

PREFACE

The Louisville Free Public Library is the descendant, the grandson, so to speak, of the Public Library of Kentucky, whose launching was financed by a lottery. That library of seventy years ago flourished briefly before passing on its property to the Polytechnic Society of Kentucky; this organization, in time, gave way to the present institution.

The colorful stories surrounding the library's origin persuaded Harold F. Brigham, then librarian of the Louisville Free Public Library, that a history of the library movement in Louisville should be written and published. At his request the Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration in Kentucky in 1940 began preparation of such a history.

It was written by the undersigned, with the collaboration of Edward L. Kinkade. Other members of the Writers' Project staff who assisted materially in assembling data for the book were Edward A. Jonas, Emmett V. Riggs, and Robert P. Arnold.

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the interest and co-operation of the librarians of the Louisville Free Public Library which made completion of the book possible: Mr. Brigham, whose advice, suggestions, and criticism while