

BULLETIN  
OF  
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Acadia University Library  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia

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"In my experience when people once begin to read they go on. They begin because they think they ought to, and they go on because they must. Yes. They find it widens life. We're all greedy for life, you know, and our short span of existence can't give us all that we hunger for; the time is too short and our capacity not large enough. But in books we experience all life vicariously." Elizabeth Goudge in "A City of Bells".

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY SURVEY

Readers of the Bulletin will remember Miss Marion Gilroy's article, Regional Libraries for Nova Scotia? in our last issue, written soon after Miss Nora Bateson had completed, under the authority of the Nova Scotia Government, a survey of library conditions throughout the province. Miss Bateson's Report on the Survey has recently been published by the Nova Scotia Department of Education in a neat pamphlet of forty pages. Copies can be obtained from the Department on request.

After a short introduction outlining the plan and purpose of the Survey there follows a descriptive sketch of Nova Scotia with map, including a short but comprehensive note on the educational system, with a list of the ten degree conferring institutions in the province. The writer then makes a careful digest of the existing library service in Nova Scotia, with notes on the public archives, the legislative library, the provincial science library, the libraries of the universities and colleges, the school libraries and the central library for teachers, the city and town libraries, and such other helpful agencies as the Maritime Library Institute, the Women's Institutes, and the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. On the whole, the Report serves as a useful handbook on library matters in the province.

The conclusion is that in spite of recent progress Nova Scotia ranks with Mississippi and Arkansas as spending less on libraries and books than any other areas of this continent. The case will not be hopeless, however, if Miss Bateson's suggested plan for organizing a library service for the province be studied and followed. This plan includes a Library Commission, a Director of Libraries responsible to the Commission, and a province-wide system of county libraries.

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The Ontario Library Association  
extends a cordial invitation  
to the members of the  
Maritime Library Institute  
to attend the annual conference  
of the Ontario Library Association  
to be held in Toronto, Ontario,  
on Monday and Tuesday,  
May 23rd and 24th, 1938,

Public Archives of Nova  
HALIFAX, N. S.

with Headquarters in the  
'Public Reference Library, College St.

R.S.V.P.  
Miss E. H. Morton, Secretary,  
Ontario Library Association,  
Public Reference Library,  
Toronto, Ontario.

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MICROPHOTOGRAPHY

A Radio Address  
by  
Charles R. Sanderson  
Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library

One of the remarkable things in this generation is the way so many things of far-reaching importance creep in as it were in their stocking feet, almost unnoticed in the beginning, and then, in a few years' time, are taken as commonplace. That isn't the case only with motor cars, with radio, which depended only a few years ago on a fiddling cat's whisker, with aeroplanes, with electric refrigeration. It is the same with all branches of engineering. It is the same with medical science. It is the same with physics.

And to-day there has come another new invention, a kind of application of photography, which is being developed in hundreds, perhaps thousands, of libraries and business institutions all over the world. By it books and manuscripts are photographed page by page on movie camera film. It is an invention which is going to have an enormous influence on the way libraries do some of their work. To give an idea of only one side of it, let me remind you that libraries must preserve copies of the daily newspapers. Newspapers of to-day form the historical material for coming generations. But a bound volume of one of our newspapers for one month weighs twenty-one pounds and measures two feet high and one and a half feet wide. It is easy for anyone to imagine the space taken up by scores and scores of years of bound volumes of newspapers. But to-day with this new method, each page of the newspaper is photographed on a tiny 35 mm. film, so that instead of the huge, heavy, bound volume for a month's newspaper, we have a small compact roll of film weighing only ten ounces instead of twenty-one pounds, and only four inches high instead of two feet high. It is something like the method of a movie camera, but the pictures in this case are the photographs of printed pages of the newspaper, and instead of being shown on a screen on a wall, they are shown in a special projector, which is a kind of small reading box, and we can turn just one page at a time. As we sit down in front of this reading box, we can read the newspaper again quite clearly, magnified beyond its original size.

One of the great advantages of this invention is the saving of space which I have just mentioned, but there is another advantage which is even more important. Let me put it this way. Paper to live, to last, has to be made of rags, and the best and longest living paper is made of linen rag. But everyone knows how widely wood pulp is used to-day for making paper. Many books, probably most books, are printed on wood pulp paper, and there are all grades of wood pulp. Even the best of it won't last, and when we get to the lightest varieties, that, for example, on which newspapers are printed, it is estimated that the newspapers which you and I read to-day will not be in existence at all in seventy-five years, the paper will have disintegrated and will have gone back to its original pulp.

