

# APLA

# BULLETIN

ATLANTIC  
PROVINCES  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 4

SUMMER 1959

# \$500

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# # # # # # # #

ALSO: TWENTIETH CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

# APLA BULLETIN

ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 23 NO. 4

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ature, Library Science  
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in Advance.

## THANKS AGAIN FOR THE BRIEFCASE

The lightning has struck, or stricken, twice in the same place. The Halifax Library Association can be blamed for starting it ~~trally~~ by electing me their President for 1959-60. The last time they did this, in 1956-57, I left for Ceylon. At least, that year, I had the opportunity to preside over one meeting before resigning. This year, Mrs. Redmond and I are leaving for Turkey before the meetings are ~~underway~~ at all. (Probably by the time you read this.) The assignment is a UNESCO posting as advisor to university libraries in Turkey, at Ankara, and the particular interest (is the Middle East Technical University. The ~~then~~ Maritime Library Association gave me a fine gift, the expert's hallmark, a briefcase, and I must acknowledge its indispensability. It goes along to Turkey, you may be sure.

The Bulletin will be put to bed this issue by Miss Shirley Coulter, of the Halifax Memorial Library staff, whose versatility with the typewriter is thus extended again. She is well known to us for her drama work. I leave the torch to her, leaning against the wall, not even lit; the hands aren't failing, but I haven't time to spare from packing to throw it properly.

Don Redmond

## SCHOLARSHIP MORE DEFINITE

APLA will have a \$500 scholarship available for award within a couple of years. This looks like a reachable objective from the \$200 voted directly by the Association, and a \$1 raise in personal membership dues voted at the 1959 Conference, which will bring in between \$75 and \$100 a year. New President Mary Cameron's conference statement bears repeating: That the more we, as library associations and individual librarians can give, the more we will be in a position to solicit from outside individuals or organizations. The final sentence of the Scholarship Committee's report, also: Should members wish to make personal contributions, during the fund accumulation period, such donations will be received with every appreciation.

## A. L. A. and A. P. L. A. : AN UNFORTUNATE CHAPTER

It is understandable but regrettable that APLA and ALA reached at least a temporary parting of ways at the 1959 Conference. ALA's provisions for domestic chapters, 99% ALA members, are clear and obvious, that ALA retains the controlling voice in their organization. That this was not quite suitable to a regional Canadian Association, perhaps 5% ALA members, was also obvious. APLA has been an ALA associate, latterly a chapter, for good historical reasons and good professional reasons. The library profession's strongest voice should have unanimous support from librarians of this continent. The joint ALA-CLA conference scheduled for Montreal next year shows this solidarity. So the 1959 APLA Conference regretted perhaps, but had to make the break. Let's be sure ALA-CLA liaison is more than perfunctory; and those in such fields as school libraries, especially, will do well to make use of the many ALA services and organizations. To CLA members, ALA membership is a mere \$3.00 a year, and worth it.

## PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS:

## THE CRUCIAL PROBLEM

Douglas G. Lochhead, Librarian of Dalhousie University and 1958-59 President of APLA, gave the following opening address to the 20th Annual Conference of APLA in Saint John.

Fellow members of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to this---the Twentieth Annual Conference. I believe it is traditional that the President should make a few remarks at the opening session of the Conference. At any rate I am going to assume there is tradition to follow and say a few things, some of which I hope you will consider to be appropriate and even somewhat significant.

Before touching on the theme of this Conference and what we hope to achieve, I would like to comment on what I feel to be one of the crucial problems as far as the general health and well-being of libraries and librarians are concerned. None are more aware than we are of the remarkable growth in libraries and reading since the last war. None are more aware than we are of the unfortunate fact that the number of librarians to cope with this development has failed to keep pace. The shortage of trained personnel constitutes a national problem within the library associations---national, regional and provincial. But that it is not a problem in the minds of the outside public, that it is not a real concern to members of the reading public, the taxpayers, the administrators, is everywhere manifest. We have yet to convince the public, the vast majority, that is, that we do have a problem of this seriousness, and that we are worth worrying about.

