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A Tribute to Mrs. Ingraham

We probably take our assets too much for granted. But the time comes when we realize their value. In the Maritime Library Association we have accepted, and appreciated, Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, our Secretary-Treasurer and the capable editor of our Bulletin. But we began really to recognize her worth when she wrote just before the meeting of the executive of the Association in May that she was resigning both her offices. That was a major blow. We felt that we simply could not do without her, but to all our protests she remained adamant. As she told the President of Acadia, with her well-known twinkle, she was "tired of retiring", she wanted "to be fired."

Born in Prince Edward Island, Mrs. Ingraham taught in Nova Scotia for some years. After her husband's death in 1910, she taught in the United States. She returned to study at Acadia University, and graduated in 1915 with honours in classics and English. In 1916 she received her M.A. at Acadia, and after that she studied library science at Simmons.

In 1917 Mrs. Ingraham was appointed librarian at Acadia, and the next year began to teach library science there as well. She won the respect and affection of faculty and students. Dr. Rhodenizer of the English department has written:

"Mrs. Ingraham's life and work have been an inspiration to a large number of Acadia students, and her many friends hope that her scholarly influence will be felt by incoming students for long years to come.

.....

How well she has performed the duties of both [her] appointments can only be fully appreciated by those who have been most closely associated with her in her professional capacity. In her spare time she has managed to do a prodigious amount of reading and to contribute at various times to a number of newspapers and magazines. In brief, she has in a very high degree the genuine culture characteristic of the best members of her profession, and this is undoubtedly the principal reason for her strong educational influence on the unbroken flow of student life at Acadia University."

A student writes with equal appreciation:

"A favorite campus personality during the twenty-five years that she has been Chief Librarian at Acadia, Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham ('15) is among the foremost of those to whom Acadia students owe grateful thanks. Those who have never had occasion to drop in at her office to discuss some project or just to talk have missed one of Acadia's most delightful and interesting people."

To the testimonials of teachers and students, I should like to add that of the librarians who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with her. Mrs. Ingraham has been a pioneer in library development in the Maritime provinces. The first meeting of the Maritime Library Association was held in the Library at Acadia University in 1918. When that beginning proved premature, and interest lapsed, she called another meeting in Wolfville in 1922, and the Association was reorganized. Difficulties were many, and after 1928 no conferences were called. In 1934 the M.L.A. was resuscitated, and although for a while it was expedient to adopt the name the Maritime Library Institute, in 1941 it again became the Maritime Library Association. That it began and flourished is due in no small part to the initiative and energy of its Secretary-Treasurer and editor of this Bulletin; volume 1, number 1 of which appeared in June, 1936.

It is heartening to know that Mrs. Ingraham has not abandoned us altogether, and is not planning to leave Wolfville for Florida when the first snow falls. She still holds office as Vice-President for Nova Scotia in the M.L.A., and has offered to give us advice and counsel. I am sure that our new editor, Miss Cullen, and our new Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Campbell, will, like so many of us, be sending questions and requests to Mrs. Ingraham. I know she always has the answers.

Mrs. Ingraham writes (with enthusiasm) that her successor, Mr. Maurice P. Boone, is now sitting "in the chair of authority at the Acadia Library." We welcome him to the Maritimes.

Mrs. Ingraham's ability, enthusiasm, wit and wisdom have set a high standard. If we have workers in the Maritime Library Association with a fraction of her gifts, this part of Canada will become more and more "librarianous".

Marion Gilroy
President, M.L.A.

Executive Meeting of the M.L.A.

In the afternoon of Monday, May 22, 1944, the Executive Committee of the M.L.A. met in the Librarian's office at Acadia University Wolfville, N.S. There were present Miss Marion Gilroy, the President and therefore chairman of the Executive, and Miss Evelyn Campbell, both from Halifax, Miss Dorothy Cullen and Miss Jean C. Gill from Charlottetown, Mrs. B.M. Moore from Moncton, Miss E.M.A. Vaughan from Saint John, and Mrs. M.K. Ingraham of Acadia University, Wolfville.

