

tions to the 1783 catalog had done for Trist. (In a June 19, 1825 letter, Kean goes so far as to invite Jefferson's help arranging the university's first books in their subject classes. Kean adds that "Dr. Blaetterman has commenced & will complete it," if Jefferson is unable to do the arranging himself.⁵⁵) Ultimately, though, the question of who was responsible for categorizing the university's books into the 42 chapters of Kean's catalog is immaterial. Comparing the rediscovered leaf of the 1824 catalog and Kean's carefully copied table of classifications makes clear that Kean's catalog derived from Jefferson's lost 1824 catalog.

The occasion for creating the 1825 Kean catalog has already been stated: with Jefferson's lost 1824 catalog to guide him, Kean listed the books that made up Gilmer's order from Bohn and arranged them in their appointed places according to the 42-chapter system devised by Jefferson—a task completed presumably when Kean dated the catalog's cover on 16 May 1825.⁵⁶ But Kean's catalog had another purpose besides. As Jefferson finished work on his 1824 desiderata—copying from the 1823 Trist catalog and consulting his correspondence with friends, his retirement library catalog, and his collection of booksellers' lists—he encountered a problem that only Kean and his catalog could solve. Because Gilmer had acquired most of the university's first books without consulting any of Jefferson's evolving booklists, Jefferson needed to ensure that duplicate titles weren't ordered from the university's newly appointed bookseller, Cummings & Hilliard of Boston.⁵⁷ In other words, Jefferson needed Kean's catalog to determine which books in the 1824 catalog had been ordered and would need to be omitted from a final list.

Jefferson had reason to hurry. By July 14, 1824, William Hilliard had written offering to "supply your University with such Books as may be wanted for Your course of studies."⁵⁸ Jefferson replied on September 6, 1824, expressing his interest

55. Thomas Jefferson from John V. Kean, 19 June 1825, *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-5310>. This later shipment of books was part of a subsequent order of books placed with Boston booksellers, Cummings & Hilliard, described below.

56. In a January 20, 1825, letter to Gilmer, Jefferson remarks, "Our books &c (8. boxes) are arrived. I have had the covers of the boxes taken off to admit dry air, but we cannot take them out for want of the catalogue; because if we do not assort them under their proper heads of arrangement when first taken out, it would be infinitely difficult afterwards. will you be so good as to send me the catalogue by return of mail, for I think they are suffering from damp" ("Thomas Jefferson to Francis Walker Gilmer, 20 January 1825," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-4890>). Evidently, no such catalog existed, nor was one forthcoming. This necessitated John Vaughn Kean's catalog listing this first shipment of books. Kean's catalog also contains entries for books sent by Bohn's successor as the University's bookseller, Cummings & Hilliard of Boston. Most of these later arrivals are classed in a subsection of Kean's catalog labeled, "supplementary catalog"; these later arrivals, and Cumming & Hilliard's role in supplying books is discussed below.

57. A letter dated April 8, 1825, survives that appoints "William Hilliard, Agent for the said University, to procure the said books, and attend to their care, transportation and delivery, at the said University" ("Thomas Jefferson to William Hilliard, 8 April 1825," *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-5121>).

58. "William Hilliard to Thomas Jefferson, 16 July 1825," *Founders Early Access*, <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-04-02-02-4400>. Jefferson evidently jotted down several titles from this enclosed catalog, some of which were eventually acquired for the University's library. See "Thomas Jefferson's List of Books for Hilliard, 14 July 1824," *Founders Early Access*, <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/default.xqy?keys=FOEA-print-04-02-02-4406>.