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MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Proceedings of Maritime Library Association Conference

The Maritime Library Association held its eleventh conference at Dalvay, Prince Edward Island, June 23rd and 24th, 1950, with the President, Mr. H.B.Chandler, presiding. Thirty-nine members were present.

The President welcomed the delegates and went on to tell what the Executive, in the name of the Association, had done during the past year, the most important task being the preparing and presenting of a Brief to the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences, in Saint John, N.B., January 18th, 1950. Nova Scotia members of the Executive made a survey of provincial libraries, and issued a statistical report on its findings.

Mr. Chandler expressed pleasure at the recent library developments in Nova Scotia, and greeted particularly the influx of new professional talent. He spoke also of the value of having Newfoundland librarians join the Association.

The President paid tribute to the memory of Mrs. Mary K. Ingraham, who had died during the past year. He told of the great contributions she had made to the Association, and asked the Secretary to write a letter to her brother, Rev. F.S.Kinley, Livermore Falls, Maine, expressing appreciation of her work.

The minutes of the last Conference were read and, with one amendment, approved. The Treasurer's report showed that the Association has a balance in the bank of \$147.42. After discussion of the question of having a Conference registration fee, it was decided, on motion by Mr. Boone, seconded by Mrs. Hart, that a fee of fifty cents would be levied at each conference beginning in 1951.

Correspondence read included greetings from the President of the American Library Association, and from the Canadian Library Association. In response to a letter from the American Library Association Mrs. G.J.Hart was appointed to represent the M.L.A. on the Council of the A.L.A.

The President then called for reports on library developments in the three provinces. Mrs. Hart reported for New Brunswick saying that there exists a nucleus about which regional libraries might develop. The progress in Nova Scotia is making officials more library-conscious. The school libraries that are being established may be a basis for a future library system. In Saint John Mrs. Hart reported she had spoken on libraries to many Home and School Associations. Fredericton is working towards a new public library, and a library wing has been added to the University of New Brunswick. The library in Moncton, operating in a converted dwelling, has a fine site for future expansion. There are also eleven or twelve small public libraries scattered through the province, some of them getting along on small grants, others subsisting on gifts of money and books. Mrs. Hart agreed with a suggestion by Mrs. F.L.West that groups interested in libraries should write to the Minister of Education recommending the establishment of regional libraries.

Mr. Peter Grossman, Director of Regional Libraries for Nova Scotia mentioned the several appointments of librarians in Nova Scotia and other staff changed. He told of progress at the Halifax Memorial Library where Miss Mary Cameron is gradually overcoming the difficulties confronting her. The Annapolis Valley continues to be the testing ground for ideas in the regional field. The Cape Breton Regional Library under Miss Ruby Wallace should not be long getting into operation; it will have the ground floor of the Court House in Sydney remodelled as Headquarters and Sydney branch library. The Colchester-East Hants Library officially starts July 1; the Pictou County agreement has been signed and will go ahead in 1951. Several other areas have active committees at work, but there are no further concrete developments. Mr. Grossman asked Sister Francis de Sales to report on the new college building at Mount St. Vincent. She told of the many problems connected with the construction, and outlined the layout and equipment of the library and library school.

After a short intermission Miss Jean Gill gave an interesting history of Dalvay House, which was built by a Scottish-American millionaire and named after his home in Scotland. Miss Cullen then presented a report of Prince Edward Island library activities. The P.E.I. Libraries is giving increasing service to schools and to groups taking part in the provincial drama festival. Some library centres are planning to put up separate library buildings. Training is being given to local librarians by means of an annual "workshop" and by a reading program. The Charlottetown Public Library continues to be the greatest outlet for books. The library at St. Dunstan's University is in new quarters and hopes some day to have its own building.

