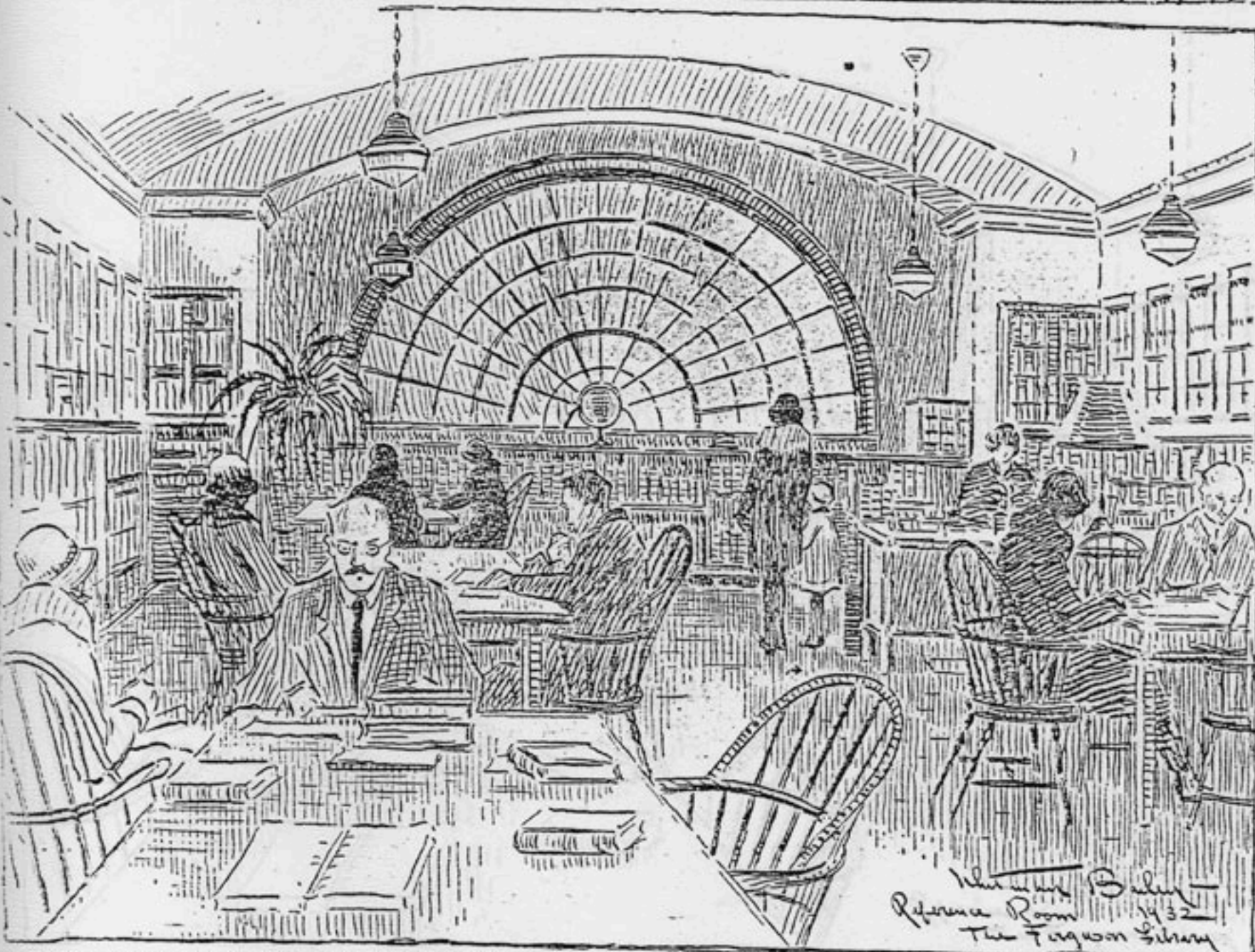


# INTERIOR OF NEW REFERENCE ROOM AT FERGUSON LIBRARY

March 19, 1932



Whitman Bailey  
Reference Room 1932  
The Ferguson Library

As one enters the spacious reference room on the second floor of our Ferguson Library, one is immediately fascinated by the duty and charm of the great arched window. Indeed this huge sign of a sunbreak, with its many glass panes, would be a worthy addition to any library in a country.

The approach to this attractive room should be made by one of a spiral staircases at the main entrance of the building. On reaching the top of these winding

stairs, which are also unique in their construction, one gets the first glimpse through a small open doorway of the highly polished tables, the long but gracefully hanging chandeliers, and the beautiful window in the distance. Bright green ferns are growing luxuriously in the sunlight, making cheerful blotches of color in the room. The information desk is usually occupied by some one in charge who is ready to reply to the many questions asked.

Taking one of the easy chairs with a slender curved back, the writer sat down near the desk and became absorbed in listening to the many questions that were asked for information. Some of these would certainly puzzle the average person.

"I should like to know," said one inquirer, "where I can find the coat of arms of the Jones family?" Another person wanted to find a vivid description of the alligator industry of Florida. "Can you tell me," said a very timid

person, "from what poem comes this quotation, 'He killed the thing he loved?'" In fact, before the morning was over, the writer became convinced that his own education had been sadly neglected. All this simply prove that a reference room is most important to persons using a library and that the person in charge must be fully trained for the job.

The above sketch gives one an idea of the appearance of this attractive room on the usual busy afternoon.

Whitman Bailey