

APLA BULLETIN

VOL. 43 NO. 3

Canadian Learning Materials Centre

The Canadian Learning Materials Centre is an entirely new venture, established to provide a valuable regional resource for teachers, parents, librarians and others who are interested in knowing what books, kits and other Canadian learning materials are available and how to use them effectively. The Centre will develop a workshop programme in various areas of interest (e.g.: environmental studies; history, geography and social studies; the arts; and so on) and make these available to various groups and institutions in Atlantic Canada. It will also disseminate up-to-date information and analysis of issues related to regional and national educational publishing.

The Centre is funded by the Canada Council, with space provided by Dalhousie University. A director will soon be appointed and the operation of the Centre will be supervised by an independent board made up of representatives of teachers, writers, librarians, publishers and parents organizations from throughout the region.

For further information contact:
Douglas Myers

Chairman, Steering Committee
Canadian Learning Materials Centre
(424-2375)

Upcoming Events

November 16 (Friday) **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE Library Planning:** the systems approach - Pat Zuest, Metro Toronto Library Board Planning Head. Location: MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library. Time: 10:45 a.m. Contact: Norman Horrocks, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8. Phone: 424-3656

November 17-24 (Saturday-Friday) **CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL Our Choice Display.** Location: CBIC-Atlantic, Killam Library. Contact: Angela Rebeiro, CBIC-Atlantic, Killam Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8. Phone: 424-3410.

November 23 (Friday) **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE The National Library:** present and future - Hope Clement, Associate National Librarian of Canada. Location: MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library, Dalhousie University. Time: 10:45 a.m. Contact: Norman Horrocks.

November 29 (Thursday) **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE The Acquisition of French Language Materials** - Richard Greene, Deputy Librarian, Université de Montréal. Location: MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library. Time: 2:00 p.m. Contact: Norman Horrocks.

November 30 (Friday) **DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE Quebec Libraries,** New Developments - Richard Greene, Université de Montréal. Location: MacMechan Auditorium, Killam Library, Dalhousie University. Time: 10:45 a.m. Contact: Norman Horrocks.

December 3 (Monday) **HALIFAX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Meeting.** Shifting priorities in education - Doug Myers, Director, Part-time Studies, Dalhousie University. Location: Nova Scotia Institute of Technology, 5685 Leeds St., Halifax. Time: 8:00 p.m. Contact: Christine Ball-McKean, Killam Library.

New Brunswick Regional Libraries

All regional libraries were notified in August 1979 that they had to prepare a contingency plan by which 10% of their manpower would be cut. This is in compliance with a Treasury Board stated objective of zero growth in Part I of the Civil Service to be achieved by March 1982.

The New Brunswick Library Trustees Association is strongly opposing this 10% cut, and has presented a brief to Premier Hatfield on the subject.

The regional library boards and the public library boards of the province have also voiced their opposition to this request.

If implemented, this 10% cut in manpower will definitely prevent the development of libraries in New Brunswick, at a time when many libraries are planning to increase the existing facilities and at a time when many municipalities are requesting libraries for their citizens.

Trustees representing all the public libraries of New Brunswick met in Fredericton August 23. A 10% reduction

N.S. Task Force on School Libraries

In mid-June, Terence Donahoe, Minister of Education for Nova Scotia, appointed a Task Force to define the role of the school library in the education system of N.S. and to formulate provincial guidelines for the development and expansion of library service in the schools.

This action resulted from a presentation made to the Minister by the executive of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, on behalf of the Nova Scotia School Library Association.

Members of this Task Force are:

Chairperson: Shirley Coulter, Co-ordinator, School Libraries Section, N.S. Provincial Library

Arthur Black, Supervisor, School Libraries, City of Sydney

Catharine Gardiner, Assistant Inspector of Schools, County of Cape Breton & Northside-Victoria Amalgamation Area

Elaine Rillie, Librarian, L.E. Shaw Elementary School, Avonport, Kings County, and Past-President, NSSLA.

Tom Sheppard, Head Teacher, North Queens Elementary School, Caledonia, Queens County

Lewis Smith, Dartmouth, representing the Nova Scotia School Boards Association

An organizational meeting was held on June 27, 1979, to discuss terms of reference and to draw up a plan of action for the months ahead. Copies of pertinent documents and assorted items of "background reading" were provided by the chairperson, and information brought by each member was shared and discussed.

York Regional Library

Under a Young Canada Works Program — Production de livres sonores français — York Regional Library is producing in talking book format books by Canadian writers giving first priority to Acadian ones. These tapes will be added to the Provincial collection which is available to the physically and visually handicapped throughout the Province.

Through a tour arranged by the York

of public library staff might well result in some small libraries disappearing and undoubtedly services would be sharply reduced. Unquestionably the objective of the public library system to offer the citizens educational, recreational and cultural opportunities would be in real jeopardy. The problem of balancing vastly increased demand for public library service in a period of economic restraint versus rising costs and reduced budgets has been an on-going dilemma for trustees since 1974 and any further cuts must be accompanied by reduced services. Lack of funds to replace bookmobiles will inevitably see the end of rural library service as bookmobiles deteriorate beyond repair. A library service that is the envy of other provinces for what has been accomplished in so short a time and with so little will falter badly if further budget reductions are made. In 1978-79 library use rose to 2,721,646 and the cost of providing these services represented only 0.26% of the Provincial budget. The trustees will present a brief to the Premier and to the Minister.

The first work session was held September 28-29 at the Provincial Library, Halifax.

Over the next few months, individual members of the Task Force will be organizing meetings and work sessions in their particular areas. It is expected that these will be fairly informal in nature but that they will result in the accumulation of some useful input from a cross-section of the community.

Although the Task Force is not soliciting formal, detailed briefs, these would be very acceptable if they were received. However, any comments, ideas, suggestions, etc. related to the development of school libraries in N.S. will be welcomed by any member of the Task Force, and may be submitted in written form, by telephone or by personal contact, whichever is most convenient.

Because much of the statistical material and background information is already available through the work of N.S. School Library Association committees and the office of the Co-ordinator of School Libraries, it is hoped that the gathering of this supplemental material will be completed before Christmas.

Sometime early in the New Year it is expected that copies of a preliminary report will be widely circulated for comments and feedback.

Barring unforeseen delays, the Task Force hopes to have completed its work before the end of the 1979-80 school year so that the final report may be presented to the Minister of Education early in the summer of 1980.

Regional Library and with financial assistance from the Dept. of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the Chester Puppets of Nova Scotia toured the Province in October presenting 34 plays and workshops in both English and French. The response was so enthusiastic that a limit had to be placed with the result that some communities have been disappointed.

From the President's Desk

Mr. James MacEachern, Director of New Brunswick Library Services, died on September 22, 1979. A tribute to Mr. MacEachern appears elsewhere in this *Bulletin* but on behalf of APLA I would like to extend our sympathy to Mr. MacEachern's family and colleagues in New Brunswick. APLA was represented at Mr. MacEachern's funeral by our Past-president Terry Amis.

