

BULLETIN

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The Maritime Library Association

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The President's Message

Turning leaves and fall breezes coincide with a wide-spread feeling that it is the time of year to start something new. There are stirrings here and there in the field of libraries. If one of the penalties of war is the brake it puts on the beginning or expansion of many vital services, there is the possibility for a great expansion after the war is over.

No thinking Canadian can be unaware that books and libraries are among our primary needs. We can not be active citizens of a democracy without having at our disposal the information and ideas available in books. The Canada and Newfoundland Education Association in its recent Report of the Survey Committee says:

Economic progress and cultural development can be realized only in a nation sensitized to the finest thoughts man has conceived, and grown accustomed to scrutinize and select from varying and conflicting opinions. This involves the habitual use of books. Only by the development of a clear-thinking public mind may our world be saved. Providing thought forming material is the peculiar function of the public library. Not less than \$1,000,000 a year is required for extended public library service.

The Manitoba Library Association is to be congratulated on its Brief submitted to the Committee on Post-War Reconstruction, Province of Manitoba. While one may disagree with the details of their plan for a demonstration, both in the size of

the population served and the support recommended, no one could fail to laud the report for its broad perspective, its emphasis on the "necessity for a well organized library service which will bring books within the reach of every person in Manitoba." One of the finest parts of Post-War Library Service in Manitoba is this:

The public library, as the chief instrument of adult education, is an essential community institution in this country where we have adopted democracy as a way of life, for without an intelligent and enlightened citizenry democracy cannot flourish. Upon libraries must fall the burden of supplying for all people a means of continuing education and of intellectual recreation, for the public library surely forms the link between the thinkers and writers on the one hand and an intelligent and informed public on the other.

The school cannot complete the educational process and to allow the reading habits gained in school to be lost because there is no adequate provision for maintaining them is an incalculable waste. If in every age the young people are to find in the town and country the sort of life they seek then more than good roads, machinery, electrical equipment and other material assets are essential. They must be able to find there opportunities for education and recreation to counteract the superficial attractions of urban life. Aroused interest in books and intelligent use of library facilities would improve standards of community life and might provide us with the leaders so urgently needed if we are to build better communities and so a better country and a better world.

During the last few weeks there have been indications of an interest in a public library for Halifax. In the text of the Brief of the City of Halifax which was presented on October 4 to the Royal Commission on Post-war Rehabilitation in Nova Scotia by Mayor Lloyd, one of the projects recommended for the city to undertake was this:

Halifax is urgently in need, even under present conditions, of a well equipped library and community centre, an art gallery and a museum. All these steps in the development of the cultural life of Halifax might be housed in one building or in separate buildings.

Our fingers are crossed!

Marion Gilroy

Miss Eugenie Archibald

The Maritime Library Association regrets to record the passing of one of its valued members-Miss Eugenie Archibald. Miss Archibald has been in failing health for some time, but her death on January 6th. came as a shock to her many friends. A graduate of Dalhousie University, and the University of Michigan, Miss Archibald was for several years a member of the staff of the Vancouver Public Library.

Later she returned to Nova Scotia to take a position in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and subsequently to join the staff of Dalhousie University as Cataloguer. During her stay in Halifax, Miss Archibald took a keen interest in library affairs. She founded the Halifax Library Club, an organization designed to bring together the libraries of the city for discussion of their problems. She served as President for several terms and her inspiring leadership will be much missed by the Club. Miss Archibald was an ardent supporter of Regional Libraries for Nova Scotia, and instituted many a campaign to stimulate public interest in the project.

Miss Archibald was frail in body but great in spirit. Her untiring efforts to further the cause of libraries will long be remembered by the Association.

Charlotte Allan

The Bibliographical Society of Canada

The formation of a Bibliographical Society of Canada is an event of vital interest to the library profession in the Maritimes. The project was formally launched on June 24, 1942, in the editorial office of The Ryerson Press. A constitution has been tentatively drawn up, and a policy outlined. It is agreed that all parts of Canada shall be represented, that at the beginning the Society shall be limited to a small group of recognized experts admitted by invitation and that the standard aimed at shall be as high as that of the best work done abroad.

Dr. Lorne Pierce of The Ryerson Press has consented to act as President pro tem, Mr. E.C. Kyte, Librarian of Queen's University, is Vice-President and Miss Marie Tremaine of the Toronto Reference Library is Secretary. Later, at the request of the President, Miss Tremaine also consented to act as Editorial Secretary.

The Quebec Library Association

The Editor has received this happy message from the Secretary of the Q.L.A.

