

LIBRARY

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of  
The Maritime Library Association

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Prince Edward Island Libraries  
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

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The Maritime Library Association Conference

The eighth annual Conference of the Maritime Library Association, held in Halifax on November 7 and 8, was considered by the members attending, to be a most successful and enjoyable reunion.

The morning meetings were held in the Engineering Building at Dalhousie University. Miss Elisabeth H. Morton, Secretary to the Canadian Library Council, was the principal speaker at the first meeting. She spoke on the history of the Canadian Library Council, and the proposed formation of a Canadian Library Association. She said that many Provincial associations wished the formation of such an association, and the M. L. A. was asked for suggestions and criticism on this important subject. The session concluded with a film on the Tennessee Valley Authority shown by the Director of Visual Education for Nova Scotia.

In the afternoon the delegates visited the Mount Saint Vincent Public Library for the citizens of Rockingham, also the main library and library science room of the Mt. St. Vincent College. A collection of very fine children's books and some early manuscripts and rare bindings were on display. The library science students served tea with the kindness and graciousness always shown at Mt. St. Vincent.

In the evening, at a public meeting at the Lord Nelson Hotel, sponsored by the M. L. A., the University Women's Club, and the Home and School Association, Dr. E. A. Corbett, Director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, spoke on "Education Fights for Freedom". Dr. Corbett discussed adult education, its importance in a democracy, and the obstacles of fear and reaction that prevent the carrying out of a complete program of adult education. He stressed the importance of basing such a program on the needs and wishes of the people for whom it is intended, rather than trying to impose a professional system from the top. Dr. Corbett's speech was most instructive and inspiring and definitely a high light of the Conference.

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Public Archives of Nova Scotia  
HALIFAX, N. S.

The last session of the Conference on Thursday morning, began with the showing of the Film, LIBRARY ON WHEELS, a documentary on the Fraser Valley Regional Library system, made by the National Film Board and sponsored by the Canadian Library Council. The Association considered this film so excellent that a motion was passed to request the National Film Board to make more such films, particularly on town and city libraries.

Following this, Miss Dorothy Cullen spoke on the use of radio publicity for libraries and the work done by various libraries to stimulate an interest in reading by means of radio programs. Some interesting discussion grew out of this. Mr. D. K. Crowdis, Curator of the Provincial Museum, led a discussion on the promotion of discussion groups, Citizen's Forum and its relation to libraries and to education in general.

The following Resolutions were brought in:

1. Resolved that the Maritime Library Association put itself on record as favoring the establishment of a Canadian Library Association to work in harmony with the American Library Association, to which Canadian Libraries and librarians owe so much.
2. Resolved that, knowing the steps the Government is taking to bring a high standard of education to the Province of Nova Scotia, and realizing that illiteracy must be eliminated from a democratic society, and knowing that libraries are an integral part of education and social welfare, the M. L. A. is convinced that now is the time for the establishment of Regional Libraries in N. S. and N. B. and resolved that communications to this effect be sent to the Premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
3. Resolved that the M. L. A. put itself on record as considering that a Public Library would be a lasting and appropriate War Memorial for the city of Halifax, and that this library should be the centre of a county development and perhaps in the future of a provincial set-up; and that a communication to this effect be sent to the Mayor of Halifax and to the Warden of the County.
4. Resolved that the Canadian Information Service be asked to continue the publication of "Canadian Affairs" and its distribution to Canadian libraries, schools and study groups.
5. Resolved that the thanks of the M. L. A. be tendered to the Engineering Department of Dalhousie University for their hospitality; to the guest speakers; to the Director of Visual Education for the showing of the films, to the Press and to the Radio.
6. Resolved that the thanks of the Association be given to the President and the retiring executive for the period of service, and to Miss Cullen for her excellent work as successor to Mrs. Ingraham as Editor of the Bulletin of the M. L. A.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following new slate of officers:

President: Mrs. M. J. Thompson, Librarian, University of N. B.  
Vice-President: Mr. M. F. Boone, (Nova Scotia)  
Miss E. M. A. Vaughan (New Brunswick)  
Miss Jean Gill ( P. E. I.)

