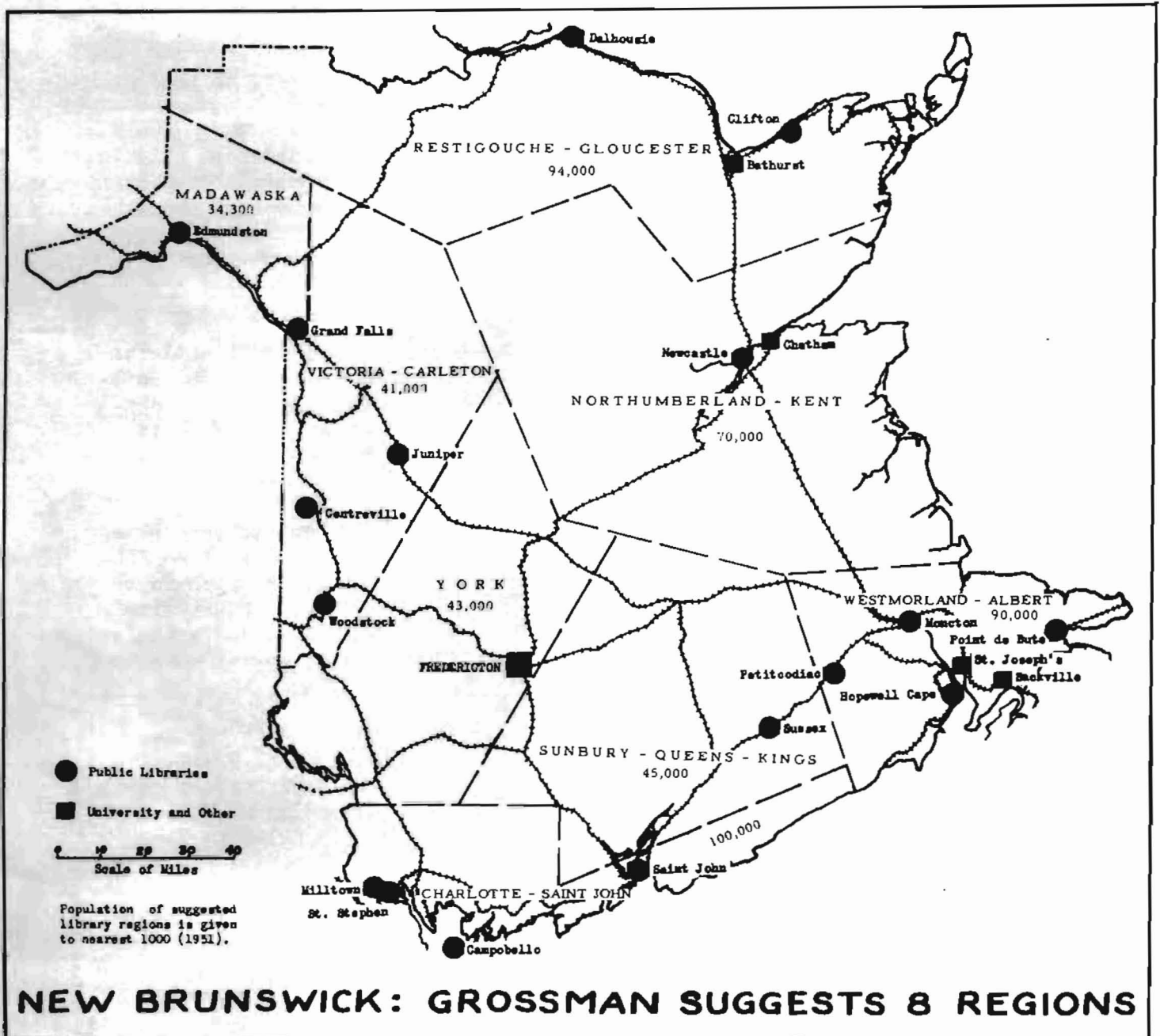


# MLA BULLETIN

MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
Volume 17 Number 3 Spring 1953



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M.L.A. CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, JUNE 19-20.  
PROGRAM ON PAGE 56. BE SURE TO ATTEND!

"A WHOLE BRIGHT ADVENTURE AT A FEW PENNIES A DAY"--See Page 59.

Our faces, individually and collectively, are very red at the delay in producing the Winter BULLETIN. Delayed initially in hope that news would break in Fredericton, the copy went to the Multigraph Division just in time for the Nova Scotia Legislature to swamp the duplicators with work. Next year we'll try to avoid the legislative red tape.

The Low Hill Library in Wolverhampton, England, announced Feb. 18 that children sucking lollipops will not be allowed to borrow books.

The Grossman Report is the season's biggest news in New Brunswick. The lead article in this issue summarizes the conclusions and recommendations of the report, largely in Mr. Grossman's own words. The front cover map shows strikingly the difficulties of sparse and diverse population facing the organizer of regional library service in New Brunswick. Perhaps the map should have shown the 80 percent of New Brunswick's area that is forest (Canada Yearbook, 1951).

In keeping with the growing library boom in New Brunswick, other articles include the N.B.L.A. brief to the Fredericton City Council, an excellent catechism of the organization and possibilities of public library service; a description of the new Old Manse Library in Newcastle; reports on Book Week in N. B.; Miss Bishop's report on her M.A.L.S. course; and news notes. Total, better than twelve pages.

Coming attractions (as the movies say): There was a sudden and very pleasing rush of material for the BULLETIN last month. Perhaps some Maritime librarians made good on New Year's resolutions. Anyway, waiting for space to be published are: the second part of Phyllis Blakeley's story of her publishing adventures; a book review to end all book reviews (or reviewers); and articles describing the varied uses of the Library of Congress Catalog, now at work in three Maritime libraries.

Despite temptation, BULLETIN illustration has to be confined to one page, so some fine photographs of the new Glace Bay library, and of Book Week activities in Fredericton, have had to wait. However, it is possible to use small sketches in the text pages. So if you can produce sketches, diagrams, floor plans, or what have you, to accompany BULLETIN items, we'll be glad to have them. Not larger than seven by ten inches, please.

This issue contains the program for the Sydney conference. Let's be sure everyone who can get there will be there with something to contribute; and as a reminder of the questions raised in the Winter issue, let's have some discussion of the BULLETIN. Hitchhiking may be necessary before I get there--but the BULLETIN needs all the interest it can stir up.