The following members of the Quebec Library Association have been elected to the executive for the Year 1943-44:

President: Miss V. Ross

Vice-President: Miss M. Bourbonnau

Secretary: Miss J. Lunn

Treasurer: Mrs. T. Keir

Councillors: Miss C. St. Jorre, Miss E. Gordon, Miss G. Karch,
Miss J. Saunders, Miss R. Reed, Miss E. Lefebvre.

It is my pleasant office, on behalf of the Quebec Library Association, to send to you and to the members of the Maritime Library Association, greetings and best wishes for a successful year.

Jean Lunn

News from the Prince Edward Island Libraries
by
Dorothy Cullen

As a distinguishing feature of this province, the Prince Edward Island Libraries were included in a colored film being made recently for the National Film Board. Some shots of the library truck and members of the staff taken at Mount Stewart portray the major summer activity - the exchange of branch library collections. Nothing more has been heard of when the film will be ready for distribution.

Mr. Hedley C. King of St. John's Newfoundland was in Prince Edward Island May 20-25 observing the organization of the Prince Edward Island Libraries. He had just finished a course at the Library School, University of Toronto, and was returning to direct the development of regional libraries in Newfoundland planned by the Public Libraries Board. During the next five years they hope to establish libraries in twenty-five centres throughout the country.

Another interesting visitor was Mr. Harry Strange, well-known farmer of Western Canada and author of "Never a dull moment", who was in Charlottetown for a meeting of the Canadian Seed-Growers' Association. During a brief call, his lively conversation and jovial manner brought an air of animation into the staid library atmosphere, and completely justified the title of his autobiography.

A display of library books was put on at the Prince Edward Island Women's Institute Convention held at Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown. Books of interest to women were shown under the headings: "Food and Cooking", "Pleasant novels", "Hints for home-makers" "Round the world with books", etc.

During the summer, the Legislative and Public Library, Charlottetown was closed for a few weeks for redecoration. The most noticeable improvement is the installment of fluorescent lights in place of the inefficient system previously used.

The demand for books for the armed forces still grows with the establishment of two additional Royal Canadian Air Force stations in localities where there is little opportunity for recreation outside the camp.

Notes and Personals

The Canadian Historical Review in a section under the title, Archives, Libraries, and Museums, gives valuable library news. From the September number we gratefully quote the following:

"The Maritime Library Association Bulletin, edited by Mrs. Mary K. Ingraham of Acadia University, records the excellent work which is being done in stimulating interest in library developments in the Maritime Provinces. This is closely related to the growth of interest in the history not only of the Maritime Provinces but of Canada as a whole."

In the same issue are able reviews of two recent Maritime publications: a new edition of W.O. Raymond's *The River St. John*, edited with an introduction by Dr. J.C. Webster; and Publication no. 6 from *The Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Immigration to and Emigration from Nova Scotia, 1815-1838*, prepared by Dr. J.S. Martell under the direction of the Archivist, Dr. D.C. Harvey.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington has presented to the Library of Acadia University 160 volumes and a number of pamphlets, a collection embodying most important works of recent research. Mr. Frederick E. Brasch, Chief of the Smithsonian Division in the Library of Congress, interested himself in securing this gift for Acadia Library, and helped in the selection of the books.

Two members of the Acadia Library staff, Miss Marjorie J. Wickwire and Miss Helen D. Beals, have resigned, the former to accept a position in the Library of the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, and the latter, after a year of further study at the University of Toronto to undertake her duties as Instructor in Art at Acadia University.

Miss Lillian Swin, B.A., Acadia 1941, B.S. (Library Science) Mount Saint Vincent, 1943, has been appointed Assistant Librarian at Acadia.

Miss Hope Jarvis, of Saint John Free Public Library, has been appointed Convener of the Library Committee for the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Miss Charlotte Allan of the University of Kings' College Library, Halifax, writes: We are glad to report that Miss Marion Gilroy has recovered from her recent illness and has taken up her work again.

Several of the Librarians have been exchanging positions this summer: Miss Hilda Gifford has left the staff of Dalhousie Library to take a position in the Censor's Department, Ottawa. Miss Dorothy Mackay has replaced her on the staff, and Miss Ellen Webster has gone to the Canadian Legion War Services Library.

The Halifax Library Club will resume its meetings in October. The first meeting will be held in the Dartmouth Public Library, when the Club will be the guest of the Library Committee.

Yarmouth Public Library. The Librarian, Miss Isabel MacDonald writes: The Yarmouth Public Library has had a busy year. The High School students have used the library freely, looking up references for history projects - music notebooks and other subjects. There are many Service men, too, who frequent the reading rooms. Some of them borrow books for study, other books for relaxation. A considerable amount of work has been done in sorting and re-arranging the books. About 500 books have been given to the Library this year. In March and Ice Carnival was held at which \$100.00 was raised. This money is to be used for the purchase of new books, especially for the juvenile section.