These vice-presidents will also act as Councillors, and the first named vice-president is appointed to act in the absence of the President.

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Evelyn M. Campbell, Prov. Science Library, Halifax, N. S.  
Editor of the Bulletin: Miss Dorothy Cullen, P. E. I. Libraries, Charlottetown, P. E. I.  
Representative to the Canadian Library Council and American Library Association: Miss Marion Gilroy, Regional Libraries Commission, Halifax, N. S.

The meeting then adjourned and the Halifax Library Club entertained the members of the Association at a luncheon at the Lord Nelson Hotel. A feature of the luncheon was the presentation to Mrs. M. K. Ingraham, in recognition of her long and faithful service to the M. L. A., of the book Masterpieces of Painting from the National Gallery of Art.

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The Crerar German Military Library  
Capt. H.B. Chandler, M.A.

The Crerar German Military Library had its origin in the need of Canadian Army Authorities in Germany for material which would help allied administrators in the occupied areas. In the Canadian zone of occupation this purpose was achieved and it was then decided to enlarge the scope of collection of books, pamphlets and documents so that German military thought and tradition might be available to future students of the art of war in Canada. The writer was assigned to assist in the organization of such a library.

As may be imagined, the chaotic conditions in Germany in the spring of 1945 were not favourable to a careful and considered approach to the task. Two intelligence document teams working over the area (Northwest Germany) on the original project were eventually combined and a base of operations was selected in Delmenhorst, a small town of 35,000 about eight miles from Bremen in the province of Oldenburg. A small office building in a local training camp was appropriated and by mid-May the sorting out began. The staff at this time consisted of three officers, five M.C.O.'s, two

drivers, and a German civilian who doubled admirably as janitor and gardener.

At the end of April the writer had appealed for help to the English Library Association through its genial secretary Mr. D.C.H. Jones, and that excellent organization quickly came to the rescue with a 1926 edition of Dewey and the A. L. A. Cataloguing Rules. The Association was a constant and dependable source of aid.

For a variety of reasons it was necessary to catalogue as much of the library as possible on the spot. The collection of material was a continual process and a check had to be available to prevent needless duplication. Further, occasional requests for information were made by counter-intelligence and technical experts, and liason was necessary with somewhat similar collections in the British and American zones.

The difficulties of organizing suitable staff and obtaining equipment to work with were considerable. To soldiers with high point scores and keyed up to the excitements of the campaign, the prospect of settling down in a library largely isolated from Canadian units looked pretty grim. Fortunately they were all German-speaking, and a time limit of September 15th was set for their stay. Work proceeded at high speed, and each man was made responsible for one or two of the usual routine tasks of a library - typing catalogue cards, filing, checking, translating titles, etc. A Russian lad adopted by the staff proved skilled in printing classification numbers on books. Variety to life was added by trips in search of books, rations and mail, and an occasional weekend in Holland. As pressure of work increased two German girls were taken on as typists, later two more for sorting and filing. As the writer was the only member of the staff with a knowledge of cataloguing or of standard library procedure the flow of work constantly depended on the amount of energy he could summon up for the day's tasks. An average of one hundred volumes a day was maintained over one period of ten weeks.

Equipment was the biggest headache. Typewriters, for example, were one of the most difficult items to pry loose from Army stores. Eventually two English typewriters were obtained, of different type size, of course. A good machine of German make was available but with the letters Y and Z in reversed positions to the usual English keyboard arrangement. Typewriter ribbons in the Army come in plain black, while German ribbons, in very short supply, were obtainable in red and black, but wore out in a few days. Catalogue cards were also a fruitful source of minor crises. The Army had abundant supplies of oversize ruled cards used in a filing system of its own, but the cards fitted a four-drawer cabinet found in the German barracks so work was begun using these. An indent would be made for plain white cards and the Army would respond valiantly with plain blue ones, or ruled white ones. The problem was

finally disposed of by the discovery of suitable stock in the shop of a local printer who promptly cut cards of the size required. A mechanic in the town made an adequate accession stamp, while a cabinet maker reproduced the original cabinet eight times over as the catalogue grew.

