

## The Peking Library

*Gesine Bottomley is a librarian at the New Brunswick Legislative Library in Fredericton.*

Wooden card catalogues in that familiar library brown stand just inside the entrance to the library. They contain 3 x 5 Library of Congress cards. There are reading rooms and I notice a newspaper room with the latest newspapers from across the country on the rack; I pass a photocopying room and stacks overflowing with material; patrons wait at a desk to send for or to collect books; the reference section is well stocked with multivolume dictionaries and encyclopaedias. For the 20 Canadian librarians the physical surroundings of the National Library of the People's Republic of China in Peking are not strikingly different from their working environment at home. We sit in a meeting room of the Library with the ubiquitous cup of tea and with complimentary cigarettes in front of us, listening to Bao Tsom-si, Vice-Principal of the National Library. He welcomes us not only as "friends, but also as colleagues" and then gives us "a briefing on" (i.e. tells us about) the National Library. He later walks with us through several areas of one building of the complex belonging to

the Library. After the tour and over yet another cup of tea we have an opportunity to ask questions. The collection of the National Library dates back to manuscripts and books from the Yuan dynasty, 700 years ago, to which the Chinese collection of the Ching dynasty was added. The National Library as such was established in 1909. It now has in its collection literally hundreds of thousands of handwritten books and other kinds of rare books, 350,000 volumes altogether. Bao and his staff are extremely generous in showing us some examples from their rare book collection. He unrolls a beautifully embroidered 8th century scroll. A 700 year old wooden engraving on the subject of Buddhism is another treasure he displays. Until recently this item had been kept in a Pagoda. I was overwhelmed by the beauty and perfect state of a schoolbook from the 15th century which contained one thousand poems, each delicately illustrated in clear, radiant colours. We are told that this exquisite book has been preserved over the centuries in a camphorwood case so precisely crafted that even



Bao Tsom-si [2d from left], Vice-President of the National Library with two other library workers, and a Canadian librarian [far left] outside the library.

many hours under water would not harm its contents. Patrons wishing to consult rare books are not shown the originals but may look at a microfiche copy.

The development of the Library on a large scale started after Liberation in 1949. At that time the Library had

1,400,000 volumes; in 1977, the number of volumes had risen to 9.5 million. The collection covers all subjects with concentration in an area which is regarded as one of the main purposes of the Library, the spread of Marxism, Leninism and Mao Tse-tung's thought.

[Continued on page 3]

ISSN 0001-2203

APLA BULLETIN

42 [1979] No. 4 p. 1-8

HALIFAX, N.S. JANUARY 1979

# APLA BULLETIN

## VOL. 42 NO. 4

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Season's Greetings to you all - probably a little late by the time you receive this letter.

The first thing necessary is to express our regrets that Alan MacDonald, our illustrious Past-President, has opted to leave us for the University of Calgary. Watch out LAA, he and Jane make a formidable team! Ed Hanus, past Past-President, has consented to pick up the slack.

It was interesting to sit in on the Canadian Library Association Council Sessions, held this fall in London in connection with the O.L.A. Conference. I, unfortunately, was not able to attend many extra sessions due to an argument with the air-conditioning that sent me back to the doctor.

The Treasurer of CLA (Alan MacDonald) reports an increasingly healthy financial situation for the Association after several years of bad deficits. Membership is up even though many are still dropping out for some unknown reason. I fail to see how any librarian worth his or her salt could not be a member of CLA, and APLA too in our area. Some plead they cannot afford it but I'm afraid my reply to that one is unprintable. In this vein, however, here is an interesting question from a prospective member - "What do you do as a member of APLA?"

Other items on the agenda included the new Interlibrary Loan Code, which was adopted; discussion of the International Year of the Child activities; the presentation of the enquiry of our Committee on Relations with other organizations concerning reciprocal arrangements; an amendment to allow for filling vacant Council seats; information on the regulations governing public broadcasting; and also information, if you can call it that, about the National Book Festival. I can only say I think I lost my cool and exploded over the complete lack of information and utter disregard for this Association in the activities of those in

charge of this project, and my feelings did not improve upon reading of schooners plying the St. Lawrence loaded with books! How anyone could suggest such an idea and remain serious is beyond my comprehension. Let us hope this is just a bad joke.

On the brighter side, I have had lengthy conversations with Sheila Cotton of Brunswick Press regarding a project proposed by the Atlantic Publishers Association which would involve a poster campaign and biographical sketches of authors in which we will be involved. I suggested they should include in the cost sufficient to mail these kits to every school, library and museum in the Atlantic Provinces. Since the deadline for budget submissions was November 25, let us hope that the \$50,000 allotted to the Region has been wisely spent. Incidentally, I found that piece of news quite by accident on November 24, and in spite of the "conversation" with the representative at CLA Council on October 26, no communication was forthcoming.

A few general enquiries have been made concerning the progress of the new Atlantic Provinces Book Council. It seems unlikely that the Council will meet before February as the Booksellers have to cope with the Christmas rush. Hopefully, we will all be able to meet at the same time as our Executive in Halifax. I have been in correspondence with Canada Post and with Paul Kitchen concerning postal rates. It is generally agreed nothing can be done about the past but Paul has already reminded some of the officials of the need for consultation in view of the announced increase for 1979 and it would seem to us that public libraries at any rate will need to be very aware of the cost of mailing overdue notices. I have informed the Post Office they can consider the Council of CLA through its Executive Director will be acting in our behalf and Paul will be keeping us informed of any activity.

Lately I seem to have done nothing but

write to Governments! It was felt that we should register some protest with the National Librarian concerning the cut-backs in the Multi-lingual Biblioservice and the Services to the Handicapped. Again we supported the excellent presentation made by CLA in our behalf.

Most recently, with the appointment of the New Brunswick cabinet, I have complied with the resolution concerning Atlantic Loto. The indication is that A-L funds are simply added to the general revenue of each province and there is no particular desire to start sharing them out as has been done elsewhere. I took the liberty of mentioning some of our inter-provincial concerns, pointing out that where the money was raised in the four provinces we were studying projects that would serve all four. Copies were sent to those ministers responsible for the lottery, libraries, education and the premier as far as I was able to ascertain.

We have been invited to share our next Executive Meeting with HLA. The arrangements are in the hands of Lorraine McQueen. Conveners are advised, wherever possible, to have their committees meet on Friday, February 2. Saturday and Sunday will be accommodating the workshop and other activities of HLA and the Executive Meeting will be held on Monday, February 5. We seem to be progressing both with a co-operative venture and also with a sort of mini-mid-winter. Get in touch with Lorraine about times, rooms for meetings, etc. if you need help.

Plans for the 1979 Conference which will be held at the University of Moncton, May 4-6, 1979 are proceeding slowly. Sylvia Guidry of the Lewisville Branch of Moncton Public Library will be replacing Lynn Hawkes on Local Arrangements. Albert Levesque will be heading up Campus arrangements and has informed us that plans are being made for the large exhibition of French books and magazines which the Embassy of France is displaying across Canada and which will be at the

University during the Conference. This will certainly be a great plus for our meetings.

It is with deep regret that we accepted the resignation of Alban Arsenault as secretary for health reasons. We wish him a speedy recovery.

We also note the demise of one of our Conference supporters for many years, B.P.A.L.

Stop press news: I have received word from Sheila Cotton that APLA has been granted \$2,500 from the National Book Festival Committee to prepare the biographical information to go with the poster kits in line with the project mentioned above. The authors will have been chosen in mid December by some members of the Book Council at a meeting in Moncton. I will need someone from each province to volunteer to do these capsule biographies - any takers? Please write to me if you are willing to help. More details will be given as they become available.

The latest news from the Quebec Library Association is that they will not be able to join us for a joint conference but they are hoping to be able to send a delegation to share events with us. It certainly will be pleasant to have a number of our colleagues visiting from outside our area.

On Friday, December 10, a number of Librarians from the Atlantic Provinces met with Christopher Stone of Department of Supply and Services to discuss the cuts in Full and Selective Depository Libraries in our region. The meeting was called by the President in response to the expressions of concern from a number of librarians that access to government documents and information is to be so strictly limited by the reduction of the number of depository libraries.

Terence Amis  
President, APLA

With the  
Compliments  
of...



**JOHN COUTTS LIBRARY SERVICES LIMITED**  
4290 THIRD AVENUE, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO.

## APLA BULLETIN VOL. 42 NO. 4

The *APLA bulletin* is a bi-monthly organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library association whose object is to promote library service throughout the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, to serve the professional interests of librarians in the region and to serve as a focal point for all those in library services in the Atlantic Provinces, and to cooperate with library associations and other organizations on matters of mutual concern.

Individual Membership to the

Association is \$10.00, May-April and includes subscription to the *bulletin*. Institutional subscription to the *APLA Bulletin* is \$10.00 per calendar year. Single copies \$2.50.

The *APLA bulletin* is printed by The Dartmouth Free Press Ltd., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The *bulletin* is indexed in Library Literature, Library and Information Science Abstracts, Canadian Periodicals Index. Back volumes are available from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106, U.S.A.

