MLA BULLETIN

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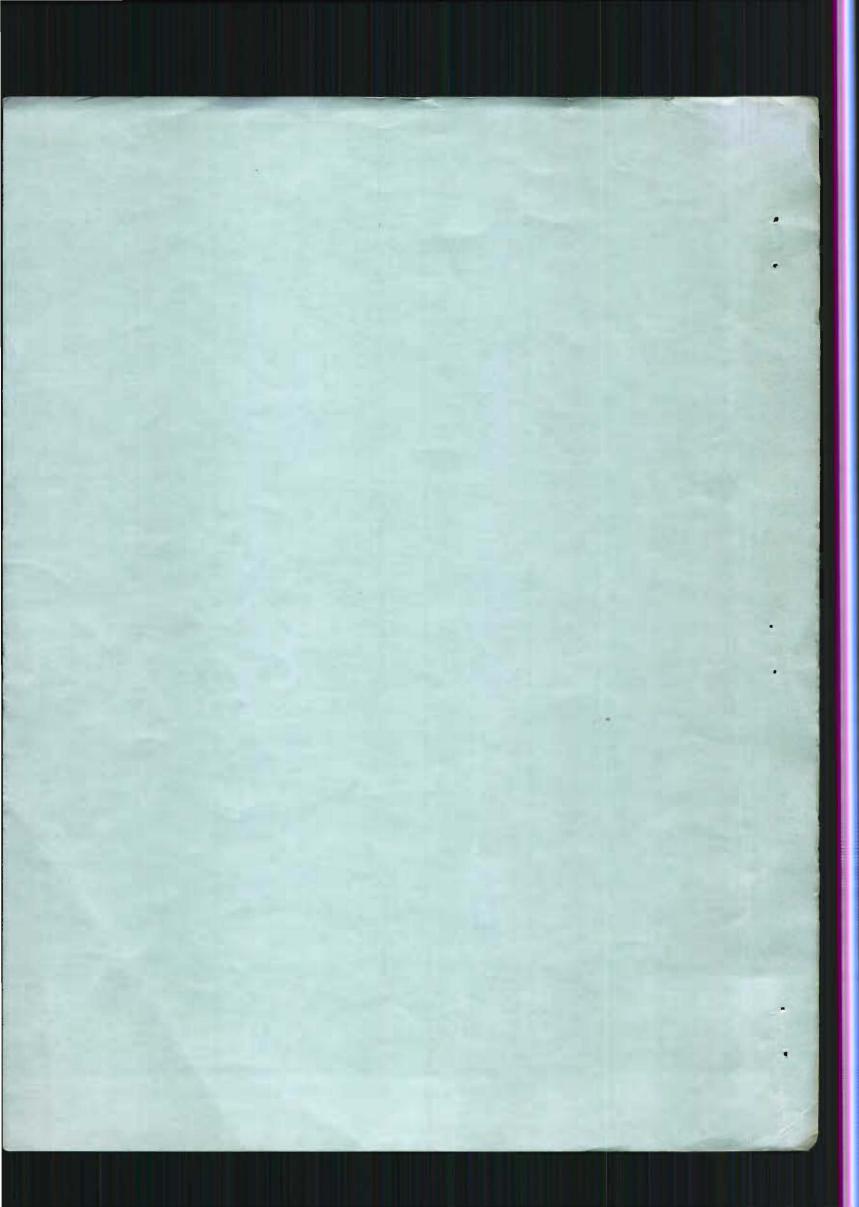


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MARITIME

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

Volume 21, Number 2

21 Winter

Editor: Miss Evelyn Campbell, Nova Scotia Research Foundation P. O. Box 1027, Halifax, N. S.

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CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

The MLA is very much gratified that one of its members has been honoured by an appointment under the Colombo Plan. Don Redmond, who has edited the BULLETIN so competently for five years, has been appointed Technical Advisor to the Ceylon Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research. We wish Don well but hope that he will come back to us. At this time, of course, many of us would be pleased to exchange the wintry air of the Maritimes for the somewhat warmer Sirocco of Colombo. We have received a letter from Don which comes too late for this issue but we shall look forward to further news from Ceylon.

