

Merit Award Citation

Ed Hanus is a Past President of APLA.

The A.P.L.A. Merit Award is presented each year at the time of the Annual Conference to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to library services in the Atlantic region.

Our 1979 candidate for the Merit Award is Norman Horrocks. He has been associated with libraries and library education for over thirty years dating back to 1943. His career began with a brief two years spent in the Manchester, England, public libraries. This was followed by service in the British Army Intelligence Corps in the Middle East from 1945-1948. He was a student at the School of Librarianship, College of Science and Technology from 1948-1950, after which he returned to work in the Manchester Public Libraries.

In 1954 he took up a position as librarian with the British Council in Cyprus. Two years later in 1956 he decided to migrate south of the equator to Australia where he worked in the State Library of Western Australia as Technical Librarian and Information Officer for seven years. During this time (viz. from 1961 to 1963) he was also a visiting lecturer in librarianship at Perth Technical College.

The great trek north in 1963 brought him to North America where he came to a full stop in Pennsylvania. During his eight-year stay in Pennsylvania he obtained his M.L.S. and Ph.D. degrees and began the arduous climb up the rungs of the academic ladder from Teaching Fellow to Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Canada, the land of opportunity, beckoned in 1971. Norman answered the call and came to Dalhousie University as

Associate Professor in 1971 and rapidly advanced to the position of Director of the School of Library Service.

I have in my files a list of Norman's publications of which he is either the author or editor dating from 1952 to the present. The list covers a total of more than four pages. I am sure you would be delighted to hear them read but I will deprive you of that pleasure at this time. In addition he is a regular contributor of notes and reviews to at least nine well-known journals.

Another aspect of Norman's activities that cannot be overlooked is his involvement in professional organizations and associations. He has never been content to be just another dues-paying member of any association. At present, for example, he holds the office of Councillor-at-large in the American Library Association, and is 2nd Vice-President of the Canadian Library Association. And I could continue with the enumeration of committees on which he has served, but again I sense that silence is the better alternative.

At Dalhousie University, in addition to his prime function as Director of the Library School, Norman always has been and still is a member of numerous committees. He is a member of Senate and is on the Senate Council. And again here I could copiously add to these activities mentioned.

I now come to that part of my citation which is to be considered as being "off the record" or, to put it into the language of the parliamentarian, it is to be received, not adopted. I have to make what I may call the "confession of the convener of the Merit Award Committee". When I was trying to make up my mind as to whether



APLA President Terry Amis, Merit Award recipient Norman Horrocks, APLA Prize winner Frances Anderson, APLA Past President Ed Hanus.

Norman was a deserving candidate for the Merit Award I ran into a real crisis. There was a persistently nagging doubt that kept gnawing at the base of my brain. I felt that I needed additional proof to remove this doubt. I read and re-read the voluminous documentation but nothing happened. I even applied the Cartesian universal doubt, hoping that doubt would dispel doubt — as two negatives do make a positive — but to no avail. In desperation I read through the document one last time with the critical eye of a trained cataloguer, period by period, comma by comma, examining, scrutinizing. At last I found what the trouble was. Every other time I read the document I failed to read the last four

lines of the last page. There I finally found the proof I was looking for so desperately. I read the salutary line and my doubts were gone: He is a member of the "Banook Canoe Club."

I now return to the "on record" part of this citation. There is another reason, extraneous perhaps, but valid nonetheless, for bestowing the Merit Award on Dr. Horrocks at this year's Annual Conference. This year is the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie School of Library Service, so it is a very fitting time to honor the Director of the School, and through him recognize the contribution made by the School and its very capable staff to Library Education in the Atlantic region and beyond.

ISSN 0001-2203

APLA BULLETIN

43 [1979] No. 1 p. 1-8

HALIFAX, N.S., JULY 1979

APLA BULLETIN

VOL. 43 NO. 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

My first words must be to Pat Anglin who resigned as President-Elect in order to attend law school in Fredericton. Our thanks, Pat, for all your hard work as President-Elect, especially the ground work already done on the 41st annual conference in Corner Brook. Our best wishes for a very successful year in law school and for an exciting new career.

Terry Amis and the 1978-79 executive deserve our thanks for their efforts on behalf of our Association. We are especially grateful that the old executive left us in a healthy financial condition and turned a profit on the 40th annual conference. Congratulations one and all.

What happened in Moncton?

Constitutional amendments were passed which allow for our President to be elected "at large". Whether the site of the conference should continue to follow the President, or be rotated as at present, or whether, some other arrangement should be made, is an open question. Let's hear your opinion on this.

In March 1980 we will have our first election by mail for officers of the Association.

Two new committees were formed as standing committees, Conservation of Library Materials, and a Trustee's Committee.

The resolutions session was, as usual, a lively one. Resolutions were passed continuing the mandate of the Bib Cap Project Committee for another year and establishing a committee on Intellectual Freedom. Intellectual Freedom surfaced as a strong concern for all provinces at this conference. There was a well attended workshop which sponsored three resolutions, one of which was to give \$500.00 to the CLA Intellectual Freedom Fund.

Workshops and theme sessions, exhibitors and informal meetings gave additional intellectual content to our conference and of course there was food, entertainment and not a little laughter — especially for those who stayed in residence and were faced with unisex washrooms. (Rest assured it all got straightened out in the end). Our thanks to the Moncton local arrangements people for a good conference.

Immediately following the conference, the Atlantic Book Council was formed by representatives of APLA, writers, publishers and booksellers. This new council will be promoting books and libraries in the Atlantic Provinces, and we can be justly proud of our association's leading role in this cooperative venture.

What is happening now?

Committees are being formed to con-

tinue the work of the association throughout the year. Now is your chance to make your interests known to your Provincial Vice-President and to serve on a committee. The executive is especially anxious to have some new members on every committee.

Planning for the May 1980 conference in Corner Brook is well underway, and promises to be an exciting and rewarding one. Start saving those travel dollars now for a May visit to the fog free Western shore of Newfoundland!

The Atlantic Book Council will be meeting in Halifax in September with proposals for cooperative ventures between authors, publishers, booksellers and librarians.

The APLA executive will be meeting in Wolfville, N.S. on September 21, 1979. Should you have concerns, complaints, questions or comments on the work of the association, communicate them to a member of the executive and I promise you we will take time to consider them. The strength of our association and our satisfaction in serving as officers, is dependent upon the interest and response of the total membership. Let's see 318 letters to the editor in the next *Bulletin!*

Lorraine McQueen
President, APLA

Upcoming Events

July 16-27. **Dalhousie Continuing Medical Education and School of Library Service Workshop.** Location: Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8. Cost: \$60.00. Contact: Doreen Fraser, School of Library Service, Dalhousie University. Phone: 424-3656.

August 25-19 (Saturday-Wednesday) **Atlantic Provinces Booksellers Association.** Fall Books Fair. Location: Hotel Nova Scotian, Halifax, N.S. Contact: Elizabeth Eve, H.H. Marshall Ltd., 3731 Mackintosh Street, Halifax, N.S. B3K 5A5. Phone: 454-8381.

New foundland Public Libraries

The Newfoundland Public Libraries Board is presently preparing Library Standards for small public libraries in the Province. The Committee consists of two Board members and three professional librarians.

The Provincial Library Board has approved the establishment of the fourth regional library system which will be known as Avalon Region. The region should be on stream within the next six months.

Dalhousie University Libraries and Dalhousie University School of Library Service

Occasional Papers Series

[Series Editor: Norman Horrocks]

No. 21 A Survey and Listing of Nova Scotia Newspapers, 1752-1957, by Gertrude Tratt. 1979. \$10.00. ISBN 0-7703-0169-6.

No. 22. Where Our Survival Lies: students and text books in Atlantic Canada, by Paul Robinson. 1979. \$3.50. ISBN 0-7703-0955-X.

No. 23. Etchings & Engravings of 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries: prints from the collection of John Ettlinger. 1979. \$3.00. ISBN 0-7703-0157-6.

Why A Hotline: an alert to matters concerning young adults. v. 1-1977-ISSN. 0701-8894. \$3.50 issues. Editor: L.J. Amey

Complete Series List available upon request.

Order Papers from the Director, School of Library Service, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., Canada, B3H 4H8.

APLA BULLETIN VOL. 43 NO. 1

The *APLA bulletin* is a bi-monthly organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library association whose object is to promote library service throughout the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, to serve the professional interests of librarians in the region and to serve as a focal point for all those in library services in the Atlantic Provinces, and to cooperate with library associations and other organizations on matters of mutual concern.

Individual Membership to the

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Association is \$10.00, May-April and includes subscription to the *bulletin*. Institutional subscription to the *APLA Bulletin* is \$10.00 per calendar year. Single copies \$2.50.

