

LIBRARY

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SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, CANADA

BULLETIN
of the
MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. XIII, No. 3

Spring, 1949

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Prince Edward Island Libraries
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Maritime Library Association Conference

Plans are being made for a Conference in Wolfville, N. S. on June 3 and 4, 1949. These dates have been chosen in order that we may have as chief speaker at the Conference Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, who expects to be in Nova Scotia at that time. The Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival is being held on that same weekend, and it may be difficult to get accommodations in Wolfville. Librarians are advised to make their reservations early.

Following is a tentative schedule of meetings:

Friday, June 3 9:00 - 12:00 a.m.
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m. - Open meeting with
Dr. Lamb as speaker

Saturday, June 4 9:30 a.m. Business meeting.

As a conclusion to the convention it is planned to have the M.L.A. group go to Annapolis Royal on Saturday for the opening of the new Annapolis Regional Library.

Topics suggested for discussion at our daytime meetings include:

Salaries and Certification
Union catalogue for the Maritime provinces
Standard simplified cataloguing for the Maritime provinces
Government documents
Revision of the Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals in the Maritime provinces
Subscriptions to periodicals
M.L.A. Bulletin

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.

Newfoundland Libraries
Revision of a library's book collection
Binding and library supplies
Reading interests of teen-agers
Circulation problems

Each librarian will be asked to report briefly on the highlights of the year's work. Any further suggestions for the convention may be sent to the President, Mr. M. P. Boone, Librarian, Acadia University.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND ITS LIBRARIES

Newfoundland has always had much in common with the sea-side provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island:- its people spring from much the same national background and live in a somewhat similar geographical region. Now that it has become Canada's newest province, economic and cultural ties with the neighboring provinces will undoubtedly be strengthened.

The library problem in Newfoundland has points of similarity to our own. Having few large centers of population and modest financial resources, it requires some type of regional library to give its people good service. A beginning was made in solving this problem in 1942 and there has been steady progress ever since.

The scheme announced by the Public Libraries Board for Newfoundland at that time called for the establishment of twenty-five regional libraries. The libraries, set up in rural communities with a population of 1,000 or over and suitably located to serve a region, would be administered by a local library committee, which would provide library premises and a yearly contribution for operating expenses. The Public Libraries Board was to provide supervisory service by a trained librarian, arrange short courses for the training of local librarians, and assist in providing basic book stock and annual additions and in paying a part-time librarian.

In 1947 with 22 of the proposed libraries established, the need of larger premises in many of the centers became apparent. The Government approved a scheme by which the Public Libraries Board would make grants for the building of libraries, on a fifty-fifty basis. The first building erected under this plan cost approximately three thousand dollars.

The provision of library service for everyone is going on apace in Newfoundland in spite of the difficulties involved in getting books to 300,000 people scattered along a 6,000 mile

coastline. Instead of bookmobiles, Newfoundland librarians dream of a Book-boat by which to reach the outports!

As regional libraries are developed in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick a close association between the librarians of these four provinces should prove helpful in solving problems and in stimulating library progress. The Maritime Library Association is eager to promote such a connection, and extends a cordial invitation to all Newfoundland librarians to attend its meeting in Wolfville, June 3 - 4.

TRURO HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

In 1946 the Board of School Commissioners, Truro, had made provision in the Academy for a Library Room but not until the Fall of 1947 were arrangements made for a full-time librarian. In preparation for the establishment of this School Library I attended a six weeks' course at the Library School, University of Toronto.

The Library is conveniently located and lends itself to expansion if desirable, and is well-lighted having six large windows with South, East, and West exposures. In 1947 several hundred books were gathered from here and there, remains of a former library established in 1904. To-day 2500 books are accessioned, including Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Fiction, Canadian and English and American Poetry, Biography, History, Art, Careers &c. Racks provide a holder for Magazines such as, Popular Mechanics, MacLean's, Sport, Canadian and National Geographics, Atlantic, &c, and University Calendars including Colleges as far west as British Columbia.