APLA EXECUTIVE 1978-1979

### Past President:

Alan MacDonald, Library, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta.

### President:

Terence Amis, Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library, Moncton, N.B.

Vice-President (Newfoundland) and President-Elect:

Patricia Anglin, Western Region Library, Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

Vice-President (P.E.I.):

Sandra Taylor, Provincial Library Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Vice-President (Nova Scotia):

Lorraine McQueen, Provincial Library, Halifax, N.S.

Vice-President (New Brunswick):

Gilles Chiasson, Bibliotheque Regionale du Haut — Saint-Jean, Edmunston, N.B.

### EDITOR:

Peter Glenister, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, N.S.

### MANAGING EDITOR:

Andrew Poplawski, Halifax County Regional Library, Halifax, N.S.

### ADVERTISING EDITOR:

Bonita J. Boyd, Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8

### Treasurer:

Joan Moore, Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.

### Councillors:

Elizabeth Sutherland, Library, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, N.S.

Howard Cogswell, Saint John Regional Library, Saint John, N.B.

### CENTRAL MAILING ADDRESS

Typed manuscripts, advertising information and inquiries regarding the Association, should be addressed to the appropriate officer or editor, c/o School of Library Service, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H8.

### Bulletin Deadlines

June 1 .....	No. 1
August 1 .....	No. 2
October 1 .....	No. 3
December 1 .....	No. 4
February 1 .....	No. 5
April 1 .....	No. 6

## APLA Membership Committee Report

*Betty Sutherland is the APLA Councillor for Membership*

As of December 1, 1978 APLA membership stood at 277, an increase of 44 members over the 1977/78 total, but still short of our goal of 300 members for 1978/79. But we are working on that.

During October a membership package was prepared for distribution to the registrants at the New Brunswick Library Trustees' conference in Memramcook in late October, and a similar package was sent to every Dalhousie University Library School student. By the time you read this, letters will have gone to the provincial vice-presidents to each library in their respective provinces enclosing

membership forms and sample copies of the *APLA Bulletin* and inviting library staff to become members of the Association.

A membership list is being prepared at present and should be ready for distribution with the next issue of the *Bulletin*. In the meantime, I invite you all to an open meeting of the Membership Committee to be held on Sunday, February 4, 1979, at 3:00 p.m. in the Patrick Power Library, St., Mary's University, Halifax. I hope that many of you who will be coming for the "Libraries in the Censored Seventies" workshop on February 3 will come to the meeting as well and share your ideas with members of the committee.

## National Library Advisory Board

At 4 p.m. on November 3, 1978, the National Library Advisory Board (less five members) held a public session in the MacMechan Auditorium of Dalhousie's Killam Library. This was the first occasion in which the Board has met directly with the public in a forum designed to provide an opportunity for direct communication between the Library and its users.

After an introduction by Rene de Chantal, the Board chairman, an outline of present National Library functions and services was presented by Guy Sylvestre, the National Librarian. For the remaining ninety minutes of the gathering, Sylvestre and other National Library staff members (Hope Clement, Cynthia Durance and Flora Patterson) responded to queries and comments from the floor.

The slowdown in the Multilingual Bibloservice was explained by the National Librarian as caused by processing requirements taking increased

staff time, not cuts in the program's acquisitions budget. He also stated that the National Library review report ought to have been written by the end of 1978.

Hope Clement described the history and progress of the DOBIS project, now in the second phase-testing. The cataloguing and catalogue searching modules are functional and those for serials control, circulation and acquisitions are under consideration for adaptation and testing. The first application of DOBIS as a service provided outside the National Library is likely to be an Ottawa federal libraries system.

Other topics discussed were the extent of usage of CANMARC records by Canadian libraries, the possibility of internships for students at the National Library, progress in CONSER and the Canadian union list of serials, resumption of library services to the handicapped, and the continuation of Canadian collections surveys.

## 1979 Courses In Precis

Interest continues to grow in this method of subject indexing designed for use in automated systems. A two-week course in the application of PRECIS (The Preserved Context Index System) will be offered next year in two Canadian locations, July 30-August 10 in Edmonton and August 20-31 in Toronto. The Toronto course is sponsored by the Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto. Joint sponsors of the Edmonton course are the Faculty of Library Science, University of Alberta and the Edmonton Public Library.

The instructors will be Derek Austin of

the British Library, developer of the system, and Jutta Sorensen of the Danmarks Biblioteksskole, Copenhagen, foreign language consultant for the PRECIS translanguag project.

**Contacts: Edmonton** - Professor Andre Nitecki, Faculty of Library Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. T6G 2J4. Telephone: (403) 432-4729. **Toronto** - PRECIS Course 1979, Faculty of Science Library, University of Toronto, 140 St. George Street, Toronto, Canada. M5S 1A1. Telephone: Irene McCordick, (416) 881-2635.

## Documents Cutbacks Update

*Terry Paris is reference Librarian, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, N.S.*

The Publishing Centre of Supply and Services Canada proposes to reduce the number of depository libraries in Canada from 586 to 302 by April, 1979 to accommodate a cut of \$2 million dollars from a \$3.9 million dollar budget for the free distribution of government publications.

Gail Wamsley, convener of the CLA Government Publications Committee, in an effort to co-ordinate protest to these cutbacks, urged librarians and library patrons to send letters and telegrams to their MPs and to Pierre de Bane, the Minister of Supply and Services, during the week of November 27, 1978. She met with Philippe Leroux, Director of the Publishing Centre, on November 28 to discuss the revised programme.

Rather than encourage each librarian to protest as an advocate of his or her collections' inviolability, CLA has concentrated on the broader issue of the public's right of access to government information. The aspect of distribution was expounded in the CLA brief entitled *Public Access to Government Informa-*

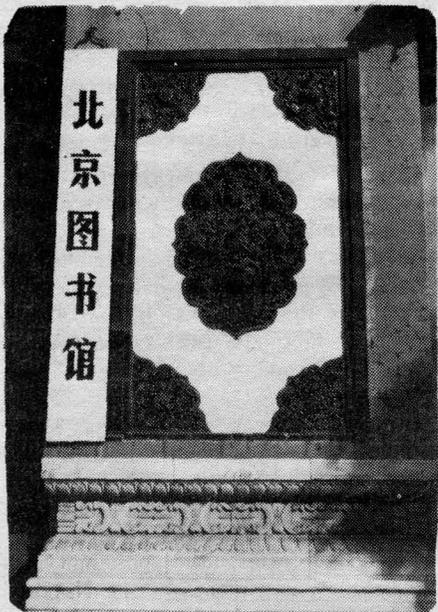
*tion [Canadian Library Journal, Aug. 1976]* presented to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments in May, 1976. In the brief, CLA suggests that the primary reason for government publishing is to inform the public, and proposes a broader definition of "government publication" to make a greater variety of documents publicly available. The system of depository libraries is praised as an "inexpensive and logical means" to distribute documents. In the recent campaign full access to a full range of federal information has been linked to the issue of national unity for it is conceived as one of the forces that help bind the disparate regions together.

In order to inform government officials of the important role that Librarians perform as disseminators of Government information to their public, the CLA Government Publications Committee plans to create a kit of material e.g. newsletters, information sheets, guides bibliographies, notices etc. Samples of this material should be sent to Paul Kitchen, Executive Director, Canadian Library Association, 151 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5E3.

## BOTTOMLEY

Some 60 percent of the collection is devoted to the natural sciences and to technology, reflecting the present aim of the Chinese people which is a consolidated effort towards the modernization of China. 40 percent of the collection are foreign books with those in the English language taking the largest share, followed by Japanese books.

A staff of 700 people works at the National Library of China to serve the approximately 2000 readers a day, as well as the people throughout China who can use the Library's resources through inter-library loans. Organizations as well as individuals may borrow books for one month.



This sign outside the National Library of the Chinese People's Republic translates "Peking Library".

The reading rooms I see are remarkably similar to those any librarian in North America is familiar with. Patrons sit at long tables quietly consulting reference works, taking notes or leafing through a magazine. Except - where in North America could it happen that all the people in a reading room would get up and clap to extend a warm welcome to the foreign friends in a way which charmingly and easily bridges the language barrier? I experienced this in a library in Nanning (Kwangsi Province). By that time our group was familiar enough with Chinese customs to clap back in response, until the librarian gently motioned an end to this noisy interruption of the otherwise tranquil library scene.

In other areas of this National Library building reference services are provided. A clipping file is maintained in a special reading room for Marxism, Leninism and Mao Tse-tung's thought. The "New Book" room changes its displays once a month. On our walk through it I notice such diverse publications as *The economic system of the United Kingdom* by Derek Morris and *Wild und Geflugel in der internationalen Küche* - a cookbook in German on venison and fowl in international cuisine. On regular shelves I see books by Shakespeare, V. Hugo, Balzac, Dickens, Pearl S. Buck and Rousseau. All or most of these authors have reappeared on the shelves only after what is referred to as "the smashing of the Gang of Four".

Unfortunately I cannot determine either the authors or the subjects of the many Chinese books on exhibit.

