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APLA

ATLANTIC
PROVINCES
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3

SPRING 1959

20th

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

MAY 21 and 22, 1959

APLA BULLETIN

ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 23 NO. 3

SPRING 1959

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CONTENTS

Report on the Bulletin, by D. A. Redmond	49
Fishing Season Again... Editorials ...	50
Saint John Conference, APLA ...	51
British Librarians in Canada ...	54
Bookmobile Service: Planned Program, Cheerful Cooperation, by Barbara Kincaid	55
School Libraries: Halifax Panel Sparks Lively Discussion, reported by Mary Beth Harris	57
Nova Scotia Provincial Library Moved ...	58
Annapolis Valley: Regional Library Spring News	59
Annapolis Valley: An American View, by Alice Mairs ...	60
Bookamatic Charging, by Mary Cameron ...	61
Late Halifax Memorial Library News..	63
The Heart is Fire: a Review by Fred Cogswell	64
Prince Edward Island Libraries ...	65
New Brunswickana 1958, a selected list ...	66
Recent Acquisitions at Mount St. Vincent Colleges, by Sister Francis Dolores	69
Nova Scotia Librarians in Dramatics ...	70

Secretary-Treasurer

Miss Isabel Abernethy
Glace Bay Public Lib.
Glace Bay, Nova Scotia

This Bulletin is published quarterly and is free to members. Membership fees: individuals, \$2 per year; institutions, \$4.

Indexed in Library Literature, Library Science Abstracts, and Contents in Advance.

APLA members wishing to dispose of back issues at any time may send them in for our stock; we always need them to fill requests!

A SORT OF REPORT ON THE BULLETIN

The President has asked me for a report on the BULLETIN which he might read at the Conference, in my absence at the Drama Festival. Here it is instead:

Material, an editor's principal and constant worry, flows in at the critical times. Thanks indeed, all you who contribute unasked. Will everyone else please remember that whatever you do--if it is new or unusual--if it involves a new idea, new technique, new readers, new books--interests BULLETIN readers. Don't say you haven't time. It need not be a long article. A few quick paragraphs are of great use to us. Deadlines are the middle of January, April, July and October. Financially, institutional generosity still maintains us. The APLA buys stamps, some paper, occasional cover plates. If I thought about these things far enough in advance, more might be done by APLA and less in frantic haste. Illustrations are still not forthcoming.

I would suggest again that an Assistant Editor be secured, who would be able in case of necessity to take on the entire production of the BULLETIN. Miss Evelyn Campbell, who handled the BULLETIN in my absence last year, gets my belated thanks. But isn't there another librarian eager to enter the publishing field?

--- Don Redmond.

Fishing Season Again...

Editorials

One of the necessary evils of democracy is the franchise. The franchise as such is a privilege, but decision is the difficulty. Spring in the library brings a rash of ballots from societies and organizations. Several patterns can be recognized in the nomination and election systems they follow:

- (a) The organization's nominating committee selects a set of candidates for acclamation. Widely followed in the small organization where everyone gets a turn eventually anyway.
- (b) The nominating committee selects a couple of sets of candidates. Everyone votes for either their friend or acquaintance, or on some basis of judgment such as regional or professional representation. Middle-sized organizations find this excellent.
- (c) A ballot from the large and distant organization arrives with names you never heard before. Excellent thumbnail sketches are attached. The seasoned personnel manager, used to interpreting personal records, can make some decision on the basis of these. The rest of us play tic-tac-toe with the little squares and mail the result back.

Fortunately we are spared professional politicking in which candidates actively proclaim their merits and decry the opponent. We take it for granted that the opposing candidates have been selected wisely by the nominating committee, and it won't much matter which candidate is returned numerically superior.

What a responsibility is thus thrust upon the nominating committee! The possibility in an unwary organization might always exist, of government by nominating committee. Let us resolve to support them, pay attention to them, cheer them before and after. They must not be left in the cheerless Spring rains to fish blindly for next year's officers.

WHAT SHALL WE DO? THIS.

Fraser, Lorna D. Report to the Canada Council on a study of methods of bibliographic control used in major libraries in the United States and Canada. Toronto, University of Toronto Library, 1959. 30 leaves. offset.

This is a predictable, laudable study of what the University of Toronto Library should do as it outgrows its bibliographic breeches. The decision, made not by Miss Fraser but by Chief Librarian (and CLA President) Bob Blackburn and University policymakers, has been: to reclassify using LC; to recatalog using two divided catalogs (old and new), over a ten-year period; (and to set up an undergraduate library?) The decision was almost inescapable; it would seem to be attainable by any wise university librarian; but this summary study provides the reinforcement or tangible basis for a decision, which even a Downs

(continued on Page 53)

Saint John Conference

ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, MAY 21-22, 1959

The Executive of the A P L A cordially invites all members of the Association to attend the Twentieth Annual Conference, to be held Thursday and Friday, May 21-22, at the Admiral Beatty Hotel.

Speeches and discussions will focus on the Conference theme: "Authors, Publishers, and Books". Main speaker at the Annual Dinner will be Brigadier Michael Wardell, President, University Press of New Brunswick Ltd., whose subject will be "Experiences of a Publisher in the Atlantic Provinces".

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Authors, Publishers, and Books" is the theme for the Twentieth Annual Conference of the Association. As librarians we 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.

Conscious as we, all are of the part we have to play, your Executive has invited authors and publishers to take part 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 our working partners. We should know what they are up to, and how best we can work with them to flatter the taste of that delicate, discerning and unpredictable animal---the reader.

In addition to the main theme, such ever-present library topics as scholarships, recruitment, ALA-APLA membership, our Association dues and many others will receive ample attention in our business and informal sessions.

Your Executive hopes there will be something for all at the Twentieth Annual Conference. Please do your best to be on hand at the Admiral Beatty Hotel---May 21st and 22nd.

