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MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 12th Conference of the Maritime Library Association was held at Mt. Allison University on May 25 and 26, 1951.

The first session opened at 9.30 a.m. The President, Mrs. J.G. Hart, welcomed forty-seven delegates to the Conference and expressed pleasure at the number of new members present. Mr. Gray, representing Baker & Taylor's Montreal office was introduced to the members.

Mrs. Hart spoke briefly on the destruction of Mt. St. Vincent College by fire and reported that the Executive at their meeting in Moncton in February decided to present a copy of the Columbia Encyclopedia to the Library. A letter was read from Sister Francis de Sales, the Librarian, thanking the Association for the gift and expressing regret that she could not attend the conference.

The Minutes of the last conference were read, and with one amendment approved. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in the bank as of May 22, 1951 of \$141.73. Miss Barbara Smith was appointed to collect the registration fees for the Conference, and the Secretary announced that librarians might pay their membership dues for 1951-52 during the Conference.

Mr. Peter Grossman spoke briefly on the new M.L.A. Constitution, which had been published in the Spring Bulletin. He then moved that the old Constitution be rescinded and the new one adopted. Seconded by Miss Mary Cameron, the motion was carried.

The President called for reports of the various committees. Mrs. M.J. Thompson, chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers:

President: Mr. Peter Grossman
Vice-President (N.S.) Miss Dorothy McKay
Vice-President (N.B.) Miss Elizabeth Condon
Vice-President (P.E.I.) Miss Dorothy Cullen
Secretary-Treasurer Miss Evelyn Campbell
Conference Chairman (1952) Miss Dorothy McKay

It was moved by Mrs. Vernon and seconded by Mr. Boone that these nominations be accepted. Motion carried.

Correspondence included a letter from Miss Morton bringing greeting from the C.L.A. and reporting on C.L.A. activities, and another accepting an invitation from the M.L.A. to hold the 1954 C.L.A. Conference in Halifax. A letter from Sister Marie Michael, librarian of the Extension Dept., St. Francis University inviting the M.L.A. to meet in Antigonish in 1952 was deferred for consideration at a later session.

Miss Mary Cameron, chairman of the Bibliographic Centre Committee reported that circulars had been sent to various publishers asking them to send a copy of all publications to the Bibliographic Centre, Ottawa. It was noted that Maritime entries appear in the catalogue of Canadiana coming from the Bibliographic Centre.

Mr. Grossman reported for the Committee preparing a brief on Teacher Education. A brief was presented to the Commission which met in Halifax late in 1950. The members of the Commission welcomed the brief and asked a number of questions. Mrs. Vernon spoke also on the presentation of the brief, mentioning the interest shown by the commissioners and the recommendations they made regarding libraries.

Mr. Donald Redmond said he had a somewhat negative report for the Recruitment Committee as the situation at present makes it inadvisable to do much active recruitment on the college level. Both Canadian library schools are now full to capacity and have a waiting list. He made the point that there is perhaps need for sub-professional personnel and that recruitment activities might start on the high school level. There was some discussion on the accrediting of library schools. Mr. Redmond said that the Mt. St. Vincent school would be accredited if the A.L.A. were still giving their usual certificate. The A.L.A. discontinued accrediting in 1947; it will probably resume in 1952 or 1953. Mr. Redmond reported that the Mt. St. Vincent Library school will open in the fall of 1951 and will have excellent quarters.

Various projects designed to acquaint young people with library work were mentioned. Mrs. Hart told of a conducted tour of the library for students which was most successful. The Halifax Library Association provided information and judged

booklets on librarianship prepared by students in Halifax high schools. Mr. Redmond reported that the Nova Scotia Technical College will require of all engineers a course in the use of technical literature and the writing of technical reports. Mr. Redmond will give this course at the next term.

Next, reports on library matters in the three provinces were heard. Mr. Grossman reported for Nova Scotia, as follows: Dalhousie University reports delay in the construction of new stacks, but that the present administration offices will be available in December. Mr. Bell, who has been working in the library, has gone to Library School and will return to the staff next year. Acadia lost its former Librarian, Mr. Boone, but Mr. H. W. Ganong has been appointed to that post. St. Francis Xavier reports a recruit to the library profession in a Mr. Arsenault, who has been working in the library. The Mt. St. Vincent Library, which was totally destroyed by fire, is being partially rebuilt by gifts from other libraries. The response to the appeal sent out by the Emergency Committee of the C.L.A. has been magnificent and the total is now approaching 20,000.

The Nova Scotia Research Foundation has acquired the Library of Congress printed catalogue, and is receiving the recent volumes of the subject catalog. The library also reports increased use of its photostat equipment.

