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Editor: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, M.A.

THE POPE AND THE VATICAN LIBRARY

The late Pope Pius XI was not only a pontiff of supreme eminence and a statesman to be reckoned with in the world's councils, but also a very great librarian. Father Achille Ratti joined the staff of the Ambrosian Library at Milan in 1886, and in 1907 he became its Prefect. Immediately he began a series of reforms, cataloguing, building, publishing, exhibiting, and in every possible way he made the Library accessible to the many scholars who wished to use its resources. In 1911 he was appointed Vice-Prefect of the Vatican Library, and two years later he succeeded the eminent Father Ehrle as Prefect. In 1922 Monsignor Cardinal Ratti was elevated to the papal throne as Pope Pius XI, but he remained the controlling spirit of the ancient Library and worked intensively on plans for making its vast treasures serviceable to modern scholarship. In 1927 the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace came forward with an offer of funds to help in recataloguing the collections, and with the cooperation of some American librarians a complete new catalogue was undertaken. The Pope decided to have the standard Snead stacks installed; a building programme was carried out, and on December 20, 1928, His Holiness formally opened the new wing of the Vatican Library. All persons qualified by scholarship to benefit by study within its austere precincts are admitted on compliance with the usual forms, without distinction because of race or creed, and latterly without distinction of sex. Grateful readers in many lands will honor the memory of the Pope who was also a librarian. Under his successor, Pope Pius XII, we may believe that the Vatican Library will continue to extend its influence and will hold as liberal a policy in respect to scholars throughout the world.

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LIBRARY CONFERENCE IN MONTREAL

A joint meeting of the Ontario Library Association, the Ottawa Library Association, the Quebec Library Association, the Montreal Special Libraries Association, and the Maritime Library Institute will be held in Montreal on April 10-11, 1939. An announcement concerning this meeting has already been sent to all members of the M. L. I. It is of vital importance that we join issue in our work with the other library associations of Canada, and it is a matter of regret that so far very few have signified their intention of being present at this conference. Live questions are to be debated, among others, the possibility of a Canadian National Library. Those proposing to attend should write the President of the Institute, Mr. Bramwell Chandler, Superintendent of Prince Edward Island Libraries, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

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REGIONAL LIBRARIES

By Nora Bateson, Director of Libraries, Regional Libraries
Commission, N. S.

It is perhaps an accident, but a happy one, that the newly instituted Library Commission has been christened "Regional." It keeps before the mind the fact that for Nova Scotia today it is impossible to think of good library service except through a larger unit than the towns and some of the counties provide. It is the general opinion that 40,000 to 50,000 is the minimum population that can support good, efficient service.

The general acceptance of this fact is creating everywhere a revolution in the status of the public library. For if there is nothing in the world more dispirited than the small inefficient library, there is nothing more enriching, more really dynamic in the life of a community than an adequate one. In most cities the public library has for some time been an honoured institution; now that the county and regional library has passed the experimental stage its establishment in rural areas and small towns will give them an institution equivalent to that enjoyed by the cities.

In the English counties, in three Ontario counties and in the New England States where a great many small libraries were already in existence, these are being linked together around some strong central library. Contribution to a central book fund creates a stream of new books which circulate through the chain of libraries and the central library offers leadership and guidance. The cumulative result after a few years in some of the Ontario counties has so invigorated the small libraries that Ontario's Inspector of Public Libraries predicts that in a few years such cooperative schemes will be in operation right across the province.

This, however, cannot be our solution in Nova Scotia. For we lack the first condition -- strong central libraries already in existence. This, however, may be our good fortune. It leaves us free to build our libraries on a 1939 model. Eight or nine regional and county libraries supported at a per capita rate of .35 to .50 would meet Nova Scotia needs. According to figures published by the Dominion Government, Nova Scotia supports its public libraries at the rate of .02 per capita, standing, in this respect, at the bottom of the list of Provinces and States. The A. L. A. sets the rate for adequate service at a minimum of \$1.00 per capita but this is far in excess of what Nova Scotia can, at the present time, afford. At the rate mentioned systems could be set up which would, in a thousand quiet ways, create a revolution throughout Nova Scotia.