Douglas G. Lochhead, President, A P L A

Saint John Conference

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, MAY 21

- 8.45 a.m. Registration on Mezzanine.
 9.15 Business Meeting.
 President's remarks
 Address of welcome by representatives of city and province.
 (Agenda for business meeting will be distributed at hotel.)
- 12.30-2.15 p.m. Lunch (free time)
 2.30-4.45 Bus Tour of city and district #
 3.45-5.00 Tea at New Brunswick Museum
 6.15-7.00 Symposium---off Mezzanine #
 7.00 Annual Dinner #
 Speaker: Brig. Michael Wardell
 # Guests of Library Board of Saint John Free Public Library

FRIDAY, MAY 22

- 9.00-10.00 Business Meeting.
 10.00-10.45 Informal Group Discussions: Public, Regional, University
 10.45-11.00 Coffee break
 11.00-12.00 Speaker: Prof. Fred Cogswell, University of New Brunswick,
 and Editor of The Fiddlehead, will discuss that magazine
- 1.00-2.30 p.m. Luncheon (\$2.25)
 Speaker: Mr. Stuart D. Trueman, Editor, The Saint John
Telegraph-Journal.
- 2.45-3.15 Business Meeting: Resolutions, New Executive, Adjournment
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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submits the following candidates for A P L A offices for 1959-1960:

President: Miss Mary Cameron
 Vice-President for New Brunswick, and President-Elect: Laurie M. Allison
 Vice-President for Newfoundland: Miss Agnes O' Dea
 Vice-President for Nova Scotia: Miss Shirley Coulter
 Vice-President for Prince Edward Island: Miss Dorothy Cullen
 Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Isabel Abernethy

Respectfully submitted:
 Mrs. Mildred MacLaren
 Miss Ada Green
 James F. MacEacheron, Chairman

Saint John Conference

TRAVEL

Members should make their own arrangements with local ticket offices or agencies. Saint John is centrally located and plane, train, boat and road access is good.

ACCOMODATION

Rooms are available at the Admiral Beatty Hotel, where all conference meetings will be hold. Rates are:

Single room with bath \$6.00 and \$7.00

Twin bedded rooms with bath \$10.00

Delegates are urged to stay at the Admiral Beatty Hotel if at all possible as the management has offered the use of a salon for our meetings free of charge if at least 25 delegates register at the Hotel. Please make room reservations as early as possible.

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION FEES:

Annual membership fees for 1959-60 and the usual registration fees are payable upon registration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

May be obtained from Mrs. Ruth Windsor, Chief Librarian, Saint John Free Public Library, or from Douglas Lochhead, Dalhousie University Library, Halifax.

EDITORIALS (continued from Page 50)

or Dewey might be accused of personal whim if he did not go through the motions.

The trying part of recataloging on this scale will be trying to anticipate the results of the 1961 international conference on cataloging, and the third ALA rules for author and title entry. The preliminary studies now available are substantial windstraws. Let us wish Mr. Blackburn and his staff fortune in their decisions.

What's the matter with LJ? Haven't they enough ppr to print their mgzn? Or does the Edtr spk English even more condensed than Orwellish? In other words, I'd read the "Editor's Notes & Reading" more attentively if I didn't have to decipher each line. Cablese is all right for personal notes. Gutenberg and his contemporaries printed the elisions of medieval MS Latin. But have our modern presses so run out of metal or paper? Better print fewer notes, and more readable.

And while we're at it-- That pillar of the British technical press, Engineering, has at last recognized the dollar sign rather than referring to sums of 100,000 dols. So it is ashamdely that we see an American journal (LJ again) talking about 100,000 Pds. (anent the appeal for the John Rylands Library). Is there no typefounder in New York?

D. A. Redmond

British Librarians in Canada

ASSOCIATION PROPOSED...

Mr. Eric Moon, Director of Public Library Services for Newfoundland, writes:

It is proposed to form an association known as Fellows and Associates of the Library Association in North America (FALANA). Its main purpose will be to unite, through a newsletter, all British librarians concerned with certification and the equation of British and North American methods of education and qualification, and other matters of mutual interest.

Would those librarians interested in further details please write to the following address, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (2c Canadian; 3c Canadian stamp to U.S. addresses).

F A L A N A, Box 310, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

If I can get to the APLA Conference in Saint John I shall be pleased to meet any British librarians working in the Atlantic Provinces and discuss this matter with them. Failing this I should like to invite any British librarians wishing to do so, to write to me at the Gosling Memorial Library, St. John's, Newfoundland.

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WE NEED THEM---WHERE DO THEY FIT?

by D. A. Redmond

The whole problem of library education in Great Britain, as well as the specific problem of British librarians fitting into the Canadian scheme, is as disturbed as a hollow tree full of bees, honey and bear paws. Important reading for the diversity of opinions expressed, are two symposia in Library Review: Winter 1958 (no.128, p.530-536) and Spring 1959 (no.129, p.40-44). Canadian librarians will of course have read Bernard Ower's statement in Feliciter for April 1959.

To rush in where Angles fear to tread; and having at least looked on while one of my students read for, and triumphantly passed, the L. A. Registration examinations; to add to the furore, this grade at least seems to be a rather disjointed test of memory. Somewhat local in its coverage of administration, resources and techniques (particularly circulation, classification and cataloging), seeming to skip certain areas regarded as basic on this continent, the Registration examinations have caused British dissatisfaction and are admittedly unsatisfactory for many overseas students to whom they are the only recognized examinations open. The L. A. and Aslib have again failed to agree on a revision of their structure.

(Continued on Page 56)

Bookmobile Service

PLANNED PROGRAM,
CHEERFUL COOPERATION

by Barbara Kincaid

Janice H. Dohm's letter, "Bookmobile Service--A Victory for Mediocrity?" in the A. L. A. Bulletin for February 1959 attracted my attention. Perhaps there is another side to the story which Miss Dohm has overlooked. Her statements, "Snatch and grab selection necessitated by most mobile unit service inevitably promotes poor reading and selection habits of a kind very difficult to overcome... [It is] a monthly vanload of mediocrity served out with much superficial clamour on all sides, " might be true under some circumstances, but I feel that they should be considered against the general rural area in which a regional library bookmobile service is likely to be operating.