Recently the New Brunswick Government has ordered a 10% cutback in library manpower for the coming budget year. As an association we have written to Mr. Hatfield expressing our grave concern for the reduction in quantity and quality of library service resulting from this cutback. The newly formed New Brunswick Trustees' Association has also expressed its concern and opposition.

National Book Festival

The National Book Festival has been announced. It will take place May 2-11, 1980. Terry Amis, Secretary of the Atlantic Provinces Book Council, has been named Regional Representative for the festival.

APLA Executive Meeting Sept. 21, 1979

Written committee reports received by the executive have been printed in this issue of the *Bulletin* for your information and enjoyment. Other business included the acceptance of Joan Moore's resignation as Treasurer. Joan is attending the University of Pittsburgh for Ph.D. studies. The executive appointed Betty Sutherland as Treasurer and Susan Svetlik was appointed Councillor for Membership. There will be an election for both positions at the 1980 AGM.

Corner Brook, May 1980 Conference

Plans are well under way for what promises to be an excellent conference in Corner Brook. This is the first time in APLA's history that the annual conference and the President have been in different provinces. To cope with this we have struck a local arrangements committee in Corner Brook and a programme committee based in Nova Scotia. Both committees are working hard and I have visited Corner Brook to see the conference facilities first-hand. The city is friendly, modern and easily reached by EPA. I am assured that the airport is fog-free! We are investigating charter flights and special fares from EPA so stay tuned for further developments and put Corner Brook in your budget for May, 1980!

Dalhousie School of Library Service, 10th Anniversary Celebrations

APLA participated in these celebrations in a tangible way by donating to the Friday night reception. Many former graduates returned and a full programme of speakers, seminars, and parties occupied us all.

Congratulations to the school and its present director, Dr. Norman Horrocks. APLA members were involved in the establishment of the school and I am sure our association will continue its interest and support throughout the coming decade.

Lorraine McQueen
President

The two-year
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Dalhousie University
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY
SERVICE

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Write for application forms and further information to:

THE REGISTRAR, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY,
 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4H6
 (902) 424-3890 Telex: 019-21863

APLA BULLETIN VOL. 43 NO. 3

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

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.

APLA EXECUTIVE 1979-80

PRESIDENT:

Lorraine McQueen, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Halifax, N.S.

VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Ann Nevill, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, N.S.

VICE-PRESIDENT (NEW BRUNSWICK):

Claude Potvin, Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library, Moncton, N.B.

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Barbara Eddy, Education Library, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland.

VICE-PRESIDENT (NOVA SCOTIA):

Iain Bates, Acadia University Library, Wolfville, N.S.

VICE-PRESIDENT (P.E.I.):

Pamela Forsyth, Confederation Centre Library, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

SECRETARY:

Susan Whiteside, Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, N.S.

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.

TREASURER:

Betty Sutherland, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, N.S.

PAST PRESIDENT:

Terry Amis, Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library, Moncton, N.B.

COUNCILLORS:

Bertha Higgins, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Halifax, N.S. (Aims and Objectives)

Susan Svetlik, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, N.S. (Membership)

EDITOR:

Peter Glenister, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, N.S.

MANAGING EDITOR:

Andrew Poplawski, Halifax County Regional Library, Halifax, N.S.

ADVERTISING EDITOR:

Bonita J. Boyd, Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

Bulletin Deadlines

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 Membership

Susan Svetlik is 1979-80 Councillor for Membership.

Following the resignation of Joan Moore as Treasurer of APLA, and Betty Sutherland's appointment to complete Joan's term of office, I have been appointed to take over Betty's duties as Councillor for Membership.

Membership figures for the 1979/80 year are still lagging behind those for 1978/79, when the record figure of 318 was reached. As of September 28, 1979, membership stands at 257, including 7 honorary or life members, 221 renewals of previous memberships, and 29 new members. The breakdown by province shows 121 members from Nova Scotia, 78 from New Brunswick, 29 from Newfoundland, 19 from Prince Edward Island, and 10 from outside the Atlantic Provinces. Last year at this time, APLA had 144 Nova Scotia members, 76 from New Brunswick, 23 from Newfoundland, 19 from Prince Edward Island and 8 from outside the region, for a total of 270. 90 of last year's APLA members have not yet renewed their memberships. On behalf of the Membership Committee, I ask all members to encourage other library workers to join APLA or to renew a previous membership. An application form is included on p. 7 of this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Since last year's membership drive was quite successful, a similar campaign is proposed for this year. The Membership Committee will be contacting people in libraries throughout the Atlantic Provinces, asking them to encourage APLA membership among their colleagues. With the help of many APLA members, we hope that 1979/80 membership will surpass last year's total. I would like to extend a particular invitation to those who have recently joined the Atlantic Provinces library community, to join the Atlantic Provinces Library Association as well.

The automation of the APLA membership and *APLA bulletin* subscription lists is proceeding. All current members have now been entered into the database, and mailing labels for the *Bulletin* are now produced by the computer. This year's membership directory will also be produced from this database, with distribution now expected with issue no. 4 of the *Bulletin* in January 1980. Since the directory will include, in addition to members' names and addresses, their job titles and business phone numbers, we ask all members to notify us of any changes in this information.

I look forward to hearing from many of you, either as new members of APLA, or as former members renewing your association with us.

Patrick Power Library

Effective September 4, 1979, the Patrick Power Library ceased Interlibrary Loan activity with local libraries with which we have reciprocal borrowing privileges. These libraries are: Atlantic Institute of Education, Killam Library, MacDonald Science Library, Maritime School of Social Work, Mount Saint Vincent, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and University of King's College. All of these libraries honour valid Saint Mary's University I.D.'s for library borrowing. Patrick Power Library reciprocates by honouring their valid I.D. cards.

The Library's Slide/Tape Show, now with a revised script and new pictures, was shown to Freshmen initiates and to a plethora of students, including an investigation (collective noun) of Library School Students.

Computer Search Services are now offered for a fee. \$5.00 produces a "Quick-And-Dirty" survey of the literature with citations printed on-line. All other searches are executed at cost.

The Cataloguing Department of the Patrick Power Library has initiated fast cataloguing procedures designed to speed up the processing of new books. Staff will continue to catalogue fully the vast majority of newly-received materials. The FASTCAT system will be used only to process items for which complete cataloguing data is not readily available. The new procedures will enable the Library staff to prepare many books for circulation which are now relegated to back-log shelves.

Users should find the FASTCAT items easily accessible. They are listed by author and by title on two printouts located near the card catalogue. The

printout entries also include the call number assigned to a FASTCAT book. The first line of a call number is the word "FASTCAT"; the second line is a letter or letters taken from the Library of Congress classification system, and the third line is a number.