Special subject exhibitions are also organized. These often circulate to other cities. Bao gives us the example of an exhibit on petroleum sciences which was sent to the North of China where oil is found. Bao also tells us about an exchange scheme which exists between China and over 2,000 foreign libraries in 120 different countries (including Canada). He points out that this exchange enriches collections and helps in the understanding of foreign countries. The National Library also serves as the depository library for all Chinese publications. Three copies of each publication have to be deposited with it - unless the books are particularly large or very expensive, in which case 2 copies are sufficient.

Although we do not visit the technical services area of the National Library, I learn a few things about it through questions and remarks which are made during the tour. Because of the language barrier and the lack of time to ask follow-up questions in any detail, it is very difficult to understand the classification system used by the National Library. We did see a copy of the "Schedules" at Nanning (in Chinese characters, of course). The classification numbers are a combination of roman letters and digits. The main characteristic, which sets the Chinese classification system apart from any other system, is that it is based on Chairman Mao's teachings and on his concept of how human knowledge is organized. The predictable result is that Marxist theory and Mao's thought form the first and, so it seems, most important class within the system. It comes as no surprise to learn that the LC classification system does not fit this idea of how knowledge is divided up and is therefore not suitable to the Chinese needs. However, well into the 1960s LC cards and numbers were used in the National Library for Western books and since they have not had time to reclassify them, two catalogues still exist. Automation of various kinds within the library is planned for the future. A study group has already visited Japan - because of the similarity in their written languages - to find out what the state of the art is. It is a difficult task, however, because Chinese characters are not easily adapted to computers. One of the ongoing projects at the National Library is the work on a national union catalogue. Unified catalogue cards are already being supplied to other libraries.

On our tour through the closed stack area we noticed that shelf space had run out on many occasions and that various books have been "shelved" on the floor. Bao apologizes to us for the crowded conditions, explains that the stack area is scattered around Peking, and regrets that the buildings are not air-conditioned, particularly because of the dust storms and winds which hit Peking at certain times of the year. We assure him that many of us work under similar restrictions in Canada and are only too familiar with inadequate storage space. We feel a little closer to him on this point than we do on the budget question. The

National Library comes under the "Cultural Relics Administration Department" whose budget is included in the "National Economics Budget". The Library tells the government how much they need, and the funds are given to them, so a smiling Bao tells us, - although, I suspect, it must be within limits and according to certain priorities (e.g. see the remarks about the lack of air-conditioning and of storage space).

It is interesting to notice the fairly large degree of involvement in and recognition of the value of libraries by the present as well as by the former leader of China. Chairman Mao, who himself worked as a library assistant at the Peking University Library between 1918 and 1920, gave the impetus for the development of a Chinese classification system, according to Bao. The present Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, again as told to us by Bao, has asked the National Library to assist in the further development of libraries in other parts of China; for instance district and provincial libraries, libraries in peoples communes (which usually have a population of 50,000 and up), libraries in trade unions and factories, and special libraries for youngsters in big cities. I certainly noticed a keen interest in reading material and books during my travels in China. There are the daily newspapers pasted on walls and read by people on their way to and from work. I saw bookstores with many browsers in every city I visited. In Nanning I passed something which looked like a side-walk sale of books, with people crowding around the display and leafing through the books. One of our interpreters, who accompanied us during our entire trip, bought one of the traditional novels *Songs of Youth in the South of China*. He told us that it is difficult to obtain this book in Peking since so many people want it. All of our guides seem happy to accept the paperbacks we had finished reading during many hours of flying between North America and Asia (these paperbacks ranged from *Readers Digest* to *Roots*). During a visit to a commune we are told that the largest library in the county (an administrative unit including several communes) is open every day, that many of the production brigades have reading rooms and that almost every team subscribes to newspapers (communes are divided into production brigades which in turn are divided into teams). I also see - on a busy shopping street in Gui-Lin - something which is perhaps best described as a form of miniature lending library. It consists of a counter with many books behind it. The rest of the room is taken by benches. People, young and old, request books and then read them right there in the store, seated on the benches or squatting on the floor. Every one of these observations contributed to the knowledge and pleasure I received from this trip to China. China is a country worth visiting for many reasons, including cultural, culinary and scenic ones, as well as for the wonderful hospitality of the Chinese people. The trip is made more pleasurable still when one goes not only as a tourist and friend but also as a colleague.

## Saint John Regional Library

We're Moving! - Not tomorrow, but on October 16th, a final agreement on funding for the \$57 million Saint John Market Square development was announced. This announcement culminated several years of conceptual planning negotiation, presentations which involved municipal, provincial and federal governments as well as the developer - The Rocca Group Ltd. The Saint John Free Public Library and Regional Library Boards have been actively involved from the initial concept onwards. As John Rocca put it, "And now the work begins." Phase one of this major urban revitalization project includes the New Library, trade and convention centre, retail and commercial space, mixed cost and senior citizens housing, a hotel, small craft wharf and docking facility, interior and connecting links to City Hall, Brunswick Square and the City Market, and the restoration of historic buildings on Prince William Street.

The Saint Croix Public Library is conducting a very successful, (once a week - for six weeks) workshop called "Roots". The participants registered with the program are learning about genealogy and how to trace their Family Tree.

The Sussex Public Library has undertaken a series of programs for the month of November titled "In Praise of Hands". A display and demonstration by well-known local craftsman, both amateur and professional, will be held in the library each week. Crafts such as copper enamelling, pottery, macrame, wood-carving, batik and candle-making will be featured.

Eleven trustees representing the Saint John, Campobello, Sussex and St. Croix Public Libraries in the Saint John Library Region, journeyed to the Memramcook Institute at Memramcook to attend a Trustees Workshop. Topics discussed during the one-day session, were:

- What are the role and responsibilities of trustees?
- How do trustees relate to different levels of governments?
- Why and how can trustees be involved in public relations?
- What can trustees do in an era of economic difficulties?
- What can trustees do to create the right atmosphere in the library?

Approximately fifty trustees from all the five regional libraries in New Brunswick, plus trustees from three library regions in Nova Scotia, were in attendance.

Regional Library staff joined with Library staff of the Ward Chipman Library, UNBSJ and School Library Services to prepare and man a booth during "Careers Expo" sponsored by two local school districts from Oct. 2nd-6th. Approximately 8,000 students (Grades 9-12) had the opportunity to question staff employees in over 50 occupations.

Four staff members also participated in one session of the provincial Teacher-Librarian Seminar held in Saint John during the last week of August at Villa Madonna Retreat House. We were asked to focus our presentation on Regional Library services available to Teacher-Librarians, and encountered a receptive audience during this worthwhile session.

The Saint John Free Public Library is now home base for Saint John Literacy Council supplementary material to be used by tutors for new readers. The Library will receive, house and make accessible and available the material forwarded to us by the Council.

## Gander Regional Library

The new region was set up in October 1978. There are two permanent members of staff: Joan Wheeler, Librarian, and Blanche Saunders, clerk. The region serves 18 libraries in the area and will provide new books and backup reference service for these

branches. The headquarters is connected by telex to headquarters in St. John's, Central and Western Regions, so that requests not easily handled locally can still be taken care of. Provision of records and cassettes will not be for several years.

## Halifax County Regional Library

The Bedford Branch of the Halifax County Regional Library has been expanded an additional 350 square feet. The new space is being used as a small children's section. During Fall 1978, the "Legal Aspects of the Family" proved to be a very

popular six-part series of programs at the Sackville Branch Library. The Continuing Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia co-sponsored the series every Monday evening from October 16 through November 20. About 60-100 people attended each session.

## Cambridge Military Library

Eric Cameron is a staff writer of the *Dalhousie UNIVERSITY NEWS*.

A garrison library started from the same source of funds as Dalhousie University has fallen on hard times.

The Cambridge Military Library in Royal Artillery Park was set up with 1,000 British pounds from the Castine Fund. The balance of the 10,750 pounds was used to start Dalhousie University.

The Castine Fund was the proceeds of customs duties levied by British forces occupying part of the State of Maine during the War of 1812.



In 1817 the Earl of Dalhousie, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, recommended that the bulk of the money be used to found a liberal non-sectarian college based on the example of Edinburgh Academy, but he set aside part of the money to aid the garrison library which had just been established.

That library, after several moves, found its present home in Royal Artillery Park during the 1880's. It received its name in 1902 when the officers of the garrison received permission to name it after His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, commander-in-chief of the British Army for more than 40 years.

At the moment the Cambridge Military Library is suffering from two problems, said Captain U. Kopstals, secretary of the library executive. The first problem is the care of a collection of about 3,000 volumes known as the Corfu collection, and the second problem is servicing the current collection.

The Corfu collection, which consists

## Nova Scotia Library Association

The 1978 Annual Conference of the Nova Scotia Library Association was held at Eastern Counties Regional Library headquarters in Mulgrave and at the Port Hawkesbury branch in the Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre on October 15 and 16.

The Nominating Committee presented its slate which resulted in the following elections for 1978-79.