The *APLA bulletin* is printed by The Dartmouth Free Press Ltd., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The *bulletin* is indexed in Library Literature, Library and Information Science Abstracts, Canadian Periodicals Index. Back volumes are available from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106, U.S.A.

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Bulletin Deadlines

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| June 1 | | No. 1 |
| August 1 | | No. 2 |
| October 1 | | No. 3 |
| December 1 | | No. 4 |
| February 1 | | No. 5 |
| March 20 | | No. 6 |

APLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

In Spring 1979, the APLA Executive established a special committee on intellectual freedom. The purpose of this committee was to stress the positive aspects of intellectual freedom beyond that of responding to individual case of censorship involving libraries of various types.

At the Moncton conference in May, the committee held an Intellectual Freedom Workshop to alert APLA members to the activities of the committee thus far. These included a proposed 30 second TV and radio public service announcement stressing freedom of choice in reading materials, contacting the parties concerned in the recent H.H. Marshall's episode in Halifax, contacting other groups concerned with censorship and

intellectual freedom and monetary support for the CLA Intellectual Freedom Fund.

During its first year, the committee will work to establish guidelines and its structure as well as to gather and disseminate information on various aspects of intellectual freedom. The committee will be established as a Standing Committee of APLA at the Cornerbrook conference in 1980.

Members of APLA and any interested individuals who wish to work with the Intellectual Freedom Committee, or who wish to be kept informed of the Committee's activities are asked to contact:

Andrew Poplawski, Convener
P.O. Box 300, Armdale
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3L 4K3

Bibliothèque Reg. du Haut-Saint-Jean

Some interesting activities have taken place at the Haut-Saint-Jean Regional Library in the last few months.

Beginning with the new fiscal year on April 1st, 1979, the St.-Quentin Public Library was officially transferred from the Chaleur Regional Library to the Haut-Saint-Jean. This transfer also includes the school district no. 1.

Libraries of the region were kept very busy in the first week of April celebrating the National Book Festival with exhibitions of books, drawings made by children, films and story hours centered around Canadian Books and authors.

Before the National Book Week, Canadian books in the libraries and bookmobile collections were identified using maple leaf stickers. Posters with the heading "Find the maple leaf, you have a Canadian book" were put up in the libraries during the festival.

Also during the Festival, the Grand Falls Public Library Board celebrated the 30th anniversary of the library.

On April 2nd, a gift of 100 books has been received from the Canada Council as

part of the Council Book Kit Exchange Programme. These books were exhibited at the Edmunston Public Library during the Canada Book Festival.

A special project for the International Year of the Child was launched by the regional library at the beginning of May. Under the title "La Parole est aux enfants/Let's hear it from the children", all children from the region are invited to express their opinions about the books they have read. After reading a book, children will have the opportunity to tell us in a few lines what they liked or did not like about it. A form has been designed to that effect. Comments received will be selected for publication in local newspapers.

May 21st to the 31st were declared Amnesty Days in the Haut-Saint-Jean library region. Patrons were able to return all overdue materials without any fine being charged. Starting June 1st, new rules and regulations, adopted in March by the Regional Library Board, will be implemented throughout the region.

CCI Paper/Book Conservation Symposium

Alice W. Harrison and Fred Matthews attended the first Paper/Book Conservation Symposium, held in Ottawa at the Canadian Conservation Institute in April. They were the only two representatives from Nova Scotia. There were twelve sessions, each with a lecture, followed by a discussion. Topics included enzyme technology, leaf casting, the degradation of paper, pH testing and spot tests in paper conservation, bleaching techniques, conservation vs. restoration, binding, lamination, and conservation training in Canada. There were also two sessions on Disasters and Disaster Planning and Procedures for Canada. A fuller discussion of this topic is reported in the "Bulldog Clips" column in this issue. Fred Matthews was given the opportunity to report and show slides on the work

being done by Edward Collister, a recent graduate of the School of Library Service, Dalhousie University. Mr. Collister chose to work in the fieldpaper conservation. His Master's thesis is entitled "The State of the Art of Paper Conservation and an Experimental Evaluation of Two Deacidification Techniques". Following the three-day symposium, Alice Harrison visited the Conservation workshops at the National Art Gallery, the Parliamentary Bindery, the National Library of Canada and Public Archives of Canada, as well as a visit to the Rare Books Division of the National Library. While there, she had the opportunity to discuss the 1977 "Survey of the Conservation of Special Collections in Canadian Libraries", prepared by the National Library.

Cumberland Regional Library

Last year Sheila MacLeod, who has been accepted for the Library Assistant's Course, suggested that perhaps we should try to extend our library programmes beyond elementary schools and offer something in the way of entertainment and library publicity to pre-schools, day care centres, nursing homes and senior citizen organizations. Early in 1979 we sent out a letter to these various groups inviting them to invite us; and so far Martin Rose and Beverly True have visited pre-schools in Parrsboro and Collingwood, senior citizen homes in Parrsboro, Pugwash, and Oxford, and one nursing care centre in Pugwash. For the younger set we've used the films *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Mole and the Lollipop* along with short picture book stories. The older people seem to enjoy the book talks on James Herrot's ad-

ventures as a country vet and Ernest Buckler's reminiscences of Nova Scotia rural life in *Ox-bells and fireflies*. We've shown several different films for this age group — all of which have proved to be popular. Martin and Beverly were caught off guard on their first afternoon out, however, when the hospitable senior citizens of Parrsboro included them in a sing-song session and served a large lunch of sandwiches, sweets and chocolate cake.

For Springhill's "Chilly-Willy Carnival" in February we put on an evening film programme for youngsters in that Town. It attracted 40 noisy kids and a well-mannered dog named Butch. Later Martin spoke to the Rotarians there and told them about the library's resources. A beautiful wooden display case has been donated to the Springhill Branch by the Saffron family.

CENTRAL MAILING ADDRESS

Typed manuscripts, advertising information and inquiries regarding the Association, should be addressed to the appropriate officer or editor, c/o School of Library Service, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H8.

Two new staff members arrived at Acadia, beginning work on June 1, 1979. **Chris Bull** comes from his position as Deputy Head of the Cataloguing Department of the University of Saskatchewan Library. At Acadia he will be Chief Cataloguer. **Edith Haliburton** has since her graduation in 1956 worked in various parts of the world: New York, Ottawa, London, where for two years she was at the Royal Institute of International Affairs; and from 1964 to 1977 in Africa; first at University College of Cape Coast, then at the University of Botswana, Lesotha and Swaziland. She will be Acadia's Special Collections Librarian.

Berta Letts Travel Award for 1979 to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association in Ottawa in June. She has worked as a Nurse at the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto and taught Philosophy at the George Brown College, Toronto, before entering the Dalhousie School of Library Service in September 1978. At Dalhousie she has served as a student representative on the Council of the Faculty of Administrative Studies. The Alberta Letts Award was established in 1976 to honour the memory of the former Provincial Librarian of Nova Scotia who served as President of the Canadian Library Association in 1957-1958.

People

Personnel appointments at the Patrick Power Library, St. Mary's University, Halifax, N.S., include **Rashid Tayyeb**, formerly of the University of Windsor, as Head of Technical Services; **Chandrasekhar Gosine**, previously Head of Bibliography, as Collections Development Librarian; **Jane Archibald**, previously Reference Librarian/Cataloguer, as Head of Cataloguing; and **David Manning**, previously Order Department/Circulation Assistant, as Head of Acquisitions. These positions became effective June 1, 1979.

Jean Ellis, formerly librarian at the Parks Canada Ontario Region Library, Cornwall, and at the Nova Scotia Legislative Library, succeeded R. Malyk at the Agriculture Canada Research Station Library, Kentville, N.S., on May 14, 1979.

Bill Mitchell, a 1979 Dalhousie Library School graduate, has been appointed Coordinator of Branch Services/Children's Librarian at the Halifax County Regional Library. He replaces **Betty McGonigal**.

With the resignation of **Jacques Presseault** as head of the Edmundston Public Library, **Robert Daigle**, extension librarian, has been temporarily named in charge of the Edmundston Public Library until a librarian is hired to fill this position.

Effective May 2, 1979, **Frances Anderson** joined the staff of the South Shore (N.S.) Regional Library. She is a 1979 graduate of the Dalhousie Library School and this year's recipient of the APLA award for the School's most promising graduate. Patrick Maxham, her predecessor, will be attending the Atlantic School of Theology this September.