The content of the catalogue card was settled after some misgivings by making a reasonably complete entry in German followed by an English translation of the title. Subject headings, because of the specialized nature of the collection and the varied military terms of opposing armies, were frequently difficult to decide on.

As previously stated, material was constantly gathered from various sources, chiefly military installations, officers' clubs, Party headquarters, and public libraries in the zone. The last source contained much material on anti-semitism, racial hygiene, and other evidences of Party doctrine. Under an order from AMG all libraries were required to purge their shelves of such books before reopening. Other sources were in process of dispersal as a matter of high policy. A most extensive collection of Army training and descriptive pamphlets was obtained, among other things, from the Hamburg military district library.

About one third of the cataloguing of the library remains to be completed in Ottawa where it is anticipated that it will form a special collection associated with the existing military library at National Defence Headquarters.

Approximately 8000 volumes, several thousand pamphlets, and many unsorted documents comprise the library. The material relates chiefly to the German army, navy and airforce in their technical and tactical and strategical development, but there is much to interest the student of the economics and sociology of the Third Reich. Law, administration, education, agriculture, and medicine, for example, are well represented. Some of the material is undoubtedly worthy of translation but in any case its acquisition should be of considerable value for research by Canadian technicians in the fields of knowledge covered by the collection.

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Notes

The program "Books for the Times" is being broadcast by the CBC on Fridays at 7:15p.m. Mr. Ralph Marven began the series in November.

After attending the M. L. A. Conference, Miss Elizabeth H. Morton visited libraries in Saint John, Fredericton, Charlottetown and Moncton.

Library Radio Programs  
Dorothy Cullen

If the question were put to a group of librarians - "Are radio programs worthwhile as publicity" - you would find considerable difference of opinion about them; but probably most of the people who have given this medium a tryout would say that they found broadcasting worth the time and effort. It does take a good deal of time preparing radio broadcasts - it is often calculated one hour of preparation for each minute on the air - and the results are generally difficult to measure; but radio publicity can compare favorably with projects undertaken within the library - displays, booklists, etc. because it has possibilities of reaching people who are not library patrons. An advertising man speaking to the Ontario Library Association advised libraries to be more articulate; he compared a library using little publicity to a business firm which might spend all its advertising effort talking to its present customers without telling the rest of the world what it has to offer. Only by telling people about the place the library can take in the practical, social, and educational life of the community can we get our rightful share of public attention and public funds.

When you have decided to try a library radio program, the next step is to plan your program and get it broadcast. There was a very helpful article on the right approach to radio station managers in the Wilson Bulletin for Jan. 1940. In it, Mr. Fred Myers, of the Public Relations Department, Cleveland Public Library, gives pointers on the first interview, suggestions for programs, conduct at the studio, etc. He says we should remember that station managers are business men, and may have gruff exteriors, but they are ready to receive new ideas, if they are good. Perhaps the station will be willing to give time for a library program simply as a public service. Or the matter can be presented as a benefit to the station by pointing out the number of people in your locality who are interested in the library, and the possible increase in listeners for the station. For example, in a survey of listening preferences in Kansas City, on a certain day it was found that the library's children's program had 19 per cent of radios in the city tuned to it, and the evening program for adults was being heard by 22 per cent of listeners, while programs immediately before and after the library program held only 7 per cent and 17 per cent of Kansas City radios tuned to the same station. The best time for an interview is about 3:30 p.m., and Mr. Myers suggests that you have two or three program ideas developed in the form of scripts which you can show the manager and leave with him for consideration.

