

# MLA BULLETIN

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Editor: D. A. Redmond, Librarian  
Nova Scotia Technical College  
Box 1000, Halifax, N. S.

## BIG POWWOW--HEAP TALK, NO SAVVY

June conventioners included Mrs. Austin, Miss Campbell and y.v.t. in Toronto for SLA, the week after MLA. Among the 750 delegates, the couple hundred Canadians spent most of their time answering more questions than they'll get over reference desks for the rest of the year. The convention was a success as a goodwill mission, but it points up the benefits of regional associations, "neighborhood" conferences and constant interlibrary cooperation.

Eight hundred are too many. There is a maelstrom of little conventions, meetings, divisions, sections, competing for time and interest. One has time to meet and seriously talk to but a few people, and most of them he will know already: either they're from the home town, or haven't seen him since college days. Many people one wants to talk to, or should hear, are also too busy. So the increasing size of the convention decreases its effectiveness as a tool of professional contact and progress.

CLA conventions operate at a more leisurely pace. (750 is small as SLA and ALA shindigs go.) The MLA conference is very good in its field. One could wish it lasted two full days--even lapped over a bit for more conversation. Danger of smaller conventions is, of course, that people know each other too well--that the smaller meeting lacks the formality that keeps delegates down to brass tacks & books.

Or their library problems, half-familiar to all, are too familiar to be thrashed out among the group. In one SLA section meeting, that necessary spark caught, and there was a brisk discussion of two sample libraries, and even some minor ideas were eagerly hailed by those who found it new & useful.

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It's always dangerous for splinters to form--in woodwork or associations. Small pieces of wood, or associations, which get too many splinters find nothing left. So the few of us in the Maritimes, using the MLA as our rallying point and knowing the place for both local and national associations, have scope for effective action, fresh viewpoints and exchange of ideas with friends whom we nevertheless don't manage to see often enough.

We have an Association with great potential; our Conferences offer great opportunities for common action and thought. The accounts in this issue of the 14th Conference should make stay-at-homes come out for the next. Not only are you missing something if you stay at home--you're depriving others of your help in working out their problems and everybody's common problems. Miss Cullen's words about willingness to do Association work should be taken to heart by all of us.

...After reading two months' Publishers' Weekly, stacked on my desk during holidays, here's an ugly thought for the day: Have you burned a book today? And you don't always need a match to do it with, either.

...Thanks, all, for discussing the Bulletin. Very encouraging. D.A.R.



## Writing History in the Archives: II

BY PHYLLIS R. BLAKELEY

This is the second part of a talk by Miss Blakeley to the Halifax Library Association. It describes her adventure in publishing, writing a Story of Nova Scotia. Part I appeared in the Winter 1953 BULLETIN.

It is much harder to write history than most people think. The writing of history is both an art and a science. Art may be concealed in the skilful use that is made of the materials gathered through historical research, and science may be revealed in the gathering and organizing of these materials for such use. As Dr. Harvey said in discussing historical research, in the Journal of Education (March 1937):

All of us hope to find that an author has discovered or written something new and has therefore done some honest historical research before he asks the public to buy his wares; but none of us like to see his ribs sticking out of the book when we read it... But too often we find... that the competent research student throws his facts together without regard to art, and that the pot-boiler clothes the ideas of another in attractive language, thus reaping where he has not sown. On the other hand, we sometimes read a book that is illuminating, authoritative, original and attractively written; and then we have found a model historian...

Several people had been approached to write this book before I was asked, but only I was naïve enough to accept! J. M. Dent & Sons had been publishing a series of social studies texts for junior high schools, on each of the provinces of Canada. The ones by J. M. Scott on the "Prairies" and "Canadian Northland" were selling very well, and they expected to get others used as supplementary readers in schools in the West and Ontario. Dent's knew that Nova Scotia was going to change its curriculum and that there was need for a simple history of Nova Scotia. They wanted the book to be similar in length, language and content to the others in the series, and offered me a definite contract before I started to work. I was given the usual royalty of 10 percent and had to promise to send them the next two books that I wrote. Usually the author writes a book on speculation and then tries to find a publisher. I always wanted to write history, and while I was teaching Grade V I discovered the great need for such a book and had done some experimenting with what history appealed to children.

I do some writing at the Archives when I'm not busy looking after students or sorting and cataloging manuscripts. These articles appear in Dalhousie Review and Canadian Historical Review or in Archives Bulletins, and are results of original research and appeal more to historians than to the general public. My Glimpses of Halifax 1867-1900, started out as a paper for the Nova Scotia Historical Society and grew into a book of 213 pages! It was published by the Archives and they get the money from sales because it was written on their time.

I agreed to write The Story of Nova Scotia in September 1947, and blithely agreed to finish it in a year. I expected to write a chapter a week. Actually I was in Boston on my holidays and Dr. Harvey had the interview with Dent's agent. By Oct. 30 I had forwarded a tentative outline of 31 chapters. The historical part was easy, but it was a social-studies book of the type so popular in the West and had to fit in with the rest of the series. It had to

have chapters on "Growing Apples in the Land of Evangeline", "Farming", "Mining Coal Beneath the Sea", etc.

A month later, back came comments from the general editor of the series, J. M. Scott, who was a professor at the Normal College in Alberta. He thought there was too much emphasis on history, not enough on the Nova Scotia of today; he wanted more on the iron and steel industry, fishing, cherries in Bear River, etc. One sentence read: "I should like to see a copy of the manuscript for Chapter II when it is available in order that we might determine whether the lady in question can write in a manner that will appeal to boys and girls in Grades V and VI." This certainly helped my self-esteem!

I had one advantage in my project. I was already familiar with Nova Scotian history because I work with documents and history books all the time, and I know the latest research that has been done on different subjects. I know when I can rely on Canada and its Provinces or Brown's History of Cape Breton, and when I must check with the original documents, and I know that there is an article on Sir William Alexander in the Dal Review that I must look up. I thought I knew a lot about the history of my native province, because I had taken my M.A. in Nova Scotian history at Dalhousie University, but when I actually started to write, it was amazing how many things I wasn't sure of.

I actually started writing Chapter VI, "Knights of Nova Scotia", because I was interested in Sir William Alexander, and the French period has never appealed to me. I did Chapter VIII on "Life in Acadia", and then went back to Chapter II, "Man Discovers America" and worked my way through pretty well in order. Chapter I, a general chapter, was the last.

First I began by looking up references in our card catalog to Sir William Alexander and Scottish settlements. Then one morning I went to work an hour early and started reading those references and making notes. Some of the books I could borrow, others I had in my own library and could read at home. There were a number of documents I had to use at the Archives and I would look these over at noon, or occasionally steal a quiet hour at work. Next I read over my notes, thought about them for a day or two, and then wrote them out as if I were writing an historical article for grownups. I always do my writing in longhand with a pencil. It was rough and disjointed and sounded terrible. Every now and then I would read it over—change a word here and there, leave out a paragraph, maybe rewrite the whole thing. Then I typed it on some foolscap I had around the house and put it in a folder and went on to the next chapter.