Mary Malloy of Victoria, British Columbia, received Dalhousie University's Al-

Ann MacGregor-Strum, assistant librarian at the Halifax City Regional Library North End Branch, resigned during April 1979 to move to Calgary. **Janet Doyle** is her successor. **Joan Brown-Hicks**, Coordinator of Community Services at the Halifax City Regional Library, spent the last week of April 1979 at a conference of the Committee for Continuing Learning Opportunities for Women in Banff. She will be serving for this year on the national Board of C.C.L.O.W.

The Newfoundland Public Libraries Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Joseph C. Lavery** to the position of Deputy Chief Provincial Librarian, effective May 7, 1979. He was previously employed at the Health Sciences Complex Medical Library. In his new position he will assist the Chief Provincial Librarian in the administration of the Public Library Service in the Province. Joe is originally from British Columbia, and has held several library positions across Canada.

Diana Rose has been appointed as Head of the Technical Services Department following the retirement of **Faith Randell**. Diana took up her new duties on May 1, 1979. She is no stranger to the Public Library Services in Newfoundland, having served for several years as supervisor of Community Libraries before returning to University where she completed her masters in Library Science.

Newfoundland Public Libraries' most recent appointment is **Elinor Brennalt** as Regional Librarian for the Western Region following **Pat Anglin's** resignation. Elinor will assume her responsibilities May 1, 1979. She has spent the last year at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ont. Prior to her studies she has worked in several libraries and at one time was bookkeeper in a bookstore.

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Publications Received

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Canadian books in print: author and title index, 1978. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1979. (Toronto, Ont. M5S 1A6) \$35.00 ISBN 0-8020-4549-9

Drolet, Gaeten. *Les bibliothèques universitaires du Québec*. Montreal, Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec, 1979. (Suite 1817, 2 Complexe Desjardins, Montreal, Quebec H5B 1B3) ISBN 2-920079-X

Fry, Bernard M., et al. *Government publications: their role in the national program for library and information services*. Washington: National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, 1978. (Suite 601, 1717K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) G.P.O. stock number 052-003-00648-1; \$3.00.

Gorden, Charlotte. *How to find what you want in the library*. Woodbury, N.Y., Barron's Educational Series, 1978. (113 Crossways Park Drive, Woodbury, N.Y. 11797) \$3.95. ISBN 0-8120-0696-8

The Journal of the Canadian Library Science Society: an annual review and a selection of the best writings from the Canadian library publications = La Revue de la Société de Bibliothéconomie Canadienne. no. 1 (1977). (Parabola

Systems, 200-55 Water St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1A2) \$12.00; \$9.00 (students). ISBN 0-920758-02-9.

McGill University. Graduate School of Library Science. *Alumni newsletter*. no. 1 (May 1979). (3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1)

National Library of Canada. Library Documentation Centre. *Directory of library associations in Canada*. 5th ed. (395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N4) \$8.00 (Canada); \$9.60 (outside Canada) ISBN 0-660-50150-3

Nova Scotia Provincial Library. *Nova Scotia regional public libraries statistics 1978*. Halifax, N.S., 1979. (5250 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S. B3J 1E8)

The role of the Library of Congress in the evolving national network. Washington, D.C., Library of Congress, 1978. (U.S.G.P.O., Washington, D.C. 20402) \$3.25 ISBN 0-8444-0269-9

Rural delivery. v. 3, no. 1 (April 1979). (Box 8, Port Joli, N.S. B0T 1S0) \$4.00 per year. ISSN 0703-7724

School library - media news. v. 7, no. 2 (February 1979). (School Library - Media Council, New Brunswick Teachers' Association, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6)

TALTA newsletter. v.7, no. 1. (Toronto Area Library Technician Association, P.O. Box 527, Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4A2) Members only.

Woozles. no. 3 (March 1979). (1533 Birmingham Street, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2J3)

Dartmouth Regional Library

This summer the Dartmouth Regional Library's junior department is conducting a library user/non-user survey based on the Regina Public Library Children's Services Study by Adele M. Fasick and Claire England. Two hundred and forty children between the ages of six and twelve will be interviewed over the course

of six weeks in the library's three outlets and in four Dartmouth elementary schools. The purpose of the survey is to identify those factors which lead some children to be regular library users, and to discover what change in policy, programs, and collections might encourage non-users.

Louis Vagianos is Vice-President (Finance and Administration and University Services), Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

Introduction

If 'in the beginning was the word', it was immediately followed by someone who determined what kind of word it had to be. Ever since man first became moved by ideas as expressed in speech and writing, ferment about what sorts of boundaries and latitudes are appropriate has been continuous. After they ate the apple, Adam and Eve felt they had something to hide: in that same sense censorship is a perennial issue.

Historical developments have, in the past few centuries, increased both the controversy surrounding censorship and its potential scope and importance. We must remember that as little as three centuries ago most of what now passes for intellectual commonplaces was restricted by certain cultural barriers. For example, language differences, such as that between Latin (the language of publication) and the vulgar, separated the educated class from the so-called masses by restricting the amount of information available to the uneducated. Inefficient information distribution systems further limited the accessibility of knowledge, even to the audience at which it was aimed. Moreover, this reduced the scope of censorship by diminishing the range of issues upon which it was likely to bear, principally focussing on religion since general understanding and literacy prevented intellectual curiosity from ranging much farther afield.

In contrast, the sweep and power of 20th century communications systems, coupled with the social phenomena of free public education for everyone, has changed all the rules relating to censorship and in some eyes requires and justifies the strongest sorts of controls. The prospect should be terrifying to thoughtful people and has far-reaching effects for libraries and librarians. How and why will be the point of this essay. Remembering that nothing stands still, we must become aware of potential hazards arising from these new developments and of the kind of impact that they will have on censorship within society and, thus, within libraries.

Unfortunately, censorship within the library field has become a cliché: all thunder and lightning signifying nothing. In my view this is because the censorship debate focusses its energies on the wrong issues! But it remains worth discussing because it is central to the life of the mind. In discussing the problem of censorship, disregarding my feelings on the subject, I consider it in a **descriptive** rather than a **prescriptive** manner. My opinions on censorship do not matter: what does are current and future implications of censorship in relation to libraries. Defining censorship in as value-free a manner as possible will allow us to briefly consider standard positions on censorship; as well as the range of materials which may be subject to it. This will lead to a consideration of the more important aspects of censorship and permits us to examine its future trends and to draw some cogent conclusions.

Let me now define, with a little more precision, what this essay is about. I take censorship to be the **deliberate or haphazard prevention of communication**, ensuring through the intervention (or neglect) of some agency privy to the communication, that the message in question does not succeed in passing from sender to receiver, or passes in such a form that it has prostituted the original meaning. This broad definition provides the least polemical perspective to the issue, and emphasized the multiplicity of tools and opportunities which the communication process provides to the potential censor. Within this framework, censorship can be:

Libraries and Censorship

- 1- a matter of preventing the sender from emitting the message, or
- 2- a matter of either denying the message a channel or destroying it within the channel, or
- 3- so shielding the receiver that the message cannot be noticed, or
- 4- a message so enmeshed within other messages that it cannot be accessed and therefore is lost, or
- 5- a message so "packaged" that the receiver can no longer evaluate the bias which has been built into it.

It is usually the latter four approaches with which librarians must deal. Within this framework, the motivation may be benevolent (a concerned parent protecting his child from 'trashy' publications) or malign (the RCMP bugging incident), depending on the context of the particular case.

Without oversimplifying, we can reduce the censorship debate to a pair of polar opposites. One extreme emphasizes the desirability of censorship as a mechanism for social protection (with particular reference to 'small children'):

If our commonwealth is to be well-ordered, we must fight to the last against any member of it being suffered to speak of their divine which is good, being responsible for evil ... such doctrines would be disastrous to our commonwealth.

—The Republic

Implicit in this position are two questionable assumptions: that information or opinion, *per se*, can be harmful to the well-ordered state, and that the protection of society takes precedence over the rights of the individual to freedom of speech. At the opposite extreme we have the libertarian argument:

If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind....(T)he particular evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as existing generations....

J.S. Mill — *On Liberty*

Again, this position cannot be regarded as above dispute, since it assumes that all utterances have some value, and it excludes the case of messages which, of themselves, threaten the communication system which processes them. The perennial nature of the censorship problem gives us some indication that its resolution will be neither simple nor clear-cut.