I have agreed to edit the BULLETIN for 1957 with the understanding that I shall have the closest cooperation of the members. I wish to thank particularly the staff of the Provincial Library for their editorial help. I shall be pleased to receive any articles or suggestions.

The BULLETIN for 1957 will present an historical survey of library services in the Atlantic provinces.

I should like to wish all the members a most happy and successful New Year and to thank them for their great kindness to me during a recent illness.

Evelyn Campbell

Mr. Robert Rogers, Executive Librarian of the University of New Brunswick, left Fredericton on December 28 for Detroit, where he has been appointed to the staff of the Detroit Public Library as an Adult Assistant in the Home Reading Service Department.

After a brilliant academic career at the University of New Brunswick (B.A.1948), and at the University of Toronto (M.A.Philosophy 1950), Mr. Rogers was the winner of a Beaver-brook Overseas Scholarship. He spent 1950-51 at the Library School of the University of London, where, after the completion of his thesis, he was awarded the Diploma in Librarianship in 1953. He joined the staff of the University of New Brunswick Library in 1951 as Assistant Librarian, and in 1955 he was appointed Librarian.

In addition to his library work, Mr. Rogers has served as editor of The Fiddlehead, and has given much time and talent to the work of the Student Christian Movement, the Fredericton Council of Churches, the York-Sunbury Historical Society and the local branch of the United Nations Association in Canada. His published works include articles in the C.L.A. Bulletin and the M.L.A. Bulletin. His poems have appeared in The Fiddlehead, Saturday Night, Contact, Canadian Forum and Canadian Poetry Magazine. A chap-book, The White Monument, was published by Ryerson Press in 1955. His thesis Books and Pamphlets by New Brunswick Writers. 1890-1950, is a valuable contribution to New Brunswick bibliography.

His resignation is a great loss not only to the University of New Brunswick, where he has worked so energetically to improve the services offered by the Library, but also throughout the Maritimes, where he has been an extremely valuable officer and member of the N. B. and Maritime Library Associations. He has also been active in the work of the Canadian Library Association. The best wishes of his many friends go with him to Detroit in his new and challenging position.

Miss Betty Cooper has recently joined the staff of the Mount Allison Memorial Library in Sackville, N. B. Miss Cooper is a chartered librarian, and an ALA, a graduate of Brighton and London Library Schools. From 1948 to 1950, she was deputy librarian to the Institution of Naval Architects, London, where she compiled and had published a bibliography of its Scott Collection on naval architecture. In 1953, she became librarian to Aluminium Laboratories, Ltd., Banbury, Oxon. She has now joined the staff of the Mount Allison Library as assistant librarian (cataloguer).



At the November meeting of the Halifax Library Association, Miss Mary Cameron, Vice-President for Nova Scotia, on behalf of the Maritime Library Association, presented Mr. Donald A. Redmond with the M.L.A.'s gift. Mr. Redmond, who is on a year's leave of absence under the Colombo Plan, is shown above admiring the gift, while Mrs. Redmond looks on. Beside Mrs. Redmond is Miss Barbara Murray, who will be librarian at the Nova Scotia Technical College during Mr. Redmond's absence.

NOVA SCOTIA UNION CATALOG

by GLADYS BLACK

The Nova Scotia Union Catalogue is pleased to be able to report on its increased use during 1956. Scarcely a day has passed without at least one telephone request for the location of a book, and as the catalogue grows, chances of locating a wanted volume increase. Exclusive of these telephone requests and of the hundreds of our requests from the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries, Interlibrary Loan requests routed through our Union Catalogue, from within Nova Scotia and through the National Library from other Canadian and even one or two American libraries, have nearly doubled over 1955. 132 requests were filled, and only three had to be returned with the volume unlocated.

We have received, during 1956, 14,202 cards for inclusion in the Union Catalogue. During the same period, 13,506 entries have been incorporated into the Main Union Catalogue. Of these, 9343 were new entries, the rest being additional locations for titles already represented. A record of each of these 9343 new entries was sent to the National Library Union Catalogue. These figures show that we shall have to spend a few more hours on the Union Catalogue to keep up with the new additions!

Of the withdrawal records sent to us in 1956, 426 were for the last copy of a title in the Union Catalogue, and for these a withdrawal record was sent to the National Union Catalogue.

