3rd Floor

⑳ Hall
The bust of Victor Marie Hugo, a famous poet and novelist, was donated by University of Paris in 1933.

⑳ Bust of Victor Hugo
The bust of Victor Hugo was donated by University of Paris in 1933. He was a chemist and microbiologist, succeeded in vaccination.

⑳ Relief of Lafcadio Hearn
Lafcadio Hearn (Yakumo Koizumi) taught in Faculty of Letters of the University of Tokyo. This relief was donated from Greece in 1935.

⑳ Relief of Edmund Blunden
Edmund Charles Blunden taught English literature in the University of Tokyo for about 3 years from 1924. He made a poem about the reconstruction of General Library.

⑳ Medallion
In 1929, the following year the library building was completed, the four medallions were made by Takezo Shinkai. They express each of the four seasons in Japan.

⑳ "BiblioPlaza" Works
Section for the books from the Utokyo BiblioPlaza (website where UTokyo faculty members explain about their own works).

⑳ Grand reading room
The lighting was restored to the original design. The desks have been repaired and used for 90 years.

⑳ For UTokyo Members

⑳ Calligraphy “Seishu Collection” (1st Basement Floor)
Hirobumi Ito, the first Prime Minister, wrote the name of the collection held by the Watanabes wealthy family of Koshu (Yamanashi prefecture).

⑳ General Library Annex
Library Plaza (LP) is a round place for group learning. Automated storage under LP holds a lot of containers with materials, which are retrieved to the Main Building through the robotic system.

⑳ Decorative Ceiling (4th Floor)
The decorative ceilings have been preserved as the original design to allow natural light to pour in through the glass.

For UTokyo Members

⑳ Bust of Louis Pasteur
The bust of Louis Pasteur was donated by University of Paris in 1933. He was a chemist and microbiologist, succeeded in vaccination.

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How the General Library was built

The reconstruction started in 1926 and completed on December 1st, 1928. The building was made of steel-reinforced concrete so that it could be robust over disaster and composed of four-story open-shelf area and seven-story stack area. The library building was, along with a lot of buildings of Hongo Campus, designed by Yoshikazu Uchida, professor of Faculty of Engineering. The appearance of the library is characterized by the walls clad with tan tiles and the entrance with “Uchida-Gothic” arches and decoration to be matched with the other buildings of Hongo Campus, designed by former director Urata.

The earthquake and following fire destroyed the Great Kanto earthquake in 1923. The University of Tokyo immediately decided to accept his offer and to reconstruct the library building. John D. Rockefeller Jr. offered to donate 4 million yen (ca. 10 billion yen in today's currency) for the reconstruction of the library. The University of Tokyo presented Mr. Rockefeller with a model of the General Library in return of his donation. This model was made of the same mold.

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The University of Tokyo Library System is composed of General Library, Komaba Library, Kashiwa Library, and 27 libraries attached to departments or related research institutions. The libraries hold 9.5 million volumes in total and provide a large variety of services as a single, integrated system.

General Library is the central library of Hongo campus and the biggest library in the University of Tokyo. The wide range of materials, equipment and service are provided to all of the university affiliates, while libraries of departments or institutions support study and research specialized in their research area. The University of Tokyo Library System has formulated the "New Library Plan" and has renovated the main building of the General Library and built a new annex to form a center for learning, education, and research. All construction work was completed in 2020 and the building had its grand opening.

In the annex, there is a library plaza on the basement level and automated storage that have capacity of 3 million volumes on the second to fourth floors. Before we started using computers to search for books, we have used catalog cards. There used to be about 60 libraries at the University of Tokyo, and the cards could search the entire collections. You can see the steel staircase in the preservation stacks. This area introduces the intellectual assets of the University of Tokyo.