One dimension of the censorship issue which can help focus this discussion is a consideration of the question: What is to be censored? I take it for granted that certain possible communications would not be censored (except possibly by the most fanatical): for instance, calendars (or at least the date portion thereof), telephone directories, mathematical tables, and transportation schedules. Censorship of such messages is simply self-defeating, given their function as disseminators of factual information. Nor would it be practical to censor that which one could deduce with one's unaided powers of observation; such things as almanacs containing times of moonrise, sunset, tides, and other similar phenomena. But beyond this restricted set of examples lies a vast range of possible candidates for censorship. Consider the following items from two viewpoints — their suitability for inclusion in libraries, particularly public libraries, and the simple suitability of their existence:

a guidebook explaining income tax loopholes available only to the very rich

a work of revisionist history roundly condemned by reviewing experts in that particular field

a book demonstrating by chapter and verse how the Bible disproves Darwin's theory

a manual of unconventional sex for consenting adults

a handbook for developing your own films which contains erroneous and potentially harmful chemical instructions

a handbook of Satanist ritual, including drawings depicting the proper methods for sacrificing virgins

a book explaining how to make bombs in your home (including A-bombs), together with practical advice on how to use them for purposes of political terrorism or personal extortion

a history extolling Hitler as the savior of humanity, justifying and praising his racial policies, and calling for their restoration

a practical handbook for effecting a *coup d'état*

a guide to successful strategies for the aspiring pederast, together with legal advice on how to 'beat the rap' (Title: How To Pick Up Tykes)

Wherever you draw the line in the list above, you implicitly define a personal position regarding the proper limitations of censorship (you will be in no way comforted to learn that all of the above items are not imaginary!).

Censorship as an Intellectual Abstraction

I began by defining censorship within the terms of the standard communication model generally accepted as a starting point for information theory. This Shannon-Weaver model explains communication as a process involving four elements: a **sender** who originates the message; the **message** itself, defined in probabilistic terms as a contraentropic construction; a **channel** which acts as the transmitting medium for the message; and a **receiver** for whom the message is intended. Two other relevant communication concepts associated with this model are **noise**, entropic influences which act to randomize and thus degrade message content, and **feedback**, the requirement for interaction between sender and receiver in order to ensure a stable system. However remote these abstractions may seem at first glance, they have a fundamental and essential bearing on any discussion of libraries and censorship.

For the communication process is what librarianship is all about. Librarianship is directly involved in the management of the artifacts which extend vicarious experience through records more durable and precise than human memory. Our entire cultural development and man's need to optimize his relationship with his environment are alike linked to the collective memory perpetuating itself through specific learned behavior via the educational process and through shared experiences resulting from formal and informal information transfer. Understanding the real nature of censorship and the importance of issues relating to it only possible within the context of man and his world in his desire for **self-transcendence** through the major tool available to him, the **recorded** word.

Viewed in the above terms, Pierce Butler's classical definition of libraries remains indisputable: libraries are social institutions fulfilling an indispensable role — the preservation, organization, and dissemination of man's racial memory. For this social memory to function with adequate depth and precision, it must absorb all communication elements subsumed by time, preserving the past and the present for the future. For as everyone knows, the future of the past is the present. This gives librarians a unique

platform from which to address censorship issues. Nor can the social brain concept be dismissed as irrelevant theorizing — consider the lamentable effect on general human welfare of the destruction of Greek and Roman cultural depositories preceding the Dark Ages: 1000 years were lost. Whether or not this historical equivalent to a brain lesion was accidental, it demonstrates beyond doubt the catastrophic impact upon society when interference with the collective brain of librarianship occurs. (One of the serious problems facing society today, **information overload**, may now be in the process of causing just such an accidental brain lesion!)

While we can see the relationship between libraries and censorship as a serious and important issue, the general public seems indifferent. There is the occasional outcry for some course of action or other, but, as every propagandist knows, only sustained and continuous "campaigns" carry the day. In fact, public apathy to the broader structural implications of censorship as a crucial problem facing librarians is a serious problem and works against the necessity for widespread public support of the censorship strategies librarians use. But perhaps we should not be too hard on the public because they do not understand the nature of the problem. It is difficult for them to grasp the key intellectual issue relating to censorship: that is, that no one **knows** what constitutes a tolerable threshold for error between excluding or including a particular message for either the "racial file" or use by the individual user. One of the central missions librarians must undertake is public education in this matter. By experience, librarians are better fitted to judge this threshold than those outside the discipline.

Yet it is generally felt, to paraphrase Foch, that "message selection is too important to leave to librarians". The intensity of social control over libraries (particularly in the case of public libraries), which includes censorship questions, can be explained by the library's functional importance. Libraries are essential components of that social institution charged with transferring the knowledge and attitudes required for proper social function from one generation to the next. The library's central position in this process is obvious considering the basic purpose of librarianship: to ensure the final connection between the great store of available messages and the unknown individuals to whom they are not addressed but for whom they are intended, many of whom have yet to be born. It follows, then, at the most theoretical level, that anything which disrupts this connection strikes to the heart of the librarian's function: in consequence it cannot be accepted lightly.

Censorship as an Institutional Reality

As good almost kill a man as kill a good book; who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book, kills reason itself, kills the image of God, as it were in the eye.

J. Milton — *Areopagitica*

When one turns from the theoretical considerations adduced above, a single hard fact emerges concerning the library and, by extension, the librarians who staff it. Simply put: the library exists within a constituency made up of its users, supporters, and critics. The specific circumstances which determine censorship practices are inextricably linked with this constituency. Broadly speaking, the characteristics of the constituency are determined by the type and location of the library. Special libraries, for instance, by their very nature are least concerned with problems of censorship since their community of interest is well defined (a case analogous to the telephone directory:

special library censorship would be self-defeating). University libraries, in addition to the rather great degree of tolerance taken for granted as a feature of the university environment, often are quite specifically regulated (by statute or legal instrument) to maintain and expand the collection without any external intellectual hindrance. A large public library in a major metropolitan area will be both strong enough and possessed of a clientele diverse enough to resist most external pressures for censorship. The case of a small town public library might be quite different, however. It may be more vulnerable and subject to a high target profile, allowing a homogeneous community to determine policies and practices. These "constituency" variables all combine to modify idealistic positions on censorship.

Within a library's constituency, there will be a variety of factors interacting to produce pressures for censorship. One major form of censorship (practised almost universally in public libraries) is the segregation of materials by age group: there are some things which are just not fit for the eyes of children or adolescents! Apart from the stereotyping which such an outlook imposes on a remarkably diverse group of people, such an attitude ignores the fact that if the kids want it enough they'll get it; if not in the library, then somewhere else! Political objections to particular works, which wax and wane to the degree that the community feels threatened by particular social or political stands, form another class of pressures leading to censorship. The development or relativistic standards implicit in a pluralistic community presents librarians with a whiplash situation insofar as censorship is concerned. At the same time that multiplying demands lead to a whole host of information requests, so increases the polarization associated with multiple viewpoints, giving rise to demands for the muzzling of opponents through censorship.

This leads into the lively issue of "selection as censorship". There are really two aspects to this. The first is simple: any one information package places a particular and defined burden on the library (in terms of ordering, cataloguing, storing, circulation, etc.). No single library has an infinite capacity (from which it follows that capacity can only be infinite if there are an infinite number of libraries). This means, **where there are selection criteria**, information packages containing correct information are to be preferred to those which have some degree of error. A simple example here is the telephone book: that an individual library only holds the latest issue is not tantamount to censorship. The second aspect of the "selection as censorship" issue then becomes the narrow scope of items which can be handled in this way. Once matters of **judgment** come in, as opposed to simple matters of **fact**, the finite nature of a library's storage capacity cannot serve as an excuse for the suppression of legitimate competing viewpoints. That these viewpoints may have to be restricted to a limited number of "best" expositions thereof is simply a reflection of information transmission realities rather than a serious censorship issue. Intentions in this regard are as important as acts.

Future Influences Affecting Censorship

The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.

H. Agar — *A Time for Greatness*

So much for current factors connecting censorship and libraries. What of the future? While the **exact** nature of things to come may not be capable of knowledge in the present, we can make some informed guesses based on the trends that are now evident and the sort of shape we can expect the future to take. I believe that in the future censorship will become more

pervasive just as it also becomes more subtle. The major development which causes me to hold this belief is the condition of the current educated generation which even educators themselves are beginning to call the "new illiterates". We worry (justly) why Johnny can't read. But there is now abundant evidence from within the educational establishment itself that the current generation, even **functionally** literate in the sense of being able to demonstrate the **capacity** to read and write, **in fact can neither read with comprehension nor write with precision**. This amounts to a dual victory for censorship since, in the first place, its operations are less likely to be resisted by the new illiterates (they don't know what they are losing) who, in the second place, will be unable to perceive literary censorship **even when it has happened!** The new illiterates lack the comprehension skills required to analyze print skillfully — that is, to manipulate and evaluate ideas and, indeed, facts in order to draw their own conclusions about what is "true" from the vast body of available information. As a result they become at once **cynical** (because when faced with so many competing truths it must seem that "everything's a fraud") and more **gullible** (because they lack standards of judgment). Orwell's newspeak was a chilling prediction of spiritual and intellectual enervation through the deliberate degradation of language; by 1984 the reality may be more of a social phenomena than a political one and more depressing because there will be **nothing to react against**.