By widening the margins a quarter of an inch, the BULLETIN wastes a page of space every issue. Should we waste it, or fill up every available inch, even

*if it means doing this?*

## *Provincial Library, Regional Grants, Scholarships Recommended for N.B.*

Establishment of a Provincial Library, local taxing power for regional library authorities, and matching grants by the Provincial Government to regional libraries were highlight recommendations of the report on library service in New Brunswick made by Peter Grossman, director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, tabled in the New Brunswick Legislature on March 24. Redefinition of the functions of the Legislative Library, more adequate facilities for it, and provincial scholarships for prospective librarians were other important points. The report emphasized step-by-step development of any plans for public library service in New Brunswick, and warned that there is no quick, cheap or easy way.

The general conclusions of the Grossman Report listed nine major points in the existing library situation in New Brunswick:

1. There is a widespread interest in, and realization of the need for, library service as evidenced by:
  - (a) The half million books in the existing libraries. It is true that many of these are obsolete but the fact that these libraries exist and are growing is evidence that their value is recognized.
  - (b) The persistent attempts of small groups and communities to provide themselves with library service even though they realize the limitations and difficulties.
  - (c) The growing recognition of the part that the library should and can play in the schools and universities.
2. In view of the comparatively small population and limited resources of the Province no library, of any type, can afford to be completely independent. The lack of cooperation between libraries results in unnecessary duplication of effort and materials and failure to make use of present resources. If there is to be a province-wide library service, every library must cooperate.
3. There is a general lack of understanding of just what constitutes good library service. This is the chief source of apathy or opposition to library development, but even many of those who are interested do not know what a good library service can accomplish.
4. There is a shortage of professionally trained librarians. The present libraries, apart from schools, could profitably employ from fifteen to twenty more without being overstaffed. This takes no account of the number that will be needed for any expanded program.
5. There is a lack of understanding of the job of the librarian. He is not just a custodian of books. In addition to the subject background necessary for a particular type of library, he must be able to select, evaluate, organize and present the materials of the library for their most efficient use.
6. A carefully formulated policy for acquiring and preserving archival material and newspaper files is vitally necessary. Many documents and papers of great importance have already been sold or otherwise lost to the Province.

7. The Regional high schools may well cooperate in a library system in their respective districts to the mutual advantage of school and community, but a library service based solely on the school does not appear to be practicable.
8. There should be a Government library agency which would:
  - (a) Relieve the Legislative Library of those activities that do not properly belong to it.
  - (b) Promote and encourage the organization of suitable library service units.
  - (c) Organize a provincial interlibrary loan system.
  - (d) Set up the machinery for the centralized operation of such technical processes as may be most efficiently operated on a provincial level.
9. A plan that would permit the organization of a province-wide system of regional libraries, jointly supported and controlled by local and Provincial authorities, appears to be feasible.

### Recommendations

Enabling legislation for regional library activity, superseding the New Brunswick Library Act of 1929, is the first step, the report says, adding that establishment of service in each region "will be a long, slow process continually hampered by difficulties in reaching agreements between local authorities, financial problems and shortage of trained personnel. There is no quick, cheap, or easy way." Regional units of size and population consistent with efficient service, with centralized administration, technical processing and reference service, developed one region at a time, are suggested. The cover map shows suggested areas. Suggested organizations for the Carleton-Victoria and the Madawaska regions are discussed, and the report emphasizes that autonomy and service of existing libraries would not be altered.

Nineteen major recommendations are listed:

1. That a Provincial Library be established under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Education.
2. That an advisory body to be known as the Library Council be appointed.
3. That a Director of Provincial Library services be appointed and provision made for accommodation and staff to perform such of the following or other services as may be considered advisable:
  - (a) Promotion and supervision of library services throughout the Province.
  - (b) Library service by mail.
  - (c) Centralized cataloging and processing of books.
  - (d) Provincial reference and interlibrary loan services.
4. That the service referred to in recommendation 3(b) be confined to service by mail and consist only of books of information or recognized literary value.
5. That local authorities, i.e. city, town, village or county, be authorized to pay for the support of library services out of general tax-revenues.
6. That provision be made for such local authorities to enter into an agreement for Regional Library services.

7. That Regional Library Supervisors to act as Librarians of the Regional Libraries be appointed to the staff of the Provincial Library at such times as the Regional Libraries are established.
8. That annual grants by the Provincial Government to Regional Libraries be made on a matching basis within limits to be established by regulation.
9. That provision be made for grants by the Provincial Government for initial bookstocks of Regional Libraries.
10. That Provincial support for public library buildings be made available on the same basis as for school buildings.
11. That the Legislative Library cease to perform public library services either directly or by mail.
12. That the Legislative Library be provided with more adequate work and storage facilities.
13. That an Archives Division of the Legislative Library be established with qualified personnel and that some agreement as to policy be reached among all institutions possessing archival material.
14. That the activities of the Department of Education Library be continued and extended through the appointment of school library supervisors.
15. That the Teacher's College Library be given increased support and used solely for library purposes.
16. That the Teacher's College Summer School course in library work be continued and extended to meet the requirements of part time regional library employees.
17. That in view of the serious shortage of professionally trained librarians, scholarships be made available to encourage suitable persons to enter the profession.
18. That legislation be passed providing for the above recommendations.
19. That the Public Libraries Act (Statutes N. B. 1951, c.202) be repealed.

Copies of the report, "Library Service in New Brunswick" by Peter Grossman, are available from the Department of Education, Fredericton, N. B.

#### Dalhousie and Milltown Library Boards Elected

Transfer of the Dalhousie library to new quarters is planned, and a French section and longer hours are proposed, J. P. Mercier, president, told the annual meeting. Other officers include George MacInness, vice-president; Mrs. J. P. Nugent, Secretary-treasurer and librarian. Financial assistance has been given by the New Brunswick International Paper Co., the town of Dalhousie, and members, and a campaign for increased funds will be launched soon.

William Ryan was elected president at the first annual meeting of the Milltown library board; Charles Monahan is vice-president, Mrs. W.W. Graham secretary, Mrs. Harry L. Haley treasurer. The year-old library is making steady progress, with 2000 circulation in 1952. Donations have been made by the town, the school board, and the high school student council.

# Wonderful World of Books

By ALBERTA LETTS

Ways to get greater enjoyment from books are the subjects of The Wonderful World of Books. An outgrowth of the Conference on Rural Reading held in Washington in September 1951, under the auspices of the U.S. Agriculture Dept. Extension Service, it is a nonprofit volume representing the cooperative efforts of a number of organizations interested in encouraging reading. Edited by Alfred Stefferud, editor of the U.S.D.A. Yearbook, illustrated by Robert Osborn, it was published simultaneously as a paperbound Mentor Book (New American Library) and a clothbound edition (Houghton Mifflin). Sponsors are the Adult Education Assn., American Book Publishers Council, American Booksellers Assn., Houghton Mifflin, National Council of Teachers of English, New American Library, the Sears, Roebuck Foundation, and the U.S. Agriculture department.