How, then, are these libraries to be set up? The first step is to make people aware of the need, to create intelligent informed opinion in the matter. There are many ways of doing this. There are many organizations in Nova Scotia concerned with the social and educational welfare of the province and most of these organizations have realized the great need of books to carry out and supplement their programmes. When the possibilities of modern library service are put before them there is no doubt of their support, and executive members of many of these have already expressed their desire to get behind the library movement. When the matter has been laid before provincial and local meetings of all organizations likely to be interested, a body of public opinion

interested in the library will have been created. It is this organized, informed, intelligent opinion which we may expect will, acting through its elected representatives and expenditure boards, decide to vote an assessment sufficient for library purposes.

To take the case of Cape Breton, where the question of an assessment for regional library purposes came up in January as a definite issue before the Joint Expenditure Board. Readers of the "Bulletin" may remember that the library survey of the Province came as a result of a request from a Committee of the Joint Expenditure Board. For several years now there have been groups and individuals in Cape Breton interested in a regional library; the report on the Prince Edward Island demonstration; the pamphlet "Why not a Cooperative Library" and the Library Survey of Nova Scotia had been widely circulated and discussed and small collections of live, new books had been bought by many credit union and cooperative groups to serve as appetizers. As I arrived in the Province early in December, we had only three weeks in which to organize the campaign. All the seventeen members of the Joint Expenditure Board were interviewed and many organizations addressed. Resolutions asking that a grant be made were sent in to the Board from all the locals of the U.M.W., from the Steelworkers' Union, from the Canadian Legion, the Rotary Clubs, Ministerial Associations, co-operative organizations and other groups. The Board discussed the matter at length but referred it back to the town councils for further consideration. The events of January, however, threw a flood of light on the difficulties and problems involved. Considering the serious economic depression of Cape Breton at that time and the pressing problem of relief, what is surprising is not that action was deferred but that it was seriously considered. In addition there are technical questions about the power of the Joint Expenditure Boards and other problems and it was also clear that, strong and general as the support was, it needed to be even stronger and better informed and organized. These and other obstacles postponed action, but the difficulties are now clearly outlined and that is the first step towards their removal.

The case of Cape Breton gives an idea of how the problem may be tackled. In other parts of the province people are organized on different lines but the principle could well be the same. In Pictou County there will be meetings early in March under the auspices of the Local Council of Women, the Home and School, the I.O.D.E.

In the United States today great emphasis is laid on the need for State aid in the establishment of libraries for rural areas. It looks as though we may be very fortunate in this respect in Nova Scotia. A measure is to be brought up this Session giving provincial help, probably at a rate of .10 per capita to any region that, satisfactorily to the Commission, assesses itself for a regional library. If this is put through it should stimulate interest and action.

(Readers of the Bulletin are doubtless familiar with Miss Bateson's work in the Maritimes, but after reading the above they should read again her report published by P.E.I. Libraries, Charlottetown, in 1936: The Carnegie Library Demonstration in Prince Edward Island, Canada, 1933-1936; and also her Library Survey of Nova Scotia, published by the Department of Education for Nova Scotia, Halifax, 1938. They will be glad to look up an article by Marion Gilroy, "Libraries for Nova Scotia", in the Journal of Education, March, 1937. Watch

carefully for further reports and pamphlets by Miss Bateson on her work on the Regional Libraries Commission, for they will be forthcoming. Editor.)

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A MARITIME CATALOGUE OF DISTINCTION

by

Helen D. Beals

We are proud to add to the growing list of bibliographies issued in the Maritime Provinces, a recent publication compiled by one of our members, Miss Eugenie Archibald - A catalogue of the William Inglis Morse collection at the Dalhousie University Library. This catalogue does credit to a valuable collection not only in the fullness and accuracy of the bibliographical information, but in the distinction of its format. It was printed in London at the Curwen Press in a limited edition of two hundred and fifty copies. The paper is of fine quality, and the pages are well designed, with generous margins and well-chosen type. The illustrations, including two views of the inviting room in which the collection is housed and four facsimiles of early drawings, add interest to the volume.

A prefatory note states that the catalogue was begun in 1933 by Miss Archibald with the cooperation and assistance of Miss Shannon and Miss Henry. All librarians will realize what months of painstaking and often tedious work have been necessary for the accomplishment of such an exacting task and will tender hearty congratulations to Miss Archibald and Miss Shannon on its satisfactory completion.

