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THE BIENNIAL SURVEY

We trust that the Biennial Survey of Libraries in Canada, 1935, recently published by the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, has found its way to the desk of every member of the Maritime Library Institute. The fact that so comprehensive a report on the libraries of the country is being regularly issued from Ottawa shows that the federal government is making the cause of libraries its own. The survey is based on statistical information, carefully gathered and tabulated for easy reference, but no phase of library work in the Dominion is neglected. From the statistical tables we gathered that in the Maritime Provinces there are 835,966 books, exclusive of pamphlets, assembled in the libraries. Of these, 490,295 volumes are in the libraries of universities, colleges, and professional schools; 227,441 volumes are in public libraries; and 118,230 volumes are in technical, business, and government libraries. If we should add the pamphlets to these, our figures would almost reach the million mark.

THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF NEW BRUNSWICK,
FREDERICTON, N. B.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.

by
Doreen Harper, Librarian

The Legislative Library of New Brunswick is really a most attractive place in a charming, old, English way. It reminds one of a palatial, private library with its alcove arrangement of books in a series of locked, glassed-in cases down both sides of the main room, which is approximately sixty feet long and thirty wide. At one end, the books cover the wall to a height of twelve feet and at the other end is the librarian's desk in a recess formed by the windows. The carpeted floor and lovely, old mahogany furniture lend a certain richness and dignity; while the sun pouring through the double row of windows on both side walls, gives to the high vaulted room a bright, cheery atmosphere. Even the six quaint carved chairs from the old Government House have a history all their own, and in fact, everything about the place suggests a long and storied past.

The general collection is most extraordinarily varied, both according to subject matter and age. The older volumes are beautifully bound in leather with the gold lettering "Legislative Library" on their covers, and these, together with the colourful new books, are yet to be accessioned and catalogued. In all probability there are thirty thousand volumes, and the need for expansion has now become imperative. So far, a special section has been utilized for the Provincial Governments material, and every Province in Canada is represented upon the shelves. The fiction likewise has been re-arranged.

A small room adjoining the Library has been made into a Canadian Hansard section, and an entirely new room has been added to house the British Hansard collection. At present, work is going on in still another room, which is to be the American document division, and should there be any space left, the Government publications of other countries will help to make it an international section.

The vault too has recently been done over and equipped with steel shelving. It is a real treasure-house, rich in books and documents. Those worth special note are:-

Mémoires: Mss. Concernant l'Acadie
Archives de Paris, l'Acadie 2 vols., 1654-1715
Raleigh, Sir Walter. History of the World. Lond. Burre, 1614
(colophon 1621).
D'Ewes, Sir Simonds. Journals of all the Parliaments During Reign of
Queen Elizabeth . . . Lond. Starkey, 1682.
Bacon, Nathaniel. Historical and Political Discourse of the Laws and
Government of England. Lond. . . Starkey, 1689.
Diereville. Relation du Voyage du Port Royal de l'Acadie. Rouen,
Besongne, 1708.
Letters from Governor Thomas Carleton to Secretary of State, War and
Treasury. 7 vols., 1784-1792.
Calendar of the House of Assembly Papers. 2 vols., 1786-1858.
Letters of Marque and License for Privateering, 1793-1812.
Bill of Sale of a Negro Slave, Maugerville, 1797
Domesday Book. 4 vols. Command of His Majesty King George III, 1816
Governor's Records 1828 on.
Commercial News and General Advertiser, Vol. 1, no. 1, St. John,
Sept. 16, 1839. (First penny newspaper in the British colonies)
Gesner, Abraham. First Report of Geological Survey of New Brunswick.
St. John, Chubb, 1839.
Notes and Queries 1849-1867
Hogarth. Works of, from Original Plates Restored by James Heath.
Lond: Baldwin & Cradock; (n.d.)