There continues to exist in the minds of the Canadian public--a public that is really just beginning to sense the meaning and benefits of library service--the old and tired myth that a librarian is something that sits with the rest of the furniture and somehow passes books from shelf to outstretched palm. That the whole concept and completion of library service has changed in the last thirty or forty years is not realized. We are, for the most part, taken for granted. Our plight is real within us, but it is pale and weak beside the raw voice of the labor unions; it is amateur beside the professional organizations which embody the practitioners of law, medicine, dentistry, engineering; we are undergraduate beside the less organized but respected learned organizations and societies. We pass resolutions, we make our pleas, but the cries go unheard in the wilderness of competing voices. It is difficult to say this and to face it, but we must.

One of the problems is set forth in that old chestnut of a question: Are we a profession? That we continue to ask ourselves the question from time to time is a direct indication of our uncertainty and it almost answers itself. I sincerely believe that we will be wanted someday, that we will be a profession someday, that parents will start their children out to be professional librarians rather than see them end up that way as they do now. I also believe that the

public will realize our true worth that much more quickly if we, as individuals, set a professional example of the highest order. We cannot decree or resolve ourselves into professionals through our associations, but rather must make ourselves as highly qualified as possible for those aspects of our work that demand professional qualifications. All this will continue to be difficult until we are able to answer, at least in part, the serious help problem.

To be aware of the past and the contemporary, to be familiar with the book as object as well as a medium for ideas, to be efficient managers of book emporia, is evidently not enough. We must, I suggest, be not only aware but part of the present. We must talk, we must write, we must participate in the arts and sciences---in short we must be alive. It is not enough to be the shy and subtle intermediary existing between reader and book---true there is quiet satisfaction in this, but there is more to be gained. We must make the word "librarian" not only respectable but meaningful. I apologize if I sound like the crusader, but that word and all it suggests can be respectable too. And perhaps now is the time. When one must use every guile imaginable and more, to convince administrators in academic institutions that books are as important as skating rinks and other frills, the problem is serious.

One way we can improve our condition is to go outside our profession or calling and ally ourselves with those individuals who provide the material we use. I mean those most interesting, unpredictable and influential people--the authors and publishers. As you know, the theme chosen for this Twentieth Annual Conference is AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS AND BOOKS. As librarians we do play an important role in seeing to it that the author reaches the public he writes for, and upon whose critical acclaim he thrives whether he admits it or not. We are publishers in the broadest sense and we should know something of the ways books are born by authors and raised by commercial publishers, and how best they can be ushered into the big, broad reading world.

It was with this in mind that your Executive invited authors and publishers to participate in our conference. Our guests have been asked to provide the intellectual fare from which it is hoped useful discussion will result. The author and publisher are, after all, our working partners.

I am afraid I have not provided you with a resume of the year's progress in library expansion and development in the Atlantic Provinces. I might have mentioned the promising regional library program in York County of New Brunswick and the expansion of the Mount Allison University Library at Sackville; the growing number of branch libraries in Newfoundland and the healthy reading habits of the people of that great province and of Prince Edward Island, or of new regional service in Victoria County, Cape Breton, and great growth of the Halifax Memorial Library and of other healthy manifestations of library of library life in these provinces. My preoccupation with what I feel might be our real weakness is already known to you. I hope I am all wrong. I also sincerely hope that this Conference will be the beginning of the "road back" if I should happen to be right.

Now I am happy to declare the Twentieth Annual Conference in session, and may it be as helpful and rewarding as others we have known in the past.

## PROCEEDINGS

## TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Saint John, New Brunswick, May 21-22, 1959

Condensed from the official minutes prepared by Miss Isabel Abernethy, Secretary-Treasurer, by the Editor.

Forty-six members of APLA gathered at the Admiral Beatty Hotel last month for a lively conference. Librarians have been made welcome everywhere they gather, and this was no exception as greetings came from the Province, the City, and the Free Public Library Board.

Opening the conference on the theme AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS AND BOOKS, President Douglas Lochhead spoke in his opening remarks of a crucial problem in the well being of libraries and librarians: the shortage of trained personnel. This was a national problem, he said, but was not of real concern to the public outside the library world. They had yet to be convinced of the need for qualified librarians. Mr. Lochhead's address is elsewhere in this BULLETIN.