The foreword says, "This is a friendly, helpful guide to the pleasures of reading." Rather than a guide, these 300 pages of fine print seemed to me a complete library in itself. Rather than an appetizer, it is a more than adequate full course meal leading to an uncomfortable feeling of satiation. On completing its contents, a light diet of musical comedy or TV would appeal more than a headlong flight to library shelves.

The dedication put me off right at the beginning. I do not see myself as a twig-bender, nor, if it comes to that, as a pioneer or missionary. I earn a living doing work I enjoy and that I consider worth doing, but I beat no drums nor tambourines, nor do I bend twigs.

However, I think librarians are going to be grateful for this book. It has gathered together a great deal of readable and quotable information about books and library service by some 70 people, many of whom we have come to regard as experts in our field. Most of them are people who have something worth saying, and have the ability to put it on paper in a clear and interesting manner. Few of the articles are more than five pages in length, many of them considerably shorter, and this has forced on the authors a compactness of thought which has led to a commendable clarity. You cannot skim through it because the articles and subject matter change with every other page or so, and skimming leads to confusion. But neither do you have to read it from cover to cover--as I have mentioned before, this method results in mental indigestion. Treat the table of contents as a menu and choose the articles or subjects or authors in which you are interested at the time. By doing this, I found I had spent a considerable time reading with enjoyment and profit a book I had been loath to open, and decided that it was a book I should like to keep at hand for future reference.

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## L. C. Speeds Card Service for Copyright Books

The Library of Congress is speeding production of catalog cards for new books, by asking publishers to send copies as soon as they are available. The new books are given priority cataloging, so that cards will be available by publication date of the books. The books are then examined for possible review in the U.S. Quarterly Book Review, which will thus be able to include books published within a few days of the issue date of the Review. The project is a second step in a cooperative program between L.C. and the American Book Publishers Council. Last year L.C. began pre-assigning card numbers for new books, so that the L.C. card number can accompany the copyright statement printed in the books.

# *Public Library Service: a Brief*

The following brief was presented to the Fredericton City Council on Feb. 10, 1953, by Robert Rogers on behalf of the Fredericton members of the New Brunswick Library Association, and a body of other interested citizens.

In view of the great interest which citizens of Fredericton have shown in the past few months, the Fredericton members of the N.B.L.A. prepared the brief. Mr. Donald Gammon, cataloger of the Legislative Library, did much of the work and was assisted by Mr. Maurice Boone, Librarian of the Legislative Library.

A delegation of 65 interested citizens appeared before City Council to support the brief, and Mayor H. S. Wright at the conclusion of the discussion promised that Fredericton would have a public library in 1953—perhaps not on the scale suggested in the brief, but a nucleus from which a fuller service might grow.

## 1. What is public library service?

A public library exists for two purposes: entertainment and education. Its objectives are as follows:

a) To assemble, preserve, and administer books and related materials in organized collections, in order to promote, through guidance and stimulation, an enlightened citizenship and enriched personal lives.

b) To serve the community as a general center of reliable information.

c) To provide opportunity and encouragement for children, young people, men and women to educate themselves continuously.

## 2. What is a public library?

A. It is a building.

No site can possibly be too good for a public library. Experience in other cities has shown that a well-run and well-used library enhances the value of nearby properties.

The belief that a public library should be in a secluded spot is now obsolete. Pillars and the grand approach are also gone. The ideal location is in the heart of the shopping district, at a busy traffic intersection, and near bus stops. In Fredericton, for example, one of the corners at Carleton and Queen is the ideal site.

If a new building is considered, there should be the closest possible consultation between the librarian and a library architect in the preparation of the plans. The librarian will be able to point out unique library requirements. Extreme care should be taken with problems of lighting, avenues of control, shelving, seating requirements, etc. It should be noted that when a library is divided into many rooms, the cost of administration skyrockets: at least one librarian per room must be available. Both inside and out, a library must be functional in design.

If an old building must be renovated, it should contain finally as many of the desirable features of the functional library as possible.

B. It is a collection of books.

A public library is a living collection of books. It is not an archives; it is not a museum. It must never be compared with a university or legislative library, whose book stock, hours of opening, and location do not combine to give a public library service.

For a given population the required number of books is fairly constant. At the present time, for example, Fredericton should have about 20,000 volumes. As new material comes in each year, a considerable amount of dead material is discarded.

A public library will maintain a reference collection adequate to the needs of its community; and it will preserve all books pertaining to the history of the city in which it is located.

The chief stock-in-trade of the public library will always be books.

C. Additional services.

As the demand increases, and as staff and money become available, the following services may be added:

- 1) Periodicals (magazines and newspapers). This service is usually started along with the book service.
- 2) Pamphlet material.
- 3) Telephone reference service.
- 4) Picture collection.
- 5) Records.
- 6) Films.
- 7) Printed music.

D. How are books obtained?

1. They are selected by the librarian and bought by the library. More than 15,000 new titles are published in English each year. The librarian is trained to use a variety of guides in selecting from this huge number of titles those books which will enhance the usefulness of the public library and best serve its many readers.

ii. The library's book stock is often increased by gifts from organizations and interested individuals. Gifts, however, are acceptable only if they meet the normal library requirements of content and format and if no special conditions are attached.

3. How does one start a public library?

Librarians of the Province have long felt the need of a new Public Libraries Act.

At the present time it would appear from existing legislation that a municipality in New Brunswick may establish a public library only through its own public library act. Saint John and Moncton Public Libraries were established in this way.

4. What is the public library board?

The public library board is a group of citizens selected to act as a liaison between the library and the public. It must be in sympathy with the aims of the library. It determines policy, is responsible for financing, and



provides continuity of administration. It maintains relations with the city council and the chief librarian.

The size of the board varies greatly from place to place, but seven is the average number.

The term of office also varies. Five years is the average period of individual service. The terms of the members are usually staggered.

In almost all cases service on the board is without pay.

#### 5. How is it selected?

The board is either elected or appointed.

However, selected, the public library board members should be public-spirited citizens. They should represent as many facets of their city life as possible. If there is an over-balance of doctors, or lawyers, or ministers, or teachers, for example, the library is inevitably robbed of its proper perspective and it will soon fail to give the comprehensive service required of it.