Executive

President - Corinne W. Frantel (Annapolis), Vice-president - Dorothy Fitzgerald (Halifax County), Secretary - Janet Pelley (Colchester-East Hants), Treasurer - Yvette DeDiller (Western Counties), and Past President - Emile Theriault (Dartmouth).

Standing Committee Conveners

By-Laws - Gloria Hardy (South Shore), Finance - Harold Gaudet (Halifax City), Membership - Daphne Cragg (Eastern Counties), Newsletter - Mary Jane Maffini (Dartmouth), and Program - Frances Anderson (Dalhousie Library School).

Members of the NSLA information Committee presented a workshop on some aspects of the future of public libraries in Nova Scotia. The first part of the

mostly of 19th century literature and long runs of literary periodicals, includes a large number of items transferred to Halifax in 1864 from the British garrison library on the Greek island of Corfu.

The collection is in very poor condition, said Capt. Kopstals. The building is not suited for the storage of rare books or leather bindings, and there are problems with temperature, humidity, and ultraviolet sunlight.

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia have assumed responsibility for the Corfu collection for a period of two years. The

books were cleaned and boxed, said PANS staffer Brian Cuthbertson, and placed in storage in a federal government records storage centre in Burnside.

A number of manuscripts relating to Nova Scotia were turned over to the Public Archives, said Cuthbertson, but the books are only being stored while the Cambridge Military Library sorts out its future plans.

The library is being kept open by volunteers, said Capt. Kopstals, and the current collection is available for use. Former serviceman Sgt. Bill Hunt cared for the library over a period of 28 years, but he retired two years ago.

"We can't afford a full-time person to keep the library open," said Capt. Kopstals, and the federal government has not established a permanent position at the library.

Library president Colonel Frank Hofflin and his executive are seeking funds to keep the library going and get it back on a firm footing.

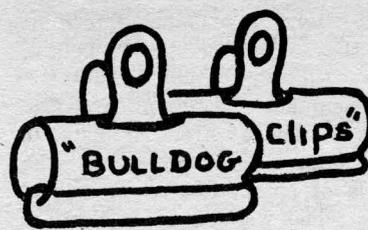
workshop consisted of a report of the activities of the Minister of Education's task force on libraries. This was followed by an outline of the kinds of information and statistics available on libraries. The last part of the workshop broke up into small discussion groups.

Donald Black, a Bookmobile Clerk/Driver at ECRL, and formerly a promoter and salesman for small presses in Ontario, gave an enthusiastic, knowledgeable presentation. The workshop included information on the types of books published by small presses and some of the distribution problems.

National Film Board representative Eric Cosgrove, introduced the resources of the Film Board with two excellent films and a display of catalogues and filmographics.

There was a workshop on standards for branch libraries within regional library systems. Most of the discussion was on the funding processes, and formal adoption and use of the Standards.

An introduction and elaboration on kinds of grants available followed the outline given in the leaflet "Additional funding for Libraries".



### CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

#### Clip No. 7:

#### Deacidification of Paper

In Clip No. 6 we discussed briefly what causes acidity in paper and how it affects it. In continuing this discussion it is important to know why we are concerned with this deterioration problem. George Cunha and Richard Smith, along with others, have given us their reasons for concern.

George Cunha wrote in 1971 that "Most of the books printed in the first half of the twentieth century, and a great number of earlier volumes, will be unusable before the year 2000". (Cunha, George M. and Dorothy G. Cunha, *Conservation of Library Materials*, 2nd ed. Metuchen, N.J. The Scarecrow Press, 1971).

Writing in 1975, Richard Smith estimates that "Over 75 percent, perhaps even 90 percent, of paper deterioration in library book collections is caused by acid hydrolysis." (Smith, Richard D. "The Deacidification of Paper and Books," *American Libraries*, February, 1975, p. 108.)

He goes on to say that an effective deacidification treatment will double or triple the potential life of acidic paper.

Going back to Cunha, "It would be impossible, even if unlimited funds, hundreds of trained personnel and a great many restoration laboratories were available, to restore by deacidification most of these books outside of the libraries concerned. Thus, **libraries have no alternative to becoming involved in restoration if these books are to be saved.**"

Present knowledge and techniques available are unequal to the problem but research now being done on methods for more deacidification of books will ultimately provide a solution." (Cunha, p. 158)

Others have written dire warnings to us as librarians including the Library of Congress. A survey they took in 1973 revealed that 6 million out of its 17 million books were "too brittle to be given to the user." (Shelly, Karen Lee. "The Future of Conservation in Research Libraries", *Journal of Academic Libraries*, vol. 1, no. 6, January 1976, p. 15).

We have finally become aware of the problem and wish to do something to stop this deterioration of our collections, but we still don't know what to do, where to begin or allot funds for the preservation and restoration of our collections.

We do know the paper in books, that darkens to various tones of brown, become brittle, and later loses all folding endurance and simply crumbles in your hand is the paper that has deteriorated due to acid hydrolysis.

We do know that the paper of our early manuscripts and printed books is considered permanent and durable due to good fibers from rags. There are traces of calcium and magnesium carbonates, probably due to the natural means of bleaching and washing of rags in hard water, so that most paper of this period is neutral or mildly alkaline. (*Permanence/Durability of the Book - III*. Richmond, Virginia, W.J. Barrow Research Laboratory, 1964, p. 9)

Later alum was introduced to harden sizing to improve the writing surface, and it is acidic. Used and coloured rags needed whitening, so bluing and similar agents were used, and later chlorine was used as a bleach, leaving behind chlorides and weakening the fibers. Iron gall writing

inks had large amounts of sulfuric acid. By the middle of the nineteenth century wood fibers came into use as a cheap substitute for cotton and linen rags. The noncellulose material in ground wood and chemical wood fibers also result in acidic decomposition. With the consistent use of rosin size since the mid-19th century and with the other factors, the high acidity in paper has given a very high rate of deterioration. (Barrow, p. 11)

#### ACID HYDROLYSIS

One might ask, "What is acid hydrolysis?"

"Acid is catalytic and nonvolatile, even small amounts can hydrolyze very large amounts of cellulose." (Cunha, p. 377).

It is not the acid that is in the paper that does the damage. It is when moisture is introduced that the chemical reaction begins and the deterioration of the fibers takes place (this is why the regulation of humidity is important).

#### WHAT DOES DEACIDIFICATION MEAN?

Actually the term is a bit misleading as we do not mean doing away with the acid in the paper, which the word seems to imply. But rather, we mean the neutralizing of the acid that exists in the paper. This process of neutralizing can be done by three types of processes: aqueous methods (water-based) non-aqueous methods using solvents or vapor phase.

There have been a number of these methods developed and I will give citations for them for interested persons. However for the paper I will discuss only a few, those that I have observed and in two cases ones that we are currently researching.

The honour for early work done on deacidification goes to William Barrow of Richmond, Virginia. Historically, and also because of current use, two of his methods will be discussed.

#### THE BARROW TWO-BATH METHOD

"Essentially, this process involves treatment of a document for twenty minutes in each of two solutions. The first solution is one of approximately 0.15 percent calcium hydroxide, or 1.5 grams per liter of calcium hydroxide, which is a saturated solution since this is the maximum solubility of calcium hydroxide at 25°C. This solution neutralizes any acids present in the document being immersed. After the excess calcium hydroxide solution is drained off, the document is soaked in the second bath, 0.15 percent calcium bicarbonate solution. This converts the highly alkaline calcium hydroxide to calcium carbonate. When the sheet is dried, calcium bicarbonate, which exists only in solution, is also converted to calcium carbonate as a finely divided precipitant throughout the fibers of the document. Calcium carbonate acts as a stabilizer against aging degradation and as a buffer against any acidic environment." (*The American Archivist*, Vol. 39, No. 2, April, 1976, p. 161)

#### THE BARROW ONE-BATH METHOD

Later a process was developed for "A solution containing 1.5 to 2 grams of calcium carbonate and 15 to 20 grams of magnesium in one liter of water. Nearly half of the magnesium carbonate and about one-tenth of the calcium carbonate are converted to bi-carbonates. After the undissolved particles settle, the clear solution is decanted for use and papers to be deacidified are soaked overnight." (Lydenberg, Harry M. and John Archer, *The Care and Repair of Books*, p. 47 refers to *Science*, April 24, 1959, p. 1080)

Another researcher in the field of deacidification has been Richard Smith. His system has been named: *Wei T'o Nonaqueous Book Deacidification System* (Wei T'o, an ancient Chinese god, protects against destruction from fire, worms, insects, and robbers, big or small).

The ideas behind the Wei T'o nonaqueous deacidification solution were developed by Richard D. Smith during his

doctoral research at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago.