In Nova Scotia where the chief industries of fishing, agriculture, lumbering, coal mining and steel are subject to periodic and seasonal setbacks, there is very little excess capital. Nonetheless, a portion has been allotted to provide regional library service. Assistance from the Province, in the form of cataloging, processing and reference services in addition to financial aid, help to make a streamlined service possible to these regional libraries. In Cape Breton Regional Library, the major centers have their individual libraries under the care of professional staff while smaller centers have small libraries in charge of local custodians with professional assistance and supervision from headquarters. The remaining areas of scattered population in the two counties are served by two bookmobiles, each with a professional librarian and a driver-assistant.

It is our aim, as I think it is every library's aim, to make available books of high quality and usefulness to people, adults and children, who wish to read them. There is no question of forcing anyone to take a book which he does not wish, nor is there any wish to serve out "a vanload of mediocrity."

Our chief problem has been to find a location which is sufficiently central for a bookmobile stop. The population is scattered to such an extent that the chief community center is the school which is usually located on a main or more frequented road. Thus we find that the school is the logical place to visit. In addition to this, we must realize that most of the schools concerned had no library and the children, living distances from towns, had little or no opportunity to see or purchase books. If the library were to give service and achieve its aim of making good books available to those who wish to read them, service to and at the schools was essential.

It can be fairly stated that the crowded conditions of the bookmobile are not ideal for time-consuming selection. But my experience has led me to believe that speed of selection does not necessarily mean poor selection. There are

three types of children who borrow from the bookmobile. First, the child who wants material on a certain subject---he asks the librarian for it and receives suggestions from which he makes his choice. His stay on the bookmobile is usually quite short. Then, the child who has nothing definite in mind but liked the book he had the last time---he generally asks for and receives further suggestions. Finally, the child who wants to look for himself---he does this and chooses his books from those which have been selected for their value and merit. The fact that the number of books and the space in which they are shelved are small doesn't mean that the books are not of the same high quality as those in the city or branch libraries. As Miss Dohm has stated, the librarian's aim is to "search out and present only the most stimulating and rewarding books available". This aim serves as the basis of the original selection and therefore the vanload is not one of mediocrity.

There is one final word about poor reading habits. In the nine years which this unit has been functioning, the reading level has risen from the point where most of the children were reading picture books or easy-to-read books until today when they are reading at their grade level or slightly beyond. This latter is especially true of the younger children in large families who have had access to their older brothers' and sisters' library books before they could read or come to school.

For these reasons, I feel that bookmobile service to schools in rural areas is good and is essential. The benefits derived from this service are not accidental but are the result of a planned program and cheerful cooperation on the part of the librarians, the teachers, and the parents. Today, bookmobile service with its library books, adult and children's, and its book talks at larger schools, is accepted as a welcome and essential addition to the rural community's cultural life.

(Miss Kincaid is Bookmobile Librarian, Cape Breton
(Regional Library, Sydney, N.S.)

The article by Janice H. Dohm was on p. 95-96 of A. L. A. Bulletin, v. 53 no. 2, Feb. 1959, in the column "Free for All: Letters from our Readers".

BRITISH LIBRARIANS IN CANADA (continued from Page 54)

The Registration, open to secondary-school diploma holders, must therefore be a technician or subprofessional grade by our standards. The Fellowship--after a much more stringent examination--produces librarians of high quality. Canadian librarians must note that only ten or fifteen percent of British librarians are university graduates, and opinion divides on the possible future increase.

For better--it is not likely to be for worse--many British librarians have come to Canada; a number have fitted cheerfully and ably into Maritime libraries. We should not ourselves fall into provincialism; too few of us know anything about British or other techniques or ideas. The controversy may help us to examine our own cupboards.

School Libraries

HALIFAX PANEL SPARKS LIVELY MEETING

Reading level, not school grade, is the important fact in helping a child choose a book, said Miss Estelle Anderson in a lively panel discussion at the April Halifax Library Association meeting. Miss Anderson urged children's librarians to become familiar with the graded series of readers used in the schools, and to identify the child's reading level by what book he was using. There was nothing, she said, more frustrating to the child than a book he could not cope with.

In addition to Miss Anderson, who is supervisor of reading for the primary grades in Halifax schools, panel members were Miss Eileen Burns, librarian of St. Patrick's High School and chairman of the Halifax Regional Library Board, and Miss Shirley Coulter, assistant children's librarian at the Halifax Memorial Library.

Miss Anderson told about the different levels in children's reading with which her work deals. Some children begin to read at an early age and love it; some are slow readers and do not want to read at all. Each group presents problems for teachers and librarians. The kindergarten children need lots of picture books. For pleasure reading, children in Grades 1, 2 and 3 need books with a lower reading level than the books used in the schools. If librarians are to help a child, they should know what he is reading in school and should see that he gets books he can read. Miss Anderson said she approved of the Bobbsey Twins and like series, in so far as the children who read these get interested in reading and go on from there. She realized that the public library did not have funds for these books.

Miss Burns spoke about the standing of the librarian in the Halifax school system. She felt that the School Board did not recognize the degree of Bachelor of Library Science in the same way that it recognizes a Master of Arts. She mentioned her own experiences as librarian of St. Patrick's and commented on the lack of cooperation between teachers and librarians. She felt that a number of children had no conception of the library. There are no qualified librarians in charge of libraries in Halifax grammar schools. The school system of the province seems aimed at getting the child through school. Part of the problem might be solved by telling new teachers at the Normal College about the importance of a library to a school.

Miss Coulter said that four mornings a week during the winter months, children of all the Grades 5 and 7 in the city are brought to the children's department by their teachers. They are told how to join, how to use the library, and about some of the books they can borrow. Many parents do not let their children go to the main library. They feel it is too far for a small child, and if there are younger children at home, the parents do not have time to bring the child to the library. Three branches are open during the school year in three of the city schools. These are limited by lack of space and in the amount

of time they are open (one afternoon a week for two hours). In answer to Miss Anderson's comments on beginning readers, Miss Coulter explained that there are just not enough picture books written yet that are easy enough for younger children to read themselves---most are written to be read to the child. However, lately more is being done along these lines. She thought it would be a good idea if the librarians could examine the readers used in the schools. It would make it easier when a child wants help with choosing a book.

Miss Anderson suggested that a committee or organization of teachers and librarians should meet regularly to discuss ideas and mutual problems. Miss Burns and Miss Coulter agreed and it is hoped that such meetings may be arranged. There were several teachers at the meeting, held at the Naval Research Establishment in Dartmouth, who were in charge of libraries in their schools. During the refreshments, teachers and librarians joined in a general discussion.

