

APLA BULLETIN

ATLANTIC
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ASSOCIATION

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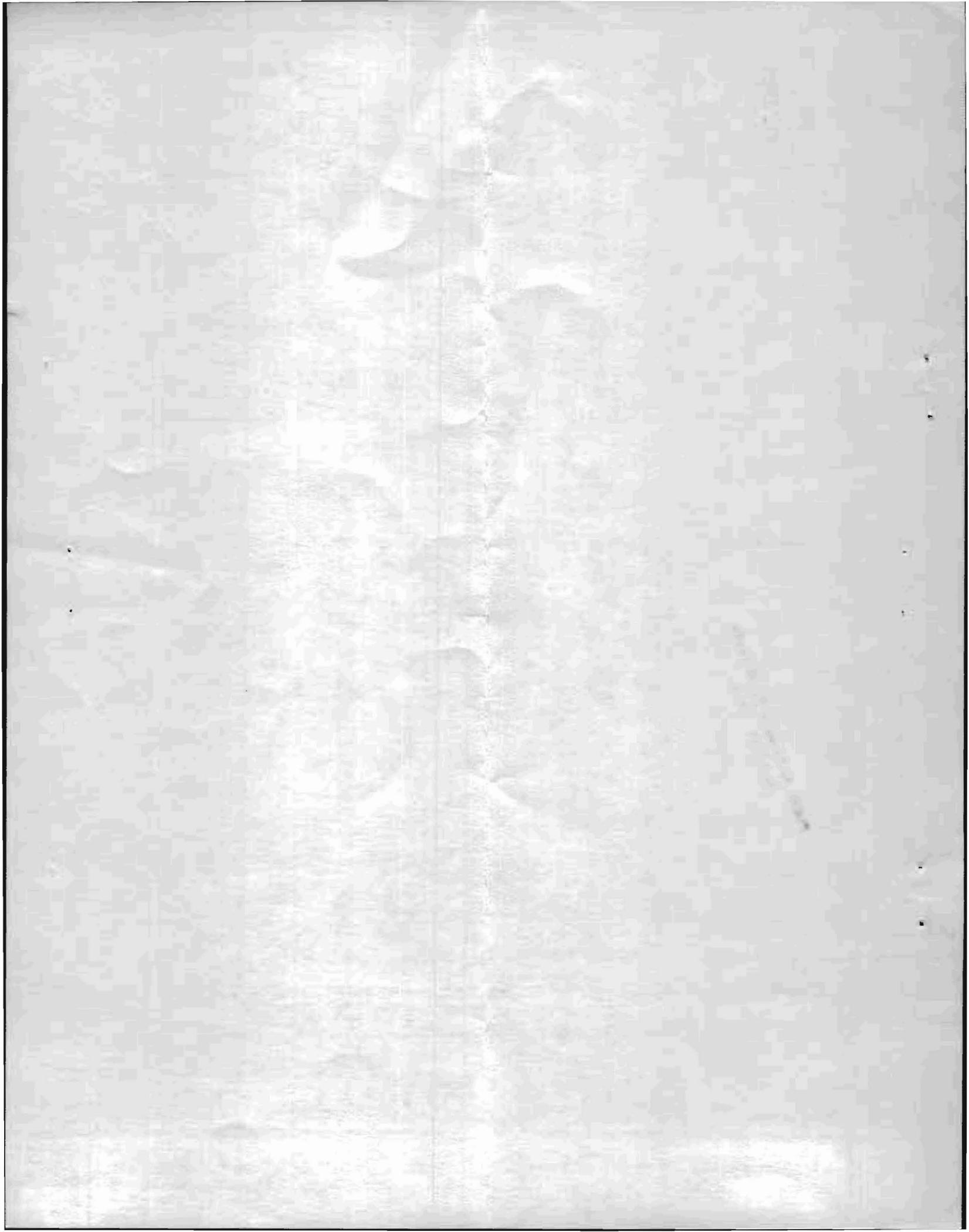
NUMBER 4

SUMMER 1961

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.