This is a problem which is not only serious but grave. Our newspapers are the records of our happenings; they form material which alone can answer the hundred and one questions which historians and research workers of many kinds will ask a hundred years from now. And a newspaper printed to-day on newsprint will have vanished seventy-

five years from now. A very few newspapers print a special edition of a few copies on special paper for preservation. But what are we going to do about all the others?

The answer is, reproduce them on a movie camera film that will last, and a special kind of film has been invented that has long life and which, like the film for home movies, is not inflammable. It will neither catch fire nor explode. It has to be kept in atmosphere of a certain temperature and of a certain humidity. But the United States Bureau of Standards has put this special film through very exhaustive tests, and they say that if these simple conditions are observed the film will last longer than they can estimate, certainly as long as rag-made paper will last, or has lasted, and that is over five hundred years. So this new application of photography, or this new application of the movie camera, which is called microphotography, has solved another problem which has been worrying librarians for many, many years.

But, important as all this is, it is only half the story. Libraries used to be restricted to their own books, plus the occasional book borrowed from some other place. To-day books that are so scarce and valuable that they are almost beyond price are being photographed on movie-films in the British Museum and such libraries, and the films are being supplied to other libraries at small cost, so that even if libraries cannot have a copy of the original book they can have a replica of it on film, and that film can be read in the special reading box I have already talked about. Sixteen libraries on this continent have recently joined together on a project to have all early English books photographed. Fifteen of those libraries are in the United States. The Toronto Public Library is the only one on this side of the border. This means that here in the Toronto Public Library during the next four years we shall get and preserve a replica of every book that was printed in English up to the year 1550. Indeed at this moment we already have 317 such books on films covering approximately 63,000 pages. And it should be remembered that they include some of the scarcest and most costly books in the world. Students of history, students of economics, or early medicine, of law, will now be able to see a replica of every one of those books in the Toronto Public Library, whereas formerly they would have had to travel the world over to see them. I said students, but of course anyone and everyone is welcome to see them.

Then again, we were forced to borrow a book from time to time for some special purpose from great libraries like the New York Public Library or the Library of Congress. Sometimes they were very valuable books and the cost of insurance and postage was in itself considerable. We no longer borrow such books. Those libraries will now produce for us a movie-film of the book at a trifling cost (say a cent or a cent and a half a page) and this film can not only be read in our own reading box, but we have the film to keep for all time, just as if we had a copy of the book itself.

Let us go one step further. The Toronto Public Library is now ready to do the same thing for other libraries. The great Reference Library here possesses countless treasures in manuscripts and rare books, specially those dealing with Canada, and we are willing to produce films of these manuscripts or books for other libraries or for individual students or others who may be interested, and the cost is the same trifling cost of about a cent and a half a page. The Library seeks to make no profit on this. It believes that it is its duty to make its resources available as widely as possible. And if a library or a reader hasn't a reading box conveniently handy, there are small hand machines, something like the old stereoscopes, which can be bought to read the films, or the Toronto Public Library will make an enlargement from the film, and the enlargement costs only some fifteen cents a sheet, again no profit being made.

And now, before I finish, may I make an appeal to you to help us. The Toronto Public Library specially collects and preserves historical material dealing with Canada. Not merely Toronto, not merely Ontario, but for all Canada. Our

collection of Canadiana covers from Halifax to Victoria. And in the possession of private individuals, of societies, of Women's Institutes, of many other organizations, there must be a whole wealth of valuable and probably unique historical material, especially manuscript material. Mr. Guillet, the historian, was telling me the other day that in connection with his history of the 1837 Rebellion, which is to be published in a week or two, he had written all over the country, and even all over the world, to get materials from families which had been connected with the 1837 Rebellion.

That is the kind of material I mean: early letters of historical interest, early diaries, early family records - all that sort of thing. Probably you have some in your own family or you know of some in another family. Have you ever thought how easy it is for such material to become scattered or lost in the course of a generation? Have you thought of the risk of such material being destroyed by fire, never to be replaced? If you have such historical material in your possession won't you let us know of it? And won't you let us photograph it? We will take scrupulous care of it and see that it is returned to you safely. And if you do this, will you please remember that a photograph of it will then be preserved for all time, for future generations, it will be History forever. Or if it should happen that you ever have the bad fortune to have any of your originals, shall we say, destroyed by fire, the replica would always be available in the Toronto Public Library and you could always get a copy.

We believe that in doing this you and we would be doing a job for Canada. Won't you please co-operate with us? All you have to do, in whatever part of Canada you live, is to write to the Chief Librarian, The Public Library, Toronto, and tell us you will help.