-- Mary Beth Harris.

N.S. Provincial Library Moved

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library has moved its quarters, from the basement and third floor of the Chronicle Building in Halifax to the eighth floor of the Provincial Building, starting the move on Friday evening, Apr. 25, and continuing all day Saturday. We started work in our new quarters on Monday, Apr. 27. We are somewhat handicapped as we still lack our shelving, but otherwise we have survived the move well. Although our new quarters lack windows, they have the advantage of being all on one floor, and we can go in for the modern "togetherness" so popular with psychologists and sociologists these days. Added to our togetherness have been the various departmental libraries, coming under our wing. The Teachers' Library, under Mrs. Myra Vernon, is now also part of the Provincial Library, and we are very happy to have Myra and her staff with us. We are painted a pretty (monotonous) yellow throughout, which makes Mrs. McCormick, our assistant director, particularly happy as it is her favorite color! Generally speaking, we are settling down quite happily in our new quarters, and feel our situation has been improved by the move. Our one regret is that we lose our Head of Cataloguing, Miss Ruth Cummings, on April 30th. She is leaving us after nine years, preferring matrimony and a honeymoon in France.

We are open for inspection, and shall be very happy to receive visitors, who may even be offered a cup of tea if arriving at the opportune moment.

-- Jean Carter

Annapolis Valley

REGIONAL LIBRARY SPRING NEWS

reported by Ruth V. Coyne

In February we had the excitement and shock of a burglary. Our two faithful typewriters vanished, and many other important things, including the clock and jiffy jug, so essential to life. We were glad to discover that no books were taken, though.

Another loss, but not by theft, was our 14th edition of Dewey. This was on loan and had at last to be returned. If any library has a spare one and can sell cheaply, please take pity on us left with the 13th edition!

A discovery which our bookmobile driver, Mr. Danny Wear, made recently may be of interest to other libraries. Often picture books are badly defaced by waxy crayon scribbling. Nothing seemed to remove it easily until we tried a sample of the Pyrene fire extinguisher used on the bookmobile. This quickly removed the surface damage leaving only a minor stain for the lighter colors, but the darker colors still remain a problem. (Ed. Note: Carbon tetrachloride, or spot remover fluids with a carbon-tet base, or dry cleaning fluids such as trichlorethylene--not solvent naphtha--should also work.)

The roads in this district were closed to the bookmobile from March 19th to April 20th this year after the extreme winter. This was unfortunate for bookmobile users, but their loss was Headquarters' gain, as the time was used to decorate the junior library and make window boxes, and generally clean up the grounds. Prize money gained last year by the library's winning float on Natal Day has now bought seeds which the staff are carefully rearing to beautify the place. The closed-road period also allowed more staff to speed the grand exchange of books between branches which takes place here twice a year.

For Canadian Library Week we distributed "Wake-up-and-read" posters to the branches, and put a book display in a local store, with a poster welcoming people to the library. Earlier in the year our librarian, Miss Dorothy MacKay, gave a talk on the library profession at a career conference held in the Central Kings Regional High School. The film "Roads to Reading" was shown and proved very popular.

In early April Mrs. Anne McCormick, Assistant Director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, and Miss MacKay attended a meeting of interested citizens at Digby, to discuss the possibility of establishing library service in the county, and to give information about costs. The matter is still under discussion.

Port Williams, our last branch to be opened, has now been in action over a year, and in January the Branch Assistant reported very satisfactory progress. In our region we have areas of very keen readers who appreciate the service, also apathetic ones where we strain to make people realize the advantages of a library. In common with libraries everywhere we worry about rising costs and are hard put to live within our budget.

Annapolis Valley

AN AMERICAN VIEW

by Alice Mairs

Miss Mairs is "interning" for a year in the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, intending to return to the United States for a library science degree course. Miss Mairs is a graduate of Middlebury College.

I came to Canada to work on a Nova Scotian bookmobile and in a regional library system partly out of curiosity, I'll admit, but also to have a year's experience before deciding whether to go on to library school. My previous contacts with libraries have been intensive rather than extensive. My family are "charter members" of a city branch library; we carry home the weekly supply of books in a clothes basket. In high school, I monitored in the library several periods a week; at college, the students were allowed to study or browse in the open stacks to their hearts' content.

There were only a few things which surprised me about Nova Scotian libraries: First, the date on which books are due is stamped on the borrower's card here; at home, the cards are wallet-sized and are not stamped. In filing or spelling aloud, I have a hard time remembering to say "zed" for "zee". Also, with such an opportunity to be bilingual, it seems strange that so few Canadians should take advantage of it; though our collection is small, in the time that I have been here, we have yet to circulate a book in French. Finally, except for a few Canadian authors such as Will Bird and Hugh MacLennan, and a few school requests for Maria Chapdelaine, the majority of persons we serve would rather read English and American books than homegrown ones.

From my experience thus far, the things which have impressed me most about library work are primarily those which any patron-turned-employee would probably note: 1) the incredible amount of paperwork involved in getting a new book before the public (especially true in a regional system as books are constantly being exchanged between branches); 2) the satisfaction of finding someone a book he wants or the double satisfaction of suggesting a book he didn't want but discovered he enjoyed; 3) the vast number of books in print from which a library with limited funds (and I've learned that no funds, especially libraries', are limitless) must select---and the mass of advertising and reviews presented to aid and/or confound selection; 4) the difficulty of developing tolerance for other people's reading tastes---my pet peeves are the unshakable Western fans and the elderly ladies re-reading the "Anne" books for the Nth time; 5) the ignorance of the general public---and I was a prime example---of what and how much work a library involves; 6) the strong cohesive feelings which librarians have for their profession---they speak with pride but often as if on the defensive; 7) and particularly for me, the gratitude of rural bookmobile users to whom our big red bus and its load are their common bond with civilization and, this year, a boost through the long lonely winter.

Bookamatic Charging

The January APLA BULLETIN reported Canada's first installation of the Addressograph - Multigraph Bookamatic charging system, at the Halifax Memorial Library. The system has now been operating for two months. In this article, the system and HML situation are explained by Chief Librarian

MARY CAMERON.