The Library hours run concurrently with the High School class periods and continue to 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. The students registered in the library are those who are not taking all the subjects taught and have what is called a "spare period". Thus the library accomodates a cross section of the student body ranging from thirteen years to eighteen years of age. In the library all students are free to move about, quietly of course, and help themselves to any book or magazine or calendar, or they are free to study. A teacher may have assigned a paragraph to be written on the life of Joyce Kilmer; or a short story is to be read; or the meaning and pronounciation of "Ochone" are to be found. Many students have no means of finding information except from the school library. Eight tables each seating four and a long table seating fourteen give desirable accomodation.

Oftentimes before the Library is opened, books and occasionally magazines are placed on the tables. This idea is to give the shy pupil and the non-reader a chance to know

the books. Often these are the ones who sign a Loan Card at the end of the period. New books are always placed on the tables in this manner before being assigned to the shelves. If a student appears to be restless or inclined to day-dream I try to guess from his appearance and general deportment what would be of interest to him. Having collected a few books of different content I place them before him and again I find that this is the lad who signs a Loan Card. The fifteen or twenty minutes before the close of the period is often used to give instruction in the use of the library. The books are classified according to the Dewey Decimal System, the shelves are well-labeled and this general arrangement is first explained. The lettering on the Fiction books and the Call number made up of the Class number and Book number are all explained carefully to different groups many times. The Title and Author files are placed before different students who are asked by other students to find out from the files whether or not a certain book which they mention is listed. The book must be located. The Loan Card file shows the book on loan. Interpreting the lettering and call number correctly, the student finds the required book. Instruction is given, too, from time to time, on how to take a book from the shelf, how to open a new book and how to read a book. Talks are given occasionally on the care of books, magazines and library equipment, and the prompt returning of borrowed books. To date no fines have been necessary and no book has been lost, due, I think, to the instruction given, together with the co-operation of those who have enjoyed library privileges.

We hope to have regular Library reading periods within another year or when our students are prepared to read for the sheer joy of it.

Margaret McN. McLean,
Librarian.
(113 Queen Street, Truro, N.S.)

BOOKS - GOOD COMPANIONS

Reading makes not only a full man but indeed a very happy one! No other acquired habit can bring so much contentment, knowledge and stimulation as the enjoyment of reading books.

Waiting for street cars (at the present time for our very fine trolley buses) ceases to be an irritation when there is a Penguin in the pocket or handbag, and one's nerves can be agreeably soothed during that half hour wait for a friend, by scanning a chapter or two of a favorite book.

Speaking of Penguins, Pocket books, Pelicans and such, C. H. Waddington's "Scientific Attitude" is well worth reading. The chapter "Art between the wars" is especially good. "The Bell for Adano", now available in Pocket Book, is a first rate bit of war reporting as well as a good novel. Perhaps "Anna Karenina" now in Pocket Book, slightly abridged, might be rather heavy fare for casual reading during odd moments of the day, but it ranks high in my list of favorites. "Winesburg, Ohio", that gem of 'inarticulate souls made articulate', "Hiroshima", "Babbit", and "Passage to India" are also available in the convenient size for carrying with one. I wonder if librarians could not prevail upon publishers to issue more classics in Pocket Book form?

Mrs. Ingraham mentioned the 'Dime Novel'. I feel convinced that some acquaintance with these old stereotypes is an integral part of one's liberal education. Such 'black and white' portrayals of character! Such nobility, strength and honor, and such inexorable justice for evil doers as filled the pages of "Out of the Depths", "Tempest and Sunshine" and others! The facetious reply to an inquiry as to what had become of the 'Dime Novel', was "They have been bound and now sell for \$3.50".

The effect of experimental psychology upon the novel has been to break up traditional and artificial patterns of character portrayal, and to eliminate these 'black and white' contrasts of vice and virtue, to elicit and explain impulse and motive rather to center on action. The human being's inner impressions and perceptions, as well as the emotion and experience of the human personality are presented. "Social awareness" is a very strong influence in contemporary fiction, and realism in form and mood dominates the modern novel. Someone has said that the novels of the present day are 'overwritten and under-nourished' and most of us are inclined to agree. They are often without faith and without hope. Of the outstanding novels of recent months "The Naked and the Dead" and the "Young Lions" are perhaps the most widely discussed. I hardly think that one either likes or enjoys these books, but they are not without worth or significance. I think "The Young Lions" does portray even more strongly the horror, devastation, futility, sufferings and stupidities of what has been a universal human tragedy, than "The Naked and the Dead". The characters seem more like people we know or have heard of. I feel the people in "Naked and the Dead" are psychiatric figures before they are affected by the brutality and deteriorating effects of a terrible war. "The Plague" by Albert Camus is truly a great novel. It reveals with a mastery of literary art, the reactions of individual temperaments to the experiences of the terrible bubonic plague. One is reminded a little of Dr. Munthe's "San Michele", which deals briefly with a plague in Naples, but this book is more a quiet memoir of an interesting life.