Usually I was reading for one chapter and trying to rewrite another one. I would work on it one or two evenings a week and over the weekend. I remember vividly a beautiful Sunday afternoon when my family were going on a picnic and I had to stay home and make notes on "Privateering". Another Sunday evening when a blizzard was howling outside I was sitting before the fire and reading Champlain on the sufferings of the French the first winter at St. Croix.

By June 1948 I had written the first draft of the historical part of the book and was slowly revising the first five chapters I had done. In this rewriting I was trying to simplify the language and explain words children would not know. I found this very hard because I wasn't used to writing for children. Also I found it difficult to condense material—a chapter should only be about five typed pages. I had visited the Teachers' Central Library and Mrs. Vernon lent me a number of history books for children and pointed out which ones appealed to the children and why. By reading a number of these I found



it easier to use simple language and simple constructions. I kept showing bits of my MSS. to my teaching friends and asking their opinions.

On weekends I drove to different parts of the province to visit places I was describing--Fort Anne Museum, Port Royal Habitation, "Clifton" at Windsor, Mersey Paper mill at Liverpool, brickyards at Lantz, etc. In September I took my vacation and spent most of my time rewriting my book at Grandmother's in Elmsdale. Dr. Harvey read my typescript carefully and expressed his approval of its historical accuracy. He questioned some of my interpretations, and made some alterations and suggestions. I made the necessary changes and re-typed some of it. This was the third rewriting. On Nov. 17, 1948, I sent off the typescript registered mail--the boy at the Post Office charged me too much and phoned from the Registered Mail office that they had sent it air mail. I had typed three copies--one for the publisher, one for myself, and one for the artist. On Dec. 1 I read, "You are a model author for sending us your manuscript in such good shape and the photographs and maps listed with credits and captions. We only wish other writers were as methodical." This was due to Dr. Harvey's good training in preparing bulletins, etc.

Two months after I finished, back came the book from J. M. Scott with 25 pages of criticism. I nearly had a fit until I looked through them and found that most of the changes were minor ones, like spelling Harbor with a "u" and making this sentence shorter. I felt better when I saw, "You have produced the best book for boys and girls on Nova Scotia that I have seen." Scott wanted extra chapters on Railways and Steamships, Sable Island, Air Transport, Towns, Gold Mining, Responsible Government. I felt the book was long enough, but compromised and added some of the chapters. I refused to do more on Responsible Government because I knew how hard it was to teach this to Grade IX; it would be impossible for Grade VII. Scott had Western ideas of "purposeful activity". At the end of each chapter he had "Things to Do"--making models, dramatizing, extra reading. I had put in some simple questions and he objected. I consulted all my teaching friends, and wrote to Clifford Dunphy at the Normal College, Prof. Mowat, etc., for their opinions. In the end I compromised with questions of both kinds.

Dent's were pushing me to finish the revision because they expected the Nova Scotia Curriculum Committee would soon decide on texts--instead the committee is still gradually revising the history curriculum. In the spring of 1949 I was finishing Glimpses of Halifax and it was agony to do the revising on The Story of Nova Scotia. This was the fourth rewriting. I sent it off again to Toronto in March 1949, and off and on all summer batches of galley proof came down for me to read. Once in galley it was too late to make any changes except in spelling and grammar--otherwise the author must pay for changes.

In the year that I was writing the book I only wrote a dozen letters to the publishers in Toronto, and the agent came to see me twice on his semi-annual trips east. Now I was to start a correspondence that makes a file larger than my typed copy of the book! Most of this correspondence was over illustrations. I had never had anything to do with a book that was illustrated. I could never understand all their haste over the illustrations. Before I had written five chapters Dent's wrote asking me to get a local artist to do the illustrations and asking me to decide exactly what drawings I wanted. That was April 6, and their letter went to Dalhousie, N. B., instead of Dalhousie University. I asked Donald Mackay, Principal of the College of Art, to do the drawings and decided on two drawings per chapter, and to use photographs for the industrial section. Mr. Mackay was busy illustrating Tom Raddall's

Halifax, Warden of the North but agreed to do drawings for me. I was extremely lucky to get him because he was an experienced illustrator and had a large file of historical data of his own.

In the beginning I was told the office would look after photos for my book. Later Dent's asked me to procure my own photographs. It seems that the National Film Board, C.N.R., C.P.R., Nova Scotia Bureau of Information, etc., sell photos cheaply to authors, and often give them away free, but make publishers pay more for them--in some cases I could get a photo for fifty cents when the publisher was charged \$5.00. It took a long time to get the photos, decide the best spot in the text for them, number photos and make a typed list of captions and courtesy lines. Some photos had to be omitted, but I never could understand why they put in four on lumbering and none on pulp and paper!

In March 1950 I was working on the index. The index is made after you get all the page proof and is a tedious task. I read the book page by page and called out every name and topic to a friend who wrote each heading and page number on a slip of blue paper. Later these were combined alphabetically and typed. The publishing of the book took much longer than I expected--over a year. The book wasn't out in time for the opening of school in September 1950. It didn't come out until the end of October which affected sales for the first year. I was thrilled when the first copies arrived. Two things took away from my joy--my name mis-spelled on the cover, and George MacLaren not given credit for drawing the maps. I didn't read the proof for jacket and title page, and the mistakes were on these. The publishers were most apologetic about the mistakes.

I was amazed at the number of grownups who like a simple book on Nova Scotian history and then buy another one for some child. Like all Canadian authors I felt the publicity was poor. The Story of Nova Scotia was seldom displayed in bookstores in the Maritimes for tourists to see--the Book Room in Halifax is the only place it is always stocked. There were good reviews in the New Glasgow Eastern Chronicle, and a friend of mine wrote to say she had hunted everywhere--not a store in New Glasgow had a copy. Royalties are slower than I expected. In November I get paid for copies sold from January to June. Most of the sales have been to Home and School Associations or Departments of Education for use as a supplementary reader in Social Studies.

In October 1951 Dent's sent down a new representative to ask me to revise The Story of Nova Scotia. By the Lorge formula for estimating grade placement of reading materials, the book had come out as Grade 7 reading level. In Nova Scotia the book fits into the history course at Grade 6 level, therefore for children to read it easily it should have a reading level of about Grade 5. I went down to see Mrs. Vernon at the Teachers' Central Library to see books on the Grade 5 level, and she gave me some vocabulary tests and offered to spend several evenings with me giving me her suggestions on vocabulary and rewriting. From this developed a winter's collaboration. This was to be more than a revision for simpler language--it was to make a social-studies text into a history of Nova Scotia fitted into a Maritime setting, with all geography and industry left out. The first part should be a history of Acadia, and then as New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island became separate provinces their later history would be omitted.

In January 1952 I drew up a new outline and decided what parts of N. B. and P.E.I. and Newfoundland history to add to my original book. This outline was sent to the publishers and to various teachers and education department officials for suggestions. Usually when you revise a book you get two or



three copies from the publisher. Then you take them to pieces and paste them on large sheets of paper with plenty of room at sides and top and bottom to write in any changes. Here and there you cut the page and add extra paragraphs or a page.