Dr. Morse's collection is indeed an interesting and valuable one. As in the similar library he established at Acadia some years ago, the needs of both the general reader and the research student are considered. Of the general books little need be said except that they are chosen with discrimination, cover a wide variety of subjects and include several rare early editions. The great value of the collection lies in the items concerning Canadian and particularly Nova Scotian history. These include many books of early date. Others, such as the group of twenty-one Carman imprints, while not of great age are of considerable rarity.

A unique interest attaches to a number of the items in that they were purchased from the library of Lord Dalhousie through his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Braun Lindsay. It is most fitting that these should find their way back to the University which bears his name. Among them is a series of sketches made at different points in the province in 1818. Fifty-two of these are bound into a single large volume. Another series of ten sketches by Lieut. Pooley of the Royal Engineers makes a fascinating record of earlier days in Nova Scotia.

The maps, many of them framed, are of great interest. Two plans of Halifax date back to its very beginning in 1749.

Several items relating to General Wolfe make a valuable addition to the Wolfe material in Maritime libraries. Among them is an autograph letter written while waiting in Halifax in 1758 for orders to proceed to Louisburg. A group of

thirty small portraits, engravings and sketches are framed in three small groups.

The catalogue is a comprehensive one, listing not only the bound volumes of the collection, but also the material under the following headings: busts, documents, furniture, letters, manuscripts, maps, miscellaneous (bookplates, scrap-books, etc.), periodicals, pictures, portraits, sheet music and vases. There is also a note by Miss Shannon describing the Douglas Cockerell collection - a group of one hundred and forty books "full of interest for the lover of old books and beautiful bindings", given by the publisher to the Morse Library. They date chiefly from the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, though there are included several incunabula of the fifteenth century.

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THE LIBRARY AT ST. ANDREWS, N. B.

The Town of St. Andrews, N. B. is setting a commendable example in re-organizing and recataloguing its library. The librarian, Mrs. Thomas J. Coughy, writes: "Although I have been a subscriber to the Library for the past thirty years, my family have never been so intensely interested as we are today ... It was originally a loaning library of the Anglican Church and has been in existence for more than thirty years. It began with a donation of books from a party of summer residents ... Gradually the library increased until it was too large for the little room in the Parish Hall Building. About five years ago it was offered to the town, accepted, moved to the Town Hall, and placed under the care of a committee of three responsible to the Town Council." This committee, Mrs. Coughy reports, rightly decided that first of all they should print a catalogue, but funds were lacking. Mrs. Coughy's family came to her rescue with two typewriters and a mimeograph; very soon 100 copies of a 92-page catalogue were ready and were bound in a dark blue manila cover at the local printing-house for a small sum. A copy, tempting in appearance and in the listed titles, is on the Editor's desk at time of writing. The summer visitors to the beautiful town last summer donated 250 books to the library and the Overseas League gave 200, but the most assuring pledge of future progress is the keen interest of the librarian and her colleagues and, behind them, of the body of citizens of St. Andrews.

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THE SAINT JOHN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Commissioners' Report

On January 20 the commissioners of the Saint John Free Public Library presented their annual report to the Common Council. This report pointed out that the efficiency of the service rendered to the public by the library in 1938 was impaired by the fact that the council had not restored in full the grant previously received and urged that the matter be given immediate attention. It was emphasized that statistics do not reveal conclusively the work and service a library renders a community. It was claimed by the commissioners that the Public Library is practically the only source of informative and cultural reading in the city and in thanking the librarian, Miss Estelle M. A. Vaughan and her staff they expressed the opinion that the quality of service rendered was made possible only through the devotion and keenness of Miss Vaughan and her assistants. The

report also expressed appreciation of the continued activities of The Friends of the Library and the affiliated organizations, Art Club, French Club, Ladies' Morning Musical Club, and the Saint John Teachers' Association. The Friends of the Library presented 102 volumes at their annual reception and also conducted a booth at the Saint John Exhibition. The Library had a booth at the book fair of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

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NOTES AND PERSONALS

From Halifax, N. S.

Mrs. Ingles, M.A. Toronto, formerly Miss Sally Ballard of the Toronto University Library School staff, is now living in Halifax.