An Artist's Interpretation of the Invention of Printing



ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Members:

I want to thank those of you who sent in material, unsolicited, for this issue of the Bulletin.

Unfortunately, I have not had time this summer to contact all of your libraries, but I know that all kinds of interesting and exciting things have been happening in the libraries of the four Atlantic Provinces.

Please don't keep these events a secret. Other members want to hear about your new library building, staff changes and library progress. If you don't have time to write an article, send copies of newspaper clippings and annual reports.

Stop right now, make a note of any news which should go in the next Bulletin, then send it off as soon as possible. Deadline is November 15!

* * * * *

APLA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER -----

The APLA Scholarship for 1961-62 has been awarded to Miss Alexandra Wawrzyszko, M. A., University of Warsaw, who is studying at the University of Toronto Library School.

Miss Wawrzyszko came to Canada in 1957 and spent a year at Mt. St. Vincent College, N. S., studying the English language. During the following year, she assisted in the College library, then moved to Windsor, Ontario, where she worked as a medical secretary. Last year she returned to Mt. St. Vincent Library as circulation assistant. She is particularly interested in university and special libraries.

NOVA SCOTIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE LIBRARY

Barbara Murray, Librarian

If Yuri Gagarin had been able to accept the invitation of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia in August, there is no doubt but that a group of Nova Scotia Technical College students would have gathered at the tall windows in their new library for a sight of the space hero. This new library, occupied since June, 1961, is opposite Government House and takes in the top floor of the new, modern Administration Building.

The Library, on the Barrington Street side, looks out upon Halifax Harbour, which has brought commercial wealth to the city, the impressive spires of St. Mary's Basilica and St. Matthew's Church, and the oldest Protestant Cemetery in Canada - St. Paul's. Perhaps John Cooke, Halifax artist, considered this view when he painted a small panel in oils for the new library. He was asked to represent the invention of printing. The photograph of this panel on the cover of this APLA Bulletin fails to convey the glorious colour which makes the painting so charming. Incidentally, it closes off a peep-hole into the librarians' working area.

It was on December 15, 1960, that Donald A. Redmond made his final report as librarian of the N. S. Technical College before assuming his new appointment as Science Librarian at the University of Kansas. Mr. Redmond had done outstanding work in Halifax and at the N. S. Technical College, where he was librarian from September, 1949, and had built up the finest technical library in the Atlantic Provinces for fourth and fifth year engineering students, post-graduate engineers and research workers. Mr. Redmond also initiated a course in technical literature which is now being continued by Mrs. H. S. Heaps, the former Doreen Alley, M. A., English, U. B. C.

Now with an enrolment of 300 students and classes in chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, mining and metallurgical engineering, the N. S. Technical College proposes to embrace a new faculty - a School of Architecture. The Director is Douglas Shadbolt, B. Arch., formerly Assistant Professor of the School of Architecture, McGill University.

It is an exciting period in the history of the N. S. Technical College, a time for the library staff to heed the Biblical injunction in Isaiah 54:2: "Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." Now for the first time the Library has a stack area close by - a stack area for little used but valuable material. Off the spacious reading room is an open shelf area for holdings which will eventually reach 50,000 books. On top of these is the mezzanine which holds the extensive bound periodicals. In the south west corner is the abstract bar with many attractive tables and comfortable chairs. Truly this is a place where future engineers and architects will enjoy studying.

* * * * *

The following note was left for Miss Ruth McDormand, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Cape Breton, by Mrs. G. A. Rogers, custodian of the North Sydney Branch Library:

If my filin'
has ya bilin'
Sing this to the sound
O' the "Squid Jiggin' Ground".

O' this is the place where
The catalogue cards gather,
All neatly typed out,
They're a jye to behold!
There's gallons of Allens,
And bushels of Buffetts,
And miles of Montgomeries
Waiting around.
O! Here's one by Grimm, it's a 398er,
And a six forty-something
On how to cook 'taters.
How they got in here,
Is anyone's guess,
But they sure make my filin'
a H... of a mess!

By Rogers (with apologies to
Hammerstein!)