If the radio station agrees to put on a program, the library can do some reciprocal advertising, by having posters in the library announcing the broadcasts and prominently featuring the name of the station, by displaying the books or jackets of books mentioned on broadcasts, by mimeographing programs announcing the time of the broadcasts, and by setting up a radio in the library as a listening post.

In planning the type of program, the audience you expect to reach must be taken into consideration. If you have any choice of radio time, you can adjust that to suit your programs (avoiding conflict with network programs which hold the spotlight) - for example, early evening is considered the best time for children's programs, for women listeners you would choose daytime which does not run into meal hours, and general programs for adults would be well-timed about 7:15 or 7:30 p.m. before people have gone out for the evening. However, if you have to take the time allotted to you, you will plan your program to suit the listeners who may be tuned in at that time.

From Lazarsfeld's analysis of radio listening "Radio and the printed page" we can garner some facts having a bearing on planning programs which will do most to introduce the library to non-users and get regular patrons to use it more. Book talks are the greatest stimulus to reading; people who are naturally fond of reading, but who have little formal education find in radio programs the guidance they need. This would lead to an assumption that book reviews with the plot unfolded to an exciting point and readers' advisory programs should be popular. However, there are other universal interests which can be tied up with books for a radio broadcast. Quiz programs are generally popular because they help to give the listener a feeling of superiority - he hears questions which he himself can answer, and perhaps the contestant cannot, he picks out the winner and sometimes has his judgment confirmed, he finds that people without college degrees can win, he learns the answers to questions he did not know. Widespread liking for music, and for news broadcasts might be utilized in building a library program, and you would find a readymade audience waiting for you. The Albany Public Library suggests matching books with recordings - that is, to choose certain selections and write book blurbs to tie in with them; for example, "Home on the range" would bring up books on the West, "Ma, I miss your apple pie" might preface a note on cookbooks, and "Anchors aweigh" would introduce stories of the Navy. You can think of many examples of this idea. Another proposal they made was to build a library script around news items which appear in your daily papers. Last summer there was a considerable furore in the Island papers about the apprehension of two suspected bank robbers at a race-track near Charlotte-town. Such an event might touch off a talk on robbers of different times and places, great detectives, etc. with mention of books about them.

Your program, then should emphasize features appealing to a majority, either by being directed to special groups or using subjects with some widespread attraction. Whatever your theme, the material must be lively, written in a conversational style so that the speaker will sound as though talking directly to the person tuned in on the program.

The most common type of program directed to adults is the Book Review. Since this is the only kind of radio program in which I have had actual experience, I would like to tell you a little about our radio book talks. They have been broadcast over radio station CFCY during the winter season of the past seven years. The time of the program has been a factor in selection of books for review; at first when we broadcast in the morning they were mainly ones that would appeal to women; now on an evening program we use books of general interest. The choice of books for any one broadcast is quite varied; we do not, like some reviewers, stick to books on one subject - we talk about the new books and try to avoid the more popular ones in order to boost other titles. Generally, three books are discussed in a 15 minute broadcast. The reviews are written co-operatively; I mean that two of the staff contribute - one writing two reviews and the other one, and vice versa in alternate weeks - and sometimes we even have a review contributed by an outsider; last spring a college professor reviewed "Report on the Russians" for us. Our reviews are chatty rather than critical, and I'm afraid that we sometimes tell too much of the story - people may get the idea that they know all about the book and don't need to read it - but then I read similar reviews in the New York Times Book Review and decide "what's good enough for them is good enough for us". And we are not really aiming at having the specific books we mention extensively read - if we achieved that, the library would not have enough copies for the demand. Rather, we just want to keep the library before the public, and perhaps give some people the pleasure of hearing about books even though they will never read them. As everyone says about radio publicity, I have found too that it is hard to see definite results. We hardly ever get any fan mail - I read somewhere that one letter represents a thousand listeners, so probably we have only 999 listeners - but people often say, in the summertime, "You're not on the radio now - I like to listen to your broadcasts" - or being introduced to someone, I will be greeted, "You're the Miss Cullen who gives book reviews". We find too that people do ask for the books reviewed; a copy of the script is placed in the Charlottetown Public Library, and people consult that for the correct titles, which they seem to have difficulty getting, even though I try to pronounce them very clearly, and we always make a point of naming the books at the beginning of the talk, and going over them again at the close. The absence of a visible audience makes it hard sometimes to keep from speaking in a stilted way; I have tried the idea of thinking of someone you know might be listening and directing your remarks to that person. Last winter I had a seemingly appreciative audience right in front of me; the control operator, a young college girl, used to sit facing me on the other side of the glass partition, with her chin in her hands, drinking in every word; that was a great boost to my morale; another of the station staff requested several of the books reviewed.