I prefer the realistic novel, the study of human character, its dreams, aspirations, conflicts and its development in society, - in a word life in all its phases. "Vanity Fair" comes to my mind at once - that parade of snobs, climbers, rogues and hypocrites, as well as kind and gentle people will always remain vivid. Who can forget the scene when old Sir Pit proposes to Becky, and she bursts into tears of vexatious anger because she has married the worthless Rawdon only that morning? But then, if she hadn't we should have had no story.

An old favorite with everybody I'm sure is "Old Wives Tale". I can never forget the episode when Sophia, deserted by her husband, lying ill in Paris, with not a great deal of money, and awaiting the entry of the Prussian troops, thinks to herself "All this because Mother and Constance went to see the elephant". If you remember, her father was ill, and she had to stay in the store, that fatal day the 'drummer' came to call. James Hilton has written a small book "Ill Wind" that deals with a series of little incidents that change the course of lives.

There are those who may be shocked and slightly offended by Evelyn Waugh's "The Loved One", but I think it is one of the most delightful satiric novels of the last few years. Waugh's "Black Mischief", a satire on colonization, has been reprinted by Little and Brown this year. This was written a number of years ago and for those who like Waugh's satire and have missed it, I suggest securing a copy.

I am afraid I have rambled on without thinking of the limits of the Bulletin. The Editor may use the blue pencil as she sees fit.

I have talked only about the novel, perhaps the form of writing most effective for the interpretation of events and the conditions which give rise to them, but I know that someone will deal with other types of writing in another issue.

Evelyn M. Campbell.

NEWS AND NOTES

GRAND FALLS, NEW BRUNSWICK

The new Grand Falls Public Library was formally opened on April 20. Mayor E.C. Wilson cut the streamers of red, white and blue which were stretched across the door and declared the library opened. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Literary Club for "bringing this much needed service to the community" and pledged the support of the council and of the town as a whole for the project.

Special mention was made of the fact that the first two volumes registered in the accession book are beautifully-bound copies of "History of Grand Falls", the French and English versions, donated by the author, Miss Anita LeGace. (Saint John Telegraph-Journal)

SAINT JOHN

Extensive use is being made of the film service of the Free Public Library, according to a recent report. During March there were 562 screenings with 23,526 in attendance. In place of a story hour the children had a film showing at the library one Saturday morning. Films, supplied by the National Film Board, are changed regularly.

HALIFAX

The death occurred late in February of Dr. Henry F. Munro, Superintendent of Education for the province of Nova Scotia. Dr. Munro had a brilliant career as a student and teacher, and followed it with distinguished service to Education in the administrative field. Under his direction many important improvements were made in the provincial educational system. Libraries, the "people's university" had his enthusiastic support also. Since 1938 Dr. Munro served as Chairman of the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission, which sought to bring about the extension of library service throughout the province.

The Department of Health has given a grant for the purchase of books for the Maritime School of Social Work and for psychiatric material. This is to be purchased by Miss Charlotte Allan, Librarian of the Dalhousie Medical Library. The Graduate School of Nurses is also to have a library at the Clinic.

Much regret is felt at the closing of "The Bookroom" in Halifax. Mr. Howard Bendeller, who has been the manager for many years, has been the friend and counsellor of book buyers all over the Maritimes. Best wishes go with Mr. Bendeller as he joins the Ryerson Press in Toronto.

The Canadian Book Centre has received about 100,000 books. To accommodate libraries that prefer to ship their books at the end of the academic year or wish to make additional contributions, arrangements have been made to extend to June 15th the period in which collect shipments will be accepted by the Book Centre. Reports from overseas emphasize particularly the demand for recent books, texts, and periodicals in science and technology. The Book Centre can use also paper C.B.I.'s and any book lists other than publishers' catalogues.

Miss Mary Fraser, Assistant Librarian at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, visited Halifax recently.