However, when I started Myra and I went wild and revised it completely. All winter I spent two or three evenings a week working on the revision, and on weekends had to retype manuscript. The changes were so drastic and extensive that it was simpler to type it all over again than to try to write in alterations. We used Strothers' Canadian Word List for Grades I to VI. It is like a little dictionary. Words are alphabetically arranged. Come to a long word in the text--look it up in the word list--opposite the word is a number, 1, 4, 6, or whatever. If you can't find the word it is beyond Grade VI and you have to think up another way of saying it. The Lorge test uses very simple sentences, frowns on prepositional phrases, adverbial and adjectival clauses and gerunds and so on. The tests on the first part of the revised Story of Nova Scotia came out to Grade IV, and never above Grade V. We left out some detail--not too much. Children need some detail to understand the "Capture of Annapolis" and find the story interesting, but they should be taught that all these details don't need to be memorized. The earlier children learn to pick out the few important details to remember from a page or chapter, the easier they will find high school work.

Some chapters were rewritten completely. Dr. Winthrop Bell was doing important researches on Lunenburg settlers, translating from German, and his findings meant a complete change. The book was now 264 typed pages--they wanted it cut down to 225. I decided to leave out chapters on fishing, farming, lumbering and manufacturing in Nova Scotia. I sent the MSS. to education officials and some teachers in the province for suggested changes, and they have been most helpful. I have written about 30 letters already on the revision, and have yet to go through all the difficulties of reading proof and making another index.

Writing history is hard work--it is impossible to satisfy everybody. I was afraid I would find all sorts of mistakes, but found only one. In the chapter on "Railways and Highways" I said the first railway in Nova Scotia opened on Oct. 29, 1839. I had looked this up in the Novascotian of Oct. 31, 1839, and that newspaper said "on the morning of the 29th". Two years later I was hunting in some Pictou newspapers for some material for a radio play, and found that the opening was Sept. 19--the Novascotian had copied the account from a Pictou paper, but didn't acknowledge it.

I feel that the book is filling a definite need. It has been helpful to teachers and their pupils, and my labor seems worthwhile when children turn up at the Archives to look at the things mentioned in the book. Last week two little boys from Morris St. came out to see "Indian Treaties" and a list of the first settlers of Halifax because The Story of Nova Scotia said they were there.

Last summer an insurance agent, whose daughter had gone to school with me, saw the book in a Memorial Library display. He wanted to read it, and someone at the Memorial Library told him it was always out. He concluded that I must be making a lot of money and rushed out to sell me some insurance! Recently at a shower the aunt of the bride called me over to talk to her while she was pouring tea. "Phyllis, I've been trying to speak to you all evening." Then in tones of great surprise she continued: "I didn't know you had written a book. Why, I saw it at the Book Room the other day. I've dropped into the store every afternoon this week and I haven't finished it yet!"

## *People and Places : N. B. News*

Miss Margaret Webb, formerly on the staff of the Bonar Law-Bennett Library at UNB, is working in one of the branches of the Toronto Public Library for the summer. In the autumn she plans to return to her Ph.D. work at Columbia University and will also join the staff of a New York publishing firm.

Miss Eleanor Belyea reports that she likes the National Library very much. She is currently cataloging for Canadiana and is looking forward to renewing old friendships at CLA in August.

Mrs. J. G. Hart has resigned as Librarian of the Saint John Free Public Library and her resignation has been accepted by the Board. Mrs. S. B. Benton, formerly of Saskatchewan, has been appointed Acting Librarian. A graduate of the University of Toronto Library School, Mrs. Benton joined the staff of the Saint John Free Public Library early in 1953.

Premier and Mrs. H. J. Flemming of New Brunswick recently returned from the United Kingdom. Mrs. Flemming, as patron of Young Canada's Book Week, had hoped to attend the CLA convention in August but now regrets that pressure of other activities makes this impossible.

Sir Archibald Nye, U.K. High Commissioner to Canada, and Lady Nye, visited the University of New Brunswick on July 15 and were entertained at a coffee party in the Beaverbrook Recreational Reading Room of the Bonar Law-Bennett Library. They displayed a keen interest in the library's holdings.

Miss Elaine Malloy, Librarian of the New Brunswick Teachers' College, is attending the Summer School of the University of Maine.

Dr. A. G. Bailey, Honorary Librarian of the UNB Library, spent part of July at Harvard, doing research on the West Indies. The recipient of a grant from the Social Science Research Council for this purpose, Dr. Bailey plans to offer a course in the history of the British West Indies at UNB this fall. For several months the Library has been acquiring material dealing with this topic.

For the first time, an elementary course in library science is being given at the UNB Summer School. Under the direction of Maurice Boone and Robert Rogers, the course is designed to help teachers who must organize school and classroom libraries. The first part, covering cataloging and classification, is being given this summer. The second part, to be given in 1954, will deal with the history of the book, book selection, etc. Together, the two parts will count as a third or fourth year credit toward the B.A. or B.Ed. degree. Fifteen students have enrolled for the course--a very encouraging sign of interest in libraries in the province. One student is from Quebec, and two from Prince Edward Island.

Miss Alice Oulton, Mr. Maurice Boone and Mr. Robert Rogers will attend the CLA convention in Ottawa. Miss Oulton is to be a resource leader for some of the discussions. Mr. Rogers recently learned from the University of London that his bibliography "Books and Pamphlets by New Brunswick Writers 1890-1950" has been accepted and given Class I rating. At last, he says, his diploma is on the way and he is a full-fledged librarian!

The New Brunswick Department of Education Library, established 1941, now contains 14,679 volumes and last year circulated 48,975 items, showing steady growth every year. In July, special requests for books came from the YMCA camp at Lake Maguadavic, and the Rotary Camp for Crippled Children at Grand Lake.



## *The L.C. Catalog in the Maritimes*

THE MLA BULLETIN presents a "symposium" of three articles describing the use being made in the Maritime Provinces of the Library of Congress printed catalog, a bibliographic tool relatively new in this area but of such tremendous scope that the three libraries possessing it must become centers of bibliographic reference. The three articles, from three different types of libraries, show the many uses of the L.C. Catalog in cataloging and classification, in bibliography, in reference work, in interlibrary loans and in acquisitions.

At the end of May, the Library of Congress announced that the 1948-52 supplement to the L.C. Catalog was in press. This 24-volume cumulation follows the main catalog (through 1942) and the first supplement (through 1947), and contains 600,000 entries. It will cost \$157. As an author catalog, it supersedes the L.C. Author Catalog for those years, but not the newer Subject Catalog. The BULLETIN has not learned whether the 1948-52 Supplement will be available in the Maritimes.

## *The L.C. Catalog at Mt. St. Vincent*

By SISTER FRANCIS DOLORES

Judging by the daily and varied demands which are met by the Library of Congress Catalog of Printed Cards, even in a comparatively small library like that of Mount St. Vincent College, one wonders how libraries suffered the deprivation for those many years when such professional wealth was limited to a few large libraries fortunate enough to house "depository sets" of L.C. cards. Thanks to the interest of the Association of Research Libraries, which in 1942 sponsored the project of reproducing a depository catalog by photographic process in book form, this mine of bibliographic information is now available for any library whose budget--and service policy--justify the initial investment of less than one thousand dollars (\$750 for the main catalog of 167 volumes; \$231 for the supplement of 42 volumes; plus \$65 for each annual cumulation).