During the week of Feb. 9, 1959, the Halifax Memorial Library was closed to the public. This very unusual situation was emphasized even more by a publicity campaign which included advertising (paid and free), radio and television interviews, and newspaper editorials. It was impossible for anyone in Halifax to remain ignorant of the fact that the Halifax Memorial Library was installing the Bookamatic charging system (Addressograph-Multigraph Ltd.). Nor were Haligonians allowed to forget the fact that their library was the first in Canada to install this particular system.

The decision to change to Bookamatic was made by the Halifax Regional Library Board in February 1958. This decision was not made until after a careful examination of the system in theory and in actual operation in a library, nor without weighing its high installation cost against its advantages of accuracy and efficiency. For three or four years it had been obvious that the old hand charging system could not keep pace with the ever growing borrowings by Halifax citizens. Various photocharging systems had been investigated, but had been rejected chiefly on the grounds of inadequate service in the city. Addressograph-Multigraph through its enterprising local office had already proved to be dependable by its installation and servicing of card duplicating equipment in the Provincial Library.

The Halifax Memorial Library purchased its own Bookamatic equipment, and prepared all its cards, although Addressograph-Multigraph is willing to enter into a contract whereby it will prepare cards. For any library with a bookstock larger than 60,000 it would seem to be an arrangement well worth considering. We bought a Graphotype machine, a tipper (used for inking cards) and eight im- printers (four are destined for use in the children's library and branches at such time as the Children's Department decides to transfer to Bookamatic). We also bought 75,000 plastic book cards and 30,000 borrower's cards.

The work of Graphotyping 60,000 book cards was begun in June 1958. This was done by regular staff members and part-time student assistants. The cards were prepared from the shelflist and were kept filed in shelflist order. By October the task was completed. We then undertook the preparation of the borrowers' cards. These were completed early in the new year, and were mailed out to borrowers in good standing. Each card was accompanied by an explanation of the new system. In the meantime, student assistants had worked their way through the book stock, stamping each volume with a rubber stamp saying PLEASE LEAVE CARD AND SLIP IN BOOK POCKET.

By February 9 we had done everything we could to shorten the period of closing which would be required for the actual transfer of book cards. Even so, the full week was little enough time to accomplish the work. The library staff, working in teams of two, systematically removed the old book cards and replaced them with the new Bookamatic cards. The necessary handling of so many books provided an excellent opportunity to examine the condition of a large part of the collection, and many shabby and out-dated books were withdrawn.

The Bookamatic system involves the use of a prenumbered disposable transaction slip, an embossed book card (which remains in the book except for the actual moment of charging) and an embossed borrower's card. The latter carries the borrower's name, address, and library membership expiry date.

The actual borrowing procedure requires the desk assistant to remove the book card and place it, together with the borrower's card, in their proper positions in the imprinter. A three-fold carbon interleaved transaction slip, made especially to our specifications by Moore Business Forms, is positioned above the book card and borrower's card. The handle of the imprinter is pushed down. Complete information about the book and the borrower is now recorded on the three copies of the transaction slip. One copy of the T slip is snapped out and put in the book pocket with the book card. The other two copies are the overdue notice and the library copy. These remain attached and in their numerical order.

Upon the book's return the T slip is removed from the pocket. These slips are then filed by number. This is the only filing required. Once filed, the slips are matched with the numerical file representing the books borrowed. When matched, the slips are destroyed as we know the book has been returned and the transaction is completed. Slips remaining in the file indicate books still out. When they become overdue, the copy marked "Overdue Reminder" is removed, placed in a window envelope and mailed.

The first week of the new system was a librarian's nightmare. It was not the fault of the Bookamatic system which functioned surprisingly smoothly. The nightmarish quality of our days was brought on because we were operating TWO systems! We estimated that some 25,000 books were out in circulation at the time we closed. Although no count was kept, at least three-quarters of these came back within the first few days. Upon return, every one of these books had to be slipped with its old book card. Then each had to be slipped with its new plastic card. The worst of the bottleneck of the double slipping was broken in about six days due to the splendid efforts of the staff members who, disregarding physical weariness and personal plans, worked twelve and fourteen hours a day.

Now that we are more accustomed to the new order we know that it has brought us many benefits. Our records are more accurate; we have eliminated the bottleneck of slipping with all its irritations and errors; our overdue procedures are reduced; our circulation statistics are simplicity itself; the size (about that of a pop-up toaster) and mobility of the imprinters make possible the setting up of a charging unit at any desk or counter space--a great boon on busy days.

The disadvantages of Bookamatic were not unanticipated. As in all automatic charging systems, reserves are not as satisfactory; we cannot locate a

particular book in the circulation file; we have no day to day record of the type of books being borrowed; a small percentage of the borrowers lose a book card or T slip, and resent the charge we must make for the loss. Despite these drawbacks we still feel Bookamatic is the best of the automatic charging systems, and as we become more accustomed to it and the new routines, we expect it will release staff members for more direct service to the public.

Even before Bookamatic was installed in our library I found myself wanting to paraphrase Pope as a counterbalance to the heaven on earth or pie in the sky existence pictured by the enthusiastic Addressograph-Multigraph salesman.

'Tis true, perfection nonemust hope to find
In all this world, much less in womankind.

Charging systems no less than womankind are subject to imperfection. But if like womankind

...her virtue prove the larger share
Bless the kind Fates and think your fortune rare.

Certainly we believe there is much more of virtue in Bookamatic than in the old system. We feel it is an investment which will pay dividends in accuracy and efficiency.

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LATE HALIFAX MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Circulation for March 1959 using the new Bookamatic system, and a three-week loan period, was 39,841 compared to 41,457 in March 1958. Miss Cameron attributed the apparent decline to the longer loan period, which considerably reduces the number of renewals previously recorded.

Miss Pauline Home has been appointed Chief Circulation Librarian of HML and will take up her duties August 1. Formerly on the staff of the Circulation Department, Miss Home has spent the last two years on the staff of the University of Toronto Library. Two other new appointments are those of Miss Anne Murphy of Glace Bay to the Circulation Department, and Mrs. Hope Bridgewater of Halifax to the Children's Department. Both are in the 1959 class of the University of Toronto Library School. In addition, Miss Mary Beth Harris is transferring from the Children's Department to the Reference Department, to fill the position left by Miss Barbara Smith who has resigned and intends to go to England.