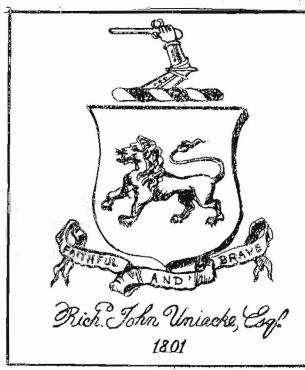
2327 Secondary Entry cards were also made and filed into the catalogue. These represent in the main joint authors and subjects of biographies.

Work of the stamping and cutting of the rolls of photographed cards is proceeding slowly, though not so slowly as we had feared, since we have had the help, in this job, of Miss Elliott's clerical assistant. All the Acadia University cards are stamped, cut and filed into one alphabet, and more than half of the Dalhousie University cards are stamped and cut. During the summer, we began to incorporate the Acadia and Dalhousie photographed cards into the Main Catalogue, editing the catalogue carefully in the process. By the end of the year, 1692 of these entries (A to Al) had been made.

Again, we thank you all for your co-operation in all kinds of ways, and hope that you will continue to make use of the services of the Union Catalogue, and of the other bibliographical aids we are accumulating.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1753-1830

by Shirley Elliott



The average visitor to Mount Uniacke accustomed as he is today to the bright and glossy jacketed product of modern presses, will probably pause only a moment in the doorway of the Library. He will perhaps exclaim at the enormous size of Richard John Uniacke's custom made arm chair, cast a casual glance at the shelves tightly packed with brown leather bound volumes, and then pass on to the end of the hall to admire the delicate pink and gold beauty of the French porcelain china displayed on a large mahogany chest of drawers.

a professor, a teacher, a student of history, yes, even a librarian - whose curiosity is instantly aroused at the sight of these book laden shelves, and who has involuntarily asked the guide, "What sort of books are they?" Since up until now there has been no comprehensive listing of the titles, and the guide's duties do not take him beyond the rope crossed doorway, the answer has been necessarily vague and unspecific. Consequently the Nova Scotia Travel Bureau of the Department of Trade and Industry, which is directly responsible for the administration of Uniacke House, requested the Provincial library to undertake the compilation of a list which, in addition to its academic interest, would also serve as an inventory for the Department. Thus it was, that, one sunny morning in the summer of 1955, Alberta Letts and I, armed with a copious supply of scratch cards and sharpened lead pencils, embarked upon the thoroughly delightful task of penetrating the mysteries of Richard John's Library.

At the outset the temptation was to browse, picking at random among the books, on whose spines the gilt lettering had long ago been obliterated, but we soon evolved a system of working shelf by shelf, title by title, at the same time bringing together odd volumes of sets which had been separated for many years; Since the time at our disposal was necessarily limited, our plan was to make as simple an entry

as possible, with the name of the author, the place, the publisher, and date; no paging, but the number of volumes in the case of a multi-volume set. In some cases the title page was missing, as was instanced in a 17th century edition of Abraham Cowley, and such discrepancies, albeit provocative, added considerably to our task. As was frequently the case in the literature of the 18th and 19th centuries, many titles were pseudonymous, which sent us hurrying off to consult Cushing, and Halkett and Laing.

All the entries were carefully checked against the bibliographical sources in Halifax — the Cambridge Bibliography of English literature, Lowndes Bibliographers manual, the British Museum Catalogue, Allibone's Critical dictionary of English literature, and the Dictionary of national biography, to mention only a few. It was a most absorbing task, punctuated at intervals by an especially interesting find, as for example, an item of early Nova Scotlana (of which there were disappointingly few); a provocative title, such as Sam Syntax's description of the cries of London (London, n.d.), Old maids, their varieties, characters, and conditions (London, 1835), and an inscription, such as that appearing on the flyleaf of an ornately bound Bible, "From the Most Gracious Marchioness of Rockingham to little Mary, 1792." Finally, the list of several hundred titles was classified under general subject headings, e.g.: History, Geography, Travel, Literature, Religion, Philosophy, Law, Political Economy, Government, Education and Agriculture, with sub-divisions within the larger classifications.