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#### MICROPHOTOGRAPHY AT ACADIA

Through the courtesy of friends Acadia University has been able to secure a Folmer Graflex Photorecord, a portable photorecording equipment for preserving manuscripts, documents, newspapers and other valuable record material on 35 mm. film. It is possible to reproduce an entire page of an ordinary newspaper on one frame of this film.

The University has also on order one of the new reading machines designed by Dr. Draeger of the United States which magnifies the film reproduction to 12 diameters and which by slight adjustment can be used to project the film image on a screen at any magnification desired.

The films now available through the Bibliofilm Service and those made available through the University staff will enlarge greatly the scope and usefulness of the University's library service.

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#### THE DURABILITY OF FILMSLIDES

by  
R. T. Steeves

One of the primary functions of microphotography is the preservation of perishable records. The lack of durability in records is largely due to the fading of inks and the disintegration of paper. It is estimated that books printed on good rag stock book paper have a life of about seven hundred years. When printed on cheaper papers, the book life is greatly lessened. When modern wood-sulphite paper, such as newspaper stock, is used, records are very short lived. The modern newspaper file has

a life of from five to fifty years, depending upon the degree of use and the conditions of storage.

The durability of film materials used in microphotography has not been definitely determined but extensive tests indicate that these films have a life at least equal to good rag stock paper. Moreover, film records may be readily duplicated as soon as they show signs of deterioration. These films consist of a base or support of cellulose acetate or nitrate on which is coated a gelatin emulsion containing the fine particles of light sensitive silver bromide or iodide. All modern films used in microphotography are of the safety or slow burning type, having a cellulose acetate base. This film is less combustible than paper. It has largely displaced the old highly inflammable nitrate base film and when burned does not give off poisonous gases.

Extensive tests have been conducted in aging these films by subjecting them to cycles of changing atmospheric conditions. The results of these tests conducted by the United States Bureau of Standards Laboratory and in the laboratories of film manufacturers and in universities, indicate that the cellulose acetate film is a very reliable material on which to keep records.

The libraries of the Maritimes contain many rare volumes and documents which should be carefully protected. Filming these would do much toward protecting the originals from excessive use, make copies available to other libraries, and tend toward the preservation of valuable records. The Acadia University library has recently established a microfilm service and is making microfilm copies of valuable records. These books and manuscripts are being photographed on 35 mm. film. Positive prints are available of such books as:

A Journal of the Late Siege by the Troops from North America, against the French at Cape Breton, the City of Louisbourg, and the Territories thereunto belonging. Surrendered to the English, on the 17th of June, 1745, after a Siege of Forty-eight Days. By James Gibson, Gentleman Voluntier (sic) at the above Siege. London: Printed for J. Newberry, at the Bible and Sun in St. Paul's Church-Yard. MDCCXLV.

An Act for the Relief of Debtors, with Respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons. Halifax: Printed by J. Bushell, Printer to the Government. 1752.

The second item listed is one of the earliest examples of printing in British North America now extant, and so far as we can learn the copy in the Acadia Library is unique.

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#### YARMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

At the January meeting of the Local Council of Women, Yarmouth, N. S., the Librarian of Yarmouth Public Library, Miss Emilie F. Raymond, read her report for the year 1937. This Library has an interesting history. A free public library was established at Yarmouth in 1872 by the late Hon. L. E. Baker. This gentleman assembled a collection of good books, provided a room for them in a building of his own, appointed a librarian, and opened the institution to the citizens of Yarmouth, free of charge. Mr. Baker died in 1899, leaving the library to the town with a sum for its maintenance, but it was not established under the Provincial Library Act, tax supported, until 1904. The Library contains the famous Runic Stone, by many believed to be the most fascinating of all Maritime museum pieces.

The librarian reports that 27,547 books were loaned last year, 5000 of these to out of town borrowers. There are now 16,000 volumes in all, classified by the

Dewey Decimal System, and in constant circulation. About three years ago the amounts of money received from the town and county for the Library were substantially reduced, but the loss has almost been made up by donations of books and cash. The report continues: "We also have a large table of magazines to give away. They are scattered all through the country - to the Lurcher Lightship - and a call has come from a wireless station north of Quebec. When you have finished reading your magazines please don't put them in the attic. They will be gladly received at the Library, to pass on where they are wanted."

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THE NEW LIBRARY AT ST. STEPHEN, N.B.