Among some of the older documents we find a bill for the purchase of books for the use of the House of Assembly, in 1787, just one year after our province was formed. In 1796, Governor Thomas Carleton himself wrote to the Duke of Portland for the Acts of the Parliament of Scotland for the use of Mr. Chipman in settling the boundary dispute between New Brunswick and the United States. It is rather interesting to note that in spite of the ravages of years some of these early volumes, such as the History and proceedings of the House of Commons from the Restoration to the present time . . . Lond. Chandler, 1742 on, are on our shelves today. Nearly all these books are British Government publications especially bound and embossed with the lettering "House of Assembly". In 1802 we find those in authority buying a book-case for the growing collection, and by 1810 a room between the House of Assembly and the Supreme Court was used as a Library. But it was in 1841, nearly a century ago, that the Legislative Library as such really began, when it was decided to combine the Library of the House of Assembly and that of the Legislative Council. The famous elephant folios of Audubon's Birds of America were bought from King Louis Phillipe in the early fifties, and for the last few years they have been on loan in the University of New Brunswick Library.

By 1880 the Legislative Library had grown until it occupied the whole lower flat in the Province Hall with the exception of one small room, and was valued at

\$30,000. During the night of February twenty-fifth of that year, a disastrous fire occurred in the building causing damage estimated at \$10,000 to the Library. Fortunately a number of the books were saved, and a few of the greatly charred volumes with every vestige of margin gone and only the text left intact are part of the collection today.

In 1882 the present Library was added to the new Parliament Building and four heavy, fireproof doors connect the two. The Legislative Library is unique due to the fact that it serves as a reference Library for the Government as well as a public subscription one for the citizens of Fredericton. This latter use is an old custom dating back to 1862 when we find the public upon the annual payment of ten shillings being allowed the use of the library as a substitute for the Fredericton Library which ceased to exist about this time. When the books of the local institution were auctioned off, a number were obtained for the Government Library, such as the Biographica Britannica. Lond. Imys, 1747, which to this day bears the name "Fredericton Library" embossed upon the cover.

In order to carry on the work, it seemed practical first of all, to rearrange the books and place them in classified order upon the shelves. Then as the new ones come in we accession and catalogue them according to the Dewey Decimal System, which is in use the world over.

The services of the Library can be made invaluable and incalculable when it is catalogued, analyzed and made accessible. Perhaps it will even be possible to establish a travelling library system, and thus in time we hope the "volumes of the Provincial Library at Fredericton (will be) contributing to the people of the Province (more) of service, of information, of inspiration than those of any of the nine in the Dominion."

BOOK NOTICES BY CONTRIBUTORS

Abell, Walter. Representation and form: A study of aesthetic values in representational art. N. Y., Scribner's, 1936. 172 p., illus.

The members of the Maritime Library Institute will remember that when the Annual Conference met at Acadia University in the Spring of 1935, the Professor of Art, Mr. Walter Abell, addressed them at the evening session on the subject of Prints. Those who heard him will welcome his new book. It might perhaps be assumed that for the enjoyment of a work like this special training in theories of art and of aesthetic values is necessary; this may be true, but yet every chapter has a universal appeal. When the "general reader" feels the discussion is becoming too technical, suddenly the poet appears, and the Spirit behind the forms makes itself known. Those who read the book will not only be "on the way toward a more comprehensive understanding of aesthetic theory" but will catch a glimpse of that inner shrine where only worshippers of Beauty come.

M. K. I.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Publication no. 3. A calendar of official correspondence and legislative papers Nova Scotia, 1802-15. Compiled by Margaret Ells under the direction of D. C. Harvey, archivist. 354 p. \$2.50. Halifax, N. S. Government, 1936.

The establishment and growth of the Public Archives Department of the Nova Scotia Government has been followed with keen interest and not a little expectation by librarians in the three provinces. The tremendous problems involved in the sorting and cataloguing such a collection can perhaps best be understood by those who have encountered similar difficulties on a smaller scale in their own libraries. Now that the results of this tedious preliminary work are beginning to appear in the extremely valuable series of Publications, the appreciation and gratitude of the subscribing librarians are correspondingly keen.