FASTCAT
 GN
 23

The second line is probably of greatest interest to library users. Books ordered by each Academic department at Saint Mary's are assigned the letter or letters in the LC classification system used for a similar subject area. For example, FASTCAT books ordered for the Chemistry Department will have letters QD for the second line of their call number. Most library books in the subject area of Chemistry, fully catalogued and classified according to the LC System, have the same letters, QD, as the first line of their call numbers. Similarly, FASTCAT books ordered by the Anthropology Department will be located in the GN section of the FASTCAT shelves, the same place where most books in the field of Anthropology are found in the LC stacks on the second floor. Lists of the subject areas and corresponding letters can be found at various points in the building.

All FASTCAT books are shelved on the third floor of the library on stacks located between the last section of periodicals and the Dewey classified books. Occasional browsing in the appropriate parts of the FASTCAT stacks combined with a check of the FASTCAT printouts will alert an interested user to library material not accessible through the subject catalogue.

Dartmouth Regional Library

The Thursday morning miniseries Coffeepotluck returned in September with programs on antique lamps and candlesticks, home liqueur making, battered wives and legal drugs, access to cablevision and numerous other topics. "MacRoots: the Highlanders" was a hit program of the Dartmouth Regional Library summer season.

More than one hundred people came to Woodlawn Mall Branch to hear the Clan McBain Pipe Band on July 17, in a concert

co-sponsored by the Woodlawn Mall Merchants Association.

Mayor Brownlow was in attendance and presented the Order of Good Times to Clan McBain Chief James Hughston McBain of Tucson, Arizona.

Junior Department Librarian Linda Pearse is immersed in editorial decisions as the children's library newspaper *Bookworm Bugle* blew its first notes before the return to school in September.

People

Wholesale returns to university have brought major changes in Dartmouth Regional Library staff. Publicity Assistant **Mary Jane Maffini** is entering Library School at Dalhousie. Her successor is **Donalee Moulton**, a student in the M.A. in Sociology Program at Dalhousie, whose thesis on media and leisure activities is nearing completion. **Doris Rankin**, of Adult Services also departed for Library School and **Paula Saulnier** moved from Adult Services to Reference where she replaces **Holly Holmes**. **Linda Lowden** and **Denise Hansen** have joined Adult Services. **Marcella Bungay**, formerly a Municipal Employment Project youth worker in the Community Services Department, has joined the permanent staff of the Junior department, succeeding **Sherry Seeton**, who is also returning to Dalhousie. **Marilyn Welland**, supervisor of Woodlawn Mall Branch, has recently been appointed Acting Administrative Assistant.

Janet Bone, formerly half-time cataloguer at Dartmouth Regional Library, has moved to a newly created part-time position in the reference department. Her position as cataloguer has been filled by **Hulda Trider**, a graduate of Palmer Graduate Library School, C.W. Post Center, Long Island University.

Head of Public Services, **Joan Moore**, resigned from the Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University, effective September 4, 1979, to commence her Ph.D program at the University of Pittsburgh.

We regret to report the death of **Vivian MacInnis**, head of book ordering at Cape Breton Regional Library Headquarters in Sydney. Vivian was on staff for the past 23 years and, although unwell for some time, continued to work until the last few weeks before her death. She will be very much missed.

Laurie Bildfell (M.L.S. Western Ontario, 1979) has joined the staff of the Harriet Irving Library as a Reference Librarian. She replaced **Lorraine Dicks** who resigned to be married and return to Newfoundland.

Margaret MacMillan has joined the Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library as head of the Riverview Public Library. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a MLS (1978) and from U.N.B. with an Honours B.A. in English. She was assistant at the North Simcoe Branch of the Oshawa Public Library.

Ruth Bray (M.L.S. - 1979 - from U.B.C.) is the new Children's Librarian at the Moncton Public Library. She had clerical experience in various capacities at the Burnaby Public Library and at the Vancouver Public Library before taking her M.L.S.

There have been a number of staff changes at the Ralph Pickard Bell Library, Mount Allison University. **Ruth MacDonald** is Acting University Librarian; **Norah McCloy**, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, is Reference/Education Librarian; and **Lynn Owen** is Reference/Archives Librarian.

Cathy MacDonald of Stellarton, a 1979 M.L.S. graduate of Dalhousie Library School, was appointed Librarian of the Victoria County Library Service, Baddeck, N.S., on August 7, 1979, replacing **Wendy Smallman**, who has moved to the West Coast.

Carol Zehr was married in June and left her position as reference librarian, Fredericton Public Library, for a position at the New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, in September.



James F. MacEacheron - A Tribute

The public libraries of New Brunswick were stilled September 25, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. as the library community paid tribute to their Director and friend, James MacEacheron, who was to New Brunswickers, "Mr. Library". It was a time for grieving and a time to reflect on his astounding impact not only in New Brunswick but on the entire Atlantic Provinces library scene.

It was on January 1, 1953, that the Hon. C.D. Taylor, Minister of Education, in the government of Premier Hugh John Flemming announced James MacEacheron's appointment as New Brunswick's first Director of Library Services. For twenty-six years he struggled and worked to fulfill his mandate — to develop and organize regional libraries throughout the Province.

A native of Cape Tormentine, Mr. MacEacheron received his early education in the area's schools and at Mount Allison Academy, Sackville. He later graduated from Teacher's College with a First Class License in Academic and Manual Training and taught at Barnesville and Riverside, New Brunswick. He enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1941 and completed a tour of operations over Germany. After the War he attended Carleton College, Ottawa, and graduated with a B.A. and the following year from McGill University's School of Library Science. He then joined the staff of the Cape Breton Nova Scotia Regional Library and organized and operated a bookmobile service. During his years as Director, he authored the New Brunswick Libraries Act and guided the establishment of the five regional libraries which serve a population of 521,114 through forty service outlets and bookmobiles. During the last few years he introduced the book catalogue into the regional system. As Director his goal was to make people realize the tremendous educational, recreational and cultural potential that is contained in the library.

The regional library system is young in years but Jim's vision extended beyond the day to day functions of basic library service. He preferred to work behind the scenes rather than at executive level and in this role served on many committees of the Canadian Library Association and the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. He was one of its founding members. He believed implicitly in cooperation not only among public libraries but all libraries within the province, inter-provincially, and nationally, and this was reflected when he instigated the establishment of the Council of Head Librarians for New Brunswick. He also foresaw that through cooperation of all libraries, government, special, university and public, a gigantic leap forward could be achieved through the establishment of an Atlantic Provinces Bibliographic Centre. With this dream in mind he moved that a committee be formed to study the possibility and carried

the motion to the Atlantic Provinces Library Association's Annual Convention in 1974 where it was unanimously adopted by the members. He then served on this committee for three years.

As an educator, Jim designed the New Brunswick Library Assistants' Course which has enabled large numbers of regional employees to upgrade their qualifications and to further develop their skills. He worked closely with his fellow director of Nova Scotia, the late Alberta Letts, in forming a committee to study and formulate plans that led to the establishment of a Library School at Dalhousie University. He was one of its staunchest supporters and on occasion was a guest lecturer.