"Methanol and trichlorotrifluoroethane, the organic solvents used in Wei T'o Solution, dissolve the deacidification agent, magnesium methoxide, and carry it into paper. Initially, the excess magnesium methoxide, introduced to protect against future acid attack, forms magnesium hydroxide, i.e., dried milk of magnesia. This magnesium hydroxide reacts with carbon dioxide from air to form basic magnesium carbonate. This magnesium hydroxide also absorbs the trace metals, iron, copper, and cobalt, which catalyze oxidative reactions and together with molds produce colored stains. Magnesium sulfate, i.e. Epsom salts, is the principal chemical deposited when the acids in paper are neutralized. All of these chemicals are beneficial to paper based on the findings of long term scientific studies. Moreover, these same chemicals are the very chemicals introduced into papers by highly regarded aqueous deacidification processes, and are found in ancient papers that remain in excellent condition today...The solvents used are selected for their ability to wet papers more readily than water does, have essentially no weakening, distorting, or swelling effects, and be easier than water to remove from paper." (Wei T'o Solutions - General Information Brochure, March 1976)

The Wei T'o Solution can be applied in a number of ways: spraying, (as recommended by Smith), dipping, soaking, brushing, and roller-coating.

I observed its use at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Public Archives of Canada selected the Wei T'o system for pilot trial because it appeared to best meet their requirements.

It can be purchased from TALAS (45 oz. bottle \$15.00) or directly from Wei T'o Associates, Inc. 224 Early Street, P.O. Box 352, Park Forest, Ill., 60466. (listed in 1976 as 45 oz. bottle \$12.00, but price may have increased).

The solution is classified as non-flammable and non poisonous (for shipment purposes), but as with all sprays should be used in well-ventilated areas.

The Library of Congress has used both the Barrow and Smith methods, but have been working on another one: *Library of Congress Non-Aqueous Deacidification Method*.

On February 17, 1976, a patent was issued to George Kelly, Chemist on the staff of the Preservation Research Office at L.C. It was for the use of Methylmagnesium carbonate as a non-aqueous deacidification agent. It purports to eliminate nearly all of the objections encountered with other solvents.

"Solutions of methylmagnesium carbonate are much more stable than previously available solutions, most of which tend quickly to become inactive. The effectiveness, the longer storage life, the greater convenience, and the significantly lower cost of the new product provide a superior deacidification agent for the use of conservators.

Methylmagnesium carbonate can be made by passing carbon dioxide through a solution of one percent magnesium methoxide. The artifact to be treated may be dipped or sprayed with the solution, or the solution may be applied with a brush.

The Library of Congress is pleased to grant a royalty-free, non-transferable, non-exclusive license to all parties interested in practising this invention anywhere in the world.

Magnesium methoxide may be purchased from a number of chemical supply houses, including Pioneer Chemical Works, Inc., Route 73, P.O. Box 237, Maple Shade, N.J., 08052." [*Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, Vol. 35, No. 11 March 12, 1976). Besides these methods mention should be made of some of the others. I will name the method and list references for reading of the processes for anyone interested.

David Baynes-Cope, British Library, developed a non-aqueous method using barium hydroxide (see his article in the *Restaurator*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1969).

For information on the method used by Moscow's Lenin State Library see Yabrova, R.R., "The prevention of aging of books and newspapers." *Collection of Materials on the Prevention of Library Resources*. Moscow, 1963, English translation, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, O.T.S. Publication 64-11053.

The vapor phase method was developed by W.H. Langwell in Epsom, and is discussed by R.N. Du Puis *et al* in the *Restaurator*, vol. 1, no. 3, 1970. I would advise anyone going to do any work or even reading on methods of deacidification to be sure and read Margaret Hey's comments on what she considers the only permissible compounds for use in deacidifying solutions, and her warnings to amateurs. See *The Abbey Newsletter*, no. 11, October 1977. Margaret Hey is a conservation chemist, who worked in the Biblioteca Nazionale of Florence, did research at the Instituto di Patologia del Libro, Rome, worked with A. Cains in the Conservation Department of Trinity College Library in Dublin and spent 18 months at the Library of Congress as visiting chemist.

This year at the Dalhousie School of Library Service there is a student, Ed Collister, who is doing some research on deacidification. He is running tests on the folding endurance of paper after it has been deacidified and aged. The two methods he is comparing are Barrow's One-Bath Method, and Richard Smith's Wei T'o Solution. Ed would have liked to use the Library of Congress method as well, but L.C. is still in the process of testing their method. When his research is complete we will publish a summary of it in this column.

Last year students taking the "Conservation of Library Materials" course at Dalhousie experimented with the Barrow One-Bath Method (with assistance given by Fred Matthews of the Library School). This year we will experiment with the Smith's Wei T'o Solution.

The reason we are interested in deacidification methods is that we would like to find a reliable way of treating books published since the mid-nineteenth century that are deteriorating. By neutralizing the acid in the papers we hope to stop the deterioration and maintain some degree of permanency. We need a method that is not only reliable, but that is realistic in administering and within the realms of possibility as to budget, techniques and staff.

In the next issue we will continue our discussion of paper, in two related areas — the craft of handmaking paper and marbling for end papers.

## New Brunswick Legislative Library

The Legislative Library owns one of the original copies of the elephant folio of Audubon's prints, *Birds of North America*. This valuable four volume set has been part of the collection since 1853. Due to age and storing conditions, the prints were in need of restoration. Arrangements have been made with the Atlantic Conservation Institute in Moncton to have this work done. The first volume is presently at the Institute and it is expected that the other three volumes will be restored in the coming years.

The Government Documents section of the Legislative Library has been moved out of the Legislative Building. Since September of this year, the documents collection is housed in a two-storey building behind the Legislature on King Street. Although this move presents certain inconveniences, there is no doubt that the space acquired is more adequate for the needs of this fast-growing collection.

## York Regional Library

On November 2-3 York Regional Library participated in a workshop sponsored by the Department of Health at the regional Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton. Attending the conference were over one hundred people, most of whom were program directors and public and private senior citizens' homes. The Library manned an exhibit aimed at special services for senior citizens; including the province-wide Talking Book Service, large print books, music cassette collection, and Books-On-Wheels. The display attracted not only those attending the conference, but the general public as well. As a follow-up, the conference organizers offered to circulate a description of the Talking Book Service in the bi-monthly "Activity Bulletin" distributed to senior citizens' homes throughout the Province.

York Regional Library is now participating in a newsprint recycling plan established by Fredericton Paper Recycle, a non-profit organization. This company is collecting newsprint and is delivering it to Moncton where it is processed into cellulose fibre insulation.

The Library receives 1c for every pound collected, and another 1c is donated to the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded. The remaining 1/2c which Fredericton Paper Recycle receives covers the expenses of the company.

All the public libraries in the Region have set up collection boxes for this purpose, and some are actively integrating the campaign with school visits and regular storyhours.

The second annual Children's Book Festival, November 19-25, was celebrated successfully this year by York Regional Library. Inspired by a visit in mid-October from Phyllis Yaffe, the Director of the Children's Book Centre in Toronto, York was determined early to make the Festival an "event". Yaffe explained that the purpose of the Festival is to promote *Canadian* children's books, not just children's books in general.

The highlight of the week was the visit on Friday, November 24 of Ian Wallace, author of *The Sandwich*, to three of the region's libraries. He visited the Oromocto Public Library, the Nashwaaksis Public-School Library and the Fredericton Public Library, and in each case won the children over with his easy-going, friendly manner. He read from his two books *The Sandwich* and *The Christmas Tree House*. He even prepared and passed around a stinky meat and cheese sandwich!

The French language library in Fredericton, La Bibliotheque Marguerite Michaud, hosted Jean Peronnet from Moncton, author of *Pepere Goguen et les ratons voleurs*. Perronet brought with him his prize winning puppets which he used to dramatize the story. This too proved popular with a Saturday morning attendance of 76.

Besides the obvious "create a sandwich" contest there were contests for the younger children using picture books, *Lazarus Laughs* by Christiane Duchesne and *Hug Me* by Patti Stren. The children were asked to create a lamb (*Lazarus Laughs*) or a porcupine (*Hug Me*) using any medium or method they wished. One of the more popular ideas was an afternoon of puzzles and games featuring the many found in *Owl Magazine*. A jigsaw puzzle of two dinosaurs proved especially popular, which should have come as no surprise considering the number of times daily we show young patrons the section on dinosaurs.

Included in the Book Centre kit were coloring sheets portraying Canadian book characters. The children had fun identifying these, and hopefully they learned something too.

The local media gave excellent coverage and assistance in promoting the goals of the Festival: that of introducing the public to the variety and fine quality of Canadian children's books available today.

AMAZING DISPLAY - Leonardo da Vinci Models

A display of 25 fifteenth century inventions that are the ancestors of much modern machinery have been on month long exhibit at two of the region's libraries, the L.P. Fisher Library in Woodstock and the Fredericton Public Library. Visits by groups and organizations have thronged the libraries.

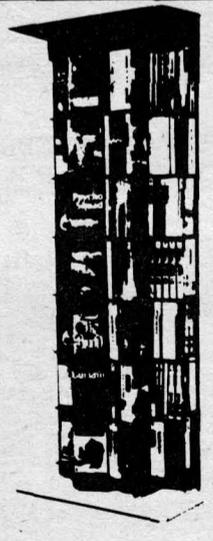
The collection of models made from drawings and notes of the great Italian painter, engineer, sculptor, architect, musician and philosopher includes such different things as a forerunner of the automobile differential; the great grandfather of the modern parachute; a bridge with separate docks; an embryo helicopter; sundry war tanks and machine guns, etc. Unlike what is done with most museum pieces, the various machines are meant to be cranked, turned and otherwise handled and worked by their viewers. J. M. Danabie, production co-ordinator for IBM Canada Ltd. (which owns the collection and sponsors its tours around the country), says the pieces have to be repaired and replaced occasionally but permitting them to be handled enhances their educational value and interest.