Mr. Grossman told the Conference of having discussed Newfoundland libraries at the C.L.A. Conference in Montreal with Mr. H.L. Newell of the Gosling Memorial Library, St. John's. Mrs. Hart suggested that the secretary write Mr. Newell about the M.L.A. Conference and invite Newfoundland librarians to join the association.

The Conference delegates were entertained at a luncheon at Dalvay House by the Prince Edward Island Department of Education. Hon. F.A. Large, Minister of Education, welcomed the members of the M.L.A. and spoke briefly on the importance of libraries in education.

Afternoon Session, 2 p.m. June 23

The Conference was divided into two sections:

1. University and Special Libraries. Chairman, Miss Dorothy McKay Librarian, Dalhousie University
2. Public Libraries. Chairman, Miss Dorothy Cullen, Assistant Librarian, Prince Edward Island Libraries

The University and Special libraries section opened its session with a report of the Union Catalogue Committee. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. D.A. Redmond, his report was summarized by Sister Regina Clare. Discussion followed and the meeting decided that further discussion on the Union Catalogue should be deferred until the plans for a union catalogue at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre are known. The question of procuring a Library of Congress printed catalog was taken up and it was agreed that this matter should be left to the librarians in each province.

Mr. Boone reported on the progress that had been made on the "Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals in the Maritime Provinces". As it is expected to have the catalogue published in 1951 he suggested September 1950 as the deadline for adding new titles. The title of the list was discussed, and "Union list of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in the Maritime Provinces" was decided upon. All agreed that geographical and architectural journals should be included in the list. Mr. Boone mentioned duplicate material at Acadia University Library that is available for purchase or exchange, and offered to keep lists of duplicates from other libraries.

Mrs. Moxley of the Halifax Memorial Library, formerly with the Economic Section, Department of Reconstruction, led in a discussion of government documents. She divided the topic into three headings:

1. How government documents are produced
2. How they are obtained
3. How they may be dealt with

She mentioned the Dominion Bureau of Statistics as a source of regular statistical material. Lists of government documents are issued by the King's Printer, Ottawa and the Department of Agriculture. Newspapers such as the Financial Post sometimes

carry lists of such documents. The United States Govt. Printing Office and H.M. Stationery Office also publish monthly lists of documents. Mrs. Moxley mentioned the Public Affairs Information Service, New York, where lists of government material and various reports can be obtained. A great deal of useful material is also to be found in the monthly letters issued by banks in all countries. In the discussion of the handling of government documents Mrs. Moxley stated that she treats them much like books and gives them a fairly full cataloging. They are kept in pamphlet boxes. She felt that a classification under subject was more useful than under country.

Miss Cullen, Chairman of the Public Libraries Section, opened the meeting and asked Sister Frances Dolores of the People's Library in Reserve Mines to tell of the special Reading Stimulation project carried on there. Sister Frances Dolores reported that the basement of the school building had been turned into a Children's Reading Room, with an effort to keep out the school atmosphere as much as possible. A grant was received from the Canadian Federation of University Women for children's books. The stipulation is made that the library must have a trained librarian, the book list must be submitted for approval and a record of the work kept. In the selection recent books were stressed and they were enthusiastically received. A Book Tea for parents gave valuable publicity and was the beginning of a parent reading program. When the C.F.U.W. grant was received a second year a music hour was conducted weekly, based on R.J. Staples syllabus which is used in Saskatchewan schools. Biographies of musicians were bought with part of the grant; books of poetry were added also to satisfy demand resulting from school projects.

Mrs. Hart told of some of the things that are being done in the Children's Dept. of the Saint John public library - use of films and records, work with Home and School organizations, radio programs, and the special Candle Story Hour at Christmas. Miss Cullen outlined the Book Week program in the Prince Edward Island Libraries.