Number three of this series has come to us during the autumn: A Calendar of official correspondence and legislative papers, Nova Scotia, 1802-1815. This compilation, covering a period full of stirring events in the growth of the province, culminating in the War of 1812, will be of great value to all students of the time. It continues a similar calendar of such papers from 1603 to 1801, published in 1894, which has already proved its worth. What gives the volume a special usefulness to libraries and students unable to consult the original manuscripts, is that a brief summary of the contents, often accompanied by an illuminating quotation, is given of each letter and document listed. The work of compiling this Calendar, which shows gratifying evidence of painstaking collation and careful scholarship, has been done by Miss Margaret Ells under the direction of Professor Harvey.

H.D.B.

White, T. H. England have my bones. Lond., Wm. Collins Son & Co., 1935. 357 p., illus. 3s., 6d. (Canadian address of publishers: 70 Bond Street, Toronto, Canada).

One of those delightfully casual yet "meaty" books which Englishmen seem to write so well. It is a day by day personal record of events incident to a life of leisure - fishing, flying, shooting, watching clouds, and other joys of country life in a country which is dear to the author's heart. Moreover, the book contains more than the average amount of humor.

X.

Stern, G. B. Monogram Lond., Macmillan, 1936. 293 p. \$2.50

Monogram is an autobiography by an author who has written many novels which have been most popular. G.B. Stern is of Jewish extraction and was born in England. After she left school, she travelled with her parents on the continent and spent several years in Germany, lived for a period of five years in Italy, and now lives in England as Mrs. Charles Holdsworth.

Monogram is an autobiography, but a very unusual one. It does not begin at the beginning of her life, as the ordinary autobiography does, and one learns very little about the facts and dates. It is really a cross-section of some of the experiences, thoughts, and actions of the author and the people she has known, and is based on an unusual theory. Miss Stern believes that everything is linked to everything else, and that there is hardly an object which will not start an association with some incident or person, just as in a conversation, or in thought, one idea leads to another, which to all appearances is absolutely dissimilar. And so the author proves, in her charming and interesting manner, her theory. She looks

about her room and takes three starting points -- a little blue and white glass dragon, a bit of the Grand Canyon, and a dog painted on wood which she rescued from the rubbish heap of a villa in the South of France. From these three starting points the chain of association leads us through an amazing array of places and people, such as Peter Pannery, walking sticks, "Journey's End", as seen in Berlin, fear of blindness, unicorns, Hong Kong Harbour and modern youth, and all three starting points lead to one end -- the Dreyfus case. One learns a great deal about the individuality of the mind of the author.

Naturally, there is no sequence to the book; there is no chronological order; there is no plan to be followed. The author's mind has jumped from one thing to another -- and the reader's less agile mind follows, for, of course, the attention of the reader is distracted by her own chain of associations. The book is mirthful and thoroughly enjoyable and withal somewhat philosophical, and we lay it aside with a sigh.

The significance of the title is this -- just as one's chain of associations is wholly one's own -- so is one's monogram -- and Miss Stern, while idly allowing these random associations to run through her mind subconsciously draws very intricate monograms -- and signs her name in varying manners.

H. G.

NOTES AND PERSONALS

The Halifax Library Club held its first meeting of the year in the Peter Pan Library, 37 Larch Street. The Librarian, Miss Zaidee A. Harris, read a short paper, "Some Notes on Picture-books and Children's Illustrators." Miss Harris has made the first independent venture in children's libraries in the Maritime Provinces, though there are active children's departments in the St. John Free Public Library and other centres.

Mrs. Dorothy Stevens Story, formerly of Campbellton, N. B., is Reviser on the staff of the McGill Library School.

"By the institution of a Bachelor of Library Science degree the Senate of the University of Toronto has recognized a new postgraduate course in librarianship. The requirement for admission to the course is evidence of graduation from an approved university after an approved university course." Winifred G. Barnstead, in Ontario Library Review.

This column may become an open forum if the members of the M. L. I. will have it so. Please send us news of libraries and librarians.