22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. P. L. A.

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association held its 22nd Annual Conference at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, N. B., on Sunday afternoon, June 18, 1961, at 2:00 p.m. There were about 40 members present.

Mr. Laurie Allison, president, welcomed the delegates and presented his report for the year. He said that during the year the APLA had not been involved in any project as a group and that it was the only Association which had not submitted a report to the CLA Inquiry on Library Service in Canada. He did mention that many of the reports of sections would contain information relative to library work in the Atlantic Provinces. The fact that this Association had not submitted a report, Mr. Allison explained, was due to a breakdown in communications at the executive level. Once the need for action was realized, it was too late in the spring to start gathering material for a report that would be of value.

It was moved by Mr. Wilkinson, seconded by Miss Ruth McDormand, that the APLA report to the CLA Library Inquiry as soon as possible so that its report might be included in the final compilation. After considerable discussion, the motion was carried.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$1019.26 in the Scholarship Fund, and \$286.89 in the General Fund.

Miss Shirley Elliott reported on the Atlantic Provinces Checklist. She asked that members have their entries for the Checklist in by the end of January. Miss Elliott said that APEC wished to continue with the Checklist and asked for the views of the Association about continuing it. In response, several members spoke of their experiences of the value of the Checklist. Miss Letts pointed out the great amount of work put on the Checklist by Miss Elliott and said that if it is to be continued, the full cooperation of the membership is needed. The most important thing is to get the entries in on time and in the correct form. The consensus of opinion was that there was no doubt about the value of the Checklist and that it should be continued.

The President introduced Dr. George Brown, Editor-in-chief of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography now in preparation. Dr. Brown outlined the general plan of the Dictionary and reported on the methods of obtaining and preparing the entries.

The President reported that there had been only one applicant for the APLA Scholarship for 1961-62. This candidate had been interviewed and approved by the Halifax Interview Board but not by the Awards Committee. He suggested that the Association withhold the announcement of an award for the present.

Great concern was expressed at the scarcity of applicants in view of the fantastic need. It is ironic that we have been able to raise the money for a Scholarship and have found so few candidates wishing to take advantage of it. Miss Campbell outlined the history of the Scholarship and asked why we are failing to attract students.

Miss Letts spoke of last year's winner, Miss Bertha Higgins, who will be at the N. S. Provincial Library next year. Miss Higgins was one of the top students at the McGill Library School last year, so we may feel that our 1960-61 Scholarship has added an excellent person to our ranks.

Present recruiting methods were discussed. It was suggested that perhaps a representative from the Association should go to the Universities to talk with students. Present methods were mentioned; e. g. the Recruitment programme of the Halifax Library Association; the programme at Acadia University. Father Cotter wondered whether removal of all restrictions and conditions, e. g. requiring the successful applicant to work two years in one of the Atlantic Provinces or to refund the amount of the scholarship, would help. This was discussed and the general feeling was that it would not help. Miss Cullen asked whether notices about the Scholarship were sent out this year. Miss Campbell replied that they had been sent to librarians, Deans of women and some university students in residences. Mrs. McCormick expressed the view that interest would be aroused and applications would come in due time. Miss Letts emphasized the fact that the shortage of applicants for scholarships is not peculiar to the Atlantic Provinces but is general across Canada.

It was felt that there is a need for more understanding of the job, that the type of work should be publicized to a greater extent. It was pointed out that leaflets are available for those who want them. It was stressed that it is the duty of every librarian to make the profession appear as attractive as possible through his or her own attitude. Miss McDormand mentioned that Miss Katharine McLennan, trustee of the Cape Breton Regional Library, had spoken to the graduating class of Sydney Academy on the advantages of becoming a librarian. Mr. Wilkinson said that in his opinion salaries in this area are not high enough to attract university graduates to library work. Miss Coulter felt that the growth of school libraries would result in an increase of interest in library work in the future.