In 1976, the Atlantic Provinces Library Association honoured Jim by presenting him with the Merit Award which recognizes outstanding services in the Atlantic Provinces in the field of library service. Such was the humility of the man that in the accompanying picture taken minutes before the presentation, one can see his stunned surprise and disbelief mingling with his delight and happiness.

During the last months when it was apparent that his strength was waning, he continued to search for and study new and better ways by which New Brunswickers could be served. A recent idea was to introduce an In-Watts Line for the five regional libraries by which every resident could have access to reference service via telephone.

Along with the nine other provincial directors across Canada, Jim was an active member of their many committees involved in attempting to better existing services. Although he preferred to work behind the scenes he was always in the forefront when difficult decisions had to be made. When support was needed, one could count on Jim to stand up and be counted.

He had a great affection for the people of the Atlantic Provinces and a love of nature. On occasion, one could sense his eagerness to be off salmon fishing, his favourite sport, or curling where he was in his element. Jim's closely knit family meant a great deal to him and it was in his home that one saw the many finely crafted articles of furniture that were his work. As a collector of Atlantic art, he was knowledgeable about the works of new artists as well as the established ones and his interests were wide. A favourite was La Sagouine which he had purchased at Memramcook.

His was the unobtrusive approach. He visualized the whole library scene, set his goals and quietly went about achieving them through quiet persuasion and gentle suggestion. He shall be sadly missed by all who had the privilege to know and understand his delightful sense of humour.

Contributed by Katherine LeButt, Regional Librarian, York Regional Library, Fredericton, N.B.

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Tom Flemming is on the staff of the Kellogg Health Sciences Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

At its March meeting this year, the Halifax Library Association took two important decisions. It declared itself in support of the CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom, and it registered its opposition to those provisions of Bill C-21 which dealt with obscenity. Since that time, much discussion of the bill and an Intellectual Freedom workshop at the APLA Conference in May have made some of us more familiar with the freedom to read issue and the effects it may have on our libraries. It is very likely that in the near future, we will become even more involved with the complex of library and societal problems and emotive issues centering on censorship. We will then have occasion, I think, to look back on the actions taken by HLA early in March with greater pride, and with a sense of their real significance.

That same March meeting authorized the writing of letters to our Halifax Members of Parliament, the Minister of Justice, and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. The letters were intended to inform these people of the support of HLA for the anti-censorship position of the CLA Intellectual Freedom Statement. Furthermore, the letters expressed HLA's dissatisfaction with various provisions of a bill to amend the Criminal Code of Canada, the Canada Evidence Act, and the Canada Parole Act — namely, the infamous Bill C-21. It was then in its second appearance in the House, having been born a year before as Bill C-51.

We were acting on the premise that it is important for our legislators and representatives to be aware of our concerns. It is especially important to inform people when librarians in an organization such as HLA feel strongly enough to take a public stand on an issue. The letters opposed the effect the new provisions would have had on the legal definition of obscenity. By making that definition more inclusive, the proposed legislation would have made the work of the book banners much easier.

Already they are hard at work. The popular press has been reporting on the success of Renaissance Canada and its legions throughout the last year, especially in rural areas of Ontario and New Brunswick. The problem is not that these people are clearing our newsstands of "skin" magazines and other materials offensive to the decent majority. The problem is that such groups organize to rid society in general of anything they consider unconventional. There is a vast gap between exploitative pornography and the kind of material which the activists of Renaissance Canada would have us snatch out of the hands of school children (and, one fears, if school children today, perhaps tomorrow, the world). Margaret Laurence and Alice Munro are not living off the sales of sleazy publications from the dark recesses of the magazine racks in your neighbourhood corner store. Yet, Renaissance Canada and its cohorts have attacked these Canadian women writers, among others, and have been successful in having their works banned. The legislation proposed in Bill C-21 would have given even greater likelihood of success to the activities of these book censors.

So, the letters HLA sent to Ottawa a week after the decision in favour of free access to published materials, reported our positive approach to the perennial problem of censorship. "We recognize our responsibility to the public — along with writers, publishers, and booksellers — as guarantors of the availability of the widest variety of reading materials. We do not want laws enacted which will enable censors to operate freely among us," the

Politicians and the Practising Librarian

letters said. We asked the Government to drop the obscenity provisions of the bill, and we asked our MPs for Halifax (Robert Stanfield, Michael Forrestall, and Howard Crosby) to oppose the adoption of the bill. As they were our elected representatives, we also asked these three MPs to give us an account of their positions and actions with respect to the parts of the bill which dealt with obscenity.

With receipt of the first response, dated March 15, from Mark MacGuigan (MP for Windsor-Walkerville, Ontario, and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs), began a lesson from which all librarians can benefit. Mr. Stanfield's reply (dated March 23) followed quickly upon receipt of the first. It was itself followed, somewhat less quickly, by replies from Mr. Forrestall (April 12) and Mr. Crosby (April 17). Just under two months after posting our letters, I received the last reply, from a Special Advisor to the Minister of Justice; it was dated May 7, 1979. Early or late, however, the letters were all essentially the same.

The Association received the thanks of all respondents for making its views known. All informed us that the bill had only been given First Reading, and was not expected to be dealt with further during the life of that Parliament, or (from the later replies) that it had died with the dissolution of Parliament for the election. The first and last letters, from Government Members, assured us that our views would be communicated to those who should receive such representations. Mr. Stanfield added, "I am sure that if anything is done to change the law relating to obscenity it will be in the next Parliament of Canada, and I will not be a member of that Parliament." Nobody will puzzle over the note of relief detectable in that statement.

None of the replies offered any further information. Even though we clearly asked our Members of Parliament to "let us know of your actions in this matter, and of your feelings about Bill C-21," nobody offered a reference to Hansard, or ventured a comment of any kind which might reveal that he knew anything about the bill. One can excuse Mr. Stanfield on the grounds, supposedly, that, as he wouldn't be returning to Ottawa after the election, he had little to gain by stating an opinion which might have been unpopular in some quarters. On the other hand, Mr. Stanfield had little to lose, if he had any position on the matters of obscenity and censorship at all, by stating these views to the Association. Crosby and Forrestall, however, simply ignored the question entirely in their letters. I expect they did the same in their campaigns. I certainly haven't heard of any librarian or library organization cornering either of these gentlemen and coming away with a statement on the issues at hand.

A candidate for election in the riding where I live canvassed my building just before the election and claimed to know nothing at all of Bill C-21. He had an opinion, however, about censorship when I put the question to him. He told me that he felt strongly — and he used strong language to show me — that people ought not to have to see offensive material when they go into a drug store, and that sex shops oughtn't to exist if the majority doesn't want them to. My feeling, as he delivered himself on the subject of censorship, was one of futility. I had a strong sense of the pointlessness of trying to explain to him, then, that the problems presented by public display of salacious material, which he was addressing, and those of ensuring free access to publications, about which I was asking for a position, were not the same. Each presents its own peculiarly thorny difficulties, and they are not the same.