At least one member of the City Council should serve on the board.

#### 6. What is the public library's public?

##### A. Location of people.

A public library is intended to serve the people who are taxed to support it. It is a common practice to limit borrowers to those whose addresses appear in the city directory. However, when surrounding communities are without public library service, it is often conceded that outside individuals may join the library through payment of an annual set fee. It is assumed that mail and other costly service will be refused.

##### B. Types of people.

###### i. Different age groups are served.

Apart from the basic adult collection, extensive provisions are made to serve children. That part of the building known as the children's room has furniture of appropriate size and design. A puppet stage is often included. A children's librarian is trained in children's book selection and story-telling.

It should be noted that a reading public is formed primarily from those adults who, when children, were given the opportunity to read.

Youth's needs are met.

Extensive work is done with those school children who do not have adequate school libraries available to them.

ii. The interests of industrial groups, hobby clubs, art groups, discussion groups, service organizations, etc., are supported by appropriate book collections.

iii. Leaders in the community and public servants of all kinds are served.

iv. Individual needs are met either directly or obliquely. No member of a community is denied library service, and all members profit by its influence.

7. What is a public librarian?

A public librarian is one who through academic study, technical training, and personal suitability is capable of organizing, analyzing, and administering a book collection.

He is a community worker; he establishes relations with existing organizations, and is usually available for book talks and like services.

A public librarian respects people and knows books, and is capable of bringing the two together pleasantly and efficiently.

8. How does one find a suitable librarian?

A. Through advertising the position and the salary. It is always advisable to make enquiries concerning the applicant's suitability from his library school, or to check with other library boards under whom the librarian has served.

B. From an accredited library school. Most library schools maintain a confidential file on librarians who are available for employment; and details concerning their qualifications are kept. A library board's requirements are then considered in relation to the qualifications of the librarians. Suitable librarians, if such are available at the time, will then make application directly to the library board.

It is, of course, in the best interests of the library to have several applications from which the best possible choice may be made.

9. What salary will a librarian expect?

A chief librarian, experienced and adequately qualified to direct a public library service in a city the size of Fredericton, would probably expect a minimum salary schedule ranging from \$3500 to \$4500. With a strong leadership, newly trained or less experienced librarians might then be employed, and they would expect salaries from \$2400 to \$3400.

These figures, we feel, are fair and accurate at the present time.

10. How much does it cost to run a public library?

A. Rate per capita.

The initial cost of a library building and a working book stock is usually handled by the city as it would handle any other capital expenditure.

From then on, we believe that on the basis of the best available figures, a city the size of Fredericton would need at present a minimum of \$1.25 per capita if good basic service is to be provided.

B. Division of money.

This money, about \$20,000, should be divided as follows:

Salaries--60 percent  
Books, periodicals, binding--20 percent  
Maintenance--20 percent

11. How is the money obtained?

A public library is usually supported by taxation on an assessment basis. A deserving library will usually receive financial support from interested organizations and individuals in the form of gifts, bequests, and endowments.

(Continued on Page 50)

## *Halifax Area Considers Regional Plan*

Interest is growing, in Halifax City and County, in the idea of a regional library to serve the area's 150,000 population. At a Feb. 27 meeting of the Halifax County Council, a special committee was appointed to investigate the question, after the scheme was outlined by Peter Grossman, Nova Scotia director of libraries. The Halifax City Council is already negotiating with the Province for a grant under the regional system for the Halifax Memorial Library.

Mr. Grossman told the County Council that the need for adequate libraries was growing, particularly since teacher shortages and other education problems emphasized the need for a good supply of books available to the public. He reported that the Province still retained \$10,000 of a grant from the Carnegie Foundation and that this might be available to Halifax County.

The Halifax City Council, Mr. Grossman said, would favorably consider a scheme to serve both city and county, and he said the municipality would benefit from the joint effort if arrangements could be worked out with the city.

The County committee will study both the joint and independent schemes and will report at next year's council meeting.

### Capital Funds for Bookstock Asked by City

Release of \$60,000 from a fund from proceeds of land sales, earmarked for capital expenditures, has been asked by Halifax City Council. The Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs approved the fund, which will be used by the library over a three-year period.

Meanwhile, City Council approved a 1953 budget for the Halifax Memorial Library of \$50,240 including \$25,000 for books, after cutting \$20,000 of the book budget from the estimates in view of the capital grant. Salary scales of library staff will be reviewed later in an overall examination of salary scales for City employees by City Manager DeBard.

The Halifax Mail-Star commented favorably on the capitalization of book stock in an editorial:

### A Reasonable Request

The Memorial Library's first year has shown how keen is the demand for such a service. One out of every nine men, women and children in Halifax is a registered borrower and that gives the answer plainly to those who once suggested that the library would be a mausoleum rather than a living, growing remembrance of those who served.

If the year's experience has shown that Halifax wants and uses a library it also has disclosed a most serious shortcoming... There are not enough books ...and there never will be enough with the present system. Instead, under the tremendous use to which they are subjected, books are breaking down and it is only a matter of time until little will be left except reference volumes and a beautiful but empty building. ... ..

The proposal seems a most reasonable one and, in the light of provincial policy, there appear to be no obstacles in the way of granting it. Naturally, the Province will want and should have assurance that this use of capital funds will not mean a drying up of current account funds. ... Council, are prepared to meet operating costs including annual book purchases out of current revenue, but they wish a suitably stocked institution on which to base operations.

In Library Science today as in so many other fields, specialization is demanded more and more. Except in very small libraries the librarian generally is no longer interested in how many different library skills his employee has, but how well trained he is in one or two. It is to this end of specialization that the University of Michigan, for example, is directing its training.

There are four compulsory courses at Michigan (Cataloguing and Classification; Book selection and bibliography; General Reference; and Public Libraries in the United States) which are usually taken the first semester. The work of the second semester, though much more strenuous than the first, is of course of greater interest as one elects the courses he thinks will best fit him for the work he plans to do. The electives are so arranged that each person in the class prepares two or more papers on subjects of interest to himself (in my case in the course on University Library Administration—a budget for a small university library, and interlibrary loan) and also acquires a good deal of general information from papers prepared by other members of the class. A most interesting course available here was a seminar on "special libraries" where problems ranging from the classification of rare books to bibliographies on atomic research were dealt with. There was even a course on how to run a library in China or Japan.