One of the causes of the new illiteracy is high-technology communication biased towards the visual sense, particularly TV. Because the visual is instinctively given primacy by the onlooker and because it calls for less imaginative effort, visual entertainment tends to displace other forms (at least so long as it maintains its novelty value). Here the application of censorship is part and parcel of the very nature of the production and distribution system. Unlike printing, which is a multiple access communication channel since it can be available to an unlimited number of people at any time and can be retrieved at will, broadcast technology represents an extreme form of resource and capital concentration, and the same is true of its new offspring, the videocassette. Everything else being equal, this means that broadcast technology simply cannot offer a universal access comparable to that of print (and this limitation is exacerbated by the homogenizing tendency of networking). Moreover, the great potential to influence inherent in broadcast technology causes it to be placed under strict government control of content as well as methodology. Couple this with the sheer expense involved, particularly in relation to video broadcasting, and profit maximization dictates an approach along the lines of the least common denominator, or, in cultural terms, of the "leveller". This subtle (and benevolent, we are asked to believe) form of technological censorship affects the library because its potential clientele is distracted even before it comes through the door.

A characteristic of current broadcast technology which reinforces this tendency to internally-imposed censorship is its relative insensitivity to feedback on all but a very narrow range of programming decisions. Viewers have the ability to choose between A, B, C, or nothing at all, but X, Y, and Z are simply not in the realm of possible choices. In other words, viewers may have the power to veto, but that is no power at all when it is allowed to operate only within a prescribed range of possibilities. This amounts to censorship by exclusion, which is analagous to the library problem of censorship by selection.

At one point, the potential implicit in cable technology promised to alter this situation since the channel capacity of the cable allowed a greater variety of programming and more possibilities for feedback. This prospect now seems less likely as resource scarcities give other large-scale capital projects a higher priority. But even if it could be done, the "wired city" approach represents a deeper submergence into high-technology video broadcasting rather than an alternative to it. The future of broadcast technology now looks like one long summer re-run. The maintenance of the current level of feedback insensitivity in the major entertainment system makes future prospects look quite grim.

Another influence on censorship in the future is the matter of societal consensus. If any social phenomena may be taken as representative of the past two decades in North America, it is the breakdown of the general WASP consensus which has determined opinion and practice through most of this century. The censorship procedures associated with this consensus are part of library history, but it is useful to consider that breadth and strength of commonly-held views on moral and political questions protected a broad range of library offerings because the guardians of the public interest felt secure enough to allow "subversive" ideas to be expressed. In place of the consensus society, we are now faced with a disaggregated **single-issue** society where concern for the general good has been displaced by individual interest articulated through special-interest groups. Multiply the number of possible viewpoints by the number of issues, throw in the current "do your own thing" lack of restraint, and libraries once again find themselves in the crossfire. Increased sensitivity to opposing viewpoints may combine with polarization to the degree that **everybody** may find something in the library offensive, and such people will be encouraged by ongoing structural breakdown to press their case to the limit. As a result of the evident and irreparable breakdown of authority structures in modern society, I can predict quite confidently that pressures for censorship will increase, along with the number of extremist sources exerting that pressure.

Another factor which has a bearing on the degree of censorship likely in the future is resource scarcity. Scarcity increases the impact of any given resource decision because, in conditions of scarcity, a greater degree of certainty is required as to the future consequences of that decision. Evaluation time must be increased and flexibility in decision-making is subsequently impeded. To the degree that resource scarcity pushes into efficient high-density communication channels, like TV, it will act to censor other channels which are less efficient. Resource scarcity can then serve as a screen for censorship decisions, whether it applies or not. Similarly, technological developments in the library field which serve to increase the library's efficiency (such as microfilm), may simply result in the obsolescence of much of the library's current information stock. If that information stock is not replicated or new delivery systems for its use are not developed in the new system, whatever has been excluded has been effectively censored. Scarcity of resources would seem to offer libraries a potential opportunity for growth since they are efficient resource allocation mechanisms, but, given the new technologies which decrease the accessibility of information, this very scarcity could result in censorship simply by diminishing the number of opportunities for exposure to the information stock. If a large number of information packages are peculiar to one library, in the absence of an effective communication system to establish a network between libraries, the distance of the user from that library will tend to

diminish the value to these information packages. I am willing to predict that resource shortages are going to increase to the point where they become important instigators of censorship by preventing that vital connection between sender and receiver.

Connected with the issue of resource scarcity is the notion of "dollar censorship", stemming directly from the "taxpayer's revolt". A concomitant of this which concerns libraries is the tendency for the profitable to become the enemy of the good. In this sense, the particularization and specialization trends in public librarianship will be curtailed, just as in broadcasting the law of large numbers will dominate. The same effect will be felt by university libraries, even though they may be the indirect victims of a wrath more properly directed at the higher education system in general. In the current budgetary crisis, compounded by inflation and increasing people, resources cost ratios effectively cripple the development of the university library acting as a form of censorship there as well. It does not take a crystal ball to predict that the whole cluster of issues relating to taxation and public monies is going to become an increasingly festering sore, one which will bring extensive **de facto** censorship, and one which librarians simply cannot ignore.

There remain two other more insidious influences which exert a degree of censorship which is unparalleled in history and is seriously affecting our ability to **know** and to distinguish between **appearance and reality**. The problem centers on information overload and broadcast editing (independent of medium). Each area is sufficiently complex and open-ended for a lengthy discussion, but for the purposes of this paper let me merely define the nature of each problem.

In the case of information overload the problem revolves around the information explosion and the problem of access. The information explosion is a familiar problem for librarians so I will not spend any time boring you with an all-too-familiar litany. What is less well understood by librarians (and this is the root of the problem) is the fact that messages are getting into each other's way and are (like cancer cells) destroying the integrity of the "social file". The malignancy of interstitial growth has resulted from an intellectual crisis within our discipline which evolves from the fact that we are unable to describe and code an item by words and numbers that will make it easily retrievable. In such a case the information contained in the message is effectively lost and we are faced again with the problem of censorship by exclusion. Moreover, we have still failed to solve the problem of how to store these great quantities of messages for easy access.

The problem of broadcast editing is easier to describe and the solution easy to explain. Unfortunately, solving the problem is not in the interest of the multi-billion dollar business which created it. We can now (in seconds) edit (through tampering with tapes or film) a man's live speech, a performance, in short, **any** event, to give it the appearance of reality to the unknowing. Such an edited version can then be transmitted as reality through television and radio to 40,000,000 people in one sitting; and it can be repeated often enough to give it the "varnish" of truth. In many such situations censorship is not necessarily exercised to prevent something from being known but simply to expedite dissemination (e.g. news broadcasts); however, as advertising and more malevolent forms of propaganda have taught us, it can be used effectively to distort and thus destroy. It affects our sensibilities as well as our educational process and in both cases we may be unwitting victims because we are unaware of the bias which informs the so-

called "facts" with which we are presented. Process has triumphed over truth! This phenomenon is not new, but the technology with which it can now be practised is unprecedented. We seem to have come full circle to the 20th century version of Plato's cave. In the panorama of our daily lives, are we viewing truth or merely shadows of truth cast by the rather dubious light of someone else's sun?

Conclusion

The prospects for increasing censorship

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Of the various types of censorship existing in Canada today, the first would be the overt type under sections 159, 160 of the criminal code which currently defines obscenity and mentions the penalties. Currently a seizure would be made of any type of product or material, prosecuted under the Provincial jurisdiction; the Provincial Attorney-General will charge the publisher or the writer rather than the distributor, book store or library.

A 1979 bill in the last House of Commons, bill C21 — an omnibus bill — considered everything from prostitution and rape law to a definition of obscenity, a whole gamut of moral concerns. A report from the Justice Standing Committee presented to the Minister of Justice with a number of recommendations in the field of obscenity are now in bill C21. The first is that the police force at all levels must engage in a vigorous concerted campaign to detect, apprehend and prosecute those who are involved in the production, management, distribution, importation and sale of explicit sexual material. The purpose of this concerted effort should be to dismantle criminal networks which are involved in a number of related fields and legal activities. In recommendation 2, Canadian customs must undertake an intensive campaign of detection and prohibition of entry into Canada of sexually explicit material which is violation item 99201-1 of schedule C, Custom Tariff Act. Item 3 says the customs and excise branch of Revenue Canada should secure and train the necessary personnel to the point necessary to enforce these recommendations across Canada in a coordinated manner. The actual rewriting of section 159 in the criminal code, which previously dealt with undue exploitation of sex, now reads, "the dominant characteristic of the matter for purpose of this act, such matter or thing should be deemed to be obscene". Now they're playing around with semantics and vague definitions. They would up the penalties to a maximum fine of \$100,000 and/or the maximum of ten years in prison.