As cards have not been printed for all the books in the Library of Congress, this is not a complete catalog of its holdings, but it does represent all but a small percentage. Because of the immensity of the collections and the fact that it locates copies, the Catalog is indispensable in any library where research is done. However, because of the excellence of the cataloging and full bibliographic description, it is first of all an invaluable tool for cataloging--verification of author and title entries, and elusive items of descriptive cataloging. This is perhaps its major claim to importance in the Mount St. Vincent College Library whose card catalog, destroyed by fire in 1951, is in the process of rebuilding. The School of Library Science, closely associated with the practical work of the Library, has free access to the Catalog but only after the "mechanics" of cataloging have been fully mastered. The following are some of the ways in which the Catalog meets specific needs in our Cataloging Department:

(1) Authority file for personal and corporate entries. Vol. 151 of the main catalog has one of the finest lists of United States author headings that could be assembled, a companion to the list of Great Britain author headings in Vol. 58. These are complete with cross references. Though the coverage of Canadian government publications is not preceded by an "authority" list, there

is an appreciable inclusion of Canadian titles arranged (a) by official headings and (b) with institutions and titles in one alphabet (also with copious cross-references). Similar treatment is given to League of Nations publications and subsequently to those of the United Nations.

(2) Title entries. The complete word-for-word title is much more helpful for checking than the title entries found in the British Museum Catalogue. Of course, since Mount St. Vincent College Library has adopted the new L. C. Rules for descriptive cataloging, our catalogers must be ready to modify some of the usage in the pre-1948 entries.

(3) The advantages of the L.C. imprint statements are obvious, and we also find them one of the most accurate means of locating the date of a book not included in the Book Review Digest, preliminary to searching for a review of it elsewhere.

(4) The collations are also an excellent means of checking, before purchase, secondhand books to make sure that a copy collated in a dealer's catalog is complete.

(5) In the same way, the notes are valuable not only to the cataloger but also to the Acquisition Department. For instance, very often we discover that a book is an "offprint" and since it is available in a periodical or a society publication, there is scarcely need for purchasing it as a separate.

(6) Anonymous and pseudonymous works. The Supplement includes about 26,000 title entries for anonymous and pseudonymous works for which the Library of Congress has supplied the author. This has been done by crossing out the author's name and filing the card under the title; pseudonymous names are crossed out and the author's real name supplied. For cards printed before August 1942, the author card is found in the main set. This supplies for the file of "bracketed author cards" in which only large libraries invested before the printed Catalog was available.

(7) Periodicals. At Mount St. Vincent, we give bound periodicals full cataloging. Although the Union List of Serials is a help in collecting such data, it doesn't compare with the complete cataloging of serials in the L. C. Catalog. Such notes as frequency, suspensions, connection with preceding publications, variations in title, authorship, editors, imprints, mergers, contents, are accurately covered and incalculable time saved for the searcher.

(8) Filing. Though one does not expect to find too much help in dictionary catalog filing procedure in this author catalog, nevertheless it can be of much assistance in the maze of "voluminous" authors and of such special entries as Bible.

Admittedly, the use made of our L.C. Catalog is relatively higher in our Cataloging and Accession departments. Its usefulness for reference, bibliographic and research work is not overlooked, however. In the past year, the possibilities afforded for author bibliography, bibliographic information and historical notes have become apparent. We have not as yet had the opportunity of locating copies for actual loan.

Finally, to quote from an article by Charles E. Gregg ("Bibliographical Tools", Amateur Book Collector, March 1953) reprinted in summary form in the L.C. Information Bulletin of March 30, 1953: "These sets--known familiarly as the L.C. Printed Catalog--are probably the most important bibliographical tool

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# The L.C. Catalog and the Small Library

By DONALD B. GAMMON

What place does the L.C. Catalog have in a small library? A very big place from any point of view, for in physical bulk the 167 volumes of the basic set dominate the whole library collection; and as a working tool, this set is at least a bulldozer.

From the first I wish to make it clear that I am not attempting to prove that the L.C. Catalog should be bought immediately by the small public library, though many of its uses which we have discovered could apply. Rather, I am thinking of the Catalog in the university library and the special library; and in particular I am writing about the use of the L.C. Catalog in the Legislative Library in Fredericton.

It is not likely that any small library in the Maritimes will have a completely satisfactory reference collection. It is a financial impossibility, if nothing else; and as a result many a question is handled clumsily, inadequately, or not at all.

Of course the L.C. Catalog cannot replace even a dozen basic tools, but in its own way it does solve a good many problems which it was never designed to handle. By the day we are discovering new uses for it; and whereas the librarian in a large library may smile, we are quite proud of our growing ability to get large dividends from such a frightening investment.

Thirty thousand volumes, a large bulk of them leather-backs from the last century, are an ominous mass in any library. Here, we have to catalog them--all of them--now. So the direct use for which the Catalog was bought was to enable us to look up L.C. card order numbers. We are putting many L.C. cards into our catalog, and I assure you that cataloging with them is far more exciting than one would imagine. Instead of such a procedure dulling one's approach as I thought it would, it sharpens it; and although the book is more quickly handled, it is more thoroughly explored. But it is the use of the Catalog itself which we are considering and it is the oblique uses which I wish to outline here.

The Catalog is invaluable in helping to establish the used and preferred form of a main entry, an author's name or a corporate body. It is also very helpful in separating two or more authors of the same name.

Not long ago we found it necessary to split a file. We wanted the proportions assigned to different drawers to remain fairly constant for some time to come. The Catalog gave us the answer. We simply accepted the proportions of the breakup of the alphabet there. And it was no trouble to determine the rather nice point that one drawer ran from Hi to Hy and another from Me to Mz. The last entry in Volume 105 is Mžik.

Since we are building up a new catalog we have to depend very heavily on filing rules. Every now and then a name comes up which evades the rule books and leaves us confused. Although we do not accept all the L.C. filing practices, we do find its entry arrangement a good guide for helping us make our own decisions.

In sticky cases the L.C. Catalog has also been a guide in working out "see" references.

One of the most invaluable services the Catalog has performed is that of giving us a fast and sure check on brief and easy entries found in the catalogs of too many secondhand bookdealers. If nothing else, it is a comfort to know exactly what one is ordering. The Catalog has also helped out when a book in hand does not agree with its own titlepage information. A note will usually explain the divergence and we will not look for plates which are not contained or for colored illustrations which are not colored.

The Catalog has been of help in sorting out the confusions surrounding several editions of the same work, and though cataloging information is scanty enough, we can usually get a fairly good idea of which is the preferred edition.

Of course the Catalog provides a good check on our classification numbers. The Dewey number is often given, and occasionally two numbers are given when the classification is flexible. If necessary, we work backwards through the L.C. classification schedules, and with the help of their definitions we are able to approach Dewey again with more confidence. But it is in the composition of Cutter numbers that the Catalog has been especially helpful. With a fairly complete lineup of an author's works before one, it is easy to keep Cutter numbers unique, and to predict and thus prevent conflicts.

This suggests one of the Catalog's main uses for reference purposes. Bibliographies of authors' works are always at hand.

Occasionally there turns up in the Catalog a rather interesting information card. We now have in our files a card which gives a few vital words on John James Audubon, and the names he called himself at different times.