It is a matter of general regret that so little material has been preserved for us today concerning the life of Richard John Uniacke, whose dynamic figure played such a vital role in our Province's early history. A perusal of this completed list provides a rare insight into the mind and character of the man who, so history reports, spent much of his time, especially in later years, among the books which he had gathered about him through his lifetime. Here is a typical gentleman's library the quiet, dignified setting for rows of books bound in rich brown leather, each one bearing the bookplate of the owner. Since the majority of the books bear this plate, and were published prior to Uniacke's death in 1830, we can assume that these were the books of his own choice, and that the library exists today substantially as it did a century and a quarter ago. The major addition since that period has been the collection of theological books of mid-19th century origin, bearing the signatures of Uniacke's son, Robert Fitzgerald, onetime rector of St. George's church and his wife, Elizabeth Franklin, who was apparently also of a religious turn of mind.

Uniacke was 21 years of age when he first came to Nova Scotia from Ireland, by way of the West Indies and Philadelphia, in 1774. He returned to Dublin, however, in 1777, where he completed his apprenticeship as an attorney at the King's Inn, to be subsequently admitted to the bar of Nova Scotia on April 3, 1781. Apparently Uniacke first began assembling a library during this sojourn in the Old Country, for several of his books bear the Dublin imprint of this period - Raynal's Philosophical and political history (1774), Henry Howe's Sketches of the history of man (1779), wilson's History of the reign of Philip the second (1777), and MacIntosh's Travels in Europe (1779). Other titles with an earlier imprint, but bearing a second person's name, obviously came to Uniacke second hand, e.g. Clarendon's History of the rebellion (1719), Smollett's History of England (1757) Colly Cibber's Lives of the poets (1753), as well as works of the classical writers Horace, Vergil, Livy, Cicero and Homer.

Here was a man intensely interested in the course of human events, as the large number of books in history. geography, biography, travel, and political economy bears ample evidence. With the advent of the American and French Revolutions came a flood of controversial political literature, of which many titles found their way into the possession of this zealous young lawyer and politician of the new Colony -- Adam Smith's Wealth of nations (1776), Montesquieu's Spirit of laws (1768), Thoughts on the present state of affairs with America, by William Pulteney (1778), Political essays concerning the present state of the British Empire (1772), and many others. One may well conjecture to what extent Uniacke's reading affected the character of his participation in the early political life of Nova Scotia. Nor has Unlacke neglected the tools of his profession, for there are many law books to be found, including an edition of Blackstone's Commentaries (1771), The attorney's practice in the Court of the King's Bench, by a Gentleman of the Inner Temple (1759), and several copies of Uniacke's own Statutes at large of Nova Scotia, published by John Howe in 1805, to mention only a few.

Literature takes a prominent position on the shelves — there are whole sets of the works of Moliere, Swift and Voltaire, while poetry, particularly that of the Romantic poets, is well represented, including two remarkably fine sets of a 10 volume edition of Scott, published by Constable in Edinburgh in 1823: Fiction, too, is not forgotten—Defoe, Fielding, Richardson, Maria Edgeworth, "Monk" Lewis, William

Gadwin all find a place and, from appearances, were appearantly well read. Turning to religion, the number of Bibles and prayer books, of all sizes and shapes, is legion, and there appeared to be so much duplication. that I am ifraid we were not too conscientious in fully listing them. Visitors to Uniacke House will recall the 12 chairs rlanking the left side of the front hall, which were provided for the servants use at family prayers. It is reasonable to suppose that each servant also had his own prayer book, in addition to those used by the large family connection. Books on education, particularly elementary texts in English, French, Latin, and Greek, are common, which would lead one to believe that the Uniacke children (of whom there were 12), might have received their early education at home. French language titles occur so frequently that one would assume that Uniacke himself must have been fairly proficient in that tongue.

There remains a final grouping of titles which we found to be particularly interesting, those books of a practical or scientific nature -- de-it-yourself books -- which were probably purchased with the purpose of improving the estate -- Select mechanical exercises, showing how to construct clocks, orreries, and sun dials (London, 1771), on planting and rural ornament (London, 1803), The theory and practice of warming and ventilating public buildings (London, 1825), and Essays on the management of the dairy (London, 1816), to mention only a few. Nor is domestic economy neglected -- there are cook books, including The cook's oracle (London, 1822), and another in Dutch, and handbooks on practical medicine, for example, Buchan's Domestic medicine (12th ed., 1791), which must have come into frequent use in this large family.