People are going to have to start guessing here, and this bothers us because we're in the business of information distribution in a very fast computerized way. With titles coming through at an alarming rate every week, for making one mistake or guessing wrong we face terrible penalties. Another recommendation states the testimony or evidence of expert witnesses as to community standards should, under no circumstances, be permitted during the trial of a person who has been charged with a criminal offence under section 159.

Fortunately or unfortunately, a great deal of reading material in this country is imported from the United States primarily, the United Kingdom and Europe — about 75% of the material our

must be pretty depressing to those who advocate freedom of speech. But what is new to the situation is that even their opponents have no cause to rejoice, for they may well be the next victims. Many developments in the communications arena are accelerating to the point where they may be out of control. Further, in looking to the future it appears that there are many trends acting so as to increase institutional censorship regardless of individual opinions on the matter. At the level of civil rights, several pressing questions are raised without much hope of an answer — who is to determine what is

Distributors and Censorship

distributes. Customs is allowed to check for material which contains drawings, paintings, prints, photographs or representations of any kind and that of a treasonable or seditious or of an immoral or indecent character may be seized. This means that people hired as custom appraisers and stationed at every boarder crossing have the right to stop anything they feel is immoral or indecent. Some of the things that have been stopped are not just *Hustler* and *Screw* magazines but also textbooks on sex ordered by university book stores for courses, art books published by agencies such as the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts and so on. These customs appraisers have no more training than you or I for this aspect of their job. In the *Chronicle Herald* some time ago in a medical column Dr. Walter Alvares recommended a book called "What Every Teenager Should Know About Sex". We had an order and after I got a note from Customs, the official told me it was obscene, terrible language, and only some pervert would order that kind of material. Basically all the author had done was use some of the vernacular that young people would use. I told him we ordered it in response to a particular order from a library in Nova Scotia run by a religious order and a particular sister who thought the book was excellent. To appeal a decision you have to write to Ottawa, and they have up to a month to reply with your appeals. By the time you get your appeal back from Ottawa and decide to appeal to a court here, two or three months have elapsed, and the product that you've imported and want to sell is really not current anymore. Customs also know that a lot of distributors won't even send to Canada anymore because returns are at the publishers' expense.

The third major group aside from those forms of government censorship are local vigilantes. I have more respect for these groups because they do take a high profile and are willing to take a stand. They are particularly on the rise in Ontario, New Brunswick and now in Nova Scotia. These groups usually work through the municipal government level where politicians are much more susceptible and can authorize seizures and raids and handle schoolboards. That it's going to pervert the children is one of the great dodges every time in the censorship debate. If you stopped everything that would be offensive for the children all you would have would be libraries, newsstands, and book stores perveying material suitable only to twelve year old minds. It obviously should be illegal to exploit children for any cause; that's no argument, but that's the one that's usually brought up. I think the cycle we're going through has a lot to do with the economy. People are frightened, the world is moving very fast and we're losing control of the children. It's a back to basics situation; that would make everything right and that kind of fundamentalist attitude is behind a lot of that thinking.

Only 3% of our title list has anything to do with sexuality or adult magazines, so

to be censored? is censorship necessary at all? can current dangerous trends be reversed? But some clue for resolving our censorship problems resides in the nature of the social mind: if the collective will allows the alteration of the mindscape which is extant, then the total "resonance" of the "racial mind" will be changed, probably irrevocably. It is for the librarians who see themselves as connecting links between past and future to take those stands most appropriate to the real nature of the dilemma and to focus more clearly on the "gut" issues. If this in the end proves not to be enough, it

we have evolved a policy statement. It's got us into some hot water occasionally but by the same token we've got the respect of most of the politicians and the opportunity for some dialogue. These "adult" publications would not exist without a real and discernible demand from a large segment of the general public. That *Penthouse* sells over 5000 copies on the news stands along might be a sad testament to the reading taste of Canadian public, but it's a fact. We can only hope that the authorities will recognize not only the moral dilemma facing any business thrust into the censorship role but also the logistical reality that any attempt by a company to screen incoming literature would be doomed to immediate failure. Marshall's has traditionally endorsed the freedom to read concept and opposition to literary censorship to defend the right of any adult Canadian to exercise freely a choice in reading material.

We have trained our sales personnel to assist retailers in arranging book and magazine displays that do not place undue emphasis on or give explicit, specific exposure to publications of an adult or prurient nature. We also make it very clear that our dealers are in no way obligated to accept, display or sell any specific magazines or books in order to receive other publications from our organization. Any retailer making the claim to the contrary is telling a falsehood. Our aim is to provide the retailer with the best possible selection of reading material in order to offer a complete reading service to customers. We feel that the ultimate answer in any attempt to upgrade the literary offerings displayed at community newsstands lies not with repression but with education. Any good newsstand reflects consumer tastes and demands; as the public is taught to appreciate literary excellence, their preferences will be reflected in the

is all that can be reasonably expected.

Censorship as an issue cannot be resolved. So long as man's mind remains free to roam the unlimited expanse of knowledge the quest for control will always be pursued. In fact it remains a "tension" that is necessary to a healthy society. An open mind on a tight subject, or, in contemporary jargon, to maintain one's options open for the longest possible time, is the most hopeful stance that anyone can adopt. Let us ensure that all the options are, at least, available to the searching mind.

quality of publications competing for their dollars. For this reason H.H. Marshall Ltd. supports reading programs organized and sponsored by our schools, libraries, community groups and service clubs to help Canadian readers become more critical and discerning in their reading preferences. Towards this end the company also sponsors a regional book review awards program in our elementary schools and supports the awards program sponsored by the periodical distributors of Canada. There will always be an interest in a number of things that may be offensive to some of us, or at least incomprehensible to some of us; but that's really none of our business, that's theirs, and there will be publications and books dealing with that subject. We must have a society where some censorship takes place or where there is no censorship. Once you get into some, you're into perhaps a small thing, but there is no having a little censorship. The real question is whether or not adult Canadians may have the right and privacy in their own homes to read anything of their choice. The Canadian Law Reform Commission recommended several years ago that obscenity should be decriminalized and we're in favor of that.

In the mid-sixties we buckled under at Marshall's; the people who really criticized us after we took magazines off the stands were people we respected. We never realized how much support there was for the stand of the company until after the fact. We've since joined with the Freedom of Expression Committee which includes the Canadian Library Association, the Book and Periodical Development Council, the Canadian Writers Union, and many more.

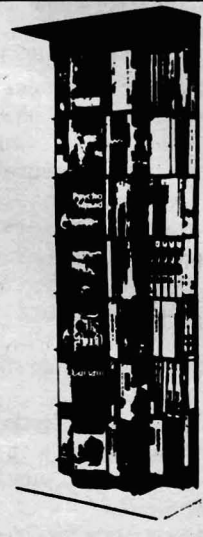
We have to force the censorship advocates to prove their claims of massive public demands for laws. Nobody likes to be caught in a spot, but it's too late to react when the crisis is here.

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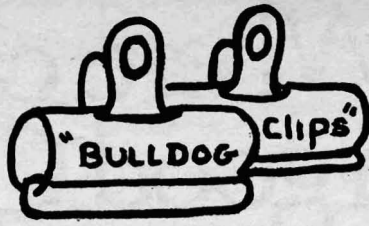
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CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Clip No. 9: Hand Papermaking

Alice W. Harrison is Librarian, Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, N.S.



Hilda Bohem, in her very useful book, *Disaster Prevention and Disaster Preparedness*, defines a disaster as, "... an event whose timing is unexpected and whose consequences are seriously destructive." She quotes another definition as "A disaster is what happens only if you are not prepared for it." In the conservation of library materials one of our goals is the prevention of agents of destruction. Most librarians seem to think, "it can't happen to me". To name but a few, it did happen to: the libraries of Temple University, the Jewish Theological Seminary, Federal Way branch of King County System, the Corning Museum of Glass, and of course the 1966 flooding of the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze. Last November the Stanford University Library was flooded and more recently and closer to home the Nepisiguit Centennial Library in Bathurst had to deal with damaged and destroyed materials as a result of the library's disastrous fire.

Because this is of concern, and especially to conservators, Disasters was one of the items on the agenda for discussion at the CCI Paper/Book Conservation Symposium in Ottawa last April. There were three sessions on this topic. The first was devoted to the showing of a film on the damage done in the Florence flood and restoration techniques. Peter Waters, from the Library of Congress, spoke at the second session on dealing with disasters. The third session was chaired by David Theobald, Chief of the Paper Division at the Canadian Institute in Ottawa. He was trying to get a network established across Canada of able conservators who could be contacted for assistance when a disaster did occur. At present it seems advisable to contact him at CCI if such an emergency should arise.