Of course we order all our L.C. cards by formula. But since we are able to see the cataloging and subject work before the cards are ordered, we are often able to add extra cards when needed and at other times cut down on cards. I am still blushing because I once failed to make a careful check on the number of cards we would be getting and 22 of them came for a mongrel of a book cataloged by a librarian, long since dead, who must have contrived to spite the printing department.

The Catalog has a limited use in interlibrary loan. At least one copy of a book is located in one library in the United States.

It is impossible to generalize on the dozens of strange little uses we find for the Catalog each week. Here is one example: A man came into the library one morning and announced himself by declaring, "I have an old book!" We shivered inwardly, smiled professionally, and waited for him to announce that it was printed over sixty years ago! "It is dated 1512," he said, "and I wonder if it is very rare. I bought it during the war, in Italy." We were quite impressed and made what search we could, but we could tell him nothing about the book except that it was not in the Library of Congress. Now here was a case in which the absence of the book may mean something. Our visitor was so pleased at the absence that he determined to search further elsewhere. I hope he makes his fortune.

The Legislative Library recently purchased the 42 supplementary volumes and soon we shall tackle all the old anonymous works which have accumulated. In the basic set the anonymous works are entered only under the authors found by the Library of Congress; but in that supplement all anonymous works cataloged to date of printing are conveniently entered under title.

Lately a rumor has started that the basic set of the L.C. Catalog is growing scarce. I hope that when all the sets are sold, Maritime libraries have their share. Order librarians, reference librarians, and especially catalogers of a university or special library can work more efficiently and accurately if they are not denied this greatest single tool ever published. It may be a tragic economy to evade its purchase.



# *The L.C. Catalog at the Nova Scotia Research Foundation Library*

By JAMES L. BELL

Ever since the Library of Congress Catalog was purchased by the Nova Scotia Research Foundation, it has been of inestimable value to the Foundation and its library, as well as to the many other libraries that have made use of it. It is one of three copies in the Maritimes.

It has been most useful up to now to the local cataloging departments, which use it to find order numbers for L.C. cards and to establish main entry forms. The Halifax Memorial Library has on many occasions used the catalog for its cataloging work. Other local libraries, it seems, rely on the L.C. cards solely and therefore await their arrival. If books are held awaiting cards, sometimes in vain, the cataloger can feel that the Catalog is available when he decides that these books should not be held up any longer.

The Catalog has been used by the nearby Provincial Library as well. Dalhousie University has had occasion to use the Catalog, chiefly in the field of reference work. The Nova Scotia Technical College has made frequent queries to confirm main entries for obscure government documents. A local university professor made considerable use of the Catalog when compiling data for the bibliography in his thesis. Here the catalog was an emergency source for material that, in the process of writing and compilation, was overlooked, as so often happens when one becomes engrossed in one's subject.

For the cataloger, the subject tracings on the L.C. cards have been most helpful. The Subject Catalog can also greatly facilitate work, though it has seen very little service up to now. The Author Catalog has been most useful. It is the most current of the publications of L.C. and lists books published within the last several months. Generally the L.C. catalogs seem to lack the current British titles. The Research Foundation has found that it is more expeditious to catalog these books independently.

For one student interested in the works of a particular author on the North American Indian, the Catalog provided a bibliography of works under that author and on that subject. From the Catalog this student found several useful titles, of which he might have remained unaware had he not been able to use the Catalog.

At present, the scope of the cataloging program is being revised. Entries for motion pictures, filmstrips, maps and geographical atlases, and music, will be issued in separate parts each with its own author, subject and other approaches, in addition to the present Author and Subject Catalogs. This arrangement will permit special libraries and subject departments of general libraries to obtain self-contained catalogs suitable to their needs. It remains to be seen what use can be made of this new feature by the Halifax libraries.

The Library of Congress Catalog and all its parts is a very dependable instrument. The Library of Congress has a large and highly qualified staff to keep their work up to date. It is constantly making revisions which other organizations have neither time nor finances to handle. As the local librarians become more and more aware of the Catalog and its uses, the service it provides should increase.

## *A Priest, an Educator, a Pioneer...*

Librarians, educators, fisher folk and miners in Nova Scotia mourned the death on May 5 of Rev. Dr. J. J. Tompkins, one of the founders of the cooperative movement in Nova Scotia and champion of regional library services. Prominent in adult education, he will be best remembered by Maritime librarians for his work in Reserve Mines. As a parish priest here in the early 1930's he established the People's Library and a children's library, and fought for regional libraries for all of Nova Scotia. His library work was fittingly commemorated in November, 1951, when the Tompkins Memorial Library, financed by public subscription, was dedicated. Tributes to his pioneer work and his great spirit appeared in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald of May 6, in Ottawa newspapers, and in the CLA Bulletin.

### *On the Cover and in the Maritimes*

Public, regional, school and university: the bustle of library activity throughout the Maritimes is caught in four pictures on the cover. TOP LEFT: In Halifax to film the story of the Armdale Chorus of girls' voices, a National Film Board camera crew visits the Children's Department of Halifax Memorial Library, where children's librarian Kay Currie, one of the singers, is telling stories to a group of youngsters. Here Miss Currie and Director Hector Lemieux coax two little actress-patrons before the lens. TOP RIGHT: A reader in the new Glace Bay branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library is absorbed in his book. BOTTOM LEFT: Eleanor Belyea instructs student Paul Collins in the use of the Bonar Law-Bennett Library stacks at the University of New Brunswick, in a photo taken during New Brunswick Library and Book Week. Miss Belyea has since left UNB for the National Library. BOTTOM RIGHT: L. to R., Bob Rogers, Mrs. A. W. Trueman, and Moira Thompson consider entries in the essay contest for Fredericton school children, sponsored during Book Week by Hall's Bookstore and the Fredericton Gleaner. Not in the photo, which was taken in Hall's Bookstore, was Mrs. H. J. Flemming.

THANKS for the pictures to Wetmore (top left); Cape Breton Regional Library (top right); University of New Brunswick (bottom left); Fredericton Gleaner (right).

In Halifax: The Halifax Memorial Library Board in cooperation with the School Board is considering opening two children's branches in city schools. During summer vacation, the H.M.L. Children's Department has permitted children leaving the city on holidays to take along six books, which may be kept till Sept. 15. By the end of July, some 800 books were circulated to 126 holiday borrowers. The Thursday 4 p.m. story hour has been discontinued for the summer, but the Saturday 10.30 a.m. picture book hour goes on as usual, and when weather permits, the children are taken out on the library lawn. Here sitting or sprawling on the grass, they have a happy time listening to the stories told.

Miss Pauline Home and Miss Patricia O'Neill joined the H.M.L. staff July 1, replacing Miss Marian Macdonald and Miss Barbara Smith. Miss Charlotte Allan reports that a new L.C. 'R' classification is causing her to reclassify a number of books in the Dalhousie Medical Library. Miss Alberta Letts of the Provincial Library is taking a summer course in radio script writing. Miss Barbara Murray's holidays are taking her via SS 'Saturnia' to New York, then to Washington, San Francisco, Seattle, Jasper, and to Ottawa for the CLA conference.