The Treasurer's report to APLA showed \$230.26 in the general fund and \$150.64 in the Special Reserve (Scholarship) Fund.

Atlantic Checklist Well Received

Reporting on the Atlantic Provinces Checklist, Miss Shirley Elliott, Legislative Library of Nova Scotia, said Volume 2 for 1958 had just been received from the printers, after some delays. The initial volume had met immediate success and wide distribution, not only in Canada but in the U. S. A. and Britain, with a number of institutions placing standing orders. Volume 2, larger than Volume 1, has an index at the end, of periodicals used, and the names of provinces are used throughout as running titles. Miss Elliott expressed sincere thanks to contributors from the four provinces and to all others who assisted, and to APLA itself whose wholehearted interest and cooperation added immeasurably to the success of the project. She asked for comments and criticisms of Volume 2 when it is distributed.

Miss Ruby Wallace asked if the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council is doing anything to publicize the checklist with Boards of Trade. Miss Elliott replied that it goes automatically to Boards of Trade who are APEC members, to members of Legislative Assemblies, members of Parliament and senators from the four Atlantic Provinces. Miss Mary Cameron asked for a resolution thanking the two editors, Miss Elliott and Mr. Lochhead, who alone had been responsible for assembling the checklist.

Mr. Redmond, Editor of the Bulletin, was unable to attend the conference since he was participating in the Dominion Drama Festival in Toronto. His report had appeared in the Spring 1959 Bulletin. The chief point in that report was the necessity of securing an assistant editor to relieve the editor of some of his duties. Miss Cameron, president-elect, asked what duties Mr. Redmond had had in mind for an assistant editor. She felt that this point should be considered a memorandum to the executive.

From the standpoint of efficiency of operation the editor would almost have to be someone located in Halifax. Miss Cameron suggested that Mr. Redmond set down in writing exactly what he wants in order that the executive might have some guidance. It was suggested that the outgoing executive consult Mr. Redmond before any action is taken. An expression of thanks to Mr. Redmond was moved by Mrs. MacPhail, seconded by Miss Wallace and carried.

### Scholarship Committee

Miss Evelyn Campbell presented the report of the Scholarship Committee; this report is on file with the Secretary-Treasurer. She outlined the discussion of this subject at the 1957 and 1958 conferences, and the resolutions passed at those conferences, and outlined the decisions taken by the Executive meeting in Halifax, Jan. 25, 1959. Also at that time \$150 from the treasury had been set aside in a Special Reserve Fund as the beginning of the Scholarship Fund.

Miss Campbell presented the following motions:

1. That the APLA set aside annually a minimum sum of \$150 in a reserve fund, and that the accumulated amount at the end of three years, or such time thought more suitable by the Executive, be awarded to a student to study library science, and should at any time the financial situation of the organization be such that in the considered opinion of the Executive, the amount should be altered, authority should be given to the Executive to so alter the annual amount to be set aside; the qualifications for this award to be set by the APLA Executive.
2. That the annual membership fee of the Association be raised to \$3 to help defray the cost of this award.

The report concluded by saying: "The Committee wishes to point out that should the members wish to make personal contributions, during the fund accumulation period, such donations will be received with every appreciation." Miss Campbell moved the adoption of the report.

Motion 1 having been seconded by Mr. Boone, there was much discussion. Mr. MacEacheron asked about the mechanics of awarding the scholarship. Miss Campbell suggested this be decided by the Executive when sufficient funds for the award had accumulated.

Miss Wallace asked if it would be possible to transfer more money from the general treasury to the Scholarship Fund at the present time. The Treasurer felt an additional \$50 might be transferred. Mrs. Windsor added that a further contribution might be forthcoming from the New Brunswick Library Association. Miss Cameron pointed out that the more we, as librarians and library associations could give, the more we would be in a position to solicit from outside individuals and organizations.

Mr. Moon asked whether, since no time limit for the award had been set, the period before making the award could be shortened if we collected a sum more quickly than expected. Miss Campbell suggested this question was answered in the motion.