The Halifax Memorial Library hopes to be open by September. 13,687 volumes have been catalogued to date. Miss MacDonald, formerly with the Yarmouth Public Library, is now in St. John and her successor has not been appointed. Mrs. Baker has left the Dartmouth Public Library and has been succeeded by Mrs. Hutchinson.

With regard to the Regional Libraries, four regions are now in operation. Cape Breton opened in September, Colchester-East Hants in November, and Pictou in April. The town of Berwick in Kings County has joined the Annapolis Valley, but there are now other immediate prospects of new developments. Results are excellent in all four regions.

The Halifax Library Club has adopted a Constitution, and is now the Halifax Library Association. One major accomplishment of the year has been the publication of "The Directory of Libraries in the Halifax Area" under the editorship of Mr. Redmond, who contributed most of the work to this project.

Mr. Grossman also reported with pleasure that a number of new librarians had come to the province and were in positions in various libraries of the province.

Miss Cullen reported for Prince Edward Island, saying that the libraries there had had a busy year. There was a steady increase in the use of the library books by schools. Two new branch libraries were built, these being community efforts with slight government assistance. A two-day workshop was held for the custodians of the branch libraries, and a correspondence course on library work continued during the winter.

Miss Bishop said that the outstanding event in the library world in New Brunswick was a Brief presented to the Minister of Education, in which a recommendation for the establishment of a regional system of libraries was made. The Teachers' Association had discussed the Library Brief at their meetings and had brought it to the attention of the Minister of Education. The Home and School Association backed up this Brief and made a request for Regional Libraries. Miss Bishop mentioned that a loan collection was sent to Point de Butte from Mount Allison. Mrs. Thompson gave a brief report on the new Beaverbrook wing added to the University of New Brunswick library. She said that there was a very fine recreational reading room, with comfortable chairs, and a special collection of books, many first editions. Miss Moira Thompson is the librarian of this particular collection. Miss Bishop went on to speak of the new library personnel that had come to the Province. Mr. Boone is the new librarian of the Legislative Library, and Miss Webb to the University of New Brunswick Library. Miss Elizabeth Condon is now the librarian of the Moncton Public Library and Miss Helen Wilson is librarian of the St. John Vocational School.

A brief report on the M.L.A. Bulletin was given by the editor. The matter of local assistance in gathering news was brought up. Miss Mary Cameron moved and Miss Helen Wilson seconded that members be appointed in various centres to be responsible for sending news and other material to Miss Cullen. Motion carried. The following members were appointed:

Cape Breton	Miss Helen Cummings	Pictou	Miss Doreen Bailey
Halifax	Miss Kathleen Currie	Moncton	Miss Elizabeth
Annapolis	Miss Diana Lockhart		Condon
Colchester-		Fredericton	Miss M. Webb
East Hants	Mrs. D. Benson	St. John	Mrs. J.G. Hart

The meeting concluded with the appointment of the Resolutions Committee, as follows:

Mr. H. B. Chandler, Chairman
Miss Gladys Black
Miss Elizabeth Condon

The delegates were entertained at luncheon by the University. Greetings to the Association were extended by Dr. Tucker, dean of the Faculty of Arts.

The afternoon session opened in Beethoven Hall at 2.30. Before the beginning of the afternoon's program Mr. Grossman took the opportunity of telling the members about a Book Fair that might be held in the N.S. Hotel, Halifax in the fall of 1951; The publishers are much interested, and definite plans are to be made by the end of June. Miss Letts suggested that the Young Canada's Book Week Committee might have a display at the fair, even if it were held fairly early. She mentioned also that she had been asked to arrange for Book Week publicity in the Maritimes, and asked for members from other provinces to work with her. Miss Frances MacMillan was appointed from Prince Edward Island and Miss Bell from New Brunswick.

Miss Mary Cameron, Chairman of the Committee, opened the discussion on Salaries and Job Classifications. She outlined the salary scale that she had worked out for the Halifax Memorial Library - the only complete scale of its kind in the Maritimes. She mentioned the various jobs included in the schedule and some of the difficulties in drawing up an equitable scale of salaries. Others contributed to the discussion, telling of the systems followed in their libraries.

Mr. Grossman gave a brief survey of the history of Maritime Library Association, bringing out interesting sidelights on its early vicissitudes and its subsequent activities.

The members adjourned to Hart Hall reception room where tea was served and a pleasant hour spent with members of the faculty of Mt. Allison.

The evening session was devoted to a discussion on Certification for Librarians. Miss Wallace was Chairman of the Committee, whose other members were Miss Cameron and Miss McKay.