There were three classes of students at Michigan: those who had no formal library training, those with a Bachelor's degree in library science and working for a Master's, those working for a Doctorate. The classroom was the common meeting-ground for all these; in the first semester the first group did not have much contact with the other two, but in the second semester, when nearly everyone had reached the elective stage, there was quite an intermingling of groups.

While the students on the whole are from the United States, other countries, namely India, New Zealand, Mexico and Canada, were represented last year. Not only do students come from the far reaches of the earth to attend the University of Michigan, but the excellent placement service makes known to the student positions abroad. Thus he who has the wanderlust learns of opportunities in other parts of the world and may take advantage of them if he so desires.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE: A BRIEF (Continued from Page 48)

It is becoming increasingly necessary for governments to supplement the library's income with annual grants.

#### 12. What hold does the public library have on the public?

Once established, a public library is always accepted as an indispensable institution by the people it serves. Usually the demands put upon a public library increase as the community grows. It is exceptional for a library, once organized, to fall into disuse.

Recommendation: Because of its importance as the Capital of New Brunswick, because of its present size and anticipated expansion, because of its prestige as an educational center, and because of its rich cultural heritage, Fredericton should establish and maintain a public library.

In the words of a great Canadian, Sir William Osler, "Money invested in a library gives much better returns than mining stock."

# *Books and Broadcasting*

How are books presented on the air by the C.B.C.? How can librarians use radio to best advantage? What suggestions can they offer the C.B.C.? These were some questions discussed at the March meeting of the Halifax Library Association, which had as its guest Mr. Kenneth Homer of the C.B.C. Press and Information Service in Halifax.

Opening the informal discussion, Mr. Homer described several types of programs in which books provide the central material.

First, programs in which books are read on the air. Not long ago there was a series of readings of Haliburton's Sam Slick, chapter by chapter. John McEwan, C.B.C.'s Halifax talks producer, is toying with the idea of having Leonard Mayoh, wellknown Yorkshire-born Halifax vocalist, read the "Sam Small" stories. The B.B.C. "A Book at Bedtime" series was very successful.

There are problems involved in these direct readings. The style of many books is difficult to put on the air--they are much harder to read aloud than to take in through the eye. For example, Euphues, or Carlyle, or some of the Elizabethans, would be very hard to read aloud. Then there are the people who do not like to be read to.

Second, there are radio adaptations or dramatizations, which gain from the added music, sound effects, and variety of voices. This is sometimes more satisfactory than straight reading. For instance, "Stage 53" had done three productions of Conrad Aiken's story "Mr. Arcularis". Earl Birney adapted some of Joseph Conrad's stories. Peter Whittall of the Farm Broadcast Department had done Creighton's High Bright Buggy Wheels. In a different atmosphere there had been Three Men in a Boat and the "Colin Glencannon" stories as serials.

On the other hand, some people like to use their own imagination. This at other periods had even been said when magazines began to illustrate their stories! Much depends on the adaptation. Miss Alberta Letts mentioned the B.B.C. children's programs of straight reading and of adaptations--Alice in Wonderland had been read well, but "My Winnie-the-Pooh doesn't sound like that!" She added, "But though I do like to read things myself, when I'm listening to someone else read I can do something else at the same time."

It was sometimes frustrating if one missed a few instalments of a serial, and familiar stories are therefore probably better for serialization. The "Mr. Glencannon" episodes were complete in themselves. Another series, "Fiddle Joe's Yarns", were well received but uneven in quality. "Edwin Sherdlou's" stories of the Salmon River and the rubber-funneled "Marigold" had been broadcast for quite a while--"And many people thought it lasted too long," someone added. That was why some series disappear, and reappear.

Third, children's series. Straight story-telling programs, such as the "Sleepy-Time Story-Teller", must be carefully done. A different type is "Cuckoo Clock House", specifically designed to arouse interest in books, by story-telling of an incident in a particular book. Libraries are told in advance what books will be read, and the program is very popular.

Discussion of the children's programs was lively. Miss Kathleen Currie, children's librarian of the Halifax Memorial Library, said "Cuckoo Clock House" has the desired results, and the advance lists sent out were very useful. For

instance, Lippincott's Wahoo Bobcat had been a dull item, but after being featured on the program was in great demand. One small reader had demanded, "What's on Cuckoo Clock House next week, so I can get it before it's out?"

There was a mixed reaction to Mary Grannan. Some groups "just love" Just Mary--some areas vent screams of anguish. Miss Currie said, "The children hound me for Maggie Muggins--and some parents come in to say it's horrible but little Johnny thinks it's wonderful." Mr. Homer mentioned a C.B.C. venture in science fiction for children, "The Pobble from Pluto", intended to be educational as well as entertaining fiction. Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days had been very well narrated, with one reader producing a surprising variety of voices.

Fourth were the actual book reviews and literary criticism. The major trans-Canada program, "Critically Speaking", may try to do too much. The discussion brought out that though all kinds of speakers are used, the program may suffer from uneven tone or appeal, so that the movie section may have wide audiences which may not listen to the book reviews. Some had objected that the approach to books was too heavy and pedantic. But Miss Letts pointed out that boomobile librarians are asked on Monday for the books mentioned on the Sunday evening program!

Why did "Critically Speaking" use so many reviewers? it was asked. Mr. Homer pointed out the need for a trans-Canada program to represent all parts of Canada, and also the difficulty of finding a single reviewer as good for books as is Clyde Gilmour's treatment of movies. Though there had perhaps been no Maritime speaker on "Critically Speaking" recently, Dr. Grant of Dalhousie had been heard last year; some speakers from U.N.B.; and a woman commentator from Newfoundland discussing women's radio programs.

#### Informality Needed in Talks

Besides the book reviews, there are the "literary talks". James Bannerman's bookish but light introduction to "C.B.C. Wednesday Night" had caused some inquiries in libraries. Among university speakers had been Roy Daniels of U.B.C., and Chester Duncan, who tried a series discussing "poetry through the poet's eye"--criticism in the light of the poet's own views. Norman Endicott had given an introduction to a Wednesday Night devoted to the poetry of Spenser and Donne. There had been great success with informal series such as Gilbert Highet's "Mainly About Books" which had breezily discussed Dickens as a dramatist, for instance. Highet was marvelous, discussion agreed, but few are as good. Miss Letts said, "He didn't take the bestsellers, but books he was interested in--books that might otherwise have sat inactive in the library." J. B. Priestley, an easy talker, had given a series on impressions in essay style--of cafeterias, clothes, cinemas.