In the November tragedy at Stanford University Library, 40,000 books were damaged in a water-main flood at the Library. We read this with dismay, but also read with awe the story of the method used for restoring these same 40,000 books by the successful use of a vacuum chamber provided by Lockheed - the same one used to test the moon rover machine! In a February news article there was a report of this process, where the books (to prevent mould) were to be placed in cardboard boxes and frozen at a cold storage warehouse. Each week 5,000 would be placed in the chamber and "pumped down" to a vacuum of what it would be at an altitude of 200,000 feet. In this method the books would be heated and as they thawed the moisture would be "pulled" from them because of the vacuum. The moisture collects on a side panel of the chamber. Next, the volumes were to go to Palo Alto, California, to be rehumidified for three or four weeks. After they regain their moisture from normal atmospheric conditions the process of evaluating them for cleaning, repairs, rebinding, discarding etc. is undertaken. The technology involved seems staggering, but has been used before.

With support from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Corning Museum of Glass was able to publish a book, *The Corning Flood: Museum Under Water*, reporting on the techniques used to salvage and restore materials damaged in the June 23, 1972, flood. The flood was a result of Hurricane Agnes swerving inland and pausing for three days with heavy rainfall along the New York-Pennsylvania border. The Chemung River, which divides the city of Corning, crested at 28 feet, topped the dikes and poured into the town, leaving it without utilities for almost three weeks. The

Corning Museum was situated in the middle of the disaster area, and, as a result, the flood line rose 5'4" above the floor in the Museum building. The Museum contained 13,000 priceless art objects and 13,000 books. At least 528 objects were damaged, and the following is a list of the damaged library materials:

| Pre-Flood Collection | Number of Flood Damaged Items |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 13,000 catalogued volumes | 6,500 volumes |
| 600 rare books | 600 rare books |
| 3,750 periodicals | 3,111 periodicals |
| 50,300 slides | 36,400 slides |
| 22,270 photographs | 22,035 photographs |
| 2,252 prints | 2,032 |
| 20,000 negatives | 20,000 negatives |
| 100 films | 65 films |
| 3 drawers documents | 3 drawers documents |
| 4 drawers vertical file | 4 drawers vertical file |
| 80 linear feet archives | 72 linear feet archives |
| office files | office files |

It was a remarkable feat that the Museum was reopened to the public thirty-nine days after the flood, and four years later the Museum had finished the task of restoring the glass collection and the library books. In the first year 3,000 books and 30 boxes of files had been dried, cleaned and were ready for microfilming. One of the most fascinating stories is how the scientist who was brought in die various experiments and at the end of the year he had established the behavior of coated paper and why it became a solid mass when wet and then dried. Based on his experiments they took 3,500 frozen volumes, most of these the coated paper volumes, to Valley Forge, Pa. to the General Electric "space chamber" to be thawed and vacuum dried. 95% of these were saved! The other 5% were probably already blocked before being frozen. This was a very high success rate.

The book published by Corning not only describes the restoration process, but is valuable because it offers suggestions for disaster planning gleaned from their experience. They state that they have published the book "in the paradoxical hope that it will prove useful, but never have to be used"! I highly recommend it to all librarians and think it should be owned by all libraries. It can be ordered from the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning Glass Center, Corning, N.Y. 14830, for the cost of \$6.00 (ISBN 0-87290-063-0, LC 77-73627)

Besides floods other disasters include: Fire, Earthquake, Explosions, Gas Leaks, High Winds, Hurricanes, Power Failures, and even other things one might not normally think of such as Bomb Threats, Plane Crashes, Riots, Other Accidents or Illnesses, and any kind of Water Damage.

In the September, 1978, issue of the *Library Association Record*, there is an article entitled, "Fire", written by Eastwood, Collis and Mort. It is the story of a fire that took place January 2, 1978, at the Bridgewater Library, the largest library in Somerset. It had a valuable and irreplaceable book collection built up over the years and housed the County Reference Library. The fire took place during the firemen's dispute, and so the Navy "green goddess" crews fought the fire, which broke out at least three times. There are two statements in the article that should be pointed out as warnings to librarians. In paragraph nine it says, "On 3 January, the day after the fire, things looked very bad. It was found that the building and furniture were covered by insurance, but the book stock was not, this apparently being due to an oversight

on local government reorganization."! Paragraph thirteen says, "Without delay advice was sought on how to mitigate the smoke effect and the County Scientific Adviser, the County Archivist, and the Library Association were immediately consulted. Frankly, no one had much to offer. The best advice we got (from the Archivist) was to wash the outside of each book in clear warm water, and to rub the edges with a soft office-type india-rubber." (*Library Association Record*, v. 80 (9), September, 1978, p. 455. "Fire" by C.R. Eastwood, R.J. Collis, and G. Mort).

Apparently this lack of foresight in planning for disasters is not unusual. The *Library Journal*, May 15, 1975, an article on a fire that destroyed both the five year old Federal Way branch of the King County Library System (Washington) and its 35,000 volume book collection also states that the losses were estimated at some \$1.5 million, but the library only carried \$400,000 in insurance, covering damage to the building only. It goes on to say that the Director "opted for minimum insurance coverage and had no sprinkler system because there seemed to be little chance of fire."

In the Corning flood there is an example of what can go wrong to cause even greater havoc and more losses during clean-up operations. There were approximately 11,000 items in the mounted print collection. These almost formed a solid mass by the time they were taken out of the flooded museum. Due to the lack of running water, these were immersed in a private swimming pool, where they could be separated and washed free of mud. Then it says, "...unfortunately, the chemicals in the pool adversely affected the emulsion and they had to be destroyed." They also lost some 4,000 unmounted glossy photographs (6500 of the 11,000 frozen were, however, successfully cleaned). Those that were lost developed mould because they weren't frozen until four days after the flood. The worst damage did not come from the mould or mud, but rather it was caused by the wet glassine envelopes in which the photographs had been stored. The combination of the water softened surface of the film and the cockling of the glassine envelopes produced a rippling texture on the surface of the photographs. Some photographs had been filed in Kraft paper envelopes and they escaped this damage. Now all of their photographic collection is stored in acid-free paper envelopes that do not cockle. This points up the need to know ahead of time the correct way to store our library materials in order to prevent later damage.

After Hurricane Agnes in 1972, Peter Waters, Restoration Officer for the Library of Congress, prepared a manual for salvage operations. This was brought out again in 1975 after experience with the salvage of material following two major fires in libraries. This is a "must" for all libraries and should be kept handy in case of emergency. Bohem suggests that a library provide each staff member with a copy to keep at home and also to supply copies for designated emergency boxes throughout the Library. It is available free of charge from the Library of Congress, Washington. Just request, *Procedures for Salvage of Water-Damaged Library Materials* by Peter Waters. (ISBN 0-8444-0151-X, LC 75-1217). LC also allows duplication of it without restriction. ("After the Water Comes", Willman Spawn in Baker and Soroka, *Library Conservation Preservation in Perspective*, p. 400).

All of the recommended references at the end of this article deal with procedures to follow after a disaster. Two of the references should be pointed out for their value in disaster preparedness. Both the Bohem and Martin books do this. Martin suggests a three-step planning: (1) Action to be taken prior to a disaster, (2) Procedures, during the disaster, and (3) Action to be taken after a disaster. The APLA Conservation Committee is

working on phase (1) of this suggested plan, as well as using the material in Bohem on that Disaster Preparedness Plan. The Committee hopes to have guidelines established by the next General APLA Meeting, May, 1980, to share with interested librarians. In the meantime the following list of items that are suggested could be started by any librarian:

- (1) Make a floor plan or location chart of your library showing subject areas and their classification numbers. Designate priorities for salvage operations.
- (2) Consider micro-filming shelf list and/or accession lists, or any other list of holdings, and value if possible.
- (3) Check insurance coverage.
- (4) Prepare a telephone list with the telephone numbers of police, fire, ambulance, security, plumber, electrician, gas company, insurance agents and staff. Most important of all, list the number of someone who has had experience in disasters. It is suggested that the CCI number be on hand, 1-613-998-3721.
- (5) Information list and/or diagrams: the staff should be informed as to the location of electricity, gas, steam, water and sewer cutoff switches. They should know location of fire extinguishers and how to use them.
- (6) Send for the free copy of *Procedures for Salvage of Water-Damaged Library Materials*. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

A follow-up to these six items will be a listing of emergency facilities and supplies that the APLA Conservation Committee is working on and will have ready in May, 1980.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