Miss Wallace spoke for the Committee, and pointed out that as educationalists, we should be interested in standards, and just as there is certification for teachers, there should also be certification for librarians. In the library field, it will be necessary to have certification on the non-professional as well as the professional level. Miss Wallace said that certification is a plan for the future. There are different methods of Certification:

1. Controlled by the Library Association
2. By Legislation

Ontario and British Columbia are the only two provinces with certification in Canada. This is controlled by legislation and grants are given to libraries based on the qualification of the librarians employed. A library association would have to be very strong numerically and financially to be able to set up library standards, it was pointed out.

Miss Wallace expressed appreciation for the questionnaires that were filled out and returned so promptly. She spoke of the many librarians who have contributed to the library profession but have not had opportunities for advanced study. These librarians would have to be taken into consideration in any certification plans. There was some discussion and Mr. Chandler suggested that there be no legal standards but that professional standards be adopted that would be acceptable to library bodies. It was decided to have the same Certification Committee continue to work on such a scheme as outlined and present it at the next conference. Following the meeting, the delegates were entertained at the Mary Mellish Archibal Memorial with a program of records; then Dr. and Mrs. Cuthbertson served coffee at their home after the hour of music and poetry.

The topic for the last session's discussions was BOOK STOCKS, selection, repair and discarding of books. Miss Letts and Miss Cullen led the discussion which touched on the choice of books for community needs, the duplication of titles, the necessity for changing books in the branches of a regional system, etc. It seemed to be the unanimous opinion that out-of-date technical books should be withdrawn, because they give the library a poor reputation and cause dissatisfaction when a borrower is given an old text instead of the latest information in fields where there is rapid change. Some books, such as books on art, could not be judged according to date. Mr. Chandler said there should be a central depot where books could be kept rather than discarded. Miss McKay pointed out that with new facilities such as microfilm, photostat and microcard there was less necessity for keeping material at the local level. With regard to the exchange of books, it was pointed out that often a book which does not move in one community may prove popular in another. Miss Letts felt that non-fiction that is not circulating should not stay on public shelves more than six months. In response to a question about reference books it appeared that some libraries have a definite amount apportioned for reference books each year; others buy what seems necessary without having a regular portion of the budget for them.

Mr. Grossman extended an invitation for the Association to meet in Halifax next year, saying that members would probably be interested in a chance to see the new Halifax library in operation as well as the new building at Mt. St. Vincent. The members were in favor of accepting this invitation. The Secretary was asked to write to Sister Marie Michael expressing thanks for the invitation to Antigonish and the hope that we could meet there another year.

Following the report of the Resolutions Committee the Conference adjourned.

Bonar Law-Bennett Library at U.N.B.

On May 15 the Bonar Law-Bennett Library was formally opened at the University of New Brunswick. The ceremony was held in the Lady Beaverbrook gymnasium with Lord Beaverbrook, chancellor of the University in attendance. Joining in making the presentation of Lord Beaverbrook's gift were Rt.Hon. Richard Law, son of Bonar Law, and Capt. R.V. Bennett, brother of the late Lord Bennett.

The new library incorporates the old U.N.B. library, a new wing containing the Beaverbrook collections, and new stacks. The main floor of the new wing is the Recreational Reading Room which contains some 12,000 volumes procured especially for the University by the chancellor, along with many rare books and papers collected by Lord Beaverbrook during his years of public and business life. The reading room is panelled in birdseye maple with wine carpeting and leather furniture. Rooms on the second floor house private papers and documents of three famous Empire prime ministers: Andrew Bonar Law, Earl David Lloyd George and Richard Bedford Viscount Bennett.

Writing in the Maritime Advocate, Robert S. McGowan says "As a centre for political and historical study, the library will be unique in its coverage of the Lloyd George - Bonar Law - Bennett period, and will attract to U.N.B. great scholars and biographers as well as post-graduate students who wish to specialize in this field".

NEWS OF MARITIME LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

Miss Jessie Mifflin, Regional Librarian for Newfoundland spent a week visiting regional libraries in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on her way home from the C.L.A. Conference in Toronto.

Cape Breton

Miss Cleaver, one of the library staff of the University of Alberta, made a visit to the headquarters and Sydney Branch of the Cape Breton Regional Libraries on June 27th.

New staff members for the Cape Breton Regional Libraries will be Miss Marjorie Bailie of the University of Alberta staff; and Mrs. Roberta Gilbank from the Owen Sound Public Library. They will assume their new duties early in the fall.

Miss Ruby Wallace, Chief Librarian of the Cape Breton Regional libraries, and Mrs. Margaret MacNeill, of the library staff have been enjoying their vacation in Ontario.

Mr. James MacEacheron, the bookmobile librarian for the Cape Breton regional libraries, is on vacation. Mr. MacEacheron has followed those famous words, "Go west, young man, go west!"

