A Century of Service

William J. Petersen
baugh as Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa and head of the Department of Political Science in the University. This was the situation when Dr. Shambaugh suddenly died in the spring of 1940, after more than thirty-two years of inspirational leadership.

In the twenty years since Dr. Shambaugh died, the Society library has continued to expand at the rate of more than one thousand volumes a year, not counting newspapers, manuscripts, maps, photos, etc. In December, 1960, the books accessioned totaled 80,000, while the number of pamphlets approximated 30,000. In addition, the Society had 10,000 volumes of bound newspapers, an extensive and rapidly expanding microfilm collection, and rich holdings in manuscripts, photographs, and maps. It was this steady expansion, coupled with the dire need of the State University of Iowa for more classroom and office space, which ultimately forced the Society to seek new quarters of its own.