These titles that I have mentioned, only a few of many hundreds, will serve to Indicate, in some measure at least, the nature of Unlacke's library. It is not a valuable library, from the standpoint of the antiquarian and the bookseller, for there are few first editions, and the titles could be duplicated with little difficulty. It is, however, as I have previously indicated, a splendid example of a gentleman's library of the early 19th century and at the same time serves as a means of insight into the mind and personality of this brilliant, yet controversial, figure in Nova Scotia's history.

by ANNIE MCKAY

"INTERLIBRARY LOANS AND COOPERATION" stresses the need for using consideration and common sense when requesting loans or help in reference questions. (Special Libraries, Jan. 1957)

With respect to loans, it would be well for liberarians to brush up once in a while on the code drawn up by the ACRL of the ALA. They would be reminded that interliberary loan service is a courtesy and a privilege, not a right, and is dependent upon the cooperation of many libraries.

As for reference questions, three does for libmarians to observe before requesting help from another librarian are given. I) Make sure that the question is understood completely. 2) Check all sources at hand; make record of indexes used and subject headings covered, and pass along this information to the other librarian. 3) Try the proper department of the public library, if it is at all possible, but don't expect its staff to spend an extra amount of time helping you.

Another appeals to Itbrarians to observe the code and not send requests "hit or miss... without first having done all in (their) power to verify a title s location and to check with the nearest bibliographical center to ascertain exactly where that book may be located". The use of the standard interlibrary loan form also is urged. (Library Journal, Dec. 19, 1956)

ASLIB PERIODICALS: As from January, 1957, Aslib Information and Aslib Proceedings are to be incorporated into one new monthly publication, with the title of Aslib Proceedings: incorporating Aslib Information. The contents of the new bulletin will include members! letters, reports of Branch and Group activities, and reports of major decisions of the Council. (Aslib Information, Nov. 1956)

S. L. A. TRANSLATIONS CENTRE: A central depository for the translations of scientific publications, now done at various institutions in the United States, has been made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the S. L. A. It will include translations from Russian, previously held at the Library of Congress. Translations may be borrowed or photocopies obtained from the Science Translations Centre, The John Crerar Library, 86 East Randolph St., Chicago I, Illinois. (Aslib Information, Dec. 1956) COPYRIGHT LAWS 2 A compilation of the copyright laws, rules, etc. of 85 countries, and of the conventions of Berne, Washington; etc.; has been published by the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., Washington. Prepared by UNESCO in cooperation with the Copyright Office of the U.S. and the Inequistrial Property Dept. of the Board of Trade of the U.K., "Copyright Laws and Treaties of the World" is entirely in English, in a 2,000-page Loose-leaf binder. (Library Journal Dec 15, 1956)

RECLASSIFICATION: From Dewey to L. C. Michigan State University Library plans to reclassify its 700,000 volume collection; approximate cost \$250,000, approximate time, 10 years. (Library Journal, Dec. 15, 1956)

GRANT FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH: The Ford Foundation has made a 5-year grant of \$5,000,000 to establish and maintain the Council on Library Research, Inc. The Council WILL carry out programs, chiefly through grants in aid to institutions and individuals, to increase co-operation in the selection and use of library resources, and to make use of technilogical developments for the benefit of library users.

President of the Council is Verner W. Clapp, formerly Chief Assistant Elbrarian of Congress. The new organization's address is 1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC. (Aslib Information, Nov. 1956; AIA Bulletin, Nov. 1956)

NEW VENTURE: A picture loan collection, made up partly of original paintings (for rent and for sale) and framed reproductions (for rent only) has been willt up during the past 2 years at St. Catharines Public Library. It has taken some time for the idea to become popular, but now about half the pictures are in circulation. The reasons people give for borrowing pictures are varied and amusing. Even though the borrower's purpose may be only to take away the bare look from a newly painted room, the library staff feel it is an undertaking worth carrying on. [Feliciter, Nov.1956]

SALARIES: Always of interest is news of new salary schedules that have been approved by the powers that be. Saskatchewan Library Association Bulletin, Dec. 1956, reports new scales for Provincial Government Libraries and Regina Public Library. There are three grades of Librarian in each schedule. For the Provincial Government Libraries the range from initial salary for Librarian I to the maximum for Librarian III is \$3312 to \$5100. For Regina P.L. it is \$3400 to \$5100.

