

BULLETIN
of
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Acadia University Library
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DR. GEORGE HERBERT LOCKE

Canadian librarianship has suffered exceeding loss in the passing of Dr. George Herbert Locke, Chief Librarian of Toronto Public Library, on January 28, 1937. In the library history of Canada Dr. Locke will be remembered as a powerful constructive force. Appointed to his position in Toronto in 1908, he built up "from a dusty main library with four branches" the present organization with more than twenty buildings, a staff of over two hundred and thirty, and a yearly circulation of more than four million. Though it could never be said of him that he decentralized his activities, he was the head and moving spirit of many library enterprises that reached far beyond the city that was his home. During the war he was assistant director of public information at Ottawa; he served as president of the American Library Association and brought its forty-ninth annual conference to Toronto in 1927; he was one of fifteen honorary fellows of England's Library Association; he was constantly called upon to give public addresses and to serve on committees where national or world-wide library interests were under consideration. Such sane and splendid leadership is rare in any country, and Canada will surely honor the memory of George Herbert Locke.

"Let us then praise famous men,
Men of little showing,
For their work continueth,
And their work continueth,
Broad and deep continueth,
Greater than their knowing."

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N.S.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

Once more it is time to greet you -- this time with Easter wishes. We hope you have had a successful season and have found joy in your work.

This is going to be a Convention year for the M. L. I. members -- first, the gathering of the clans from all over Canada, we hope, at Ottawa, May 24-25, where representatives from all the Associations are expected to confer on Canadian problems; second, the fifty-ninth Annual Convention of the American Library Association in New York, June 4-11; third, but not least, our own Institute at Antigonish in August.

I wish all our M. L. I. members could see their way clear to be represented in the membership of this great organization, the A. L. A. 2293 new members were registered in 1936 making a total of 13, 057 - 234 of whom were Canadians. Is it worth while to join? Your President and Secretary answer emphatically "Yes!". Of course, the major number of problems discussed and written about are those relating to American (U.S.A.) Libraries only, but enough are of interest to both nations to benefit our members as well. We get numerous worthwhile books as gifts by having our names in the A.L.A. Handbook. We are kept in touch with the latest library methods, helps and tools.

We have fellowship with the outstanding men and women in the Library profession, who give us not only inspiration, but encouragement and confidence. We are also able to pass along some of our Canadian methods in exchange.

We have the privilege of using the staff of the A. L. A. in an advisory capacity. Valuable printed and mimeographed material on every subject is available for those preparing papers - or for discussion groups. These are only a few of the worthwhile benefits of membership.

We hope to see you all at one or the other of these gatherings.

Estelle M. A. Vaughan

President.

NOTES FROM THE HALIFAX LIBRARY CLUB

by
E. ARCHIBALD

In the autumn of 1934, when Miss Nora Bateson made a brief visit to Halifax, Professor and Mrs. D. C. Harvey invited a group of library workers to meet her at their home. All were greatly interested in hearing an account of her work in organizing a library service in Prince Edward Island.

We received such a stimulus from this gathering, that we met again, a short time afterwards and organized our Halifax Library Club. Some of our meetings have taken the form of visits to the various libraries in the City: King's College Library, whose first catalogue, in manuscript, was compiled in 1803, at which time it contained 840 volumes; the Provincial Library with its historical associations, housed in a room which formerly served as a Court room and was the scene of several famous trials; the Provincial Science Library, whose books may be borrowed by any resident in Nova Scotia on payment of postage one way; the Public Archives, where we made acquaintance with the Aikins collection with its priceless books, pamphlets and documents, and learned something of the important use that is being made of this source material for Nova Scotian history.

We spent one evening, under direction of Dr. J. W. Falconer, looking at the valuable art books and pictures which are housed in the Archives Building.

A jolly book of travel is "The Golden Basket" (Viking \$1) by Ludwig Bemelmans, which gives the adventures of two little English girls in Bruges, a town in Belgium. The author-artist, in his story and pictures, shows that he understands what children like, and he gives them a charming impression of the quaint little town.

During 1936 an unusual number of books for older boys and girls were written. Many are exceptionally good, and all are above the average. The majority of them are fiction, with girls' stories, vocational stories, and historical adventure stories predominating.

"Winterbound" (Viking \$2) by Margery Bianco, with decorations by Kate Seredy, is worthy of special attention. The adventures of a family of four young people are told delightfully for older girls.

"Challenge" (Doubleday \$2) edited by Helen Ferris, a collection of twelve stories of courageous girls and women, will appeal especially to older girls, and has unusual literary merit.

For boys, Gregory Trent's "In the Stone Age" (Harcourt \$2) illustrated by Carle Boog, is a well-told tale of prehistoric days. The author has kept his story true to the period, but has made his characters human beings too, and therefore of thrilling interest to young readers of today.

"Drums in the Forest" (Macmillan \$1.75) by Allen Dwight, illustrated by George L. Carlson, is an exciting adventure story with the scene laid in Quebec just after Frontenac has been recalled and the Indians are restive. The characters, plot, and action are all good.

In this age of science a timely book is "The Wonder Book of the Air" (Winston \$2.50) by C. B. Allen and Lauren D. Lyman, a remarkably inclusive and complete survey of aviation for boys who wish to keep up to date in this subject. The facts are accurate and the photographs excellent.

These are only a few of the many fascinating books of the year which will be treasured in the memories of the men and women of the future.

Zaidee A. Harris.

NOTES AND PERSONALS

On February 12 the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Moncton Public Library was observed by the citizens. The chief librarian is Mrs. B. M. Moore, and the assistant, Miss Elizabeth Condon. The library has made rapid progress during the decade of its service, and now a much larger building is urgently needed, and without doubt it will be provided soon. We quote the following from the printed report:

"The total circulation since the library was opened ten years ago amounts to 654,912, or more than nineteen volumes, on a basis of a population of 22,000, to every man, woman and child in the city in the decade."

In Miss Archibald's article published in this issue she refers to the new library interest in Cape Breton. From newspaper reports we gather that a bill will shortly be presented in the Nova Scotia legislature making provision for the establishment of regional libraries. A committee of the joint expenditure board of the municipal council of the County of Cape Breton has urged the foundation of such libraries in a recent resolution.

A modern public library for the City of Halifax was the subject under discussion by the members of the Library Committee at the March meeting. A full debate on the matter was scheduled for next month.

Miss E. M. A. Vaughan, President of the M. L. I., has been appointed Maritime representative on the Membership Committee of the A. L. A.

Miss Vera Lyla Helen Day, formerly Archivist in the New Brunswick Museum, and later on the staff of the Dominion Archives at Ottawa, was married to Mr. Arthur Richard Ayling in Trinity Church, Saint John, N. B., on January 22, 1937.

Miss Ellen Webster of Yarmouth has completed a six weeks practical course in Library Science in the Saint John Free Public Library, prior to taking a course at the University of Toronto.

All librarians will wish a copy of the Yearbook of the Arts in Canada, 1936, edited by Bertram Brooker. It is published by the Macmillan Company at Toronto.

"Library Science is the knowledge and skill by which printed or written records are recognised, collected, organised, and utilised. Its purpose is to associate its results with existing needs and demands. Its idea is human enlightenment in an historical continuity."