## M.L.A. 14TH CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Fifty-five delegates, including 49 MLA members, attended the Sydney conference of the Maritime Library Association on June 19-20. Highlights of the meeting included reports from the three Maritime Provinces, a panel discussion on aspects of current literature, trips and visits in the Sydney-Glace Bay-Louisbourg area, interest group discussions, and fine work by the Ideas and Gadgets Committee. Some of the papers presented during the conference will if possible be printed in the *MLA BULLETIN* in full in a later issue, and the following proceedings summarize the official minutes.

After opening greetings to the conference from Warden M. T. Sullivan on behalf of the Cape Breton Library Board, the President, Miss Dorothy Cullen, welcomed Miss Mifflin, a Newfoundland delegate for the first time, and congratulated Miss Ruby Wallace on election to the CLA Council, and Mr. Peter Grossman, Acting President of CLA.

"I would like to say something about what the Association means to us," Miss Cullen went on. "It does a great deal for us professionally and personally. According to our Constitution one of our aims is 'to promote library service throughout the Maritime Provinces'. The Association has, I feel, made several contributions to the library profession. Committees have studied the matter of salaries and job classifications, published a booklet on librarianship as a profession, collaborated in the compiling of the Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland, and prepared a plan for certification of librarians which was adopted by the Association last year. The Association has been our mouthpiece in dealing with various other bodies—for example, a brief presented to the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, and one to the Nova Scotia Commission on Teacher Education. During the past year the Association took part in representations to the Minister of Finance on the removal of the sales tax on books.

"These are useful functions, but I feel that for most of us the most important rôle of the MLA is as a meeting ground and a means of keeping librarians of the Maritimes informed of progress in different areas. This is accomplished mainly through our annual Conferences and our quarterly *BULLETIN*. You will realize, then, how important these means of intercommunication are. . . . Our Conferences . . . broaden our horizon, giving us a view of library service different from that in our own little library world. For instance, how many of us would find a chance to visit the Cape Breton libraries if it were not for this convention. The discussions help us to clarify our own views on many problems, and serve as a stimulus to renewed efforts in various aspects of our work.

"We must remember in speaking of the Maritime Library Association that it is not an entity having an existence of its own. It depends for its vitality on its individual members. Whether the MLA does great things depends on its members being ready to accept office, work on committees and give some time to thinking about and carrying out projects."

The Treasurer's report for 1952-53 showed: Receipts \$264.86; Disbursements \$106.65; Bank balance June 15, 1953, \$158.21.

Besides routine correspondence during the year, the MLA had had a letter from the Ontario Library Association, being a copy of a letter from OLA to the Prime Minister, containing a resolution regarding a recent appointment to the Parliamentary Library. After discussion, Mr. Grossman said the CLA Council would discuss the matter at its next meeting.

REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES: NOVA SCOTIA

Miss Ruby Wallace, Vice-President for Nova Scotia, reported on the year's activities in that province:

"Miss Mary Cameron, Librarian of the Halifax Memorial Library, stated in her annual report that there is a danger in such reports: a danger in painting glowing results and glossing over our shortcomings. With this in mind, here is a resumé of last year in Nova Scotia's libraries.

"The year 1952-53 has shown a good deal of progress in public library services. Five major library systems--Halifax Memorial and four regional libraries--now serve 330,000 people, just over half Nova Scotia's population. In 1952 these libraries together loaned over 800,000 books. When it is considered that five years ago none of these libraries existed, this is a record of which we may be proud. But there is still the problem of insufficient books in each of these libraries and there are still those areas which have not yet accepted library services.

"A definite step forward in 1952-53 has been the increase in grants. Halifax Memorial received a large increase for book purchases, and the regional libraries in Annapolis Valley, Colchester-East Hants and Pictou received an increase in their local grants, which automatically meant an increase in Provincial grants. Further indication of the acceptance of libraries has been the acquisition of larger quarters such as in Annapolis and Glace Bay, or the indication in various centers that the public would like to have better library buildings.

"The resignation of Miss Dorothy MacKay, Librarian of Dalhousie University Library, to take over the Glace Bay Library, [alarmed] some librarians in the Province. However, the appointment of Mr. Douglas G. Lochhead as librarian with faculty status brought a good deal of pleasure to the profession. We welcome him and Mrs. Lochhead to the Fourteenth Annual Conference.

"Another advancement has been the appointment of a professional librarian in the Division of Adult Education: Mr. James MacEachern. The Nova Scotia Museum of Science has also appointed a professional librarian. Mr. H. J. Arsenault was appointed librarian of the Regional Reference Service, Department of Agriculture, Kentville, and the Dalhousie Law School is applying for a professional librarian. There were advancements in book acquisition and service in special libraries during the year.

"These are advancements, but on every hand and particularly in the regional library services, these is the extremely acute problem of finding a sufficient number of professional librarians. Our appreciation goes out to Mother St. Margaret of Scotland, of Mount St. Bernard College, for establishing a library appreciation course, with the result that four of the 1953 graduates expect to attend library schools next year."

NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Maurice Boone reported, as Vice-President for New Brunswick:

"The big news in New Brunswick this year is the Grossman Report. The report was tabled in the Legislature very late in the session, so it is not expected that the Government will act on the findings of the report in the very near future. Copies of the report have been distributed widely across Canada and we have heard many interesting comments on the sound recommendations made in it.



"New Brunswick Library Week was enthusiastically observed again this year, Mar. 16-21. Newspapers in many centers carried special articles on libraries, and radio stations were most generous in supplying time for broadcasts on library topics. The week did much to make library services better known to the people of New Brunswick.

"The New Brunswick Library Association continues its work of promoting provincial library service. The annual meeting is to be held in Saint John on Oct. 15, and the executive will be meeting in the summer to plan the one-day conference.

"Along with other Canadian provinces, New Brunswick has cooperated in listing its government documents in Canadiana. The first provincial list appeared in the March number.

"Some interested Fredericton librarians prepared a brief for a Fredericton Public Library in January. Backed by a strong body of ratepayers, the brief was presented to the City Council on Jan. 27. The Council gave a favorable hearing, and have placed \$5000 in the current year's budget for the beginning of a public library.

"The Old Manse Library at Newcasyle hopes to be opened to the public possibly by July 1. Miss Barbara Gandy, who came from England last fall as the librarian, and Miss Louise Manny, along with voluntary help, are frantically trying to get the library ready for opening as soon as possible.

"The libraries at Saint John, Moncton and Woodstock continue their effective library service. Saint John has received an encouraging budget increase. Smaller libraries at St. Stephen, Centreville, Juniper, Milltown, Grand Falls, Dalhousie, Hopewell Cape and Sussex are providing some library service in those communities.

"Father Rene Baudry of St. Joseph's University has won a \$4000 Royal Society of Canada Fellowship for study in France. Miss Olga Bishop, after a year's study at the University of Michigan Library School, returned with the A.M.L.S. degree to her work at Mount Allison. Later in the year Miss Bishop will take a position at the University of Western Ontario.

"Miss Constance Oakley, formerly of the Dalhousie University Library, became a cataloger at the University of New Brunswick in the fall of 1952, and has been named head of the department following the appointment of Miss Eleanor Belyea to the cataloging staff of the National Library. Miss Austra Reinvalds of Latvia has also joined the U.N.B. Library staff in the order department.