After opening the meeting the President called for the Secretary-Treasurer's report, which was read by Mrs. M.K. Ingraham. The report summarized the Association's activities since June 26-28, 1941, when the last Annual Conference was held, made reference to those members recently removed by death, Miss Archibald, Miss MacDonald, Miss Greta Wallace and Miss Mary MacDonald and Miss Shaw., to the illness during the three years of our esteemed President, Miss Gilroy, of Miss Starrett and of Miss Sterling. Miss Gilroy and Miss Starrett had quite recovered and were again at work.

The financial statement showed a cash balance of \$137.88. Four new members have been enrolled, one membership renewed, one institutional membership granted. Mrs. Ingraham then tendered her resignation as Secretary-Treasurer of the M.L.A., and Editor of its quarterly Bulletin, and begged that she might press this resignation in view of her approaching retirement as Librarian of Acadia Unvi. The report was adopted and officers for the coming year were nominated as follows:

President: Miss Marion Gilroy
Sec. Treas.--Miss Evelyn Campbell
Vice-Pres.
N.S. Miss Mary Fraser
N.B. Mrs. B.M. Moore
F.E.I. Miss Jean C. Gill
Councillors Miss E.M.A. Vaughan, Mrs. M.K. Ingraham, Miss Dorothy Cullen, Miss Cullen was also appointed Editor of the Bulletin.

The Committee unanimously voted that Miss Nora Bateson continue to represent the Maritime Library Association on the Canadian Library Council, and that the Constitution of the Council amended in 1944 be ratified by the Association.

The Committee decidedly favored resuming our Annual Conferences in the summer of 1945, and Miss Vaughan invited us to meet in Saint John if conditions would make this possible.

The following resolution, drawn up by Miss Gilroy was unanimously passed: Resolved, that the M.L.A. place itself on record as favoring the idea of a National Library for Canada as soon as it is possible. We believe that present efforts to establish regional libraries in the different provinces of Canada must receive federal support through educational equalization of funds, otherwise a national library will be only a national monument, a superstructure without a foundation. We believe libraries are indispensable educational agencies today and in the post war world.

Home Service Library, New Waterford, N.S.

In 1942 the Home Service Library was started in New Waterford. A number of men in the Town of New Waterford realizing the need of a library organized a committee of men from the three mine locals and the Credit Union and Co-operative Store. On February 8, 1942 the library was opened to the public with a total of 150 books and very little money to buy more. People flocked to get these books and they encouraged the men to take steps to try and obtain more books. Many donations were received from organizations such as the I.O.D.E., Canadian Legion, Mine Locals, and Church Parishes. With this money to spend they immediately sent in orders for books which amounted to about \$500.00. St. Agnes Parish library donated some 1200 books, which with a loan of books from St. F.X. Extension Department in both Sydney and Antigonish, and Reserve Library in Glace Bay made the total number of books about 3000. A room in the Credit Union building was given for the use of the Library and shelves were built to accomodate 5000 books. The Management of the Local Theatre gave the profits of a benefit show for books - this amounted to about \$200.

From February 1942 to February 1943, 240 members made use of the library, an average of 200 books per week with a total of 6000 books loaned for the year. The number of members is increasing steadily and there is a demand for more and better books. In July, 1944 a number of books was loaned from the Library in Prince Edward Island. It is very encouraging to the Committee of men who started the library with 150 books to receive so much help not only from our own community but from another province, Prince Edward Island.

In June 1944 resolutions asking for regional libraries in post war re-construction were sent to Angus L. MacDonald, Naval Minister and Clarence Gillis M.P. The reply to this resolution was very encouraging and the Home Service Library Committee is going to keep working and planning until New Waterford can boast a library where every type of book will be available to the people.