Some "literary types" are apt to be too stiff. After all, people who read books are human! Much more of the personal, informal style is needed in talks. Other examples mentioned were Lister Sinclair's "Fish, Flesh and Fowl" series, and recent talks by David Galloway of U.N.B. and C.L. Lambertson of Dalhousie.

Finally, there are the whole evenings devoted to literary material--for instance, the evening devoted to the life and works of, and readings from, A.E. Housman. Another was Hans Christian Andersen; another, Haydn--"The whole story and period came to life for two and a half hours," someone commented. People are more interested in a man's literary works after learning something about his life. Lister Sinclair's panoramic program on "The Elizabethan Age" has

been repeated for the Coronation season—"A lot of books were used in that program," said Mr. Homer. Poetic dramas had been well produced—Christopher Fry, Archibald McLeish, T. S. Eliot.

Many Canadian poets were read on the air. Frank Scott read his own satirical poems; Earl Birney has done adaptations, given talks, read his own works. The C.B.C., said Mr. Homer, gives Canadian writers a chance they otherwise would not have. The literary magazine has gone the way of many other things, and Canadian writers might, except for radio, have to concentrate on writing "formula" stories for American women's magazines. The Oxford University Press was publishing a volume of Canadian short stories, selected from stories written for radio in Canada.

Miss Eileen Burns commended the school broadcasts of Shakespearean drama. Canadian radio, Mr. Homer thought, need take a back seat to no one in radio drama. The "Stage" series, and many Toronto dramatic productions, had been awarded distinctions abroad as well as at home. There is a need of new voices and new scripts, he added—"Are some of our writers working too much?"

The healthy influence of satire from within, as exemplified by Max Ferguson and Tommy Tweed, were applauded, and Mr. Homer agreed that this sometimes produced quick results in improving faults.

#### Librarians Can Cooperate

"As a profession, we're apt to be passive—we make books available, but we don't push them," said Miss Letts. "We should do something as librarians. People listen to these programs, they come into the libraries, they ask for the books. How can we cooperate with the C.B.C.?"

For instance, Mr. Grossman asked, how long in advance do we know what book will be reviewed on the air? It was hard to get complete and last-minute information into the C.B.C. Times, Mr. Homer explained, because it is made up three weeks in advance. Could liaison between the C.B.C. and the central office of the C.L.A. help? it was asked. Unless the library had advance information, or someone on the staff heard the program, the library got undecipherably vague requests for the books. Miss Letts mentioned cooperation in Nova Scotia between regional libraries and the Farm Radio Forums, though this was more on a subject basis than for specific books.

Radio can help the libraries, more actively than at present, by helping to rouse interest in books. "I'd like to read that, but I don't know how to get it," might be the listener's reaction if he did not know of library facilities available to him.

Audience reaction, Mr. Homer emphasized, is the only way in which radio producers can judge success of their programming. Direct response—letters and phone calls—is often disappointing, and "audience surveys" are not accurate. Reasons given by listeners for their reactions are always carefully weighed.

"Get your listeners to write in—that's the way to get a Maritime regional book reviewer," said Mr. Homer. "Book reviewing on the air is not a question primarily of evaluating books, but of establishing a contact with people. The university lecturer doesn't do that—he talks to a group--but the radio speaker must meet people in their own homes, on the individual level." C.B.C. Maritimes have done several items on libraries, including discussions on bookmobiles, the development of libraries in the Maritimes, etc. Something more regular and continuing is needed.

A local, rather than national or even regional, basis is best for a job like this, Mr. Homer stressed. This involves the private radio stations even more than the C.B.C. Many local stations do realize and discharge their responsibility to their own community. Libraries should persuade them to give time for such programs--this will bring the library right to the listener's own back door. Mr. Grossman mentioned examples of local cooperation, such as the regular broadcasts by Truro and Windsor stations of the bookmobile's daily schedules; and the "Question Box" spot programs in cooperation with the British Columbia library commission.

It is hard to get space in newspapers unless material has real news value, Mr. Homer pointed out. The same could be said for radio publicity for libraries. Look for angles--for news value. Give someone on the library staff time off, he urged, to do this as a regular job. Librarians replied anxiously that they had so little time to do these jobs!

"The more broadcasting you people do about your own work and services, the better," he said. The C.B.C. is sometimes pressed for air time, but the local stations have a more direct approach to listeners. "Have your ideas clear and definite before you approach the station," he warned. Bring the station manager a clearcut proposal for a program, not merely a vague desire for some publicity. "There is one thing about radio: few people will say, 'I heard it on the radio, therefore I don't believe it'--though they may disbelieve something they read in the newspaper. People will listen to your story told on the radio."

Miss Currie in thanking Mr. Homer for leading the discussion said, "Often librarians are miserably slow in talking about themselves and what they have. They often complain about radio causing a decline in reading--instead they should realize the possibilities of the medium--of radio, television, and the press--to publicize the work the library is doing. But first we must impress the manager of the radio station that people want to hear about books. Another point to be commended is what is being done for Canadian authors. The C.B.C. has done a fine job--otherwise Canadian authors are too seldom heard. Radio can be a help, not a hindrance, to the library."

#### Books of the Month and Broadcasting: Lucky Winner

Mrs. H. W. Ganong of Wolfville "stumped the experts" on the March 9 broadcast of C.B.C.'s "Now I Ask You" and won a complete year's membership in the Book-of-the-Month Club. Library research can pay off!

#### CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ANNAPOLIS REGIONAL LIBRARY URGED

Continued support for the Annapolis Valley Regional Library was urged in the Feb. 18 meeting of the Annapolis Municipal Council by Inspector C. E. Edwards. "Knowledge is power," he said, "but why teach children to read if they can find no material to read?" Annapolis, he said, was the first county to have the library and last year 7000 children and 2000 adults used the more than 20,000 books in the library's seven branches and bookmobile service. The library has trebled its circulation since 1950.

Miss Florence MacDonald, who was on the staff of the Dalhousie University Medical-Dental Library about twenty years ago, and was one of the founding members of the Halifax Library Club, died recently in Halifax.



# *The Old Manse Library in Newcastle*

By BARBARA GANDY

The Old Manse, which is being given by Lord Beaverbrook to the town of Newcastle, N. B., as a library, dates from the late 1870's and was taken over by St. James' Presbyterian Church about 1881. The first minister to live in it was Rev. William Aitken. He came here with his wife and five children, the youngest being Max, then ten months old. Four more Aitken children were born in the Manse, where the family lived until Mr. Aitken's retirement. One may agree that Max Aitken, now Lord Beaverbrook, has chosen an appropriate name for the library in The Old Manse Library.