The Heart is Fire:

A Review

THE HEART IS FIRE by Douglas Lochhead.

Ryerson Poetry Chap-Book No. 184. Toronto, Ryerson Press, 1959.
12pp., \$1.00.

In this brief volume, Douglas Lochhead writes poems expressive of the wonder of life ('The Heart Is Fire', 'What Stirs a Bird', 'Sunday Rain at Ingonish', 'In the Lost Forest', 'Lift the Wet Heart', 'Even the Hawk'); of his Nova Scotian background ('Birth of a Legend', 'Nova Scotia Fisherman'); of war-time experience ('In Memory of James Eagleson', 'Recruit'); and one poem of character analysis at a moment of crisis ('Joseph').

Essentially Lochhead's technique is imagistic, and since his poems are short and he has, for the most part, avoided clichés and has stuck to concrete illustrations of his themes, the over-all effect to the average reader of his poetry is one of concise craftsmanship. I feel however that, good in form as most of these poems are, almost every one of them could have been made better by judicious pruning and/or revision. For instance in two lines of the good title-poem, 'The Heart is Fire', occur two examples of what I feel is an unnecessary redundancy. Why not render line 3, 'downing the frosted fields of this December' as either 'downing the fields of this December' or else simply 'downing these frosted fields'? Surely one does not need both 'frosted' and 'December'. Likewise line 6, 'hot on the freezing breath of winter' could be rendered 'hot on the breath of winter' or else 'hot on the freezing breath'.

The type of redundancy found above is a symptom of what I consider Douglas Lochhead's main failing as a poet, his desire to convey directly to his reader every shade of the meaning that he has in mind on the subject of which he writes. A little more obliqueness of the kind that tests the imagination of the reader and leads him to read between the lines or to leap beyond them is necessary to get Douglas Lochhead's poetry off the very admirable ground of intelligence, sensitivity, exact observation, and honesty that he has laid in this, his first volume. Even without magic, passages like the following from 'Christmas Eve--Peggy's Cove' ---again I do not see the need of Lochhead's first two stanzas---are very good indeed:

Imagine all that roaring field of ice,
the glacier, all that frigid to and fro
of melting, of freezing, and the blue
and winding green of ice.

Now on the Eve at this hard Cove
how strange and appropriate is all this
wind and cold, snow in the face,
and the sea grey with menace.

But look! Overhead a star on fire
burns for man a hole in heaven.
Now in the glowing dark
flowers of Christmas lights begin
to gleam and grow among the rocks.

FRED COGSWELL.

P. E. I. Libraries

reported by DOROTHY CULLEN

The Souris Branch of the P. E. I. Libraries was completely destroyed in a fire which burned four business premises and three dwellings on the main street of the town in the early morning hours of March 30. The library was located in the Town Hall; adjoining it was the Fire Department. The fire was believed to have started in this building about midnight; when it was discovered it was impossible to get the fire-fighting equipment out and the fire burned out of control for some time before equipment could be brought from Morell and Charlottetown, 25 and 55 miles away.

About 2000 books were lost in the blaze. The librarian, Miss Mildred Fraser, reports that there were possibly 250 books in circulation. The problem of providing new library quarters for the town of 1500 will be taken up soon by the Town Council and the local Library Committee.

This marks the fourth time that one of the P. E. I. Libraries branches has been lost in a fire.

Two librarians in branches of the P. E. I. Libraries have recently completed 25 years of service. They are Miss Margaret Conroy of Tignish and Mrs. J. G. Townsend of Kensington.

Miss Conroy took charge of the Tignish branch when it opened in December 1933 and has distributed a great many books to the people of that area in ensuing years. For a number of years the library operated in rented quarters; then in 1949 a movement to provide a separate building was started. A pleasant cottage-style building was opened in December 1950. Miss Conroy was an active member of the committee which carried out the building project and to her must go much of the credit for the raising of funds. Recently electric lights were installed in the library and plans are afoot to redecorate the interior. The library is well used by both children and adults. Through her interest in books and in the people she serves, Miss Conroy has made the library a vital part of community life.

Mrs. Townsend began her work in the Kensington library in January 1934 and has been absent from her post due to illness only once. The library serves the town of about 800 and a large farming area. It is now located in the new Dominion building after being housed in the Town Hall for a number of years. By her efficiency and courtesy Mrs. Townsend has maintained a high level of service to the many patrons of Kensington library, and has won the respect of the entire community.

New Brunswickana 1958

A SELECTED LIST OF ITEMS NOTED BY THE
LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY, FREDERICTON

compiled by Maurice P. Boone and Donald B. Gammon

- Arsenault, Alphonse, brother
Les Trappistes en Acadie. Rogersville-nord, N.B., Notre-Dame du Calvaire
[1958,] 158p. illus., ports.
- Atkinson, Donald Taylor, 1874-
Texas surgeon, an autobiography. New York, Ives Washburn [1958,] xii,180p.
- Atlantic almanac, 1958. Fredericton, Atlantic Advocate, 1958. 364p. illus.
- Bishop, Olga Bernice, 1911-
Publications of the governments of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New
Brunswick, 1758-1952. Ottawa, National Library, 1957 [i.e. 1958,] vi,237p.
- Canada. Dept. of Agriculture. Forest Biology Division.
The balsam woolly aphid, by R.E. Balch and W.J. Carroll. [Ottawa, Queen's
Printer, 1958,] 8p. illus. (Its Publication 977, issued July 1956, rev.
Feb. 1958)
- The spruce budworm in New Brunswick [by] R.E. Balch. Ottawa [Queen's Printer,
1958,] 7p. illus. (Its Publication 1035, April 1958)
- Canada. Wildlife Service.
The American goldeneye in central New Brunswick, by B.C. Carter. Ottawa
[Queen's Printer,] 1958. 47p. illus. (Wildlife management bulletin.
Ser. 2, no.9)
- Clarke, George Frederick, 1883-
Too small a world, the story of Acadia. Fredericton, Brunswick Press
[1958,] 423p. Published by the author, Woodstock, N.B.
- Cunningham, William Bannerman, 1924-
Compulsory conciliation and collective bargaining, the New Brunswick exper-
ience. Fredericton, New Brunswick Dept. of Labour, 1958. 123p.
Published jointly by the Dept. of Labour, Fredericton, and the Industrial
Relations Centre, McGill University, Montreal.
- Després, Ronald
Silences à nourrir de sang. [Montréal,] Editions d'Orphée [1958,] 103p.
- Duchemin, Lloyd Allison, ed.
"The challenge to our universities." Speeches by C.D. Howe, I.C. Rand, J.S.
Thomson... and others, delivered at Mount Allison Summer Institute August
14-16, 1958. Sackville, N.B. [Mount Allison University, 1958,] 108p.
(Mount Allison University. Publications.. No.3)
- Ebbutt, Arthur James
The life, the question, and the answer; fifteen questions about the life
of Jesus. Toronto, Ryerson Press [1957,] xiv,170p.