LIBRARIES TO THE RESCUE of overcrowded homes. Grace T. Stevenson, guest editor (A.L.A. Bulletin, Nov. 1956) cites a clipping, received from a correspondent in England, headed "Refuge from Television". It told of the establishment in a few libraries of "Homework Rooms", for the use of students who found it difficult to study at home.

"THE FUTURE OF THE BOOK" is the feature article in Alberta Library Association Bulletin. Dec. 1956. Written by Dr. Alexander Calhoun, the A.L.A.'s honourary president for 1956-57, it sets out the facts as to the present use of the book and the competition it is up against from mass media and the materialism; tensions, and craze for speed of the modern way of life. Nowadays "intellectuals are treated with contempt as eggheads." Despite the low percentage of adult readers, as shown by statistics, Dr. Calhoun is "not dubious about public libraries having a future. But it will be a different future... Prospective librarians should take a long look at this situation (a rapidly changing world) and in their university training give a good deal of attention to scientific subjects while not neglecting the humanities."

DICTIONARY PLEASE: While scanning the literature for the above notes, we tripped over this: "The purpose of the demonstration will be to show the technical and scientific public the possibilities inherent in automation of the information retrieval—delivery phase of library and documentation operations." (Special Libraries Association Bulletin, Dec. 1956) Those interested in retrieving will find more information on the subject in Library Journal, Jan. 15, 1957.

A. L. A. RECEIVES GRANT: A commendable grant of \$26,000 has been made to the American Library Association by the Lilly Endowment Inc., "to promote more extensive and imaginative use of library resources by undergraduate students. (Saturday Review, Feb. 2, 1957)

LIBRARIAN VISITS HALIFAX & SYDNEY

Miss Jessie Mifflen, Supervisor of Regional Libraries for Newfoundland, spent a short time in Halifax and Sydney on her way to St. John's. Jessie was the guest of the Ambassador Book Company at their Book Fair in Toronto the latter part of January. Jessie's visit provided an opportunity to discuss material for the M. L. A. Bulletin, and also the Annual Conference of the Association which will be held in Sydney this year. by GRACE S. LEWIS, Secretary, Yarmouth Public Library Board.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, a number of men and one woman of Yarmouth assembled together and made the decision to found a circulating library. They drew up a list of desirable books for such a library, and commissioned one of the many Yarmouth sea-captains to buy them in England. Thus the first "public" library in Nova Scotia, and one of the very earliest in what is now Canada, was founded and given the name of the Yarmouth Book Society. Its first home was in the Starr House, residence of great-grandfather James Starr, on Main Street. The deep cupboard where it stood is still to be seen in the sitting-room, and the catalogue and other papers concerning this library are still treasured.

In the long years that followed there were numerous Sunday school and church libraries assembled for the Sabbath observers. Today, the only church library of which we often hear is that of St. Ambrose Cathedral, a fairly new library. Other book clubs or lending libraries were conducted in the town during later years, a fee being charged to members.

The Book Society has had different homes. Eventually, in 1874, land was deeded to trustees for the use of the Milton Library, as it had now been named. On that deeded land the late Mrs. Robert Cale and her sister, Miss Clara Killem, built and presented to the Society in 1889, the Milton Library the small and rather attractive wooden building on the west side of Main Street. Here, until a very few years ago, books and magazines were lent to the members every Saturday evening. Funds for the purchase of the magazines were raised from the interest on a small legacy left by Mrs. Cale, and from the members' fees. For many years the running expenses were contributed by the late Miss Clara Caie. The building and library are now under control of the Milton Library and Improvement Society. When Mr. Peter Grossman was Provincial Librarian he visited this library and made an assessment of its contents. In it may be found a number of bound volumes of the Yarmouth Herald for early years, a considerable collection of older books of varying values, and many bound volumes of magazines. Mr. Grossman advised the authorities to keep the latter for their value as reference material. There are also many unbound magazines for past years. At present this library is not functioning.

The first free public library of Yarmouth was opened in 1872, when the Hon. L.E. Baker placed a large collection of books and curiosities upstairs in his building on Central St., to be used as a town library and museum. This library was open to the public once a week.