Miss Hilda Gifford, B.A. McGill, B.L.S. McGill, 1938, has recently joined the Dalhousie University Library staff.

The Halifax Library Club entertained at a luncheon in honour of Miss Nora Bateson at the Halifax Hotel in December.

Two 1938 graduates of the McGill Library School, Miss Cecilia MacDonald, B.A. Mount St. Vincent, and Miss Charlotte Murphy, B.A. Dalhousie are new members of the Halifax Library Club.

Miss Bateson was guest speaker at the February meeting of the Halifax Library Club. During this winter's meetings of the club the subject of regional libraries is being stressed.

The new Dalhousie Medical Library is nearing completion. The new building will be of interest to the members of the Institute at the Conference this spring.

Sister Frances de Sales of Mount St. Vincent recently arranged an attractive display illustrating the history of the book. She arranged it for her Library Science class but invited any who were interested to see it. A large number of people took advantage of the invitation.

From Yarmouth, N. S.

Miss Emilie Raymond, Librarian of the Yarmouth Public Library, writes: "We had a very successful Book Week this year. We had 309 new books, of which 75 were for children. At the close of Book Week there was an excellent display on a table in one of the library rooms. On Friday, November 18, tea was served to the public in the Library and at this time, through the kindness of R. H. Davis & Co., a table of Children's Books was displayed. Any person desiring to give a child's book to the Library could buy it from this table. The sum of \$26.50 was taken at the tea and there were additional gifts amounting to \$19.00, giving us a total of \$45.50 for new books."

From Prince Edward Island Libraries

We have received the P. E. I. Libraries Bulletin, vol. 3, no. 3, and also a copy of the Selected List of New Books in the Libraries, January, 1939 - about 300 in all, classified broadly as Fiction and Non-Fiction. Under the latter are

the subclasses: Psychology and Religion, Sociology, Scientific and Technical Books, Art and Amusements, Language and Literature, Travel, Biography, History, Canadiana. The following items are from the Bulletin:

It has been decided to hold annually a two-day conference of all branch librarians in Prince Edward Island for the purpose of discussing local problems and studying new methods.

Radio Station CFCY in Charlottetown has been carrying a book review broadcast every Thursday morning at 10.30 since the beginning of the year. The reviews are prepared at Library Headquarters and Miss Dorothy Cullen is the broadcaster. Later in the season the broadcasts may be moved to the evening programme to reach a different audience. Miss Cullen's delightful talks have reached listeners in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as well as on the Island.

Interesting reports of library activity at the various P. E. I. branches were recorded in the Bulletin. There are projects for new library buildings at Hunter River, at Montague, and at Vernon; there are newly furnished library rooms at Alberton; Georgetown has three junior reading clubs and one adult literary club, all fostered by the branch librarian; the Summerside library is having one of the busiest periods in its history.

General library news

The sixty-first annual conference of the American Library Association will meet at San Francisco, California, June 18-24. Miss E. M. A. Vaughan, Librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library and Vice-President of the M. L. I. for New Brunswick, expects to attend.

The fifth annual conference of the Maritime Library Institute will meet in Halifax during the early summer, but the date has not yet been fixed. Full information and an outline of the programme will be found in the next issue of the Bulletin.

The A. L. A. annual conference for 1940 will be held in Cincinnati.

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AN HOUR WITH THE POETS: A MEDLEY

Mother

An hour with the poets, dear,
To check frivolity!
A line from This, a verse from That;
It will not weary thee.

The Blessed Damosel leaned out;
The Boy stood on the burning deck
When Kempenfelt went down,
And only not a wreck.

Jane

Yes, dearest mother, here's the shelf,
And I must choose the lines myself.

Some work of noble note may yet be done;
Whether to sail and see thee, girl of my
dreams,

Mother

Write and arrange them, daughter mine;
See that the sentiments are fine,
With no vulgarity.

When I consider life and its few years,
All was for best;
Be calm, thou Wedding Guest!
He never lost an English gun;
I calmed her fears.

(Jane's cullings from the poets,
arranged systematically)

Silent upon a peak on Darien
My love is like a red, red rose;
For life is not an idle ore;
Thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

Selected.