As to a sufficient amount, it was decided that \$500 should be aimed at. The motion was voted on and carried.

Motion 2, "That the annual membership fee of the Association be raised to \$3 to help defray the cost of this award" was then put forward and seconded by Miss Gladys Black. Miss Cullen asked the reason for the 1957 increase and whether it had not been intended for the Scholarship Fund. The Secretary-Treasurer replied that it had been for the general fund. Miss Mercer asked whether the extra dollar would always be used for the Scholarship Fund; Miss Campbell pointed out that this was answered in the report of the Committee and its two motions.

It was then asked whether the \$1 increase would apply to institutions also. As the motion had not been intended to apply to institutional dues, it was moved by Mr. Boone, seconded by Mrs. Cooke, that the motion be amended to read:

"That the annual personal membership fee of the Association be raised to \$3 to help defray the cost of this award."

The amendment and the original motion were then voted on and carried.

There was, however, further discussion on institutional dues. Miss O'Dea felt institutions were in a better position than individuals to pay a higher fee. Miss Abernethy said a number of institutional contributions came from outside the Atlantic Provinces, and if these felt the Scholarship Fund was not their concern and dropped their memberships upon a further increase in fees, this would not help the financial situation of APLA. Miss Wallace suggested the question of institutional dues be left to individuals to contact their own institutions regarding any increase in dues. Miss Campbell felt a good beginning had been made, and any further increases should be left to a later date.

Miss Cullen suggested having personal contributions to the Fund made deductible for income ~~tax~~ purposes. It was pointed out that this involved having the Fund registered, and it was decided to leave this question for the present. On motion by Miss Mifflin, seconded by Miss Wallace and carried, \$50 was ordered added to the Scholarship Fund from the general fund.

## C. L. A. Recruitment: Representative' s Report

Miss Miffen stated that, as the representative from APLA to the CLA Recruitment Committee, she had kept in touch with that committee, but did not feel that any detailed report was necessary at this time except to keep the membership aware of the liaison between APLA and the CLA Committee.

### Report of Nominating Committee

Mr. James MacEacheron, chairman of the Nominating Committee, brought in the slate of officers proposed by his committee for 1959-60. The committee consisted of Mr. MacEacheron, Miss Ada Green and Mrs. Mildred MacLaren.

President: Miss Mary Cameron, Chief Librarian, Halifax Memorial Library

Past President: Douglas Lochhead, Librarian, Dalhousie University  
Vice-President for New Brunswick, and President-Elect:

Laurie M. Allison, Librarian, Mount Allison University

Vice-President for Newfoundland: Miss Agnes O' Dea, Memorial University

Vice-President for Nova Scotia: Miss Shirley Coulter, Halifax M. L.

Vice-President for Prince Edward Island: Miss Dorothy Cullen,  
P. E. I. Libraries, Charlottetown

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Isabel Abernethy, Glace Bay Library

There being no nominations from the floor, these officers were elected by acclamation.

### Chapter Membership in A. L. A.

The President related the history of the relationship between APLA and the American Library Association as it had developed since the 1958 conference. He read a letter from ALA replying to the Secretary-Treasurer's letter informing ALA of decisions taken at that conference---namely that the President of APLA would serve as councillor to ALA, and that the name of the association had been changed from Maritime to Atlantic Provinces Library Association.

ALA raised objection to our naming the president of APLA as our representative to their Association, because he serves only a one-year term and ALA councillors serve four-year terms to provide for continuity. The letter also pointed out that no changes could be made in the constitution of any chapter member of ALA without prior approval by ALA.

Mr. Lochhead suggested that, in view of these facts, this Association remain unrepresented as a chapter of ALA until the entire membership of this Association had had time to consider the matter. Miss Campbell felt the critical point was that all amendments to our constitution would have to have prior approval by ALA.

Mr. Moon asked what specific advantages we gained from chapter membership in ALA. He suggested that this year we put the money into the Scholarship Fund rather than renew our institutional membership in ALA. Miss Black felt we had sufficient connection with ALA through our connection with the Canadian Library Association and ALA-CLA liaison. The discussion was adjourned to the May 22 session.