The first annual report of the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum stated that this library had an average annual circulation of 4,000 books. Its museum collection was presented by shipmasters and others. When Mr. Baker died in 1899 he left this library and museum along with \$8,000 for a free public library and museum for Yarmouth, on condition a similar amount be raised and put into the charge of a suitable organization. A committee of Yarmouth ladies, chiefly members of the Kritosophian Club, led by Miss Theo Goudey, worked enthusiastically to collect the money, and in December, 1904, paid more than the stated amount to the Treasurer of the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum, which was formed that year under the Provincial Library Act. The Baker bequest had then increased to over \$9,000, and that sum was invested in Town of Yarmouth bonds. Of the money collected by the ladies, Captain E, Kelley (my great-uncle) had given \$2,500. In his will he left to the library the income of \$10,000.

On January 10, 1905, Mr. Herbert Killam was elected Librarian, at a salary of \$200 a year, payable quarterly. On March 1, 1905, the Yarmouth Public Library was opened in Eakin's Block, at the foot of Collins Street. Later, until damaged in a bad fire, it occupied rooms in the Y.M.C.A.building, in the space now the Red Triangle Room. Then a small store on John Street housed the library and a reading room for a short time, and much of the collection was stored at the Milton Library, and in a private building belonging to one of the trustees. The museum collection was largely transferred to the Yarmouth Academy, and eventually lost in the fire which destroyed that lovely old structure.

After considering various buildings and sites, the Committee finally selected the brick structure which houses the library today. A private residence, elegant when it was built, it had been used as a home for the Canadian Womens Army Corps, and belonged to the Government of Canada. It was bought for \$8,000 for the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum in January, 1946.

Following the disastrous fire at the Y.M.C.A. building, many citizens of Yarmouth offered money, land, books or material for the benefit of the library, and one lady offered to build and equip a children's wing at her own expense, provided that a library building itself could be erected. Authorities in government, law, architecture and library practice have been consulted. Some have been invited to Yarmouth, while in other instances, trustees and officers of the library have been delegated to visit and consult suitable authorities in other places, for the purpose of learning what and how to build, and how to organize better library facilities for our public.

Many of the interested people of both town and municipality know that the land north of the Court House, behind the War Memorial, would likely be available for a library building at the appropriate time. Present owners of the land - the Town of Yarmouth and the Municipality of Yarmouth have let this fact be known to the officers and trustees of the Public Library.

There are two other libraries which should be mentioned. At the Vocational High School is a small working library for the students. The main library is in the English department in charge of the teacher. Although good books and periodicals are on the shelves there, together with the Encyclopedia Britannica and copies of the National Geographic Magazine, these are not nearly sufficient for the needs of the school. Funds for this purpose are as yet inadequate. In each classroom, also, there are books and periodicals required for the subject taught in that room.

The Consolidated Memorial High School library seems to have been somewhat more fortunate. It has a room of its own where study periods may be spent. The collection of books, periodicals and pamphlets is gradually growing, grants from the Province equalling those from the Town. Interested friends make gifts to this library, and there are many fine editions in the English and foreign languages sections, and excellent books in other subjects.

GIFT TO ACADIA

Early in December, the Acadia University Library received a large and welcome gift of over 1800 volumes from Dr. George Russell Bancroft. This collection covers a wide variety of subjects including biochemistry, biology, classics, history, literature and religion. It is a most welcome gift, as it fills many gaps in the library's holdings in these various fields, and in other cases, it provides needed second copies of books already in the Library. Dr. Bancroft is a graduate of Acadia, and is a retired professor of biochemistry at Philadelphia.

Inter-library co-operation in Halifax was the subject of a panel discussion at a recent meeting of the Halifax Library Association held at Dalhousie on January 7th, 1957. Chairman of the panel was Miss Kathleen Currie; panelists were Miss Mary Cameron and Mr. Douglas Lochhead. A third member, Sister Francis Dolores, was unavoidably detained because of a severe snow storm.

What follows is a selection of extracts from the written statements of all three panel members. The choice is entirely my own, and I make apology to my fellow panelists if I have been guilty of removing some of their pertinent remarks too far out of context. It has not been possible to publish the full texts of each speech.

Library Co-operation on the local level - some objectives, observations, etc.