Sometimes reviews are presented as a discussion between two or more people. In Hartford, Connecticut, two people from the library



staff, with a different guest each week, talk more or less "ad lib" about a book that the three have read. The speakers have some notes and spend about a half hour warming up beforehand, but to a certain degree the program is created while they are on the air. They "do not try to cover a set of points, reach a conclusion or review the book from a critical standpoint".

The Cuyahoga County Library created two radio characters -- Jean and Jane -- played by members of their staff -- who discuss all kinds of problems and prove their points with books. A similar device is used by a branch library in Chicago; the use of books to solve practical problems is emphasized, and listeners are directed to the library where they may get the books. This sounds like an interesting kind of broadcast; but writing the script would be quite difficult, I should think.

It is possible to get ready made scripts for book reviews. In the A. L. A. Bulletin for June 1945, Miss Luella S. Laudin tells us that the National Council of Women of the United States will distribute scripts weekly for a fifteen minute program to groups which will actually broadcast the material. They may be presented without giving credit to the council; she does not say whether there is any charge.

A series of library broadcasts might be varied by talking about the library as a whole, or about special services, rather than about individual books. Such subjects would occur to me as; Library service to schools, the library budget, special services such as reference work -- for example. A program sponsored by the Vancouver Public Library "The Voice of the Library" answered questions on books and library service; and Grand Rapids put on a series in which the librarian asked the reference worker questions which were submitted by listeners. The answers were given and discussion followed, bringing out new facts and curious old ones.

Another way of presenting library facts and news is by "spot announcements" -- notes taking about thirty seconds to read which the radio announcer can interpolate whenever he wants to fill in time. The St. Louis Public Library has used this idea with success -- you would hear such items as "For boys who are interested in model boat racing, there are books on boat building in the public library. Do you have a library card?" The New Jersey Library Association asked radio stations to announce in connection with any program based on good books that they may be borrowed from public libraries. Spot announcements may be procured monthly from the A. L. A. Public Relations Office again I do not know whether they are free. A librarian in Fairbanks, Alaska, reported in a recent A. L. A. Bulletin that these spot announcements were tried out on their radio station, received approval and proved the opening wedge for a 15-minute book review program. I have often thought when I hear theatre programs advertised on the air that we should have mention made of the book in the library on which a

movie is based. But then there are probably too many people clamoring for that book anyway.

As a general rule, we would be well-advised not to attempt dramatization of books over the radio. While it may be a type of program that has a general appeal, there are so many plays, serials, etc. broadcast by professional talent, that home-made shows would not have much chance to build up a following. However, I have seen reports of the method being successfully used. In Oklahoma City, the Junior League sponsored dramatizations of children's books, in which the members took part under a professional director. They presented interesting parts of the books and suggested that listeners borrow from the library for the rest of the story. Considerable ingenuity was used in making thrillers out of good books to compete with the kind of radio program popular with children. The only stipulation made by publishers in giving permission to present their books was that credit be given to the author and publisher.