The problem has been to change a private house into a public library without losing the character of the former, even though shelves, catalogues and other appurtenances of library work have had to be fitted. Certainly the color-scheme is anything but institutional. The basement has walls of a pleasant rosy-cream with a black band bordering the new tile-red floor. This room has no shelves except those handy to a sturdy work bench. A fine long airy room which was the old drawing-room has been restored. Lord Beaverbrook wished to keep the old-style decorations and so had the original frescoes repainted. These are charming scenic vignettes linked by rose-wreaths, the whole being executed in quiet colors. The rest of the walls are colonial yellow with French ivory trim. This pastel scheme is strengthened by maroon doors, which look very well. The fourth floor is in putty rose. Furniture, fittings and shelving are in a light birch finish which tones with the paint work.

The library is to carry a stock of about 9000 books, with a British bias throughout, although there will be adequate coverage of standard American works. As well as a general lending department there is a Canadiana section, with which in time we hope to have adequate coverage of standard American works. The Aitken collection will be available for reference. This is Rev. William Aitken's library and is mainly theological though containing other works which are of interest as being the normal holdings of a gentleman's library. The children's library has both fiction and nonfiction in French and English, including picture-books for the infants.

The final selection of periodicals has not yet been made, but English, Canadian and American magazines are to be taken.

In a library of this size we are fortunate in having a fine gramophone record collection and equipment. Lord Beaverbrook is most anxious to have recorded music available and has given a wide selection of works. There are two soundproof cubicles fitted with Decca equipment, with an additional "floating" unit for public recitals.

Adequate supervision from one service point is not possible as the rooms are normal house-size, with books being stored on three floors. One enclosure for both adults and children is intended, and will be placed in the main room, giving onto the hall and staircase. The main catalogue is in the hall, the children's catalogue being upstairs next to the children's room. I hope eventually to transfer the children to the ground floor and avoid their clambering up and down stairs.

The work of preparation is well begun, though the library will not be open for some while. Miss Louise Manny is curator and has been responsible for the conversion and decorating. She is a great stay to me in every way, from starting in to catalogue to finding volunteers to help stamp and label, apart from the task of fitting me in to Canadian life and always being on hand with practical advice. She is a well-known local historian and has donated

(Continued on Page 59)

# MLA Conference, Sydney, June 19-20

## P R O G R A M

First Session: Friday, June 19, Xavier College Auditorium.

- 9.30 - 10.30 President's Remarks  
Minutes (Reported in Summer 1952 Bulletin, to be taken as read)  
Treasurer's Report  
Correspondence  
Reports from Provinces (Limited time allowed)  
Nominating Committee's Report
- 10.30 - 10.45 Break
- 10.45 - 12.00 Current Literature: a Panel Discussion  
Mr. A. R. Rogers, Mr. H. B. Chandler,  
Miss Diana Lockhart, Sister Marie Michael
- 1.30 Cape Breton Regional Libraries  
Tour of Libraries: Reserve Mines, Glace Bay, etc.
- 6.30 Dinner at Isle Royale Hotel

Second Session: Group Discussions; Cape Breton Regional Library.

- 8.00 1. University and Reference Libraries  
Chairman: Miss Olga Bishop
2. Children's Work and School Libraries  
Chairman: Miss Grace Campbell
3. Public Libraries  
Chairman: Mr. Stanley MacDougall

Third Session: Saturday, June 20, Xavier College Auditorium.

- 9.30 - 11.00 Better Ideas and Gadgets Committee  
Nova Scotia: Mr. J. F. MacEacheron (Chairman)  
New Brunswick: Mr. A. R. Rogers  
Prince Edward Island: Mr. W. Ledwell
- C.L.A. Conference Plans: Tentative Report by Mr. Grossman.  
Editorial Policy of the M.L.A. Bulletin: Discussion.  
Reports from Discussion Groups
- 11.00 - 12.00 Speaker.  
Drive to Louisburg.  
Lunch.

Registration Fee Fifty Cents

Annual Dues One Dollar

Room Reservations Write directly to Miss Ruby Wallace, Cape Breton Regional Library, chairman of the local committee.

Preregistration Forms will be mailed to members shortly.

Nominations Due to the resignation of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and the appointment of a new chairman, the report of the committee could not be ready for this issue of the Bulletin as required by the Constitution. The report will be sent to members by mail, with the preregistration form.

# Press and Radio Aid N.B. Book Week

New Brunswick Library Week and Book Week in Canada, celebrated together Mar. 14-21, were well publicized in picture, printed word and broadcast. Book Week was marked by a page spread in the Fredericton Daily Gleaner on Mar. 14. Dr. Desmond Pacey of the U.N.B. English Department reviewed the preceding year in Canadian letters. Dr. Frederick Cogswell, also of U.N.B., discussed writers who have left Canada because they could not earn a living here. Mr. Albert Tunis of the Tourist Bureau reviewed Eleanor Ruggles' Prince of Players; Edwin Booth, and advertisements of Canadian books completed the picture. The Saint John Telegraph-Journal on Mar. 16 gave a two-column roundup of Library Week observances from all over the province, headed by a picture taken in the U.N.B. Library stacks. "How a Book Gets Into a Library" was the display in the Bonar Law-Bennett Library at U.N.B.

A contest open to school children in the Fredericton area was sponsored jointly by Hall's Bookstore and the Daily Gleaner. Fourteen prizes of books were awarded, presented by Miss Margaret Hall, manager of the bookstore. Prize-winning essays were published in the Mar. 20 Daily Gleaner, with a picture of three of the judges: Mrs. A. W. Trueman, Miss Moira Thompson, and Mr. A. R. Rogers. Mrs. H. J. Flemming was unable to be present for the picture.

Gay C.L.A. posters were used all over the province. They were designed by Barry Helmer, of the National Film Board's Animation Division.

Six five-minute broadcasts over CFNB during Library Week included:

- Mar. 15: Mrs. A. S. Fergusson, deputy mayor of Fredericton, introducing the week.
- Mar. 17: Mrs. Hugh John Flemming, on library service for children.
- Mar. 18: Mr. Alder Gerow, real estate agent, recently returned from a year's study in Edinburgh, on the treasures found in books.
- Mar. 19: Mrs. E. A. Skene, provincial president of the I.O.D.E., on financing a public library.
- Mar. 20: A. R. Rogers, giving a roundup of Library Week activities.
- Mar. 21: Miss Margaret Hall, and Mr. Hans Foerstal, Grade XI pupil in Fredericton High School, with his prize-winning essay.