"Mrs. Ruth Benton, a graduate of the Toronto library school, has joined the staff of the Saint John Free Public Library. [And is now Librarian--see elsewhere in this issue--Ed.] Mr. J. Russell Harper has recently come to Saint John as Archivist-Librarian at the New Brunswick Museum.

"New Brunswick confidently looks forward to better library facilities in the future. Improved library service will, of course, depend on the Provincial Government's implementation of the findings of the Grossman Report."

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. William Ledwell reported for Prince Edward Island. "The St. Dunstan's University Library reports that with the help of grants to universities recommended by the Massey Commission, they have been able to buy a considerably larger number of books than usual this past year. The librarians are catching up with cataloging older books which had been in storage before the library took over its present quarters.

"The headquarters staff of the P.E.I. Libraries has four trained librarians for the first time. Continued expansion of book service to schools accounted for many man-hours during the school term. Two branch libraries acquired buildings which were renovated and put into use during the winter. Similar action is being talked about in two or three other centers.

"A new feature was set up in some of the larger branches: a section for young people. This has proved very successful. The enlarged children's section in the Charlottetown Public Library paid off in greatly increased reading by the children.

"Our special publicity effort for the year was a display at the Provincial Exhibition. A staff member was on hand to talk to people and distribute leaflets about the library and lists of practical books. Through cooperation of the Red Cross Corps Overseas Club, a ceiling projector with twenty-five projected books for children between 3 and 14 is now available for use in any home on the Island where there is electricity. An annotated list, divided into age groups, is ready and a start has been made in lending the projector to a home in Charlottetown.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND

The President asked Miss Jessie Mifflin to report on the library situation in Newfoundland. Miss Mifflin reported that there are now 25 regional libraries in Newfoundland and 200,000 people are served. There are four branch libraries, with two more to be opened, and 150 deposit stations. Service has not expanded over the last two years, as one branch has been closed but will reopen sometime. To offset this there is a branch to be opened in Trinity Bay. During the year, three new library buildings have been erected, and two are being built. Of the 25 regional libraries, 18 are in library buildings, the remainder in rented buildings. There is one public library, the Gosling Memorial Library in St. John's, with 16 on the staff, of whom two are professionally trained. In the Regional setup there is only one professional, one subprofessional and the rest clerical. The custodians of deposit stations are part-time employees. Book Week was celebrated at the Gosling Memorial and in some of the regional centers. Posters were displayed, and there was cooperation with the schools, and library talks were given to the children.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Miss Ellen Webster, chairman of the committee which included Mr. Donald Gammon and Miss Jean Gill, offered the following candidates for 1953-54 office, who were accepted by the meeting:

President: Mr. Maurice Boone  
 President-Elect and Vice-President for Nova Scotia: Miss Ruby Wallace  
 Vice-President for New Brunswick: Brother Omer Cormier  
 Vice-President for Prince Edward Island: Miss Grace Campbell  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Evelyn Campbell

#### CURRENT LITERATURE; PANEL DISCUSSION

The second part of the morning meeting was a panel discussion on various aspects of current literature. Mr. Robert Rogers led the discussion, and considered Poetry; Sister Marie Michael took Biography; Mr. H. B. Chandler mentioned recent books in Science, Nature and Practical Arts, and Miss Diana Lockhart discussed the Novel. In a later issue of the BULLETIN it is hoped to reprint some of these presentations in full.



At 1.30 on June 19, delegates met at the Cape Breton Region headquarters and from there started on a tour of the branches. At the Father Tompkins Memorial Library in Reserve, Mr. Joseph Leben welcomed the members, who also visited the children's library. The next visit was to the Dominion Town branch, located in the office of the Credit Union, and from there to Glace Bay, where the deputy mayor paid tribute to the fine work of the library. Several school libraries not in the regional system were also visited. At 5.30, the delegates were guests of the Cape Breton Library Board at a reception and dinner, where Mr. Angus Mowat, Director of Libraries for Ontario, brought greetings from OLA and said he was impressed with the library work being done in the Maritime, and that his visit was both pleasant and productive. At 8.30 p.m. in the Cape Breton Region headquarters, the conference divided into three group discussions.

The university and reference libraries section, with Miss Olga Bishop as chairman, discussed the problem of newspaper storage, and the advantage of microfilm and microcards. Microfilm was felt to be more useful for newspapers and such popular magazines as Maclean's and Saturday Night. Training of students in the use of the library was discussed. Miss Allan at the Dalhousie Medical Library gives a few lectures each year at the beginning of the first semester, and the response has been very gratifying. Mr. Redmond also gives a course and has issued a pamphlet, What's in the Library?, for his students; this is available to other libraries. Mr. Ganong brought up the cataloging of theses--whether they should be in the main catalog or have a separate section. Fullness of data was also discussed, without agreement, and a union list of these was discussed. Faculty-library relations, book losses, and the reprinting of reference books were also discussed.

The section on children's work and school libraries was headed by Miss Grace Campbell. While the eight members present were satisfied with the discussions, it was felt there was insufficient time for all the problems. Among many questions discussed were: 1) Inexperienced readers: the problem of older boys and girls taking picture-books; beginners who have no one to read to them. 2) Teen-agers: how to interest and direct them. 3) School libraries: how to promote more reading; the problem of the retarded reader; the 'rebellious' reader. 4) Advanced programs: what importance should be placed on story hours, puppet shows, creative dramatics. 5) Personal and practical problems: is it cheaper in the long run to bind children's books or mend them in the library; good books in cheap editions, how worthwhile; selection for the group aged 14 to 16; how can a teacher turned librarian be sure that she is not being too 'schoolish' and not quite 'librarianish' in her approach.

The public library group discussion was led by Mr. Stanley MacDougall. About 15 were present, and discussions centered around the training and qualifications of librarians for public library work. The informal discussion of such questions as, What do you answer to a library board when they say that any bright girl can catalog?, was not intended or expected to lead to any conclusions, but aired some very pertinent problems in the field. The matter of standards for public libraries was discussed, and Miss Mary Cameron and Miss Alberta Letts pointed out that through the CLA Committee on Public Library Standards, this area will also be covered. The discussion of training and qualifications also led to discussion of recruiting for librarianship. Library publicity was also considered. (Proceedings contd. on p.80)

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NOTICE: BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION; Pursuant to policy decided at the MLA Conference, the Bulletin will be mailed in bulk parcels to one library in each center for distribution, and to individual librarians living outside the larger areas. The non-member mailing list (other than exchanges) will be asked by postcard whether their interest in the Bulletin continues.

NOTICE: GRADUATE THESES: As the National Library has undertaken to issue lists of Canadian graduate theses, the Bulletin will not publish lists of Maritime theses unless there is special demand. If you use these lists, please let us know.