How many people confuse these two problems similarly? It seems useful to

address this question, because the self-appointed protectors of our children who belong to Renaissance Canada assume that we who support Intellectual Freedom must want unfettered public display of all the things covered by our commitment to free access. Such is not necessarily the case. A commitment to offer freedom of speech to all does not involve acceptance of the points of view subsequently expressed. Editors commonly disclaim responsibility for the sentiments of articles appearing in their journals. Tolerance does not imply approval; in fact, a publication, however disgusting, which is not generally able to be examined cannot be successfully condemned. Those who would have us exercise our sense of moral indignation defeat their own purposes by having removed from the public purview all materials which could occasion outrage. Those of us who feel the importance of the freedom to read are no happier than the book banners that impressionable minds are confronted daily on our newsstands with a great lot of disgusting trash. Our response, however, to the welter of problems possibly caused by allowing children to encounter this trash would not involve censorship. The display of offensive material could be handled by legislation which would not involve censorship. Still, it remains significant that my canvasser and our elected representatives in the last Parliament have successfully evaded the question.

The only way our request for information on Bill C-21 and censorship could have been put to our MPs more directly, would be to have asked it at candidates' pre-election meetings. The question, which was clearly put in our letters, was ignored in their replies. They didn't even say honestly (if such were the case) that they were confused by the complexity of the problem. There were no pleas of ignorance of the issue. There was silence, and the assumption — correct, as it turns out — that if they failed to address the issue, it would go away. Nobody from HLA wrote again to say that we were still waiting for an answer. I'll bet that, if anyone did put the question of censorship posed by Bill C-21 to the candidates at any pre-election meetings, few were better prepared to answer than our own silent MPs, or the man who canvassed for my vote.

Well, lack of willingness to answer may not have hurt them so far, but at the same time, our asking the question hasn't yet helped us. Put quite simply, we failed to follow through. Overcoming the difficulties of having an organization with multiple and diverse interests take a political stand is only half the battle, apparently. We did, of course, take a stand as librarians, even if it was on a real "motherhood" issue. If librarians couldn't uphold the principle of freedom of access to information, where would education be? Who else would society expect sooner to take such a stand? Nevertheless, I repeat, censorship is a political issue, and there was no equivocation in our statement. Looked at sharply, it said that we don't want anyone to use the power of the state to prevent others from reading whatever may be published. We didn't fail to say plainly what it is we believe in, what we support ...

We did fail, though, to elicit a response from our politicians. We failed crucially because we didn't discover how they reacted to our position. As librarians, we elected a new House blindly. We voted on May 22 without knowing what candidates will support our vision of right when the crunch comes. We voted without knowing who will enlist with the book banners against us. For make no mistake, having publicly espoused Intellectual Freedom, librarians are sure to meet the censors again in the future. We cannot evade this fight and we now run the risk of having

stacked the deck — or should I say, the benches of Parliament — against ourselves. Who knows?

At the moment, all that is certain is that Bill C-21 is dead, and that we have another government. Whether or not it is a new one remains to be seen in the legislation it presents. Whether or not it resurrects the obscenity legislation contained in Bill C-21, or anything like it, remains also to be seen. There are ways, as we all know, of dressing up mutton to look like lamb. We now have to wait and see what the Government chefs are cooking up for our delectation.

In the meantime, it might be wise for us to begin to specify what we would like to see on the menu. The fact that HLA was not successful in getting Members of Parliament to declare themselves with us, or against us, on a particular issue should spur APLA on to action. It is not naive to expect the people one elects to give an accounting of what they have done, or intend to do, with regard to a specific piece of legislation. On the contrary, it ought to be seen as foolhardy for an MP not to reveal his or her thinking when asked to do so. I am suggesting that it would be proper, as soon as any legislation relating to obscenity (or to any other library-related issues) appears in the new House, for APLA or one of its committees to write to all the Atlantic MPs. They should be asked to declare themselves on the issue at hand, and this information should be published in the *Bulletin*. Members of APLA should be first informed, and then encouraged to lobby their representatives about library concerns. If an MP is uninformed as to the effect proposed legislation will have on his or her constituents, such lobbying will be instructive. If he or she is unconcerned, or chooses to remain ignorant, let that MP remain so in peril.

We cannot any longer be uninvolved on any level and be effective as librarians. Federal, provincial, municipal and institutional politics all threaten the diminishing budgets that remain to us. Our abilities to perceive and satisfy our clients' needs are coming, ever more often, under fire. When we do decide to take action on important issues, we cannot afford to have the impact of our action undercut by lack of planning or follow-through. I don't know that there is any way HLA could have extracted replies from our MPs that would have been direct and succinct and would have answered all of our questions. I am sure, however, that we didn't get the treatment better organization might have afforded us. We now have an APLA Committee on Intellectual Freedom. Let us insist that it be active in asking for us all the questions politicians can answer, and let the membership hear what these people have to say. Let us be sure, before another election, that all librarians in the Atlantic region have given their candidates an opportunity to speak to the profession about things that concern us. Let us be sure the next time that we have some better idea of whom we are sending to Ottawa.

The price of freedom, it has been said, is eternal vigilance. Asking questions to which answers are expected is a part of the responsibility of members of a free society. Keeping everyone informed about those answers is yet another facet of the operation of that vigilance. APLA must be involved in asking these questions, and in disseminating the information collected. A constant flow of communication between us and the people we elect to represent us is needed. Only by this means can we maintain our present freedoms. Only with such vigilance can we continue to offer our clients access to well-balanced collections and reasonable levels of library service. Only by this vigilance can we maintain everybody's right to read — intellectual freedom for our clients and for ourselves.

SURPRISES FROM JOEY

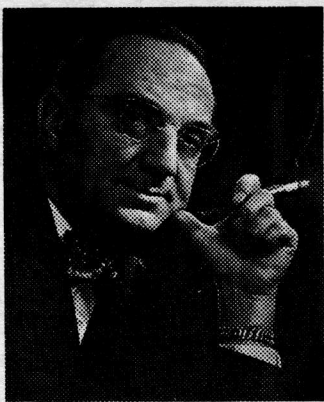
NO APOLOGY FROM ME, by Joseph R. Smallwood, Newfoundland Book Publishers Ltd., 119 Portugal Cove Rd., St. John's, Newfoundland, 1979, 174 pp., \$1.50 pb., ISBN 0-920508-10-3.

Joey Smallwood's *No Apology From Me* professes to be a "book of startling surprises about confederation." Overstatement or not, the tone is familiar — alternately obstinate and droll, Joey Smallwood is the type of writer who prefers to command the reader's attention.

That title is not as brash as it sounds: during most of the book, Smallwood leans toward irony. The result is tongue-in-cheek "I told you so". Somewhat excessively, the first 80 pages consist almost exclusively of figures comparing the 30 post-confederation years to the years before. Smallwood proves, to no-one's surprise, that Newfoundland is now in a state of relative prosperity. What he does fail to indicate is that the statistical gap cannot be fairly set up as an absolute comparison — there are too many variables. What the figures do imply is that Newfoundland is vastly better off than it might have been otherwise, and Smallwood pounces on the differential, making it fact.