Rumor has it there are plans afoot for the formation of a new society for librarians. This group to be known as SDFL is explained as the Society for the Defrusting of Frustrated Librarians. Those librarians who would be interested in such a society are cordially invited to join the SDFL. Dues of \$1.00 per annum. All money collected to be used for the purchase of defrusting materials. Charter members will form a Ways and Means Committee, acting on the suggestions of those members who are truly interested in this noble work.

Prince Edward Island

The Alberton Branch of the Prince Edward Island Libraries is doing a thriving business in its new building, which was officially opened on June 7. Miss Eva Dyer, the librarian, says the people are very pleased to have the library open again. Last June the library had to vacate its rented premises, and no other suitable quarters were available. The Library Committee decided to erect a permanent building, and with the donation of a very well-situated lot by Mr. J.A. Waugh the project was off to a good start. Now through community co-operation and hard work on the part of the building committee, advised by Mr. H. B. Chandler, "Alberton has a neat cottage-style library, twenty-two by thirty-six feet, finished on the outside with oiled cedar shingles, green roof and white trim. The interior walls are in a soft shade of green, with the children's corner in light yellow. Silk screen prints of works by Emily Carr, A.Y. Jackson and others adorn the walls. Shelves provide space for about two thousand books. The library is so designed that it may be used for film programs, small meetings, etc.; it is equipped with electric lights and outlets, and is heated by an oil furnace.

The program for the opening of the Library was held in the Women's Institute Hall with Rev. J.R. MacMahon as chairman. Dr. L.W. Shaw, Director of Education for Prince Edward Island, and Mr. H. B. Chandler, Librarian, were among the speakers. Following the program the assembly proceeded to the library where Mr. J.W. Waugh opened the door and declared the library officially opened. Tea was served by ladies of the community.

Earlier in the day school children of the lower grades assembled in the library where they heard a talk on the use of the library by Miss Frances MacMillan from Library headquarters, and enjoyed a number of recordings of children's stories.

Rev. Allan MacDonald, who recently graduated from the Library School, University of Toronto, has been appointed to the staff of St. Dunstan's University, Charlottetown.

While checking books in a branch a staff member of the P.E.I. Libraries had a question neatly asked and answered. The title of a book in the children's section asked, "What shall I read?". Standing next to it on the shelf was the answer, "Everything and anything"!

Saint John

Art classes for children will be held during the summer in the Boys and Girls Room of the Saint John Free Public Library. Arranged by the Saint John Art Association they will be conducted by Miss Vera Davis of Montreal, and will run for six weeks - four mornings for children 3 to 8, and two afternoons a week for the 8 to 16 group.

Miss Doreen Gillen, a student at Mount Allison, is a member of the Saint John Free Public Library staff for the summer months.

Mrs. Hart asks: "Do you need letters for bulletin boards? Make master sets of letters from alphabet stencils, and make different colored letters out of construction paper to fit your needs. They can be pinned with tiny pins to the boards instead of thumb-tacked. The smaller letters can be traced on your posters too. Traces of gunmen or bucking broncos cut in black or brown construction paper may call attention to jackets of westerns and mysteries.

Pasting the jacket blurbs inside each book will do wonders to help circulation and also help the staff. When people ask about books you can turn to the blurb and let them make up their own minds. For children's books the jacket picture pasted on the cover and coated with shellac will add to their attractiveness."

Halifax

On June 20th, the Halifax Children's Library was officially closed and its books and effects handed over to the Children's Department of the Halifax Memorial Library. For fourteen years the Junior League of Halifax has been operating the only public children's library in the area, hopefully waiting each year for the City to take over the task. The Halifax Memorial Library is grateful, not only for the hundreds of books they are receiving, but even more for the work that has been done to help make the children of the neighborhood library conscious.

Two new members have been added to the Halifax Memorial Library staff: Miss Mary Falconer, Chief Circulation Librarian, Mrs. Mildred MacLaren, Circulation Librarian.

Miss Patricia O'Neill is being transferred from Regional Headquarters in Halifax to the Pictou County Regional Library. Pat will take up her duties as bookmobile librarian there in August.

Juniper, N.B.

The annual report of the Juniper school library, presented by the librarian, Miss L. Blanche Peterson, to the library board, showed that 2500 book loans were made to school children during the year. Adults also showed increased interest, and borrowed four times as many books as the year before. The library now contains 2154 books, many new books being added during the winter through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh John Flemming, who also provide several magazine subscriptions for the library.

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NOTICE TO LIBRARIANS

Bindings in cloth or leather and repair can now be carried out by highly skilled craftsmen at University Press of New Brunswick, Fredericton. Newspapers, magazines and manuscripts bound at competitive prices. Photo-engraving and printing in single or multi-color and lithography. Expert can visit to advise. M. Wardell, Managing Director.