In the discussion of school libraries Miss Lillian Swim, Truro Public Library, stressed the cooperation between teachers and librarians and the need for giving teachers-in-training some familiarity with the facilities libraries have to offer both to teachers and pupils. Miss Letts told of book talks given in schools and school visits by the Bookmobile in the Annapolis Valley. She urged the inclusion of adequate libraries in the new rural high schools. This suggestion was supported by Miss Ritchie, Supervisor of Rural Schools for Shelburne and Queens Counties. Following further discussion of library instruction for teachers Mr. Peter Grossman moved and Mrs. Dorothy Benson seconded that a Committee be appointed to present a Brief to the Commission on Teacher Education in Nova Scotia. (The Committee, nominated at the closing session, is to consist of Mr. Grossman, Mrs. Myra Vernon and Miss Mary Cameron)

A brief report on the Public Relations Institute of the C.L.A. was given, and various channels of publicity discussed, including booklists published in the daily press, radio spot announcements, displays in stores or other places outside the library, ways of contacting newcomers to the community. Sister Marie Michael of the St. Francis Xavier Extension Department reported on their radio program - fifteen minutes of comment on books of general and varied interest given once a week - and told of having the program prepared and broadcast occasionally by students.

Evening Session, 7 p.m. June 23

The President appointed the following committees:

Nominating Sister Francis de Sales, Mrs. Benson, Mr. W.A.Ledwell  
Resolutions Miss Mary Cameron, Miss Alberta Letts, Miss George-Ann Flemming

Reports of Committees were given. Mrs. Hart, Chairman of the Salaries Committee told of the work of the C.L.A. Salaries Committee; she gave each member a mimeographed sheet showing the statistics she had collected showing salaries paid in the Maritimes to librarians, social workers, engineers, teachers, public health nurses, and similar professional groups.

Mr. M.P.Boone reported for the Committee on the Simplified Cataloging Code. He outlined the rules that the Committee would propose for use in smaller libraries. After some discussion, Mr. Boone suggested that he would send out a sheet of these rules, and they can be discussed further at the next conference.

Miss Cullen spoke on the Bio-Bibliography project of the C.L.A., which aims to collect biographies of living authors, artists, and musicians not in the Canadian Who's Who. Miss Evelyn Campbell, member of the Committee for Nova Scotia gave a report on the work done so far, and asked about funds for postage etc. Moved by Sister Francis de Sales, seconded by Mrs. B.F.Moore, the Treasurer was empowered to use C.L.A. funds when necessary.

Miss Mary Cameron, Librarian of the Halifax Memorial Library, reported on the C.L.A. Cataloguing Section meeting in Montreal. In speaking to the Section, Dr. W.K.Lamb, Dominion Archivist, outlined the work of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. Its purpose is to provide a service combining the information of L.C. cards, the C.B.I. and a books selection guide for books of Canadian interest. Eventually classification numbers and subject headings would be added. Government documents are to be listed in a separate section; he hopes that this listing will be started in 1951. In order to give up-to-the-minute information Dr. Lamb appealed to all libraries to notify him immediately of any local publications. The Centre will gladly pay the cost of any book which might otherwise escape notice. Miss Cameron suggested a

Committee having a member in each province to watch for publications. Mr. Grossman moved that a representative for each province be appointed to carry out the work for the Bibliographic Centre, and that Miss Cameron be appointed for Nova Scotia with power to choose the others. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vernon and carried.

Fourth Session, 10 a.m. June 24

At its final session the Conference dealt with unfinished business and the appointment of committees to carry on during the year.

1951 Conference Miss Olga Bishop, Mt. Allison University Library, invited the Association to Sackville for the 1951 Conference. She suggested staying at the University residence and said the first part of June would be most convenient. The members accepted the invitation with pleasure - the date to be set by the Executive. Mr. Chandler brought up the matter of having a Conference Chairman to plan for the convention. Mrs. Vernon nominated Miss Bishop as Conference Chairman for 1951; seconded by Mrs. Benson. Mrs. Hart suggested that it would be well for the Executive to meet during the year; the Association approved of such a meeting probably in Moncton.