Miss Clare suggested that we withhold the scholarship this year and use the money for a public relations programme to publicize the profession. Mr. Wallace, trustee of the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library, suggested that we send interviewers to various centres. Miss Letts said that the Association could have as much time as it needs on radio and television, but that the material presented must be of a high calibre. It was left to the incoming executive to decide on the awarding of the Scholarship for 1961-62 and on future plans for arousing interest in the profession.

Mrs. Mildred MacLaren, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of her Committee which consisted of Mr. Don Gammon, Miss Mona Cram and herself. The following slate of officers was unanimously elected by the members:

President: Miss Dorothy Cullen, Librarian, Prince Edward Island Libraries, Charlottetown.

Past-President: Mr. Laurie Allison, Librarian, Mt. Allison University, Sackville, N. B.

Vice-Pres. for N. S. & President Elect: Mrs. Anne Nyland (McCormick), Librarian, Halifax County Regional Library, Armdale, N. S.

Vice-Pres. for N. B.: Miss Doreen Harper, Librarian, St. John Free Public Library, St. John, New Brunswick.

Vice-Pres. for P. E. I.: Miss Mary Donahoe, Librarian, Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown.

Vice-Pres. for Newfoundland: Miss Ada L. Green, Librarian, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's

Sec.-Treasurer: Miss Isabel Abernethy, Librarian, Glace Bay Library, Glace Bay, N. S.

Mr. Allison then turned over the chair to the incoming President, Miss Dorothy Cullen, who expressed her appreciation of the honour conferred on her. She said that the members of the Association would continue to work together for the improvement of libraries in general and in our own region in particular. She stated that the Association must plan for a report for the C. L. A. Library Inquiry and that the reports to be heard during the following week might give us some line of action. No definite time and place for the 1962 Conference had been set but Miss Cullen hoped to be able to announce plans for a meeting in Charlottetown at the Fall Executive meeting.

BOOKMOBILE SERVICE FOR WESTMORLAND COUNTY

Jane Oland, Branch Supervisor

In the Fall of 1960, rural bookmobile service was begun in Westmorland County, New Brunswick. The area is bilingual, the new bookmobile carries equal quantities of French and English books, both adult and juvenile, and for librarians it was virgin territory.

Locating the stops was an exciting venture. Miss Gardiner had provided a government map, two miles to the inch, on which she had marked all the stops and, where necessary, had indicated the colour of a school building. Here and there on the map she had also written the prevailing road conditions varying from "paved" to "impassable", "bad hill", etc. Dare one mention that between February and the first week in June one school had no change of books? The road was impassable the whole time, with snow then mud, and the local people got around on tractor and horse. Only sheer determination got the bookmobile there in June!

The pupils, particularly the English, seemed to welcome the service. Our biggest worry was that we had to ration books, especially picture books, calculating from the number of pupils in each school during the previous year how many books we were likely to need in a week, in a day, and at a particular school. However, this situation gradually improved as more books were added to the collection and, of course, as books began to come in again.

We noticed that all the children, especially the French, at first sought books below their expected reading level. For this reason, we insisted that the different grades visit the bookmobile in order. Some easy books for grades one to four were kept on a separate shelf as these were selected by the teachers of the different rooms.

Of the 101 stops, 49 were at English schools, 6 were "adult" stops, and the rest were at French schools. Of the last group, a good two dozen proved to be bilingual and at these stops the bookmobile was apt to look like a three-ring circus with one teacher wanting a French edition of "Bridge on the River Kwai", another wanting a mystery in English, another wanting pictures of South America and still another wanting something in French on retarded children.

Throughout the year we had to discourage the French children from taking English books unless they had their teacher's permission. However, we did encourage English children to take French books, at least the very simple ones that might add variety to their French lessons. The teachers encouraged this too, and we could often provide an English copy of the French book for the use of the teacher.

Adventures were frequent. On one occasion a staff member went in to collect a circulation slip from the principal of a large regional school. Not realizing that the lock was broken, the principal closed the office door behind them, locking them in. As the door could not be unlocked from the inside, the two women were helpless. They tried to attract attention but no one came near. After nearly an hour had passed the principal, in desperation, rang the fire alarm, then flagged a teacher who opened the door. Amid much orderly marching, our staff member fled to her bookmobile!