Fraser, Roy, d. 1957

Happy journey. Toronto, Ryerson Press 1958, xiv, 124p. port.

Hall, Per.

Chignecto canal. Resumé of talk sponsored by the Women's Atlantic Council presented in Saint John, N.B., May 8th, 1958. Saint John, Women's Atlantic Council 1958, 22p. illus., ports.

MacNutt, William Stewart, 1908-

The founders and their times. Fredericton, University of New Brunswick 1958, 20p. illus. (Founders' day addresses. 1958)

Maillet, Antonine, 1929-

Pointe-aux-Coques, roman. Montréal, Fides 1958, 127p. (Collection Rêve et vie)

Maritime Forest Ranger School, Fredericton, N.B.

Tenth anniversary, the Maritime Forest Ranger School, 1946-1956. Fredericton, 1957, 12p. illus., ports.

Michaud, Guy R 1920-

Entre-deux par Durandal pseud., Montréal, Editions Beauchemin, 1958. 101p.

New Brunswick. Dept. of Agriculture. Horticulture Branch.

La culture du pommier au Nouveau-Brunswick. Fredericton, 1958. 16p. (Its Circulaire no.2)

1958 varieties of vegetables and small fruits recommended for New Brunswick. Fredericton, 1958. 8p. Assisted in revision by Canada Experimental Farm, Fredericton.

Orcharding in New Brunswick. Fredericton, 1958. 16p. (Its Circular 2)

--- Plant Protection and Promotion Branch.

Florida seed potato test, 1957 crop. Fredericton, 1958. 9p.

--- Dept. of Education. Vocational Branch.

Vocational education in New Brunswick. Fredericton, 1958. lv. illus., port.

--- Dept. of Industry and Development. Handicrafts Branch.

The blue book of New Brunswick craftsmen and handicrafts shops, 1958. Fredericton, 1958. 32p. illus., ports.

--- Dept. of Lands and Mines.

Mining progress in New Brunswick, by F.C. Smith. Fredericton, 1958. 13p. Reprinted from Canadian geographical journal, May 1958.

--- Photogrammetry Branch.

New Brunswick forest inventory, a summary report, 1958. A compilation and appraisal based on work conducted from 1951 to 1958. Fredericton, 1958. lv.

--- Interim Committee on Hospital Care Insurance.

Report. Fredericton, 1958. vi, 82p. B. R. Guss, chairman.

--- Legislative Library.

New Brunswick government documents, a checklist... 1957. Fredericton, 1958.

- New Brunswick. Travel Bureau.
Covered bridges of New Brunswick (Canada). Fredericton, 1958. 22p. illus.
- New Brunswick Federation Home and School Associations Ltd.
Manuel des parents. [Lancaster, N.B., 1958,] 36p. illus.
- New Brunswick Home Economics Association.
New Brunswick recipes. Sackville, N.B., Tribune Press [1958,] 167p. illus.
- New Brunswick Teachers' Association.
Brief... for presentation to Hon. Hugh John Flemming, Premier of New Brunswick and the members of the Executive Council, Nov. 5, 1958. [Fredericton, 1958,] 9p.
- Nowlan, Alden A 1933-
The rose and the puritan. [Fredericton, University of New Brunswick, c1958,] 16p. (Fiddlehead poetry books, 4)
- Pacey, Desmond, 1917-
The picnic and other stories. Toronto, Ryerson Press [1958,] xi, 143p.

Ten Canadian poets; a group of biographical and critical essays. Toronto, Ryerson Press [1958,] ix, 350p.
- Provincial Rehabilitation Conference, 2d, Fredericton, 1958.
[Report,] Fredericton, 1958. 76p. Issued by Rehabilitation Division, Health Branch, Dept. of Health and Social Services.
- Ritchie, Cicero Theodore, 1914-
The Willing Maid. New York, Abelard-Schuman [c1958,] 310p. map.
- Roberts, sir Charles George Douglas, 1860-1943.
The last barrier and other stories. Introduction by Alec Lucas. General editor, Malcolm Ross. Toronto, McClelland & Stewart [c1958,] x, 153p. (New Canadian library, no.7)
- Ross, mrs. Victoria Burrill.
Moments make a year. Sackville, Tribune Press [1958,] 216p.
- Saint John, N.B. West Side Kirk.
The West Side Kirk of the United Church of Canada; a century of service, 1857-1957. [Saint John, 1957,] 101p. illus., ports.
- Taillon, Léopold, brother, 1895-
Diversité des langues et bilinguisme. Moncton, 1958. 64p. (Collection 'Bilinguisme')
- Woodworth, Ruth Blanche (Teare), 1898-
The warning isles. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1957. ix, 179p.
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Mr. and Mrs. Laurie M. Allison have a daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, born April 12 in Sackville, N. B. Mr. Allison is librarian of Mount Allison University.

Recent Acquisitions at Mt. St. Vincent College

by Sister Francis Dolores

Mount Saint Vincent College Library missed A P L A BULLETIN's "New Year Round-Up" ---partly because the Library's order department was still busy trying to round-up several out-of-print or otherwise elusive reference and bibliographical sets and items, particularly in the field of literature.