#### Thursday Activities

After lunch, members were taken on a bus tour of the City of Saint John as guests of the Saint John Free Public Library Board. The tour ended at the New Brunswick Museum where tea was served by the Museum staff and members had the opportunity to view exhibits.

The Library Board were also hosts at a cocktail party at the Admiral Beatty Hotel, followed by dinner at which Mr. G. Earle Logan, Q. C., Chairman of the Board, presided and welcomed members of the Association. Mr. Lochhead, introduced the speaker, Brigadier Michael Wardell, President of the University Press of New Brunswick. Brig. Wardell gave an interesting account of his life in the publishing world and personal sketches of well known names in literature such as H. G. Wells and Arnold Bennett. Miss Jessie Mifflen thanked the speaker.

#### Friday Business Session

The President opened the second day's proceedings by reading a telegram from Sister Francis Dolores who was unable to attend.

A draft of a letter to Prime Minister Diefenbaker, from the Canadian Library Association, Canadian Historical Association, Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Political Science Association, and Social Science Research Council, in support of a National Library, was read by the President. On motion by Mr. Ganong, seconded by Father Stewart, it was resolved that the APLA endorses the letter to the Prime Minister from the five national organizations mentioned, in support of a national library.

The increased student fees at McGill University Library School were discussed. These fees were now \$500. It was felt that the raised fees might discourage students from attending library school. Miss Wallace suggested that the Association ask Miss Vernon Ross, Director of the School, whether a letter from APLA would help in the situation. It was moved by Mr. Greer, seconded by Miss Dobson, and carried, that the Executive write to Miss Vernon Ross, to find out if a letter regarding the increase in fees and the possible discouragement to students planning to attend the Library School would be of help to her.

#### A. L. A. Membership Withdrawn

Resuming the discussion on ALA chapter membership, various points were raised:

1. There is a joint ALA-CLA meeting in Montreal in 1960 and it might be a good thing for APLA to be a chapter member of ALA at that time.

2. Background of the work which was done for libraries in Canada, as well as in the United States, by ALA before the formation of CLA.
3. The value of enlightening ALA to what is being done in Canada.
4. The possibility of finding out what other provincial library associations are doing in the matter of ALA chapter membership.

Expressing our allegiance now to CLA, and that we are associated with ALA through CLA, Miss Cameron moved that the ALA dues be paid this year in view of the riders attached to our membership as a chapter of that organization. Miss Black seconded this motion.

Miss Wallace, seconded by Mr. Boone, moved an amendment: That the ALA dues not be paid this year until after the matter of our membership has been discussed at the CLA conference. Miss Cameron said that as President-Elect she felt ~~this~~ ~~topic~~ was sufficiently controversial that the Executive must have definite direction from the membership. Mr. Moon spoke in favor of Miss Cameron's original motion, and felt a vote on it would test the feeling of the meeting.

Father Stewart suggested a return to the original crucial issue: Were we going to accept outside direction of our Association? If not, then we must withdraw from chapter membership in ALA. Miss Cameron and Miss Wallace then withdrew their motion.

On motion by Mr. MacEacheron, seconded by Mr. Moon, it was resolved that the Atlantic Provinces Library Association withdraw from membership in the American Library Association until this clause in their constitution is removed.

#### C. L. A. Pension Plan

Mr. Lochhead spoke briefly on the CLA pension plan, reading the outline of Plans A and B, and introduced Mr. George Publicover of the Royal Trust Co., who had attended the meeting to answer members' questions. It was decided that members could put their questions to him during the coffee break later.

#### Library Trustees Participating in Conferences Encouraged

Miss Gardiner spoke on the value of having library trustees attending conferences of the Association and asked if part of the program of future conferences could be devoted to matters of interest to trustees. Miss Wallace suggested that a committee be formed toward this end. Miss Cameron said the Executive will consider gearing next year's program to the interests of trustees; this would be discussed at the Executive meeting in the fall. On motion by Miss Gardiner, seconded by Mrs. Windsor, the matter was left with the incoming Executive for action.