St. Francis Xavier University Library

In the introduction to B. Lamar Johnson's: VITALIZING A COLLEGE LIBRARY (1939), Donald J. Cowling says: "A college library is no longer a mere collection of books to be prized and guarded as relics of earlier generations... The processes which constitute the library in a modern college are inextricably involved in the processes of both teaching and learning."

St. Francis Xavier University Library finds itself no exception to the above statement. The student today, as compared to the student of some years back, is required to do a great deal of collateral reading. None, perhaps, is more aware of this fact, than the librarian who is a daily witness.

The time schedule for St. Francis Xavier University Library during the academic year is as follows:

Mon - Fri : 9.00 - 12.00 a.m.
1.00 - 5.30 p.m.
7.30 - 10.30 p.m.

Sat : 9.00 - 12.00 a.m.
Sun : 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.
7.30 - 10.30

Each year two or three competent student assistants are selected to help in the library during the afternoons and evenings. Since it is to be expected that the student's first interest will be that of his studies, he is given a few (not too elaborate) rules to follow, and of course for efficient service he is required to keep them.

The "Reserve" book collection is kept near the charging desk. With the present library facilities, this is found to be convenient. The usual rules are applied to this collection. Before taking any book from these shelves, the student is required to sign a "reserve book slip" which he leaves at the desk. When he has returned the book this slip is checked off. Reserved books do not circulate except over night and week-ends. Books from the open shelves circulate for two weeks, with the privilege of renewal. This does not apply to the teaching staff, who may borrow books for an unlimited period.

Fines are charged when it is found that a student repeatedly fails to return books, and also when reserved books are kept beyond the time limit. Since one of the purposes of the library is to encourage voluntary reading on the part of the student, it is not found practical to be too exacting as to when a book is returned. A brief acquaintance with the student body soon discloses who is the careless borrower and who the good one.

The system of classification used in St. Francis Xavier University library is the Dewey Decimal. It is not possible to give an exact estimate of the number of volumes and periodicals in the library up to the present. This is due to the fact that the cataloguing and recording of them has been a slow process, and is as yet incomplete.

All worthwhile periodicals and pamphlets are preserved. The Reference section of the library is fairly adequate, and each year there are additions made to it. Students in their first year at college usually become acquainted with this important section in a special course given by the English Department. A special effort is made in the library to see that students know their reference tools well. This is to aid them not only during their undergraduate years but also in their future work and studies.

A shelf-list, dictionary catalog and accession book are maintained in the library. While there is a great need for keeping an

information file in the library, in order to house current pamphlets, articles, etc., this is partly compensated for in the use of pamphlet boxes. All back issues of periodicals and government documents are housed in a separate part of the building. Periodicals, other than the current issues are allowed to circulate. Special slips are signed for these also.

This has been a short resumé of activities and organization in St. Francis Xavier University Library. With the growing conviction that libraries can do a great deal in molding the life of a people, the university library will also have an important role in the post war era. It will have an important role because institutions of learning will be called upon to play a large part in giving a new way of life to a stricken world; and closely linked with such institutions is the library.

Notes and Personals

This fall the Citizens' Forum will again be on the air every Tuesday night at 9.30 p.m. (A.D.T.). Topics to be discussed will centre around immediate Canadian problems - varying economic and racial groups of Canada, her relationships with other countries, and the place of the citizen in a democratic country. The magazine "Food for Thought" will be made part of the Citizens' Forum material. There will be two preliminary broadcasts on Thursday, October 26th and Thursday November 2nd, and the regular Forum programs will start on Tuesday November 7th.

Since the Yarmouth Library was largely destroyed by fire last spring, a citizens' Committee is making a survey of the situation, with regard to the construction of a new library building and the development of an up-to-date library for the citizens of the town and its environs.

Miss Mary Falconer has gone to the Mt. Allison Memorial Library, Sackville, to take the place of Miss Winifred Snider who is spending a year in graduate study.

Capt. H.B. Chandler, superintendent of the Prince Edward Island Libraries (on leave), has recently been promoted from the rank of lieutenant, and is stationed at the Reception Center, No. 6 District Depot, Halifax.