## TURN SOME HEADS!

You will certainly turn some heads with the new attractive Carmac Carousel Book Displayer.

New titles of hard cover books, paperbacks and periodicals can be displayed more efficiently and effectively. Shelves are beautiful smoked plexiglass and the base is walnut laminate with black trim.

Choose the Carmac Carousel Book Displayer model to suite your 'island' or 'against the wall' requirements.



# CARR MCLEAN

43 Towns Rd., Toronto, Ont. M8Z 1N9 (416) 252-3371 Tx: 06-967866

# Government Documents Depository Status

*Elizabeth MacDonald is Supervisor of Public Libraries, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Halifax, N.S.*

On Friday December 8, 1978 a group of 12 representatives of libraries from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia met at the Universite de Moncton to discuss with a representative of the Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, the recently announced cuts and changes in depository status.

Invitations were sent to the four Atlantic Provinces through the Provincial Directors from Terry Amis, President of APLA. The institutions represented were: Universite de Moncton, Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library Mount Allison University, New Brunswick Library Service, University of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia Provincial Library and St. John Regional Library.

Christopher Stone, representing Supply and Services Canada, explained their position. In early August 1978 a Treasury Board Directive was issued instructing the Department to reduce its budget by \$2 million. Faced with this, Supply and Services Canada had to decide quickly what to reduce. They feel they serve the Nation best by spreading their services as widely as possible and examined the present service to determine what cuts would affect the public the least. Several cuts were made in the service provided in the Government sector as well as to libraries. Formerly all M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s were Selective Depositors. Now only the M.P.'s, Provincial Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers retain this status. Many Departmental Libraries status were reduced to a realistic position and with the help of the National Library some depositories abroad were deleted.

He felt that the Atlantic Provinces had not been as severely cut as the rest of the

country. Across the country Legislative Libraries which were Full Depositories will retain this status as will the largest Public Libraries in the largest cities. All others will become selective.

The Department of Supply and Services has met with CLA and ASTED. These organizations were told that the decision was a top level one and that any appeals should be made to that level.

The Department is also looking at its publications. The *Daily Checklist* has become a "Weekly Checklist". There is a strong possibility that the *Monthly Checklist* will become a "Quarterly".

There followed a general discussion in which many questions were raised. Concern was expressed in the delay that will be caused in the already slow distribution of material by the elimination of the *Daily Checklist*. Many felt it would take a minimum of twenty days to receive material after the receipt of the *Checklist*.

The Universities present were very concerned in the cuts in status. They felt the need to be Full Depositories due to the variety of their clientele and to the research nature of their collections.

Concern was also expressed that, as all departments had their budgets cut, publications will not be available in sufficient quantity to fulfill demands.

Stone expressed several times that Selective Depository Libraries may select what they feel they need but serious consideration should be given to user demand. These depositories will be monitored to see what is being ordered, how the material is being advertised and if it is being used. If the selective status is being abused a ceiling will be placed on the number of items that can be selected.

Stone then read a proposed list of libraries to retain *full depository status*.  
*Newfoundland: Memorial University*

*Nova Scotia: Dalhousie University  
P.E.I.: either the University of P.E.I. or the Legislative Library*

*New Brunswick: Legislative Library  
Those cut from Full Depositories to Selective Depositories are:*

*Nova Scotia: Acadia University  
New Brunswick: University of New Brunswick; Universite de Moncton; Mount Allison University.*

New Brunswick Library Service would have liked to have seen more communication between the Department and NBS over this decision. They would like a chance to align the allocation properly so it will best suit the needs of the Province. Nova Scotia Provincial Library expressed the same desire.

There was then a discussion of the criteria used for decisions. The criteria for Selective Depository Status for Public Libraries with no branches are: (1) 20,000 population served, (2) open to the Public 30 hours a week and (3) one full time professional librarian. Public Libraries with more than one branch will receive 1 copy for the central library and 1 copy for up to 5 Branches for each Branch that fulfills the above criteria.

Criteria for Selective Depository status for college, university and community college libraries are: (1) 1,500 full time students, (2) open to the public 30 hours a week and (3) one full time professional librarian. For Departmental Libraries within Universities to receive Selective status they must also fulfill the above criteria. A Library may receive Selective status when only fulfilling two of the three criteria if it is more than 80 km from another library or if it is the *only* library in the Region serving a minority group.

If any negotiations are to be made concerning the decision they must be made before the third week in January.

## CLASSIFIED

### LIBRARIAN IV

- The Newfoundland Public Libraries Board invites applications for the position of Deputy Chief Provincial Librarian, to assist the Chief Provincial Librarian in administering a total library programme for the Province. Duties of the position include: preparation of annual budgets, and oversees and directs budgetary control; works with Department Heads and Regional Librarians and Staff/Management Committee on personnel matters, and interprets employment regulations to personnel when necessary. Directs the administration of a library in-service training programme. Supervises, directs and controls the work of a number of subordinate employees. This position requires a person who has a high degree of initiative and sound judgement, and a good understanding of the application of modern managerial concepts and labour relations.
- Qualifications: Applicant must have either a Bachelor or Masters Degree in Library Science from an accredited library school, and several years library experience, preferably in the area of administration.
- The salary is \$20,986 per annum on a salary range of \$20,986 - \$26,784 per annum. Interested applicants are invited to forward applications, stating education, experience and names and addresses of three references, and other relevant particulars to:

Chief Provincial Librarian  
Public Library Services  
Arts and Culture Centre  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1B 3A3

### LIBRARIAN - RIVERVIEW

The Albert - Westmorland - Kent Regional Library requires a Librarian to head library services in Riverview, where a public library was very recently opened. (The position is now vacant).

**Main Duties:** Supervision, direction and promotion of the Riverview Public Library.

This is a new and exciting position for a librarian seeking challenge and responsibility. The work is performed with considerable initiative and independent judgment.

**Qualifications:** BA and BLS or MLS; Some related experience.  
**Salary:** \$14,424-\$18,948 annually.

Please apply to: Claude Potvin  
Regional Librarian  
Albert-Westmorland-Kent  
Regional Library  
P.O. Box 708, 51 Highfield Street  
Moncton, N.B. E1C 8M9  
Phone: 506-389-2631

## Colchester-East Hants Regional Library

D. Harold Turner, author of the historical novel *To Hang A Rebel*, spoke to an audience of over 60 people on November 24, 1978, at the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library. His visit to Nova Scotia was co-ordinated by the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia, and sponsored by the Canada Council and the Children's Book Centre as part of their Children's Book Festival.

Also in support of this Festival, the Children's Department had a display and

reading club. For readers of Canadian books a party was given on November 24, 1978, complete with refreshments and a showing of the Canadian films "Bluenose Ghosts" and "Paddle to the Sea".

Maud Godfrey, who retired over a year ago as Head of the Reference Department and Union Catalogue of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, conducted a Reference Workshop in Truro for our library assistants and branch staff on November 27, 1978.

## DARTMOUTH LIBRARY

Dartmouth Regional Library plans a program series for International Year of the Child. The topics - Youth Rights in the Home, Youth Rights in the School, Youth in Conflict with the Law, and Youth in Jail - grew out of the Youth Speak-out and the Parent's Speak-out held in summer 1978 to gain public input into programming in IYC. The speak-outs were co-sponsored with Dartmouth Youth Advisory Committee.

As an unusual Christmas project the Maritime division of the Model Railroad Association created a detailed, lighted operational scale model train complete with scenic surroundings especially to display at the Woodlawn Mall Branch. Christmas Train '78 was designed and built at no cost to the library.

The two persons responsible for the vandalism at Dartmouth Regional Library last June have been apprehended, and the older person was recently sentenced for this and other offences.

A combined electronic burglar and fire alarm system is being installed in the Main Library.

Staff from other departments recently toured the Technical Services Department, and were let into all the secrets of multiform order slips and the computer catalog. Public services staff were much impressed by the complex workings of the 'invisible' part of the library.

### THE HALIFAX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

presents on  
Saturday, February 3, 1979  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### LIBRARIES IN THE CENSORED 70'S

#### SPEAKERS:

D.P. MacLellan, Public Relations Manager,  
H.H. Marshall Ltd.

TOPIC: "Censorship in the 70's".  
L.G. Vagianos, Vice-President (Administration),  
Dalhousie University.

TOPIC: "Libraries and Censorship".  
Group and Panel Discussions will take place throughout the day in response to the speakers.

PLACE: Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Registration before January 26, 1979 is necessary as participation will be limited to 50 people.  
Cost of \$7.00 includes luncheon.