The meeting then broke up into groups for informal discussion: Public and Regional Libraries, led by Miss Wallace; University Libraries, led by Mr. Ganong, and Special Libraries, led by Miss Campbell. Following these, coffee was served, and the meeting reconvened at 11 a. m.

Dr. Fred Cogswell of the University of New Brunswick spoke to the conference on the poetry magazine, The Fiddlehead, of which he is Editor. His interesting account of the origin and growth of a small magazine of this type included its financial ups and downs and the way in which contributions are secured and edited, as well as the geographical location of subscribers including some in far-away regions. Mr. Allison thanked Dr. Cogswell for his talk, mentioning that, from his remarks, it is apparent that a business head as well as an interest in things cultural is essential even for producing a poetry magazine successfully.

At the 1 p. m. luncheon, the speaker was Mr. Stuart D. Trueman, Editor of the Saint John Telegraph Journal and Saint John Evening Times-Globe. He spoke entertainingly of the daily life of a newspaper editor.

### Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee (Miss Dorothy Cullen; Miss Gladys Black; Mr. Eric Moon, chairman) reported as follows:

1. Be it resolved that the APLA express its thanks and appreciation to the Saint John Free Public Library Board; the staff of that library; the Committee and staff of the New Brunswick Museum; the hotel, press and radio; the speakers, Brig. Wardell, Dr. Cogswell and Mr. Trueman; and Mr. Publicover of the Royal Trust Co.
2. Be it resolved that the thanks of APLA go to the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council for continued assistance in publishing the Atlantic Checklist.
3. Be it resolved that APLA thanks the editors of the Atlantic Provinces Checklist, the editor of the APLA Bulletin, and the Secretary-Treasurer for their excellent and continued hard work on behalf of the Association.
4. Be it resolved that a letter be forwarded to the Prime Minister from this Association endorsing the letter in connection with the National Library, submitted by the Canadian Library Association, Canadian Historical Association, Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Political Science Association and the Social Sciences Research Council.
5. Be it resolved that a letter be forwarded to the Premier of New Brunswick on behalf of this Association, endorsing the resolution previously passed by the New Brunswick Library Association in connection with the establishment of a Provincial Archives in New Brunswick.
6. Be it resolved that this Association express its appreciation to the Minister of Education for New Brunswick for his interest and offer of support in establishing a professional library school in this area.
7. Whereas there is a continuing shortage of professional librarians in the Atlantic Provinces, therefore BE IT RESOLVED that this Association explore the possibility of the establishment of summer courses by an accredited library school in this area, leading to the B. L. S. degree.

8. Whereas this Association has full confidence in the ability of the Executive and the Secretary to express the Association's thanks to all persons and organizations offering assistance and hospitality to the Association, therefore BE IT RESOLVED that in future years resolutions be framed only in connection with contentious matters or questions of policy.

These resolutions were severally presented, seconded and carried.

On the President calling for any further business, Miss Eileen Wallace asked whether school librarians might have an opportunity at some future conference to discuss their special problems. She mentioned the difficulty experienced by school librarians in attending a conference at the time when the APLA conference is usually held.

A vote of thanks to the outgoing President and Executive for a well-run conference was moved by Mr. MacEacheron, and Mr. Lochhead turned over the chair to Miss Mary Cameron, President for 1959-60. Expressing her thanks, Miss Cameron said it was planned next year to carry out a working conference, and that she will try to provide for trustees and school librarians as requested at this conference. She passed on an invitation from Miss Eileen Burns, Chairman of the Halifax Regional Library Board, for APLA to hold its conference in Halifax on May 20-21, 1960. She then called on Miss Evelyn Campbell who paid tribute to the work and achievements of the retiring President, Mr. Lochhead, including his recently published book of poems, "The Heart Is Fire". A motion of adjournment concluded the Twentieth Annual Conference.

# #

#### Advertisement

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## HALIFAX MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

## CIRCULATION GOING DOWN

by Mary Cameron

After seven years of rising circulation statistics in the Halifax Memorial Library, 1959 reveals a definite slipping from the high points of 1958. One reason for this falling off is a deliberately planned one. The other two are causes for concern.