A freak lock provided that bit of excitement, but freak weather provided more. Who would believe that, having driven from Moncton to Sackville in glorious sunshine, with hardly a cloud in the sky, one would be stranded on the Tantramar Marshes for four hours in a blinding snowstorm. Once in it there was no turning back for the road was effectively blocked by "stuck" vehicles. While waiting their turn to be towed out by the snowplow, the bookmobile staff fared very well - a propane heater, books, packed lunches and space to move around. For those marooned in cars, a stranded bread truck did an excellent business.

Because Westmorland County is comparatively large, some stops being over seventy miles from Moncton, there is great variety in the scenery. One can collect driftwood and watch the ferries at Cape Tormentine during lunch break. On other days, one might be in the midst of a large timber stand at Gallagher Ridge, or rolling farm land at Ammon. A bookmobile stop could be in the broad expanse of the Memramcook Valley, a fishing village like Cape Spear, a small town, or a resort area like Point du Chene or Shediac Cape.

There is also variety in school buildings, with lots of one-room schools. In one school the teacher kept all the library books in a special box "so the rats won't get them." Other schools were so modern that the bookmobile staff could be invited into the teachers' kitchens to heat their lunches.

— BULLETIN BRIEFS —

- ALBERT-WESTMORLAND-KENT REGIONAL LIBRARY - Miss Jane Oland, who has been on the staff for the past year as Branch Supervisor and co-ordinator of the two bookmobiles, left at the end of June and is now with the London Public Library. On July 1, Yves Roberge returned to the staff as French Librarian. He had been on the staff prior to his attending the Library School at the University of Montreal and was the recipient of the first scholarship given by the N. B. Provincial Order of the I. O. D. E. to a student working towards his B. L. S. On the staff for the summer months was Mrs. Leonard LeBlanc, a librarian, and a graduate of St. Francis Xavier University and the University of Michigan. Mrs. LeBlanc, who had worked in the library of St. Thomas College during the past year, gave valuable assistance in the Reference Room. (Information about the new library building in a future Bulletin).

- NOVA SCOTIA - Included in the arts represented in the Children's Program at the N. S. Festival of the Arts, Aug. 11-14, 1961, were those of reading and story-telling. The Children's Reading Tent was sponsored this year by the N. S. Provincial Library with Shirley Coulter, Supervisor of School Libraries, in charge. Children and interested parents were able to browse through two book displays-- Tales for Telling, a collection of folk tales and legends from around the world, and From the Pages of the Past, historical fiction from Canada and the U. S. centred around a map of the Land of Evangeline. Here children found a cool spot to rest from the more strenuous activities of the Festival program and story tellers were on hand from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to read or tell stories whenever a group of children gathered. On Sunday, Aug. 13, Miss Kay Currie, Halifax Memorial Library, appeared in Indian costume to tell some legends of the Micmacs. The stories were adapted by Kay Hill, Halifax, and were part of the CBC Television series "Indian Legends". The children, about 60 of them, were thrilled to meet "Nawadaha" in person and to have her autograph copies of "Micmac Talk" provided by the CBC. Copies of CLA book lists and bookmarks were given to interested adults (who also enjoyed the storytelling).

- NOVA SCOTIA - A Province of N. S. Scholarship has been awarded to Mrs. Joanne Morris, Dartmouth, who is studying at the McGill Library School this year.

- COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS REGIONAL LIBRARY - Miss Greta Rose, who has been doing children's library work in Lynn, Mass., has been appointed librarian of the above library. Miss Rose is a native of New Brunswick, but grew up in Wolfville and was educated in Nova Scotia.
- HALIFAX - Best wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Nyland who were married in July. Mrs. Nyland (the former Mrs. Anne McCormick) is chief librarian of the Halifax County Regional Library. Mr. Nyland is news editor of the Mail-Star and public relations officer for Dalhousie University.
- N. S. PROVINCIAL LIBRARY - This summer two new members joined the Cataloguing Department of this library. They are Miss Bertha Higgins, Middle Musquodoboit, last year's winner of the APLA Scholarship, and Miss Helen Hendry, Windsor, who was awarded one of the N. S. Scholarships last year.
- DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY - Mr. Thomas Rees, formerly with the Documentation Centre, Western Reserve University, has been appointed Medical Librarian. Miss Allison Thomson, formerly secretary to the Vice-President of Dalhousie, has been appointed head of the Order Department.
- YARMOUTH, N. S. - A new library building, donated by Mrs. Ralph Rodgers and Miss Constance Killam in memory of their brother, Isaac W. Killam, will be erected during the next year. A museum has been included in the plans, and it is hoped that this building will serve as headquarters for a regional library in the near future.
- HALIFAX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - The first meeting of the season was held in the Red Chamber, Province House, where the members were guests of Miss Shirley Elliott, Legislative Librarian. Miss Alberta Letts, Provincial Librarian, gave a brief history of the Association and read interesting items from early minutes and records.
- HALIFAX MEMORIAL LIBRARY - Miss Kathy Nichols, formerly Children's Librarian, James McConnell Memorial Library, Sydney, N. S., has joined the staff of the Children's Department, Halifax Memorial Library.

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YOUNG CANADA'S BOOK WEEK

NOVEMBER 15-22

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THE BOOKS WE READ WHEN WE ARE YOUNG

by Hugh MacLennan
Patron of YGBW, 1961

The books we read when we are young are the most important books we will ever read. They reach us freshly. They enter our minds at a time when our minds are as open as the prairies were to the first settlers. They can bring the whole world to us, and if the world they bring is a true one, they are almost more valuable than school.

In the old days the first books people read were nearly always good, because until a hundred years ago there were fewer books printed and the ones available had been written by good writers who sought to write stories honestly. It is not so now. Cheap comic books, cheap literature of every kind is sold to young people on the news stands for profit and for no other purpose. They are cheap and they are everywhere; they appear to be bargains. But they are not. It is no better a bargain to read trash at a cheap price than to eat bad food because it costs less than good food. What you read becomes a part of yourself, especially when you are young. It stays with you as long as you live.

Nobody can ever measure what reading can do to a man who starts young enough. A hundred and thirty-nine years ago a child called Heinrich Schliemann was born in Germany. When he was a little boy he read, in translation, two of the greatest stories ever written, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. Later he learned Greek, and could recite every verse of these great poems by heart. He made a fortune in business. He retired from business at the age of forty-one and dedicated the rest of his life to discovering the site of the ancient Troy. He not only discovered Troy; he also discovered the lost cities of Mycenae and Tiryns. He did more than that: he founded the science of archaeology, which has unearthed and described civilizations which lived and died long before the Trojan Wars were fought.

Our own Gabrielle Roy, one of the finest writers Canada ever produced, was born as a poor girl on the Manitoba prairie. But her father had a collection of the works of Balzac in his attic, and the young Gabrielle spent hours alone with them until she had read them all. "I, too, will be a writer," she thought. "I, too, will see Paris one day."

Not only did she become a writer and see Paris; she became the first writer not a citizen of France to be awarded the Prix Femina for services to French literature.

But similar examples are so numerous there is no need to repeat them. Our first books, if they are good, are more than books. They are visions. Moreover, they are private visions, as a moving picture or a television show can not be. And for a simple reason. No matter how famous or great a writer may be, in his book he talks just to one other person besides himself. He shares his story, his vision, his excitement, with just one other person. It makes no difference if millions read his book. Each one of those millions, while reading and later while remembering, has been alone with the writer, and he with them.

For these reasons and for many others, I am honoured to be patron of Young Canada's Book Week this year. I am only one writer out of many others in the world, but I can say with all of them that if I had not read books when I was young, I would never have written any when I was older. Indeed I do not know who I would be now without books, for the good ones I read are as much a part of me now as my own bones and cell tissues.

Saint Mary's University Library,
Halifax, N.S.



OBSERVE
UNITED NATION
DAY
OCTOBER 24