The remainder of the book is divided into brief chapters in which Smallwood demonstrates how the province has changed for the better, recalls its former poverty, and hypothesizes on what it might have become:

Without Canada's help



Joseph R. Smallwood in 1949, photographed by Yousuf Karsh, in *Karsh Canadians*, University of Toronto Press, 1978.

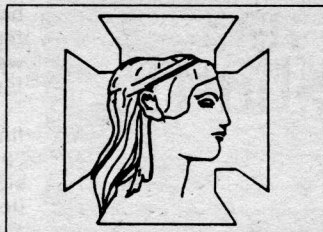
these past thirty years, Responsible Government in Newfoundland could have achieved nothing but utter failure.

The tone is adamant, but the reader is forced to concede that Smallwood is probably right.

No Apology From Me concludes with a lengthy chapter from *I Chose Canada*, in which Smallwood reviews in detail some of his grassroots sloggng and campaigning prior to the referendum. It is a queer time (1946) and a queer way to end a disjointed book. The overall effect is patchy, saved by the momentum generated by Smallwood's insistence. His logic is always suspect, but his energy and arsenal of supporting facts sustain interest when the arguments get repetitive. The result is no revelation, simply a curiosity piece written with conviction and flair. (Doug Watling)

Booky Now

THE LIFE OF SPIRIT AS LOVE



MENTAPHYSICS: The Life of Spirit as Love, by J.M.P. Lowry, Chiron Corporation Ltd., St. John's, Newfoundland (distributed from 2500 Philip St., Halifax, N.S. B3L 3H2), 1979, 198 pp., \$12.00 cl., ISBN 0-929776-00-0, LC 78-72294.

On a good day almost any human is rather pleased with his capacity for thinking. The rational mind, possibly exclusive to humans, extends the world magnificently, unfolding the most astounding, and at times greatly comforting, explanations about life and the physical world. Only a trifle unfortunately have we generally developed the habit of assuming thinking is intended to directly provide answers to the questions and speculations that run through our minds.

Philosophers, being as human as plumbers, boat builders, and barristers, may tend to contort the functions of thinking beyond the normal man's perception of useful thought, but they all ultimately try to line up the structure of the world with the nature of human percep-

tion and come up with the final, absolute answer.

James Lowry's *Mentaphysics* subjects thinking and thought to a terrible stretching and wrenching you might suspect would fatigue it beyond pragmatic redemption — like a green stamp, redeemed against another wording for the final, absolute answer.

Anyone who likes to set their mind up against an involved conceptual thought (not the plodders who know for a fact, it is a fact that facts are knowable) should outrightly enjoy reading this book.

No bright person nowadays would spend much time thinking without beginning to think about what is *Thought*. The form in which thoughts are thought, when thought about can be quite baffling because the form of the thought when thought about itself becomes a thought about form, and not the form functioning as the structure of the thought itself — i.e. the original thought that is often nowadays thought about.

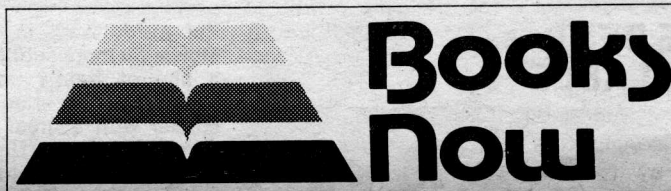
Lowry, however, astutely clarifies this confusion: "*The limitations of form functioning are the limitations of thinking as process. But this is no ordinary limit. If it is thought that thinking is limited, the thought of the thinking limit is the self imposed limit of thinking itself. But the limit is outside the*

limited. Then thought thinking its limit is thinking outside of its thinking of itself. But this is to place the limit of thinking in thinking. This placement is the unlimiting of the limit since the limit never exceeds the limited. The limited and the limit are both thoughts in the reciprocal interrelation of thinking process."

Mentaphysics, of course, transcends the level of entertainment which engages so many people who are inclined to pass an afternoon watching a group of men in a pointless pursuit of a ball kicked up and down a long field which in big cities is no longer even occasionally used as a pasture. Being a kind hearted man, Lowry massages and caresses the horrendously bruised process of *Thinking*, and gently distinguishing between mind and spirit (this alone is a great problem in German where the one word 'geist' has the meaning of both the English words) finds the place of "the most pure soulful Love".

Though the book is entirely conceptual and the conclusion may be invalidated by the liability of thinking Lowry so strongly establishes in the opening sections, it's not a book for great lovers to ignore. Some references are made that will be unclear to the non-esoteric, but then again the Bible has more. (Chipman Hall)

Booky Now



HORTICULTURIST'S DELIGHT

SEEDS, SOIL, AND SUNSHINE, by Mary Dauphinee, Lancelot Press, P.O. Box 425, Hantsport, N.S. B0P 1P0, 1979, 88 pp., \$4.00 pb., ISBN 0-88999-099-9.

The proliferation of indoor gardening books in recent years has dwarfed the outdoor gardener's art. Mary Dauphinee, an award-winning horticulturist from Second Peninsula, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, attempts to redress the balance with her newly released *Seeds, Soil, and Sunshine*, from Lancelot Press.

Besides her cultivative flair, Mrs. Dauphinee is a skilled artist, and each section of her book is introduced by profuse sketches of flora in every conceivable setting. The individual chapters (there are almost 40) were originally written for a newspaper, the *Progress Enterprise*; grouped according to their seasonal emphasis, the columns survive transplantation.

Mrs. Dauphinee is evidently



expert in her avocation and quite eloquent in discussions of the applications of practical know-how. She dispels such myths as insects' aversion to marigolds and gives advice on matters as diverse as container gardening and compost piles. Mrs. Dauphinee also proves herself to be quite unworldly, if not without a sense of humour: searching out beer as a possible remedy for slugs, she heads not for the liquor store but to a tavern for "a can or bottle of beer"! Nonetheless, for sheer utility and the variety of plantlife discussed, Mrs. Dauphinee's volume deserves an appreciative audience. (Doug Watling)

Booky Now

OLD HALIFAX

EXPLORING HALIFAX, by The Nova Scotia Association of Architects, Greey de Pencier Publications, Toronto, 1976, 127 pp., \$3.50 pb., ISBN 0-919872-23-9.

If there is any book I would like to see updated, it is *Exploring Halifax*. This excellent tourist's guide to the city and south shore was published in 1976, and we all know how much restaurant prices have changed since then.