The Bulletin Miss Cullen asked if an assistant editor could be appointed for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Miss Patricia O'Neill and Miss George-Ann Flemming were named to help gather articles and news items.

M.L.A. Constitution The need of revision of our constitution is apparent. Mr. Grossman suggested that a constitution be drafted and submitted to the members for amendment or approval. The President named Mr. Grossman as chairman of a committee to carry out this plan, with power to choose other members.

Recruitment of Librarians Several members spoke on the advisability of recruiting students for library work as the need for trained librarians is growing. It was felt that contacts with university students and vocational counselors would be most helpful. The fact that a library course is given in the Maritimes - at Mount St. Vincent - might be publicized. Mr. Grossman suggested that the following aspects of librarianship be dealt with: 1. Survey of openings. 2. Salaries. 3. Education required. A Committee to prepare recruiting materials was named, consisting of Miss Mary Falconer, Miss Barbara Murray and Mr. Donald Redmond.

List of Maritime University Theses Publication of a list of theses was suggested as a means of making available the valuable material they contain. After some discussion of the scope of

such a list, Miss Dorothy McKay moved and Mr. Boone seconded that a complete list of post-graduate theses from Maritime universities be printed in the M.L.A. Bulletin.

Canadian Library Association. Mr. Grossman brought up the matter of inviting the C.L.A. to meet in the Maritimes perhaps in 1953. Halifax or "The Pines", Digby were mentioned as suitable meeting places. It was left to the Halifax Library Club to explore the possibilities. The question of giving additional support to the C.L.A. to assist in new projects was discussed. There was general agreement that a grant might be made - the amount to be decided by the Executive.

Officers for 1950-51 The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Sister Francis de Sales presented the following slate:

President,	Mrs. Patricia Hart
Vice-President (N.B.)	Miss Olga Bishop
" "	(N.S.) Mr. Peter Grossman
" "	(P.E.I.) Miss Dorothy Cullen
Sec'y-Treasurer	Miss Evelyn Campbell

The new President, Mrs. Hart. then took the chair. She thanked the Association for the honor of the office and spoke briefly of future plans. She then called for the report of the Resolutions Committee, which included the following resolutions:

Resolved that the Maritime Library Association extend its congratulations to the St. Francis Xavier University Extension Dept. and to Miss Dorothea Cox, Director of "Talks", CBC Halifax, on receiving awards from the Canadian Assoc. for Adult Education in its poll of outstanding programs.

Resolved that the M.L.A. express its appreciation to Lord Beaverbrook for the contributions he has made to New Brunswick libraries.

On motion by Mr. Grossman seconded by Mrs. Vernon the Conference adjourned.

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#### PERSONALS

Miss Grace Campbell has had her leave-of-absence from the Prince Edward Island Libraries extended for a year. She will spend the time assisting in the organization of a new regional library with headquarters at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Meanwhile her place in the P.E.I. Libraries will be taken by Mr. William Ledwell.

The staff of the Cape Breton Regional Library will include Miss Coulter, Miss Morris, and Mr. J.F. McEachern.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Cameron, formerly with the Ottawa Public Library, Children's Dept., has joined the staff of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library.

Mrs. Marie Adams, Dalhousie Univ. Library, will accompany her husband when he goes to Paris this fall for a year of study.

### Library Devices

(Report given at the M.L.A. Conference by Miss Barbara Murray,  
Chairman of the Committee on Library Devices for 1949-50)

"Today I would like to have Pandora's box which, on unlocking, would reveal countless articles and recipes of magic labelled "Library Devices". But I am without the magic and can only report the humdrum activities of a committee which sprang to life in the waning minutes of the 1949 Maritime Library Conference and which found little nourishment handed it by the members appointed to tend it.