To register, complete and send the following with cheque for \$7.00 made payable to HLA, to: Tom Flemming, 5264 Morris Street, # 1604, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1B5

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LIBRARY \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## NELINET

The NELINET Government Documents Task Group announces its forthcoming Workshop on problems of access to information from the Federal Government, to be held at the University of Lowell, Lowell, Massachusetts, on April 9, 1979.

Sessions focussing on individual Federal agencies or subject areas will be conducted by information specialists from the Government. Registration \$20. For information, contact: David C. Heisser, Documents Librarian, Tufts University Library, Medford, Mass. 02155 (617-628-5000-x388).

# People

- **Alan MacDonald**, former Head Librarian of the W.K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library, Dalhousie University, is now the Chief Librarian of the University of Calgary.
- **Eszter Schwenke**, a graduate of McGill Library School, has been appointed to the staff of the Fredericton Public Library. She has a wealth of experience as a cataloguer at McGill University Library and as cataloguer and Documents Librarian at MacDonald College Library.
- **Gail Snarby** is a recently appointed Library Assistant to the staff of St. Mary's Patrick Power Library. She will be dividing her time equally between Public Services and Technical Services.
- **David Drake**, who has been at Acadia as Special Collection Librarian since 1971, has resigned to become the Librarian at Horton District High School.
- **Bernie Cooper** has been employed as a Library Assistant at the Sackville Branch of the Halifax County Regional Library.

□ Four new librarians were welcomed into the P.E.I. School Unit Three fold September, 1978. Sr. **Catherine Smith** has just graduated from the University of Western Ontario Library School and has undertaken the interesting task of starting up the library at Bluefield High School, our newest school. **Bryer Jones** has replaced Esther Pletch at Queen Charlotte Jr. High where he was formerly assistant librarian. **Elizabeth Salter** replaces Alan Hickox at Englewood, where she teaches Home Economics and Library, a tasty combination indeed. Alan has moved to Glen Stewart replacing Sr. Donna Egan who has returned to the classroom. Finally, **Bill Hogg** has assumed the position at Eliot River replacing Claire Bradley who also has returned to classroom teaching. In September 1978 School Unit 1 welcomed **Betty Jeffrey**, Hernewood Junior High School, replacing **Nancy Reid** and **Gordon MacPherson**, Belfast Consolidated School, Unit 4, began in a new half-time library position.

□ **Jacques Presseault**, a newly graduated librarian from Universite de Montreal, has joined the staff of the Haut-Saint-Jean Regional Library as chief librarian of the Edmundston Public Library beginning on September 5, 1978. Anahit Kaynakli, our extension librarian, has left the Regional Library on September 30, 1978. She will be replaced by **Robert Daigle** who is presently with the AWK Regional Library. He began working on November 6, 1978.

□ On September 5, 1978, Karl Perry, the new Halifax Director of Education presented the Helen H. Cummings Award to **Helen Brault**, on the City Library Dept. staff for seven years, most recently at Grosvenor Wentworth school, and who will be attending the Dalhousie School of Library Service during 1978-1980.

□ Junior Librarian **Beryl Balcom** has left Dartmouth Regional Library after ten years. The new Junior Librarian is **Linda Pearse** who, before attending library school, was employed in the Junior and Reference Departments of Dartmouth Regional Library.

## Haut-Saint-Jean Regional Library

Anahit Kaynakli participated in a workshop "Libraries in use" on August 31, 1978 in St-John. She spoke about the services available to schools in our regional system. This workshop had been organized by the New Brunswick Department of Education.

A posters display entitled **The Good consumer** was held in the libraries of our region from September 18 to October 2, 1978. This display was the result of a contest sponsored by the New Brunswick Consumer Advisory Group and held during the year 1977.

From October 30 through November 17, 1978 an exhibition of children's books offered by the French Embassy, circulated in the three libraries of the region.

Starting with the next fiscal year in April 1979, the school district no. 1 will leave the Chaleur Library region and be incorporated into our regional system. Plans are presently being made to facilitate this transfer of responsibilities.

## Government Review Demands Performance Measures For N.S. Libraries

*Stephen MacDonald is North End Branch Librarian, Halifax, N.S. Susan MacLean is Reference Librarian, Dartmouth [N.S.] Regional Library.*

In the past three years libraries in Nova Scotia have had to face a number of issues of serious concern. 1976 saw the threat of serious cuts in Provincial funding and, in September of the same year, the establishment of a Task Force to investigate both funding and rationalization of service. More recently, the Library Council has been faced with reviewing budgets under drastically altered guidelines for funding. Each of these issues is of strong import and could well affect Library service in Nova Scotia for years to come. It is essential that these issues are clearly understood and that methods are developed to ensure that the effects are as positive as is possible.

In September 1976 the Minister of Education for Nova Scotia appointed a Task Force on Libraries. This advisory group was made up of representatives of the Department of Education, the Provincial Library, the Regional Libraries and citizens at large. Its mandate was to consider library legislation, recommending appropriate changes, intended to:

1. Improve arrangements for Provincial financial support of regional libraries so that control of Provincial expenditures in this field shall rest with the Department of Education and with the Treasury Board and so that, at the same time, regional library boards shall have sufficient time to do their budgeting and financial planning effectively.
2. Make possible co-ordination, integration and general rationalization of all library services in the Province and in particular those provided through regional library boards and school boards.

The first results of the Task Force were seen in May 1977, with Bill 131, a revision to the Libraries Act. This legislation provided for the appointment of a Library Council to review regional public library budgets and make recommendations to the Minister of Education. The Minister was given the authority to determine the amount of Provincial financial support to be given to each city, town or municipality. The act also assured that the amount of Provincial financial support would not be less than it was in 1977.

The Library Council is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education or his designate. The Council itself is made up of one appointee from each of the Regional Library Boards. Budgets are submitted for review by September 15. This year the

Council met for two days in October. Midway through the budgets, the Council was informed that the Treasury Board was requesting all Provincial Government estimates for the next fiscal year be submitted in accordance with the following points of advice:

1. That all services be examined with a view to reducing expenditures whenever possible,
2. That 1979 budgets be prepared using the same dollar amount as 1978,
3. That in cases where increases over 1978 are absolutely required, full explanations be provided.

The request for no increase estimates means in this period of ever rising costs actual decreases in the level of library service. Small consolation is the reminder that this situation does not apply to Libraries alone, but that all government departments and services are affected. These redrafted budgets were returned to the Council for review.

The second aspect of the responsibility of the Task Force could have been a major research project considering the problems involved in gathering information and the very broad scope of the directive to "make possible coordination, integration and general rationalization of all library services in the Province particularly of those provided through regional library boards and school boards". However, the Minister of Education did not allow the Task Force any serious research function but rather saw the committee as a group of informed people who would review what information was available on the present situation and make recommendations on how to improve services.

Given this situation the first questions that arise are, what information is there available, what is done with it, and what data does it provide to help improve service?

The Survey of Resources, prepared annually by the Supervisor of Public Libraries for Nova Scotia, provides a good overview. Compiled from the annual reports of each of the regions, it arranges statistics for comparative purposes. Essentially, it is an inventory of resources including: total bookstock, numbers and types of non-print materials, population served, circulation, income, expenditures, and number of vehicles and branches. It is unfortunate that circumstances have allowed for neither further analysis of figures on a province-wide basis nor for publication of the survey. As figures are not yet standardized, the results of such an analysis would understandably be questionable. The need for analysis is however evident and simply accentuates

the necessity for standardization.

Presently, statistics are analyzed and published as annual reports at the local level. While used to make decisions regarding the growth and direction of services their most extensive use is in budget defense. Resources are compared to population and standards and from these figures, demands made to increase budgets. While providing useful information, these comparisons really tell us little of how well the service is operated. How well is the money spent? Are the books applicable to the population served? Are the people using the library representative of the community? In other words, how effective is the service? It is apparent that trends in public budgeting place increased emphasis on the effectiveness of the system, or its output. Libraries will, and in fact, with the new guidelines handed to this year's Library Council, have been, asked to cost programs and document their reasons for maintenance of funding.

In short, libraries, as other public services, must prove themselves cost effective to even maintain their present level of service. With figures currently available, this is indeed difficult if not impossible. What is available now is a great deal of information on resources and very little on how effectively they are used.

Although not clearly defined, it is reasonable to presume that the priorities of public libraries in Nova Scotia are: continuing education, access to information and recreational reading - in a word SERVICE. Service to the library's own community whatever and wherever that might be. What statistics are therefore available to measure the success or failure of this service, and aid in making decisions which make the service effective? It is true that staff have a reasonable idea as to demands and trends. These are however simply ideas and as a rule are not proved or documented. We are left all too often asking why statistics took an inexplicable jump, why one part of the collection is used and another is not, or why some of the population never use the library. All that is really known about service are counts, how many borrowers we have and how many books they took out. How does the picture in Nova Scotia relate to other systems both across Canada and the U.S.? Basically there is little difference. A literature search of the past ten years indicates that there is a great deal of discussion regarding the limitations and problems of statistics collected by public libraries, but action on the problem appears to be sporadic. The types of

information collected are similar, heavily weighted toward input, with little documentation of output. What is clear is the recognition that what we have is not sufficient and that action must be taken immediately to rectify the problem. To date this has resulted in work such as that by Altman and DesProspero and, in Canada, Project Progress. Both of these projects are significant steps. As they result in the accumulation of additional information they can do much to help in the effective development of public libraries.