- A.L.A. Library Technology Program. *Protecting the Library and Its Resources*. Chicago, ALA, 1963, (ISBN 0-8389-3064-6, LC 76-19683) Baker, John P. and Marguerite C. Soroka, eds. *Library Conservation: Preservation in Perspective*. Stroudsburg, Pa., Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross, Inc., 1978. Chapter IX, "Disaster and Salvage", pp. 383-408.
- Bohem, Hilda. *Disaster Prevention and Disaster Preparedness*. Berkeley, California, University of California Task Group on the Preservation of Library Materials, April, 1978. Cunha, George D.M. and Dorothy G. Cunha. *Conservation of Library Materials: A Manual and Bibliography on the Care, Repair and Restoration of Library Materials*. 2nd ed. vol. 1, Metuchen, N.J., The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1971. Chapter VI, "When Disaster Strikes", pp. 208-221.
- Harvard University Library, Subcommittee on Emergency Procedures. *Emergency Guidelines for Harvard Libraries*, Harvard University Library, 1975. Contains the reprint of Waters' book. Martin, John H., ed. *The Corning Flood: Museum Under Water*, Corning, N.Y. The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning Glass Center, 1977. Waters, Peter. *Procedures for Salvage of Water-Damaged Library Materials*. Washington, D.C. Library of Congress, 1975.

Next issue: Newspaper Clipping Files.

Halifax Library Association

At its annual general meeting on Monday, April 30, the Halifax Library Association elected the following officers for the 1979-1980 year: President - Ann Nevill (Bedford Institute of Oceanography), Vice-President and President-Elect - Trudy Girard (Halifax School Libraries), Secretary/Treasurer - Jennifer Brownlow (Nova Scotia Institute of Technology), Councillors - Lorraine McQueen (Nova Scotia Provincial Library) and Mary McCullough (Halifax County Regional Library), and Past President - Ron Lewis (St. Mary's University).

Libraries and Those Who Cannot Read

Howard L. Cogswell is Branch Coordinator of the Saint John Regional Library, Saint John, N.B.

No matter how much creativity we invest in planning and promoting library services in the Atlantic Provinces, there will yet be thousands who will remain outside the range of our communication. They are the Maritimers and the Newfoundlanders who cannot read. Depending on one's definition of functional illiteracy, there are between 100,000 and 350,000 adults in our region who are unable to make use of printed materials because they cannot (rather than do not) read. Literacy workers consider that most adult non-readers are in one of these two categories covered by Canadian census figures: persons 15 years of age or older who are not attending school full-time and have either less than Grade 5 or less than Grade 9 education. Of the first group, there were 102,110 at the time of the 1976 census, and of the second group, 368,980. They represent, respectively, 10.5% and 38% of the population 15 years of age or older.

Library action

Both the Canadian Library Association (in 1978) and the American Library Association (in 1977) have given official recognition to the situation of illiteracy in North America and the part libraries may play in developing literacy. Some libraries, such as the Regina Public Library and the Free Library of Philadelphia, have gone so far as to establish reading programmes in the library directed by reading specialists on the library staff, and using library assistants as tutors. There are less ambitious (and less costly) measures that library staffs may take that will nevertheless play a part in producing new adult readers.

Some libraries have chosen to offer meeting space to literacy tutors and their students, either in pairs or in small classes. Halifax City Regional Library's North End Branch provides this service. Libraries may also sponsor tutor-training workshops using library facilities. Most city libraries try to maintain a high-interest, low-reading-level collection for the benefit of new adult readers and young people with reading problems. Some of these materials are produced for the purpose by several publishers, others are regular trade products which are suitable because of language level the author has used. There are several testing instruments that may be used to determine the reading level of a book. Three common tests, named for their creators, are the Gunning, the Spache, and the Fry readability formulas. Libraries may choose to produce a list of high-interest, low-reading-level books in their regular collections using one of these formulas. Literacy councils, other volunteer tutors, and reading specialists are always pleased to use these bibliographies.

Libraries are helping literacy councils in at least two other ways. The Saint John Regional Library has agreed to classify, process, and house the small library of the Greater Saint John Literacy Council. It includes supplementary reading materials for adult new readers and teaching aids for volunteer tutors. Libraries may also watch for books on the teaching of reading to add to their own collections for the use of volunteers.

Most volunteer literacy work in the Atlantic Provinces is being done by tutors trained in the Laubach literacy methods under the direction of the National Affiliation for Literacy Advance (NALA), a North American volunteer group with headquarters in Syracuse, N.Y. In Newfoundland and in Charlotte County, N.B., there are volunteers who have been trained under the direction of Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA), also based in Syracuse. NALA volunteers

are organized in literacy councils which now are operating in most cities and large towns of the three Maritime Provinces. Besides NALA, there is a Canadian umbrella organization which serves as a clearinghouse for all adult literacy and basic education activities in Canada. The Movement for Canadian Literacy/Rassemblement canadien pour l'alphabétisation was formed in the Fall of 1977 at a literacy conference in Ottawa. It produces a quarterly journal, *Literacy/Alphabetisation*, with articles, booklists, and literacy news from across Canada. Libraries across the country have become organizational members of the Movement to support the idea and to receive the journal.

For Further Information

In 1976, a definitive study of literacy in Canada was published by World Literacy of Canada, a Canada-based group that does literacy work overseas. *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Activities in Canada, 1975-76*, authored by Audrey Thomas, the first Executive Secretary of the Movement for Canadian Literacy, remains the first authority on literacy activities in the country. Under her leadership, the Movement has produced *Adult Literacy in the Seventies: Conference Report and Annotated A.B.E. Bibliography*. The first is the proceedings of the Ottawa conference that founded the Movement; the second attempts "a comprehensive listing of materials currently in use, or of use to practitioners working in the 0 to Grade 9 levels of adult basic education in Canada."

The most current books relating libraries to literacy are Helen Lyman's *Literacy and the Nation's Libraries* and the A.L.A.'s *The Right to Read and the Nation's Libraries*. "The nation" in each case is the United States. For Canadian content, there are two excellent articles: Sarah Landy's "Regina Public Library Accepts the Challenge" (*Canadian Library Journal*, Sept./Oct., 1974, p.442ff) and Ann Makletzoff's "Literacy in Ontario" (*Ontario Library Review*, June, 1978, p.119ff).

When you have had time to consider the literacy situation, I believe you will conclude that we have as much responsibility for those who cannot read as we have for those who stubbornly will not read.

Post Scripta:

Further Canadian reading. Mary Flannagan and Cheryl Moore, "Materials for Adult Reading," (*Ontario Library Review* Dec., 1977, p. 280 ff); Carolyn Youssef, "Literacy Update," (*Ontario Library Review*, March, 1979, pp. 49-51); *Literacy Newsletter*, edited by William Edwards for the Library Literacy Committee of the Ontario Library Association (Woodlands Branch, Mississauga Public Library). The Newsletter is distributed among the libraries of Central Ontario Regional Library System. Carolyn Youssef is chairperson of the Committee. OLA will present a literacy workshop at its annual meeting on October. In cooperation with Prof. Halpenny of the Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto, OLA will stage a one-day invitational seminar for Canadian publishers on their role in adult literacy. Time and place: October in Toronto.

It has been suggested that libraries and literacy be the theme of the 1980 APLA annual conference. Please direct your comments to your Provincial Vice-President or another member of the Executive.

If any Atlantic libraries involved in literacy programmes are not mentioned in this article, please let the author know (Saint John Regional Library, 20 Hazen Ave., Saint John, N.B. E2L 3G8).

Where can I find a good Canadian book distributor?



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CBIC Atlantic

The Canadian Book Information Centre takes pleasure in announcing the opening of a new office in Halifax.

Over the summer the CBIC will set up its third office — CBIC-Atlantic, and its fourth permanent display of Canadian-owned publishers books.

This new opportunity has been made possible by funding from the Canada Council and very generous office and

display space has been provided by Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Interested persons in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia & Newfoundland should write to Halifax for more information about the displays programme or with notice of your conference. Permanent staff will be in the Halifax office after July 1st.

EDITOR SOUGHT

Applications for the position of Editor of the APLA bulletin are now being sought from among members of this Association. The position will be open as of the completion of Volume 43 (May 1980).

The Editor interprets the policy of the Bulletin, which has been established by the

Association, in terms of the kinds of material accepted and sought and the kind of features to be developed. The Editor must originate ideas for articles and canvass possible contributors.

The Editor also serves as regional correspondent for *Feliciter*, published by the Canadian Library Association.

Applications should be forwarded to:

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Atlantic Provinces Library Association
c/o School of Library Service
Dalhousie University
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