- Miss Cameron: "... I should like to emphasize the fine spirit of co-operation which exists between all the libraries and librarians in Halifax. We must agree that our help-thy-neighbour policy is on a very informal basis, but, I believe, on a very satisfactory one."
- Sister Francis Dolores: "Co-operation ... on the local level must take cognizance of the problems and difficulties peculiar to libraries in our region, and thereby rule out some of the widely publicized co-operative projects feasible in larger centers."
- Mr. Lochhead: "It has always been a pleasure to work with the librarians of Halifax. I like the present state of co-operation, but in the years ahead, we will have to work more closely together, once our libraries have gained adequate basic resources, when the time comes for expensive specialized purchasing, etc."
- Sister Francis Dolores: "paraphrased by Robert Leigh, (Public Library) objectives are to serve the community as a general center of reliable information and to provide opportunity and encouragement for people of all ages to educate themselves continuously! ... Persons outside the academic community which supports a ... university liberary are entitled to some service from the institution... it is evident that there is a mutual responsibility for co-operation."

Co-operative Buying

Miss Cameron: "Since the H.M.L. opened at the end of 1951, we naturally have sought to provide the service expected of a public library, and also to co-operate in every way

UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC LIBRARY CO-CPERATION IN HALIFAX (Cont.)

with other libraries in the city. This co-operation came be considered from two approaches, viz. Buying, and second, Service. ... with Dalhousie, we arranged to buy alternate years of such annuals as Who's Who. However, we were not long in operation before we realized that such an arrangement would not work with us

Mr. Lochhead: "...especially at this stage in our development I feel it is more efficient and probably less expensive to purchase all the smaller priced reference books we need. If the Public Library has a long and up-to-date run of Whitaker, that is fine. But if we find we need it also we will get it. And so on title for title ... Later on I hope we will work more closely on this problem ... meet regularly and map out plans for purchasing over a long period."

Text Books, etc.

- Miss Cameron: When ordering books in subject fields, we deliberately avoid acquiring texts which we know have been assigned to any local college classes. This does not mean that we refuse to buy a text if it is the best material on a given subject. If we do buy such a book, it is shelved in the closed stack. We may as well face it. To leave a university text on the open shelf is just asking for its disappearance.
- Sister Francis polores: "... even college libraries have no responsibility to supply texts for student users, unless it might be for the extension department of such an institution trying to meet the needs of deserving candidates...Guy R. Lyle in his College Library Administration concedes the necessity of purchasing science textbooks."
- Mr. Lochhead: "At Dalhousie, except in such subjects as Biology, Classics, and some others, we attempt to avoid texts when possible."

Inter-Library Loan

- Miss Cameron; "If this service is required from a Library outside the city by a faculty member or a student, we refer
 them to their university library. If a citizen borrower
 requires a book which we do not have and we know is in
 the university library, we advise the university reference
 librarian and send the borrower directly to the library."
- Sister Francis Dolores: "On the part of university libraries,"
 possibilities for service to extramural readers should
 be restricted only in isolated cases -where such service

would interfere with the services due the academic community ... No doubt, there are materials in the academic libraries of our area which are not, and sometimes cannot be duplicated in our other libraries - are we willing to share these?

Mr. Lochhead: "Borrowing libraries are under the obligation to consider interlibrary loan service as a courtesy and a privilege, rather than as a right ... borrowing libraries should restrict their requests to absolutely essential items." (Wilson & Tauber The University Library) In Halifax we lend more than we borrow.. this is part of our responsibility to the community, but whether we are public or university library, we must remember our first responsibility, to the tax-paying citizen, or the feepaying student."

There is not space to quote from the discussions relating to reference department co-operation, student training in the use of libraries, and the host of other subjects mentioned in the contributions by the panel members and in the discussion that followed. Despite two power failures and a blown fuse the meeting was judged a success. This profitable discussion was just another example of the really excellent library co-operation that exists in the Halifax area.

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- Godfrey, William Earl., ...Some Canadian birds; illus. by John Crosby. Ottawa, National museum, 1956. 44p. illus. tabs.
- Grant, Mrs. Hilda Kay (Jan Hilliard, pseud.)
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Tomkinson, Constance. Les girls. Boston, Little Brown, 1956. 274p.