However, the librarians' distrust of statistics is well documented. Anders (1975) points out that librarians use statistics, outside of budget defense, less than personnel of other educational and service agencies. The difficulties Project Progress is experiencing in obtaining funding could well reflect this distrust. Can we afford to continue this way? Threatened cutbacks in funding, the alteration of budgeting procedures and revision of service delivery all indicate the significant changes which are under way. These changes must be based on sound research data, much of which is not yet available.

As Trezza (1975) quoted, "Budgeting systems emphasizing output (performance or effectiveness) require output measures." These same measures will provide the information necessary to EFFECTIVELY alter services.

It is essential that Nova Scotia libraries give personnel and budgeting support to developing those measures and demonstrate their ability to once again take the initiative and confront the challenge now facing library service.

### References

- Anders, M.E. "Statistical Information as a Basis for Cooperative Planning." *Library Trends* 24 (October 1975): 229-44.
- Bow, E.C. "Library Measurement and Evaluation." *Ontario Library Review* 55 (December 1971): 249-51.
- Bow, E.C. "Public Library Statistics." *Ontario Library Review* 56 (December 1972): 248-50.
- Fairfield, Joan, and Rowland, Betty. "Measuring Library Performance: the Experience of Four Ontario Public Libraries." *Ontario Library Review* 62 (March 1978): 9-16.
- Griffen, A.M., and Hall, J.H.P. "Social Indicators and Library Change." *Library Journal* 97 (October 1, 1972): 3120-3.
- Ladd, B. "Statistics for Planning National Information Services." in *Bowker Annual*, 20th ed. New York, N.Y.: Bowker, 1975.
- Maley, S. "Cracks in the Looking Glass; a Critique of Library Statistics." *Ontario Library Review* 58 (June, 1974): 121-2.
- Nova Scotia Provincial Library. *Survey of Resources, 1967*. (Supervisor of Public Libraries).
- Nova Scotia Regional Libraries. *Annual Reports, 1950-1977*. (Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Reference Dept.).
- DeProspero, Ernest R. *Performance Measures for Public Libraries*. Chicago, American Library Association., 1974.
- Schlukbier, George. "Transgressing the System. Performance Measure and Library Development." *Canadian Library Journal* (August 1978): 303-306.
- Trezza, A.F. "Statistics in State and Institutional Library Planning." in *Bowker Annual*, 20th ed. New York, N.Y.: Bowker, 1975.

# Where can I find a good Canadian book distributor?



At the Book Centre ... where more and more librarians are bringing all their book requirements. At the Book Centre we do our best to give you personal attention and assistance combined with the most modern computer technology to ensure you quick, easy access to any and all titles you are seeking. Our acquisition service is

complemented by quality Cataloguing and Processing. At the Book Centre you'll find superior services at fair prices. We'd like to help you.

Co-operative

**BOOK CENTRE**

of Canada Limited

66 Northline Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4B 3E6 (416) 751-3537

## Harriet Irving Library

Hearings on certification of the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers as the collective bargaining unit for faculty members and librarians concluded October 26, 1978. Briefs and rebuttals from the several contesting parties are to be submitted. The Board's decision is expected shortly. The Library has received from Mrs. Murray Vaughan, Montreal and St. Andrews, a number of valuable gifts, including volumes of the Limited Editions Club, books on the fine arts, and posters of World War II.

As part of its Oral History program, and as a complement to its project for

microfilming major New Brunswick weekly newspapers, the Library has commissioned a series of interviews on tape with the editors of New Brunswick weeklies.

Lockheed (Dialog) information retrieval services were added in November to the others — CAN/OLE and Infomart (Orbit) — offered at the Science Library to university and other researchers in the Fredericton area. Response has been good and growing. Discussions are currently underway on the future of U.N.B.'s card catalogue and the desirability of "closing" it and providing a COM catalogue.

## N.B. Trustees Meet

On October 27 and 28, 1978, around 50 library trustees from New Brunswick and some from Nova Scotia met at the Institute of Memramcook near Moncton, to discuss mainly the role and responsibilities of trustees.

Sponsored by New Brunswick Library Service and New Brunswick Library Council, the organization of the workshop was carried out by the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library Board.

The topics of discussion dealt with the trustees' role in being involved in public relations, in dealing with different levels of governments, and in coping with dwindling funds.

The main speaker was Sylvia Yeoman, a former chairperson of the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library Board.

The recommendation of the workshop was to look into the possibility of establishing a New Brunswick Library Trustees Association.

The New Brunswick trustees present expressed the wish for more exchanges of that type and were very pleased with this first meeting.

Free literature inviting trustees to become members of APLA and CLA were also distributed.

## Publications Received

National Commission on Libraries and Information Science - National Bureau of Standards. Task Force on Computer Network Protocol. *A computer network protocol for library and information science applications*. Washington, D.C., National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, 1977. (Suite 601, 1717 K Street, Washington, D.C. 20036).

Norton, Alice. *Meeting people's needs: New York State Governor's Conference on Libraries*. New York, 1978. (New York State Library, Albany, N.Y. 12230).

Nova Scotia. Legislative Library. *Publications of the Province of Nova Scotia 1977*. Halifax, Queen's Printer, 1978. ISSN 0550-1792.

NSSLA bulletin. v. 7, no. 1 (Dec. 1978). (Nova Scotia Teachers Union, P.O. Box 1060, Armdale, N.S. B3L 4L7). \$5.00 per year.

Saskatchewan Library Association. *Proceedings of the annual conference, Regina, May 11-13, 1978*. Regina, Saskatchewan Library Association, 1978. (P.O. Box 3388, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3H1). ISSN 0703-8313.

## Upcoming Events

- January 12 (Friday) Dalhousie School of Library Service. Tom West: "Services of CISTI". Location: MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. 10:45 a.m. Contact: Norman Horrocks. Phone: 424-3656.
- January 17-18 (Wednesday-Thursday) Nova Scotia On-Line Consortium. Lockheed DIALOG Training Session. Location: Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. Contact: Betty Sutherland, Library, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2. Phone: 426-3683.
- February 18-24 Prince Edward Island. Library Week. Contact: Sandra Taylor, P.E.I. Provincial Library, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Phone: 892-3504 (ext. 54).

## Charlottetown Libraries

Phyllis Yaffe, Director of the Children's Book Centre, was in Charlottetown in mid-October to promote the Children's Book Festival. In addition to talking to people from the various media, Phyllis met with school librarians from Unit 3 to discuss the Centre, the Festival and Canadian children's publishing.

Don Hamilton, Convener of the Editorial Board of *Canadian Materials*, stopped in Charlottetown on 1 November as part of a cross-country promotion tour of the magazine. Hamilton met with the media, Department of Education officials and school librarians from across the province. He talked to the latter group about *Canadian Materials* and the new standards for Canadian school library resource centres. The informal dinner prior to the meeting and the wine and cheese party held in conjunction with it provided a good opportunity for Island librarians to get together.

The Children's Book Festival was celebrated on P.E.I. with a visit by Ian Wallace on November 22 and 23. The Canadian author/illustrator read two of his books, *The Sandwich* and *The Christmas tree house*, and talked to school children at Central Queens Elementary in Hunter River and Parkdale Elementary in addition to readings at Summerside Public

Library and the Confederation Centre Children's Library in Charlottetown.

As an added feature Wallace addressed school librarians at the fall meeting of the P.E.I. School Library Association. Association members had an opportunity to tour both the Montague Elementary and High School libraries as well as the Unit 4 Audiovisual Mobile. Following dinner at the Lobster Shanty Ian Wallace talked about Kids Can Press, how a book is put together, his own books and delighted the audience when he read his yet unpublished story, *The night of the dragon and the day of the hare*.

A new senior high school was officially opened in October. Bluefield Senior High, under the Unit 3 School Board situated nine miles outside Charlottetown in Hampshire, is the first senior high on the Island to be built in a completely rural setting. The school which serves about 700 students in grades 9 to 12 received funding under cost-shared arrangements from the federal and provincial governments; this included capital grants of \$28,000 for print materials and \$14,000 for audiovisual hard and software for the resource centre. The librarian is Sister Catherine Smith, a former teacher who recently graduated from the University of Western Ontario School of Library and Information Science.

The two-year  
MASTER OF LIBRARY SERVICE  
programme at

## Dalhousie University SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

offers a varied curriculum which combines the theory of librarianship and information science with an opportunity for practical experience in selected types of libraries. The development of individual specialties is encouraged. The School is situated in the University Library with access to computer facilities. The Halifax area includes a wide variety of college, public, school, special and government libraries and offers many cultural and recreational opportunities. The School's programme is fully accredited in both Canada and the United States. A number of scholarships are awarded to students based on academic merit.

Write for application forms and further information to:

THE REGISTRAR, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4H6  
(902) 424-3890 Telex: 019-21863