The Daily Gleaner carried a series of articles, from which extracts are on another page of this issue:

- Mar. 16: A. R. Rogers, "Canada Book Week and New Brunswick Library Week"
- Mar. 17: Miss Josephine B. Lynam, editor of The Forum, N. B. Department of Education, "Libraries Offer Guidance in Reading"
- Mar. 18: Mrs. A. W. Trueman, "Children's Libraries"
- Mar. 19: Mrs. Nelson Adams, president of the Fredericton Council of Women, "The Library and Information"
- Mar. 20: Miss Beatrice Phillips, teacher-librarian at Fredericton High School, "Library Service to High School Students and Teachers"

During Book Week Joan Marshall, in her morning broadcast on the C.B.C. Maritime network, talked about the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library. She had visited the library a couple of days before, the Truro staff report, and took in everything that was pointed out to her and a lot more besides.

Bob Rogers reports from Fredericton, "I spoke last Wednesday [Mar. 25] at a meeting of the Upper Miramichi Home and School Association to more than a hundred people and received an enthusiastic response when I told them about the [Grossman] Report. This Thursday, I speak to the Sir Howard Douglas Chapter of the I.O.D.E. here in Fredericton. The Home and School Associations, the Women's Institutes and the I.O.D.E. have been wonderful allies. The Council of Women, both locally and at the provincial level, has played a most vigorous part in the campaign for libraries."

## *Library and Book Week: Notable Quotes*

EXTRACTS FROM A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE FREDERICTON DAILY GLEANER

### LIBRARIES OFFER GUIDANCE IN READING by Josephine B. Lynam

The choice of books is limitless but the same choice must of necessity be limited. It is to meet this enigma that libraries function.

Physically, the average individual is neither able to inform himself of the varied possibilities for his reading nor is he able to find the time to read all that he might so choose...

Through membership in a library the individual leaves the initial choice of reading material to the trained librarian and benefits, furthermore, by her friendly guidance in the ultimate choice of books taken home. For a nominal fee, or no fee at all in many instances, the reader enjoys what would otherwise be denied him.

Libraries, by their very nature, benefit from wide circulation and book selection. In the field of fiction, this means that more volumes can be secured as the circulation grows, thus widening the choice for the individual reader. Synonymous with the growth of circulation comes the enlargement of choice and again the increase in circulation. It is a never-ending cycle. . . .

Today, there is a great deal of concern over the prevalence of salacious literature which has been branded as harmful to our young people. Many recommendations have come forth to prevent the sale of such material and to ban from our book stores. Results of such negativism are apparent in countries where, over larger issues, a policy of "verboden" was established. If, however, libraries were generously supported, the appeal and ready accessibility of wholesome literature would be, without a doubt, far more effective in a campaign against such insidious influences than is the present method of attack. . . .

Books are a key to knowledge and wisdom. Fiction, alone, offers boundless opportunities to create and to extend this very wisdom. It would be well to remember, not only during Library Week but throughout the remainder of the year, that the support of local libraries will do much to develop and expand the reading habits of the community members.

### CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES by Mrs. A. W. Trueman

We believe that children, even more than adults, should have their public library room with attractive pictures on the walls, and shelf after shelf of gaily colored books. The books should look exciting--as though they held all the treasure, all the adventure, all the romance in the world. And in truth they do. Very often, young children grasp such truths more quickly and more easily than when they have reached the ripe old age of, say, 21. That is why it is important that children have the privilege of handling and reading beautiful books at an early age.

Then, after that first breath-taking and triumphant discovery that "reading is fun" almost the only stimulation necessary to development and accomplishment is easy access to books and more books. Of course, a trained children's librarian will have all sorts of devices for helping wee ones make the great discovery. Story hours for the tiny tots, and hobby clubs for those a bit older will play their part in rousing interest in books.

For children who are not as advanced in their development as their agemates, some libraries have programs of remedial reading. Under the supervision of sympathetic children's librarians, many backward youngsters have learned to advance in reading skills and to find reading a pleasure. The child's library should have books of fable and fantasy and poetry; books, too, about poetry and painting and

dancing and singing and playing; as well as the stories of famous men and famous deeds of long ago and of today.

Unfortunately, not many parents can afford to buy all the books their children want to read, though many parents could, and should, buy more books than they do. It is good to know that we shall have a free public library, with a children's room that is warm and happy with light and color and books, to assure all our children, in this important part of their education, that equality of opportunity that all free people desire.

#### THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION By Mrs. Nelson Adams

Nothing marks the increasing wealth in our times and the growth of the public mind toward ever broader concepts, than the demand for books and library facilities, and the insatiable curiosity of the average person for facts. ...

If you acquaint yourself with the potentials of a library, and you do not hesitate to get your taxpayer's dollar value out of it, you open to yourself a whole bright adventure at a few pennies a day. A reasonably well-equipped library can furnish answers to most practical and impractical questions, and librarians usually are of that untiring breed who put themselves out to help you.

#### THE LIBRARY AND THE HIGH SCHOOL by Beatrice Phillips

The well-managed, attractive library provides an atmosphere that is conducive to thought. In fact, present housing conditions make the library environment a pressing necessity. In a crowded apartment, lack of space may discourage the forming of a home library, and noise may make quiet reading impossible. There are students who say that they have no opportunity whatever to study, except in the midst of noise and confusion. By providing a place for quiet reading or study, the library would help to counteract the effect of the hurry of modern life. ...

Enthusiastic use of a public library by parents will help the school. Young people learn by example. When parents use the library to help solve their problems, and provide recreational reading, their sons and daughters will develop the same reading habits.

By giving full support to community projects, as a library does by arranging exhibits or making lists, it is placing an emphasis on community welfare which is not lost on students.

A public library will help the young people to see books as treasures of the ages, and to find in them an incentive to better living. Burbank, Henry Ford, Edison, Wright, Pulitzer--all have acknowledged their early debt to the public library.

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#### The Old Manse Library (Contd. from Page 55)

back numbers of local papers, together with many clippings. We are indeed fortunate in being able to build up our local collection with such expert help.

Much of what I have written is in the future tense, and no doubt plans will have to be modified to meet local conditions, but I hope that the Old Manse Library will be able to fill the needs of the community and be a worthy addition to the Maritime library system.

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Good Riddance Under the heading "Catalog Maintenance", the Library of Congress Information Bulletin of Mar. 16 reported, "Within 24 hours after the death of Joseph Stalin last week, a reader found that the year of his death had already been posted on all the cards relating to him in the Official Catalog!"