Although the College has made notable strides in rebuilding the library collection since 1951, recognized gaps in specific subject areas serve to remind us of some of our major fire losses. Lately, the introduction of courses on the Master's degree level made a more systematic replacement program imperative. Our quest so far has been fairly successful.

The following is a partial list of "extraordinary" acquisitions in the main Library. These do not include several outstanding additions to the MacDonald Collection over the same period.

- Baker, E. A. The history of the English novel. New York [1929-1939] 10v.
- Besterman, Theodore. A world bibliography of bibliographies. 3d ed. rev. and enl. Geneva [1955] 4v.
- Cambridge bibliography of English literature, ed. by F. W. Bateman. Cambridge, 1941. 4v.
--- Vol. 5, Supplement: A.D. 600-1900. 1957.
- Brandes, G.M. Main currents in nineteenth century literature. London [1901-05] 6v. o.p.
- Cahucer, Geoffrey. "The Oxford Chaucer", ed. by W. W. Skeat. London [1894-97] 7v. o.p.
- Courthope, W. J. History of English poetry. New York and London [1895-1910] 6v. o.p.
- Griffith, D. D. Bibliography of Chaucer, 1908-1953. University of Washington Press [1955]
- Hain, Ludwig. Repertorium bibliographicum. Milan [1948] 4v.
- Halkett, S., and J. Laing. Dictionary of anonymous and pseudonymous English literature. Rev. and enl. ed. New York [1926-1934] 7v.
--- Third supplement, volume 8, 1900-1949. New York [1956]
- Lowndes, W. T. The bibliographer's manual of English literature. Rev. and enl. London [1857] 4v.
- Masson, Davis. Life of John Milton narrated in connection with the political, ecclesiastical and literary history of his time. London [1877-1896] 7v.

Nicoll, Allardyce. A history of English drama 1660-1900. Cambridge, 1952-55. 6v.

Pollard, A.W., and G. R. Redgrave. A short-title catalogue... London, Bibliographical Society, 1956.

Thompson, Stith. Motif-index of folk literature... Indiana University Press, 1931. 6v.

The Library has also acquired this year representative collections of the voluminous works of the Jacobean and Restoration dramatists including the complete works of Ben Jonson, Thomas Otway, William Congreve, Thomas Shadwell, John Vanbrugh and William Wycherly---some of them in the beautiful editions of the Nonesuch Press.

On order for the Cataloguing department as I compile this list are the Library of Congress Subject headings, 6th edition, and the 16th edition of the Dewey classification. The Library of Congress Catalog of printed cards which we are fortunate to have complete is still our No. 1 bibliographical tool for cataloguing and readers' services.

Our next quest involves sets of back issues of learned journals in the fields of literature and philology---a Golden Fleece indeed if costs are any indication!

Librarians in Dramatics

Three Nova Scotia librarians have been prominent in dramatics this Spring. Shirley Coulter, assistant children's librarian at Halifax Memorial Library, who has won several awards in previous years for her dramatizations of fairy stories, has this year written several playlets for Eugene Toth's Puppet Theatre in Halifax. She has acted in Theatre Arts Guild productions and has a part in "Teach Me How to Cry", one of the two Halifax contenders in the 1959 Dominion Drama Festival. Genni Archibald of the Teachers' Central Library in Halifax directs the other Halifax contender, Traveling Players' production of Ibsen's "Ghosts". Don Redmond of Nova Scotia Technical College has been active again this year in lighting, doing the lighting for the Nova Scotia Drama League's one-act play festival as well as for both the Halifax entries in the Dominion Drama Festival.

All three will miss the Saint John A P L A conference because of the Dominion Drama finals in Toronto, May 18 to 23.

Dalhousie Law Library

71

Appointments

reported by Douglas Lochhead

Miss Eunice W. Beeson, formerly of Colorado Springs, has been appointed the first Sir James Dunn Law Librarian at the Dalhousie University Law School and has already assumed her new duties. Also appointed to the Law School Library staff is Miaa A. e. McKay as Cataloguer and Assistant Librarian.

Miss Beeson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in English Literature from the University of Colorado, a Bachelor of Science in Library Science from Simmons College, Boston, and a Bachelor of Laws from Northeastern University. While at Simmons she specialized in law librarianship and was a teaching assistant there before joining the staff of the Harvard Law School Library. She later became Assistant Chief Cataloguer of the Harvard University Library, and in 1944 was appointed Librarian for the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the New England Circuit at Boston, where she served for twelve years. In her latest appointment, before coming to Dalhousie, Miss Beeson was librarian at Ent Air Force Base, the headquarters for NORAD. She is a past president of the New England Division of the American Association of Law Librarians.

The post to which Miss Beeson has been appointed is named in honor of the late Sir James Dunn, a distinguished graduate of the Dalhousie Law School, and was created as a result of the decision of the Sir James Dunn Foundation to make an annual grant to provide a highly qualified library staff. The university has undertaken a program of substantially increasing and re-organizing the contents of the Law School Library to make it more effective as a means of law instruction and of legal research.

Miss A. E. McKay is a graduate of Dalhousie in Arts and also has her Master of Arts from the University of Toronto. She received her Bachelor of Library Science from Mount Saint Vincent College. Before coming to the Law Library Miss McKay was on the staff of the Acadia University Library and of Waterloo College Library, Waterloo, Ont.

During World War II Miss McKay was a commissioned officer in the WRCNS and served most of her time in the port of Halifax. She has also had experience in actuarial work with the Sun Life Company in Montreal as well as meteorological work with the head office of the Meteorological Service of Canada in Toronto. She was for some time Secretary to the Dean of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto. Miss McKay, who grew up in Clyde River, Nova Scotia, has many friends in the library profession in the Atlantic Provinces.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. From the first European settlers to the present day, the nation has evolved through various stages of development. The early years were marked by exploration and the establishment of colonies. The American Revolution led to the birth of a new nation, and the subsequent years saw the expansion of territory and the growth of a powerful industrial economy. The Civil War was a pivotal moment in the nation's history, leading to the abolition of slavery and the strengthening of the federal government. The 20th century brought significant social and political changes, including the rise of the Progressive Movement, the New Deal, and the Civil Rights Movement. Today, the United States continues to be a global leader in science, technology, and culture.

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