From Mr. Harold R. Haley, Secretary to the St. Croix Library Association, St. Stephen, N. B., we have learned that through the efforts of the Association a new public library has been established in the town. The formal opening took place during the last Christmas season, and was appropriately accompanied by much good cheer. We quote from a newspaper clipping sent us by Mr. Haley: "The library now has more than 600 volumes, the number having been greatly augmented by books brought by visitors on the opening day, many of which were left without the names of the donors. .... Numerous magazine subscriptions have been donated. .... The children's room now has more books than can be accommodated on the shelves originally provided, but additional space is being arranged for."

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THE PETER PAN LIBRARY, HALIFAX, N.S.

The librarian and proprietor of this delightful children's library, Miss Zaidee A. Harris, reports interesting progress, but sounds this warning note: "The moving pictures and radios fill the children's time - the time those of an older generation spent in reading." If a taste for reading does not take firm root in childhood, the chances are against its wholesome development in later years. We should teach our children to find for themselves the good there is in books, the great civilizers of mankind.

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THE DARTMOUTH READING ROOM

The Dartmouth Reading Room Association held its first annual meeting in Somme Hall on Tuesday, 22 February, Judge R. H. Murray, the president, in the chair. This Reading Room is open daily, afternoon and evening. The librarian, Miss Mabel Lawlor, stated in her report that there were now more than 600 volumes in the library, as well as the latest edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The chief purpose of the Reading Room, however, is to provide magazines of the better type and an opportunity to sit and read them.

At the conclusion of the meeting Miss Marion Gilroy of the staff of the Provincial Archives gave an address on Regional Libraries.

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THE HALIFAX LIBRARY CLUB

The Halifax Library Club has had interesting meetings this season. At the first one Miss Margaret Ells, of the staff of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, gave a delightful description of her recent World Tour.

At the next meeting Miss Myrtle Roy, formerly on the staff of the Pratt Institute Library, told about the members of that Institution; Miss Janet Wolfe, a member of the Dartmouth Community Club's Special Library Committee, spoke of the progress of their new Reading Room and Library; and Miss Mary Falconer gave an interesting talk about her six years' work in the "Boys and Girls House, Toronto".

At the February meeting Miss Marion Gilroy opened a discussion on the subject of Regional Libraries, and the members of the Club agreed to do all in their power to forward the project.

The Club lost one of its members, Miss Marguerite MacKay, of the Dalhousie Medical Library staff, who was married in December, and left the City; but it was glad to welcome several new ones, - Miss Roy, Miss Wolfe, Miss Falconer, Mrs. Cornell, the newly appointed Librarian of the Dalhousie Medical Library, and Mrs. Burt, formerly in charge of the "Kipling Room", Toronto Public Library..

Zaidee A. Harris, Secretary

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#### NOTES AND PERSONALS

Readers of the Bulletin will be grateful for the opportunity of reading Chief Librarian Charles R. Sanderson's radio address on Microphotography, which he has kindly granted us for publication in this issue. The subject is a vital one for modern librarians.

Dalhousie University Library has become an institutional member of the Maritime Library Institute.

Miss M. Josephine Shannon has retired from the staff of the Dalhousie University Library, greatly to the regret of her colleagues. She has tentatively promised an historical sketch of this old and famous library for a future issue of the Bulletin.

Miss Mary L. Fraser, a graduate of Dalhousie University and of the McGill Library School, has been appointed to the staff of the Dalhousie Library in the Cataloguing Department.

The Maritime Library Institute has now a chapter membership in the American Library Association.

We note with pleasure that the Halifax Library Club is listed in the A.L.A. Handbook, with Miss Eugenie Archibald as President and Miss Zaidee A. Harris as Secretary. There are other Library Clubs in the Maritimes that should claim their privileges.

At Wolfville, N. S., a Book Club of eighty members has been organized for the purchase of outstanding recent publications. The books purchased are kept in the Library of Acadia University, and for one year will be loaned only to members of the Club. After that period they will belong to the Library.

Twenty-one travelling libraries of twenty-five volumes each have been loaned by Acadia University Library since the first of September last.

The Library of Acadia University has recently been enrolled among the depository libraries of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Miss Mary S. Clark, Librarian at Manchester-Allison-Robertson, Ltd., Saint John, N. B., has resigned her position and is removing to California.

Miss Florence Archibald, B.A., Acadia, '37, has been appointed general assistant at The Jones Library, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Miss K. Stanfield, a student at McGill Library School last year, has purchased and is operating a bookstore at Kingston, Ontario.

At New Glasgow, N. S., the project of building a new Free Public Library is under consideration.

