1917-10-01, The Record

p.471 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20762/rec/11>

p.484 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/20775/rec/11>

Another weighty article, in the November *Record*

### The Suppression of the Monasteries in England under Henry VIII

ONE of the darkest deeds, which mar the history of the English nation, is the suppression of the religious monasteries by king Henry VIII. The voluptuousness of his life and that of his courtiers had drained the exchequer to such an extent, that Henry had to cast about for a new source of revenue, which would enable him to satisfy his insatiable thirst for pleasure. The numerous monasteries and the extensive domains belonging to them, looked very attractive to the covetous Henry, and he determined upon their ruin, and the transfer of their revenues into his treasury. Another reason which prompted Henry to dissolve the monasteries was his desire to eradicate Catholicism from his dominions. Ever since he had completely separated from Rome, he had nursed an undying hatred against her religion, and he did everything in his power to destroy it. He saw with a glance that, to destroy the religious houses was to destroy the religion of the people, for their faith was maintained almost exclusively through the efforts of the monks.

Education and learning also were no small losers by the confiscation of the religious houses. The instruction of the English youth had been almost exclusively in the hands of the monks. Especially among the middle and lower classes, where there was no thought of a private tutor, all means of education were cut off when the monks were removed.

Among the fine arts, however, literature suffered the most. The monks were the custodians of all that the world possessed in English literature at that time. To the monks we owe the preservation of the early English poetry; for they divided their time between prayer and the copying of manuscripts, of which they had accumulated so many by the time of Henry VIII. The library was one of the principal possessions of every monastery. Long, in his *English Literature* says, "to their (the monks') influence we owe all that is best in Anglo-Saxon literature." Many of the religious had devoted themselves to making illuminated copies of the missal, which were the finest among the artistic possessions of the monasteries. However, of the quarter-million of them which existed in the monasteries before their suppression, there was only a very small number preserved from Henry's desecrating hands.

#### 1917-11-01, The Record

p.502 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19383/rec/12>

p.506 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19388/rec/12>

p.507 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19387/rec/12>

The books in the libraries shared a fate no better than that of the missals and other goods of the monasteries; for great numbers of them were wantonly destroyed by the "new men", as the people were called who purchased the monastic property from the king. These men had absolutely no regard for the literary value of these volumes. They sometimes sold whole libraries for a few shillings, which contained manuscripts that are worth hundreds of pound to-day. John Bale, a contemporary writer says that "those who purchased the many monasteries reserved the books, some to rub their boots, some they sold to grocers and soap sellers, and some they sent over the sea to the bookbinders, not in small numbers, but at times whole ships full, to the wondering of foreign nations."

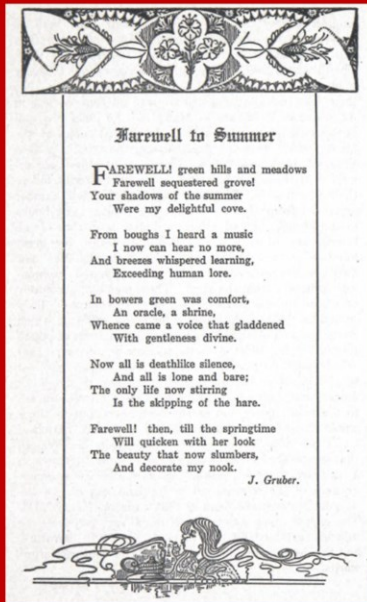
From what has been said it may easily be deduced that the secularization of the monasteries in England was a far-reaching event, one of the most deplorable consequences of the reformation in England and one of the darkest blots on the reign of that monster, Henry VIII. The effects upon society, both moral and physical, the injuries sustained by the fine arts, especially literature, and the decline of education, were felt for centuries afterwards.

*Leo Dworschak*

← (Motivation for the future HMML!)

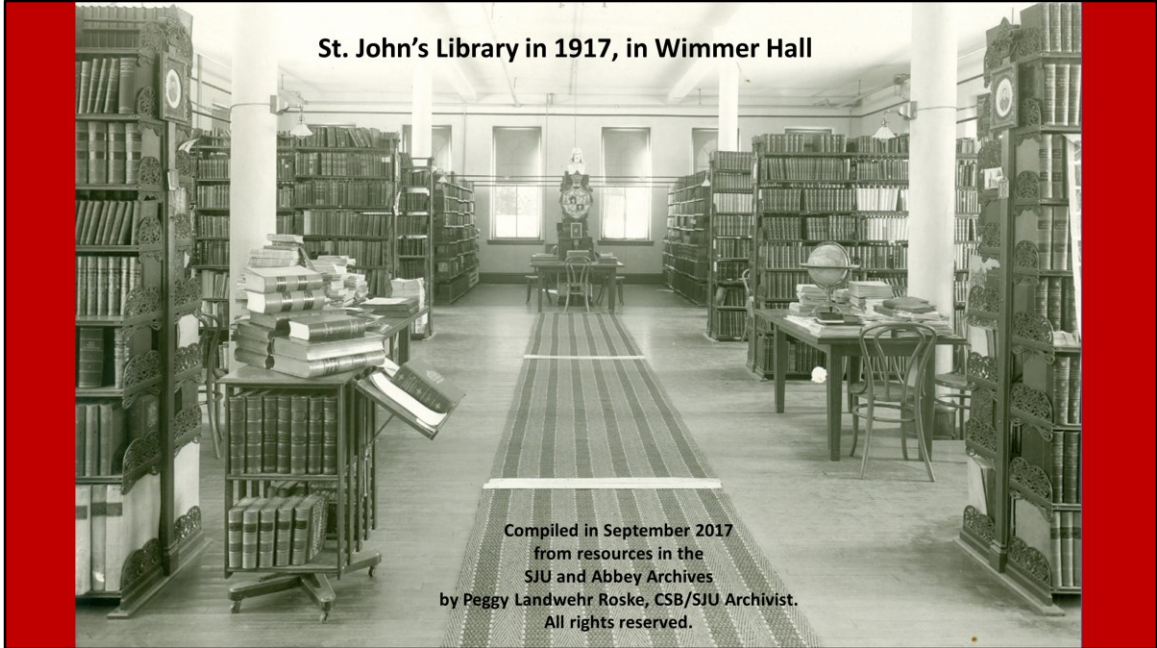
### 1917-11-01, The Record

p.507 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19387/rec/12>



**1917-11-01, The Record**

p.508 <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchNews/id/19389/rec/12>



1917 photo of library (Wimmer Hall)

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Presentation\Interior 1917 Scan 5.jpg