Miss Joan Gill of the Legislative and Public Library, Charlottetown, P.E.I. writes: 1942 was a very interesting year. There was an increase in the use of our Government Documents, especially those dealing with wartime acts and regulations. Our pamphlet boxes were kept up-to-date

with material too new to appear in books, and material not otherwise available frequently appears in pamphlet form. In the Reference Section several handbooks and gazetteers were added to our shelves. There was a vast increase in questions on aeronautics, radio, boat-building and other practical subjects, and a very keen interest in foreign affairs. With the overshadowing background of the war, we see more distinct trends in reading interests than are apparent in less momentous years. There has been a demand for technical books by the men of the forces, as well as books on blueprint reading, navigation and kindred subjects.

Miss Margaret Evans is on the staff of the New Brunswick Museum, Saint John.

Miss Doreen Harper of the N.B. Legislative Library sends us this word: "I have been authorised to submit plans for post-war libraries in New Brunswick and spend all my spare time working on them. The war has greatly increased our work and added considerably to its interest.

(We apologise for placing this important article on the last page of the Bulletin. Miss Bateson had promised it, but while waiting we went forward with the printing lest this issue, already six weeks late, should be later still. Ed.)

BLUE-PRINT FOR BRITISH LIBRARIES

The McColvin Report, saluted by one American librarian as "The Beveridge Plan for British Libraries", is a realistic and challenging document. It surveys existing libraries and offers concrete and detailed proposals and plans for the future.

It was the result of a six months' visitation to libraries and a very full and busy six months it must have been. There is no attempt to gloss over the deficiencies, the poverty of book stock, of personnel, the inadequate accommodation, the lack of cooperation between library authorities, the apathy of local authorities. While in theory Britain has almost complete library coverage, less than 1% of the population being without county or urban libraries, the Report shows glaring disparities in the quality of service. The purpose of the Report being to urge plans for the improvement of libraries, it is the needs and deficiencies rather than the good features and bright spots which are emphasized. The more progressive libraries stand however in the background giving a standard for judgment and the plans advocated are such as have already been attained or sought by them.

In his blueprint for the future the keystone is the larger unit of service and he puts the case so strongly and buttresses it by such a variety of evidence that it cannot be denied. Because of the great variety of reader interests everywhere "Book provisions cannot be satisfactory unless the unit of supply is a large one. We are convinced that normally no stock of less than 300,000 volumes can give effective and economical service. This is the lower limit." Competent staff

including specialists in various fields of service can only be supplied in the larger unit.

Boldly the Report outlines a suggested plan for the division of the Kingdom into 93 units, serving populations ranging from 220,000 to 1,620,000. It gives also in considerable detail plans for the governing, financing and staffing of such unit libraries.

To fill the need for some national coordinating body the Report discusses various possibilities, a Ministry of Libraries or some other Appropriate Body. It shows also the desirability of government grants-in-aid to stimulate local initiative.

The Report is of great interest to Canadian as well as to British librarians. None of us can be unaware of the almost negligible place libraries and librarians have been able to play in the Canadian war effort. Such provision as has been made has been largely in the hands of amateurs and any better plans proposed have been lost in the tangles of red-tape, apathy and indifference. If libraries are to play their part, and it is a much needed part, in the peace planning and after depends on whether we can experience some such revivification as this McColvin Report indicates in British libraries. Our plans would be different in many respects but we would base them on the same basic assumption that:

"We were and are fighting not merely to retain or regain the things we had, but to earn the opportunity for the better things that we hope to secure after the war, things not only or largely material, but things also of the mind and spirit. Since then we fight not for "a world fit for heroes" but one fit for ordinary people to live in freely and fully, we find our inspiration and our justification in the idea not of reconstruction alone but of revivification" and that

"We believed that our work as librarians could be of value to all men of goodwill whatever their different tasks, tastes and responsibilities, that books were essential to any real democratic condition of living, that they were the tools and symbols of freedom."

Nora Bateson

From an address by Lewis Webster Jones President of Bennington College, Aug. 29, 1943.

Liberal education would make no sense at all without a faith in the human capacity to make choices, and in the reality of the fundamental choice between good and evil. Such a capacity to choose wisely requires a self-knowledge, a knowledge of society, and self-discipline in some sort of philosophical context. This can never be static, or wholly achieved. The only attainable stability in this imperfect world is perhaps that of continual, conscious aspiration. But without this, we are at the mercy of "conditions", and can never hope to master them, whatever may be our technical proficiency.