When the loan period for books was extended from two to three weeks in February, we were acceding to a wish often expressed by borrowers who said they "could finish the book in just a few more days". The longer loan period would mean that books would not be exchanged so frequently, but this did not seem to be a serious drawback.

But the library circulation statistics are slipping for another more serious reason. We have operated since the summer of 1958 without a librarian to head the Adult Circulation Department. While the two librarians of the Department have carried out their duties remarkably well under little direction, the fact remains that a Department Head, by regular checking for replacement, would have prevented the basic book stock from deteriorating. What the average user of a book does not realize is that books wear out, are lost and discarded. If they are worthwhile they must be replaced. Failure to do this soon becomes evident in the inability of a librarian to produce a book requested by a borrower. It is a sad, but true observation to report that this situation is becoming more and more noticeable in the Halifax Memorial Library. (Note: We are glad to report that an experience librarian comes on the staff August 1 to become Chief Circulation Librarian.)

The third factor contributing to the decline in library borrowing is the more stringent book-buying policy of the library. This year for the first time, our book budget is held to \$25,000. The special capital fund which has permitted the library collection to grow so rapidly since 1953, was exhausted in 1958. Now in 1959 we are faced with the highest book prices in the history of publishing. Where in 1952 we estimated the AVERAGE book price to be \$3.00, we now estimate it at \$4.00. Simple mathematics indicates that we can only buy about 6200 volumes during the year. In previous years we have bought 12,000 to 16,000 volumes. If we cannot buy as many books as we need to meet the demand, there is bound to be a falling-off as would-be borrowers leave the library without the books they want.

On a more cheerful note, the use of the Children's Department continues to increase. Children, bless their unsophisticated ways, do not turn up their noses at books which are not hot off the press. Also, a steadily increasing use of the Reference Department shows that the library's information and research service is now well established and performing its useful and educational function in the community.

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Miss Cameron is Chief Librarian, Halifax Memorial Library.

## RECENT AWARDS TO APLA MEMBERS

Three awards to members of APLA were announced at the Saint John Conference by President Lochhead:

Mrs. Ruth Windsor of the Saint John Free Public Library has received a Canada Council grant for study in England.

Miss Grace Tratt of the National Research Council's Atlantic Regional Laboratory library, Halifax, has received the Canadian Library Association scholarship in nation-wide competition.

Miss Diane MacQuarrie of Pictou County Regional Library, New Glasgow, N.S., has received the Louise Riley Memorial Scholarship.

## LIBRARIES TO SHOW AT FOURTH FESTIVAL

Nova Scotia libraries will show their wares at the fourth Nova Scotia Festival of the Arts in Tatamagouche on August 8, 9, 10. Miss Shirley Coulter of Halifax Memorial Library is in charge of exhibits and entertainment for the younger set, and plans to have a book display in the tent set up as a travel bureau, "Around the World with Books". Mrs. Betty Howard of the H. M. L. staff is doing art work for the display, and books will be courtesy of the H. M. L. Children's Department. On at least one day, Mrs. Margaret Snyder, librarian of the Colchester-East Hants Region, will be on hand with the bookmobile and a display of children's books, as well as material on regional libraries in Nova Scotia. There will also be puppet shows by the Eugene Toth puppet theater, with plays by Shirley Coulter.

One of the drama events of the Festival will be the Marktonian Players' production of "Teach Me How to Cry" in which Miss Coulter appears--type-cast, she says, as a schoolteacher.

## NEW CAPE BRETON STAFF

Miss Mechthild Behmer, B.A., B.L.S., joined the Headquarters staff in June. Miss Behmer, a native of Bavaria, came to Canada in 1950 and since that took her B.A. at Sir George Williams College and in 1958 graduated from McGill. After a year on the McGill library staff she has come to Cape Breton.

Miss Katherine Nichols, B.A., B.L.S., of Sydney becomes Children's Librarian for the City of Sydney Library September 1. Kathy had been a student assistant during summer vacations since her high school days. This summer she is working in Boys' and Girls' House, Toronto, to gain winder experience.



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