Although some details in this guidebook are outdated, it still provides an excellent introduction to the architectural curiosities of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay, the beauty of the restored Historic Properties, and the worn inscriptions of centuries old tombstone; in the downtown graveyards. Even life-long Halifaxians will find *Exploring Halifax* a good way to take a fresh look at a familiar but intriguing old city. (Brenda Mackenzie)

Booky Now

TO RUSSIA WITH RICHARDS

When Newcastle, New Brunswick native David Adams Richards published *The Coming of Winter* (1974), the novel was hailed by critics as one of the best ever 'first' Canadian novels. The youthful (he was then 23) writer was likened to William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway. His accent on place, the Miramichi, and his identification with the people of that place made *The Coming of*

Winter the important novel it is.

Praised as he was, neither Richards, his critics, nor his loyal readers ever thought that the Soviet Union would eventually take an interest in his work. Yet, this has happened. Richards recently received word from his publisher, Oberon Press of Ottawa, that "the export-import representative of the state publishing agency of the Soviet Union has bought the world rights to his novel in the Russian language."

For Richards, this means unprecedented international exposure. Meanwhile, at home it further establishes him as one of the nation's most significant young writers. Although he is optimistic about the news, he is set to "wait and see how it all turns out." The way things have been turning out for the talented New Brunswicker there is reason for optimism. He is also the author of the novel *Blood Ties* and a collection of short stories, *Dancers at Night*.

TWAS EVER THUS

'Twas Ever Thus: A selection of Eastern Canadian Folk Art, Foreword by Joan Murray, Preface by Ralph and Patricia Price, Introduction by J. Russell Harper, M.F. Fehleley Publishers, 87 pp., 92 b&w, 12 colour illustrations, \$18.95 cl. ISBN 0-919880-16-9, \$14.95 pb. ISBN 0-919880-15-0.

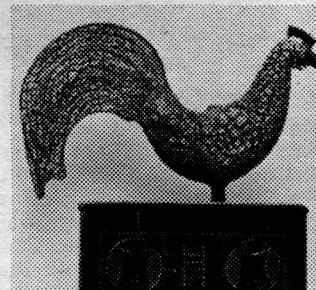
If an extreme eastern point of view can be tolerated for a few hundred words you might openmindedly agree those urban Ontarioans are forever founding themselves by the prevailing Central Canadian need to appear "cultured". And a collection of folk art was bound to set a whole hoard of them off in a rush of erudition.

A doctor and his wife purchased a few pieces of decorative folk art to go with their early Canadian furniture, quite possibly, and naively enjoyed the work. As the number of pieces acquired grew they realized a metamorphosis was taking place, and they became collectors. Now a trifle more in-

formed from books purchased and magazine articles they read, their "excitement and interest grew", and they "discovered contemporary folk art".

'Contemporary folk art' isn't the actual works produced by someone here or there, but the intellectualization of what it all is, "in general its essence is spontaneity, and it may also be considered naive, primitive or regional", and how it is to be classified — in order not to get the unspontaneous or whatever stuff mixed in with an "acceptable grouping". Damned if a cultured Ontarioan wants to be confused "not only over what is acceptable as folk art, but if indeed folk art is acceptable as a designation".

As extreme easterners, we probably aren't overly pressed but note with some curiosity that the collection which is mainly from Ontario and Quebec (with a few pieces from the Maritimes) is designated as a selection of Eastern Canadian Folk Art. In fact one of the central Canadians writing in the book is openly positive about how well we fit in — "The tracing of relationships



between man's nature, his roots in the life he leads, and their expression in works of folk art can be extended to the Atlantic seaboard." Mind you, he only says the tracings "can be", not 'have been' extended right down to the high tide mark. We must have some of them down here one day to do that for us.

'*Twas Ever Thus* has few coloured plates, so it would probably not do as a coffee table book gift. As an account of a private collector's work, and the interest a gallery and the attending entourage took in the collection, the book is encouraging and enlightening to anyone who is buying art in any field of art. (Chipman Hall)

PLYING THE HARBOUR

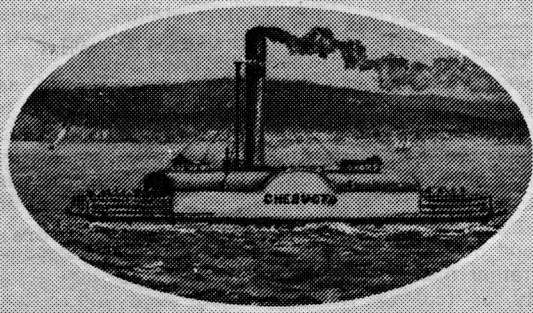
LIKE A WEAVER'S SHUTTLE: A HISTORY OF THE HALIFAX-DARTMOUTH FERRIES, by Joan and Lewis Payzant, Nimbus Publishing Ltd., P.O. Box 1590, Halifax, B3J 2Y3, 1979, 214 pp., illustrated, \$19.95 cl., ISBN 0-920852-00-9.

Joan and Lewis Payzant's *Like a Weaver's Shuttle: A History of the Halifax-Dartmouth Ferries* is a coffee-table book with heft. Substantial in both weight and information, it pays testimony to a durable link between Nova Scotia's most prominent adjoining burghs.

The Payzants have obviously worked hard to compile this volume, and there are no apparent historical gaps or factual shortcomings. Every detail involving every ferry of consequence that sailed the harbour is included. There are copious illustrations: sketches and portraits from the early years, photographs dating from before the turn of the century, and diagrams aplenty.

As with most histories this specific, *Like a Weaver's Shuttle* works best when ferry lore

Like a Weaver's Shuttle



provides insights into the life and taste of the times. When the text gets too entangled in technical specifications and figures in general, it becomes a specialist's book.

The procession of ferries that runs through the history reflects the march of shipbuilding progress, from sail and oars, to horse-powered paddle-wheelers, to steam, and on to diesel. Inexorably, boat-

building costs, as well as salaries and ticket prices, skyrocket as time passes. Readers will marvel at the quality of materials used in past construction and woe the passing of a bygone era.

In the course of history, there have been some memorable boats, as well as some clunkers. Among the former was the *Sir Charles Ogle*, its engine so solid that it endured

frightful mistreatment. "Present-day readers will find it unbelievable that sea water was fed to the *Ogle's* boiler." Such was the primitive state of Halifax-Dartmouth in 1830.

Ferry-goers today would find it unthinkable to house a "public reading-room" alongside the ferry terminal, but one flourished in Dartmouth from 1889-1917. Civilization has, in some ways, regressed. Ferry-goers of the past survived collisions, storms, the odd scrape, and the Halifax Explosion. The few tragedies make for vigorous reading, but overall the ferries' promise of safe passage has been upheld.

With the shift to passenger-only ferries in 1956, the boats no longer play as essential a role in the twin cities. Although implying the importance of the ferries throughout their book, the Payzants appear to be more interested in preserving a record of the ferries' service than in establishing their cultural significance. Here and there, the authors move outside this modest orbit into the lives of the populace and it is then that *Like a Weaver's Shuttle* is most captivating. (Doug Watling)

Books Now

MICHAEL COOK: THREE PLAYS

THREE PLAYS, by Michael Cook, Breakwater Books, St. John's, Nfld., 1977, 101 pp., \$5.95 pb., ISBN 0-919948-30-8.