If you have money to spend on publicity, you can have dramatic broadcasts without relying on home talent. The Association of Junior Leagues of America has issued transcriptions for radio broadcasting in which books, chosen with the help of prominent children's librarians, are played by stage and radio actors. The titles available include Trap lines north by Meader, Level land by DeJong, Captain Kidd's cow by Phil Stong, and Smoky bay by Arason. You may have seen in the Ontario Library Review for August the report by Miss Ruth Milne on the use of these transcriptions in Hamilton. The Public Library cooperated with the Hamilton Junior League and radio station C.K.O.C. in presenting the series - displayed posters, the books dramatized as well as those on the correlated reading list - and found that the books gained in popularity, although they could not be sure whether new readers were brought to the library, or whether only the good readers responded. For use over the air, the set of 13 recordings may be rented at \$65.00. There are also 12 inch phonograph records for use in libraries, classrooms, etc. available at \$3.50 per book. Miss Milne informs me that one would probably have to pay duty on purchased recordings but by appealing the case to Ottawa and representing them as educational items, one might get a refund of the duty.

Now that we are talking about radio programs for children, another type that comes to mind is the story-telling program. We hear of these originating in St. Catharines, Ontario, Saskatoon, and Calgary. The latter two broadcast directly from the library. In the Wilson Library Bulletin for June 1945, Miss Louise Riley of Calgary describes their experience. Since the stories have to be timed exactly, they are told first at a branch library, then at a staff meeting, and finally before a microphone and an average audience of forty children in the library. The stories are chiefly folk and fairy tales and hero stories, told simply without sound effects or dramatization. Four members of the staff are responsible for one program each month.

Listeners are scattered from the Saskatchewan border to the Rocky mountains; many of them find an extra charm in hearing the response to the stories displayed by the children who are present at the program. Miss Riley says, "We have proved to our own satisfaction that there is an audience for a radio program of this type..... There are good stories from many countries to enrich a child's imagination, to awaken his interest, to widen his understanding and to bring him pleasure. Such stories are part of every child's heritage and it is the librarian's job to see that he is not deprived of it." The program is not presented solely with the purpose of bringing more readers into the library, but with the wider aim of bringing good stories to children outside the cities who do not have library service.

In this field too there is professional talent available. Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, noted Norwegian-American story teller has made records of five stories - Sleeping Beauty, Baldur, and others; they are sold as a set for \$10.00 by the A. L. A., and in one source it was stated that they could be presented on the air by writing to RCA Victor for permission.

Book reviews of children's books have also been popular. In Lincoln, Nebraska, the library got space on a program called the "Adventure Hour" featuring such serials as The Lone Ranger, and found it a big help to be next to a program of established popularity - they then had an opportunity of proving that true literature can be as thrilling as commercial serials. The 15-minute program took up six to eight books limited to one topic, such as the circus, adventures with birds, and it brought children to the library looking for the books, which were displayed on the Adventure Hour Shelf. This library also liked the idea of having junior reviewers on the air - boys and girls who would discuss the books they liked. Particular mention was made of a four-year old boy who brought to the studio and told about his favorite book "Raffy and the honkebeest".

In Chicago, a quiz program each week brought teams from the public schools to match knowledge of books. Children could send in questions or form teams to take part in the show. Interest in making up questions and participating induced children to read more books.

Different devices for getting a response from the listeners have been used. The Troy Public Library, in connection with its dramatizations of children's books, asked a question at the end of the play, e.g. after "Alice in Wonderland" they asked, "If you could go through the looking glass what would you like to have happen?" The best answers sent in were given prizes and posted on a bulletin board in the library. Kansas City Public Library took the advice of an advertising man who told them that listeners will not write in unless they are given something they want for nothing; when they offered listeners a leather bookmark, the 500 they had made was not enough to fill the demand. Others who use radio programs say scarcity of response should not be too discouraging. Radio broadcasting is effective in giving the public a greater knowledge of and interest in the library. As one commentator put it: it's really "nice work, and you can get it".