### Better Ideas and Gadgets

The first item in the second general session was the report and exhibit of the B.I.G. Committee. Mr. James MacEacheron, chairman, with Mr. Rogers for New Brunswick and Mr. Ledwell for P.E.I., had arranged a very useful and interesting exhibit of library equipment, including liquid adhesives, tapes, binding material, covers, display aids; and a mimeographed "Library Equipment Index" was distributed. Copies are available from Mr. MacEacheron at the Adult Education Division, Chronicle Building, Halifax. Mr. York of the Gestetner Company displayed the latest of their standard model stencil-type duplicator, showing how colored sketches could be inserted in the stencil, and their "Gestascope", an illuminated drawing board equipped with lettering tools and drawing equipment to be used on special blue stencils. Flexibility of this make of equipment for public relations work was demonstrated. The usefulness and cost of "Jiffy Bags", "Texper", "Plasti-Kleer" periodical binders, etc., were also discussed by the meeting.

### Library Plans

Mr. Chandler reported for the Library Plans Committee that the problem of buildings for branches in small communities is difficult, since the average community is unwilling to put up more than \$1500 to \$3000 for such a building. Something a little like a garage is apt to result, while a pleasant and dignified building is far more likely to be a source of community pride and incentive to the people to use their library. P.E.I. has erected several buildings which they consider suitable, and Mr. Chandler will gladly lend photographs and plans to anyone interested. The usual plan in regional library structures is that the building is the sole responsibility of the people of the community, but Mr. Chandler feels quite strongly that a more satisfactory building will result if the regional headquarters submits and promotes the use of suitable plans. He suggested that MLA consider drawing up a standard plan adaptable to small communities. In answer to a question, Mr. Chandler said the P.E.I. branches used oil-burning heaters.

### 1954 Conferences

Tentative plans for the CLA Conference were discussed, and Mr. Grossman reported that CLA would meet in Halifax beginning June 23, 1954. Most of the meetings would be held in the Nova Scotian Hotel. Detailed plans and committee work would necessarily fall to Halifax members of MLA, but Mr. Grossman will be happy to have help from outside members wherever possible.

He then raised the question of a 1954 MLA Conference, suggesting that two meetings would be a heavy responsibility for the members. A motion was passed that MLA hold a short annual meeting in conjunction with the CLA Conference in 1954. Mr. Chandler suggested an afternoon session immediately preceding the CLA meetings. After discussion, details of time, duration and content of such a meeting were left to the discretion of the MLA executive.

Miss Cameron asked if it would not be advisable to discuss what type of entertainment MLA might be expected to provide for delegates to the CLA Conference. Mr. Grossman assured the meeting that nothing in that nature would be expected.

### MLA Bulletin Policies

Mr. Grossman, chairman of BULLETIN discussion, raised points outlined by the Editor in a memorandum to the executive dated Apr. 29, 1953, and asked the meeting whether the MLA BULLETIN should serve primarily as a news-sheet, or whether the content should be largely articles on professional subjects. Discussion



leaned to the view that a professional journal should be the aim. Mr. Chandler pointed out that articles suitable for publication in the CLA Bulletin should continue to be submitted to that journal while the MLA BULLETIN confines itself to material having more local application. Members believed there are enough librarians in the Maritimes now to produce a worthwhile journal, but pointed out that it is everyone's responsibility to submit material and that the editor should not have to pry articles out of the members. Mr. Chandler's report on library buildings was cited as an excellent source of a series of short articles, including plans to appear on the page devoted to pictures.

The meeting felt that chattier news items of very local or passing interest should be avoided, and personal items confined to such information as appointments and resignations, to be treated as straightforward news items.

The necessity in the past for the editor to write so much of the BULLETIN himself raised the question of appointing an editorial committee, but discussion ruled this out. The paper's content will always in the last analysis be one person's responsibility, though the responsibility of every member was reiterated: to contribute material to lighten the editor's load and help produce a paper which pleases everyone. The general feeling was that the editor should not alter the style of an article submitted. He should accept it as written, send it back to the author for alterations or refuse it. Other points raised by the Editor were answered as follows:

Size: Leave it as it is for the present.

Mailing: Send bundles to library heads for distribution to staff members.

Nonmember mailing list: Requests by outsiders for BULLETINS are too few to justify concern at present.

Index: Miss Shirley Elliott indexed the BULLETIN up to 1952 for CLA, and the index is now in the CLA office.

A motion was passed expressing to Mr. Redmond the appreciation of the members for the work he does in producing the BULLETIN. Mr. Angus Mowat asked permission to add to the discussion the statement that of all the many library journals which pass across his desk, the MLA BULLETIN is one of the few he actually reads and thoroughly enjoys. Several New Brunswick members expressed satisfaction with the BULLETIN as it now appears.

It was suggested that any libraries receiving the publications of other library associations should submit lists of those received to the Editor, for listing in the BULLETIN, and make them available to members upon request. Provincial Library headquarters in Halifax receives many and will be glad to lend them.

### Resolutions

Miss Olga Bishop, chairman, with Miss Shirley Elliott and Miss Jean Gill, presented resolutions of thanks to the Cape Breton Regional Library Board; to Miss Ruby Wallace and her staff; to Dr. M. A. MacLellan for the use of the Xavier College auditorium; to Mr. Angus Mowat for his delightful talk at the dinner; to Miss Katherine McLennan for her talk and tour of the Louisbourg Museum; to the press and radio. These resolutions were adopted as read.

A resolution was passed after amendment, that the Maritime Library Association go on record as endorsing the findings of the Grossman Report conducted under the auspices of the New Brunswick Department of Education, and that this endorsement be communicated to the New Brunswick Library Association.

It was resolved, that the appreciation of the Maritime Library Association for the removal of the ten percent sales tax on books, by the Federal Government, be communicated to Finance Minister Abbott.

It was resolved, that the Maritime Library Association go on record as commending progress being made toward erection of a building for the National Library; and a motion was passed that commendation be communicated to the National Library's Building Committee.

Regarding professional librarians in government library positions, it was resolved, that the Canadian Library Association be asked to consider the possibility that representations should be made to the government that appointees to positions in the Library of Parliament and other government institutions should be professional librarians insofar as is possible.

#### New Business

A letter from Mr. Wardell of the University Press of New Brunswick was read, but discussion was postponed as circulars would be sent to the members.

A vote of thanks to Miss Evelyn Campbell was passed, for the work she has done on behalf of the Association.

Members were advised that the recruiting pamphlet on librarianship was available from the Secretary.

The meeting adjourned to the Museum at the fortress of Louisbourg, where Miss McLennan recounted anecdotes of the people who lived in Louisbourg when it was a fortress before 1758. The tour of the Museum was of great historical interest. Lobster luncheon was served in the Louisbourg Legion Hall, and there was a brief visit to the Louisbourg branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library, to end the conference activities.

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#### L.C. CATALOG AT MOUNT St. VINCENT (Continued)

available for modern American books..." (We add that Canadiana is well represented too.) "The Printed Catalog is not particularly useful for checking books printed in foreign countries before 1871, books highly specialized in subject, or non-copyright material. Yet within its sphere, the Printed Catalog is the best in its field..."

P.S.--Our Library at Mount St. Vincent College has been a corporate book collector since our fire in 1951--and we can vouch for the assistance rendered by the Catalog of Books Represented by the Library of Congress Printed Cards; its Supplement; Cumulative Catalogs; Author Catalogs; and since January 1953, its Books; Authors.

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