In an earlier report of this committee, several "Library Devices" were introduced and may have proved helpful to Maritime librarians. Only one request for further information was received and this pertained to the "Grocery carry-all" suggested as a useful substitute for the usual book-truck. The further information obtained is that one manufacturer's agent for the aluminum carry-alls is F. R. Nickerson, 118 Gottingen Street, Halifax. The price is in the vicinity of \$14.00.

Communication was established with several local factories which might construct library furniture according to specifications. The reception to the opportunity on the part of the manufacturers was luke-warm for the market appeared too small for them to want to fill it. The Starr Manufacturing Works in Dartmouth gave the most sympathetic hearing and this company's manager, G. D. Stanfield, has taken specifications for book-trucks and will give, he promises, a figure on the cost per book truck. This factory also now provides chromium and leather chairs.

An attempt to find a Maritime book-binder who can do speedy, satisfactory work still meets with failure.

If libraries must send their binding to Ontario, it is suggested that one of the tedious tasks is to find suitable cartons in which to pack the binding. An appeal to grocery stores is the commonest way to secure these cartons and the result is a variegated collection of shapes and sizes with cartons of varying strength. However, a uniform carton of great suitability can be provided by Maritime Paper Products Ltd., Halifax. This carton measures fourteen inches by ten. The greatest virtue of the carton is that it is not clumsy for a moderately strong woman to handle, yet it has a good capacity. The cost is \$95.00 per thousand and the manager of the company is willing to take a group order from the Maritime Library Association.

I would like to tell a little of a test which was made during the winter by a Halifax bacteriologist to determine whether books carried germs. The book chosen was apparently heavily germ-laden for it was the Court Bible used by witnesses of every walk of life in the court-room of the Halifax Magistrate. The results of the bacteriological test were not alarming and the bacteriologist says they would in no way discourage him from borrowing a public library book, nor would he hesitate in urging his children to borrow.

For librarians who wonder whether their reading rooms and stacks are properly lighted, I have on exhibit a "light-meter" loaned to me for this purpose by the General Electric Company. The cost of the light meter for an educational institution is \$11.65; the public purchases it for \$20.00. The light meter determines whether there is sufficient light and also shows where there is too much so that its use can also provide a saving in the re-arranging of bulbs and switches. The General Electric Company has published valuable information on proper lighting for reading and has sent these booklets to this Conference.

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Other suggestions as to library supplies were made. Miss Evelyn Campbell read a list of materials available at Wm. Ives and Son, Halifax, which included pamphlet boxes, pamphlet binders, book pockets and all types of stationery. Mrs. Hart recommended Texper library paste made by Brown Brothers. Demco cleaner for books was suggested by Sister Francis de Sales. Mr Chandler mentioned Immunit a solution intended for surface protection of maps, charts, etc.; it is obtainable from Nickoll Agencies, Montreal.

#### YOUNG CANADA'S BOOK WEEK

Young Canada's Book Week was celebrated as a national event for the first time last year and the results were gratifying to librarians and national organizations who supported book week.

In many places the celebration of Young Canada's Book Week centered in the Public Library and displays of books were examined by adults and children and later devoured by children (and adults) Puppet shows, films and story hours made many gala occasions; while visits of classes to the Library or of the librarians to the classroom aroused the interest of new readers. Attractive posters caught children's attention and inspired booklists were used as guides to happy reading during the winter months. The booklists were also of great aid to many shoppers at Christmas time--for what is Christmas without a good book? National radio programmes brought Young Canada's Book Week into many homes far from libraries and local radio programmes also helped in the celebration.

Young Canada's Book Week will be celebrated again this year from November 11 to 18, and again national organizations are wholeheartedly behind the project. Supplies can be purchased from the headquarters of the Canadian Library Association at 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa. These include both French and English booklists, and for bilingual places there is a double list with all the books on. There are also French, English and bi-lingual posters on paper and cardboard and a free manual describing book week.

The celebration of Young Canada's Book Week means hours of extra work for the librarians but the joy of the children and the contacts of the library with the public are well worth all the efforts.