Michael Cook, the Englishman who has become Newfoundland's most energetic dramatist, has had yet another volume of plays published by Breakwater Books of St. John's.

Included again is *Teresa's Creed*, the sensitive monologue of an outport woman, caught in the harsh cycle of hard work, children, and poverty.

The Head, Guts and Sound-bone Dance is the story of a man who finally learns, very late in life, to rebel against the tyranny of his skipper.

On the Rim of the Curve is an even more grim story. A series of frenetic vignettes held together by a sinister ringmaster, it tries to capture some sense of the Beothuks, the Newfoundland Indian tribe that was hunted into oblivion by the early 1800's. It is a difficult task to describe a people that no one remembers, and that is probably why this play works the least well of the three. Some of the massacre scenes are too flippant, and some of the Beothuk speeches overly sentimental.

All Michael Cook plays are worth buying, though, if only to read aloud to get a sense of the rich outport cadence. (Brenda MacKenzie)

Books Now

This Book Review Page is a project of the Canada Council; Editor Geraldine Gaskin

ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS AVAILABLE

And No Birds Sang



AND NO BIRDS SANG, by Farley Mowat, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1979, 250 pp., \$13.95 cl., ISBN 0-7710-6618-X.

The consequence of Farley Mowat is quite inadequately perceived. The publication of *And No Birds Sang* this fall again establishes, as was long known, Mowat is a widely read Canadian author because his work is entertaining and intelligent, a combination of qualities that are seldom enjoyably balanced (remember Polonius' difficulty: the Queen had to reprimand him to proceed with "more matter and less art"). When a subject germane to Canada is handled by Mowat, its Canadianism takes on an interest many authors fail to exploit. No one needs an extraordinarily powerful imagination to realize how amazingly interesting we and this country should be to each other. Nevertheless as a national group we all realize an astounding amount of our time is devoted to the culture and art of other

nations.

We are not perversely disinterested in ourselves. Quite naturally everyone wishes to be entertained in the finest style available, and very often Canadians considering this country are neither a source of great mirth nor spiritual wonderment. And Canadians have habitually turned abroad for "good stuff". And in fact quite doubted anyone here was good until they heard so from some cosmopolitan alien.

Mowat became an excellent writer for a large book-buying audience and as he became nationally known turned his Canadian identity into the asset it is now widely perceived to be. *And No Birds Sang* will assuredly move to the top of the bestseller lists because it is written by a well known author, and also, conceivably because it is one of the best books available to Canadians this fall.

While many writers attempt to blatantly capitalize on their war books (carefully including

the word "war" in the title), Mowat far more subtly adapts a line of Keat's poetry and treats his experience as a soldier with a great sense of personal modesty. Unlike many autobiographies which build to a final climax of glory, Mowat reveals, as many of his friends and fellow soldiers are killed during the Italian campaign, his increasing sense of terror. He does not present himself as the hero of the war. This book establishes him not as a war-hero but a man of fine integrity.

It is unfortunate (though not for Mowat or his publishers) there are not twenty or twenty-five other fine new Canadian books available this season. And because Canadians still habitually look to foreign countries for cultural works, a well advertised, though distinctly mediocre, foreign book will outsell even a reasonably fine Canadian book. Canadian writers have to be better than the foreign competition.

Mowat has grown to be more than a writer and should now be recognized as a valuable teacher. He appreciates an audience, moves his words well, structures the pace of his work to the taste of his audience (instead of expecting them to adjust their tastes to his), and develops a Canadian character a Canadian audience can both empathize with and wish to dramatically ameliorate.

Mowat would no doubt be loath to come to a University, but surely a University could prevail on him to accept a small group of students or new professional writers into his Cape Breton village and there meet with him. The rent for a house or two would be low, and Mowat, provided the students weren't plagued by an excessively reverent conservatism, could enjoy their young charm for several months. The stature Mowat has acquired might be envied by some, but for Mowat himself it's clearly an onerous responsibility to the nation.

(Chipman Hall)

Books Now

Books Now



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE PRIZEWINNER

HOLD FAST, by Kevin Major, Clarke, Irwin & Co. Ltd., 1978, 170 pp., \$7.95 cl.

Since its publication in the Spring of 1978 *Hold Fast*, a first novel by Kevin Major of Sandy Cove, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland, has already won two important national awards, and been considered for another. Mr. Major shared the Canada Council's "Children's Literature Prize" of \$5,000 with Ann Blades of White Rock, B.C., and his novel later won the "Book of the Year Award" given by the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians. *Hold Fast* also made the short list for the third annual Books In Canada Award of \$1,000, unusual for a juvenile novel, and drew favourable comments from most of the judges on the panel.

Hold Fast, which is told strictly from the point of view of its fourteen-year-old hero Michael, opens immediately after the funeral of Michael's

parents who have been killed by a "drunken blood of a bitch who drove headlong into their car." When he finally goes back to his grandfather's house after spending a long time alone on the beach, he finds the place full of mourning neighbours. "Go home," he says to them in his mind. "Go on home and look after your own self... Batter on home, the works of you. Go down to the club and play darts or something. Who needs you?"

That passage tells the reader a great deal about how Michael feels at this traumatic moment in his life. It's also a good example of the language in the book, which is, for the most part, completely natural for a teenage Newfoundland-outport boy. Shortly after the funeral Michael is sent to St. Albert, a much larger town than his home community of Marten. There he lives with relatives and attends a high school where he doesn't fit in very well.

Nor does he want to. Michael is a young man of spirit and determination who knows that Marten is the place where he belongs. How he gets back there, and what happens before he does, make an engrossing and engaging tale which will appeal to young people and older people alike.

Though a little too black and white at times, *Hold Fast* is an important novel which deserves the recognition it has received. It should be read by everyone who's interested in Newfoundland, in young people's problems, or in good writing. More important, it should be read by teenagers — it's a good book. (Helen Porter)

Books Now

Treasurer's Report
September 1979

REVENUE	79/80 Budget [1]	As of 15 Sept. 1979
Bulletin Fund		
Advertising	\$1,500	\$ 834.07
Back issues	5	20.43
Royalties, etc.	35	—
Subscriptions	1,500	862.18
Tax rebates	1,199	624.31
General Fund		
Conference - net, etc.	500	2,063.32
Membership fees, 1979/80	3,100	1,710.28
Interest	300	128.73
Publications - sales	25	25.00
Miscellaneous	10	—
TOTAL - REVENUE	\$8,174	\$ 6,268.32
EXPENDITURES		
Bulletin Fund		
Packaging, etc.	250	\$ 4.00
Printing	2,500	405.96
Postage	425	160.40
General Fund		
APLA Prize	100	100.00
Executive travel	400	200.00
Memberships	55	55.00
Office expenses		
Supplies, telephone, etc.	350	193.02
Postage	200	12.86
Student assistant (mail)	100	25.00
Special grants	—(2)	1,964.31
Automated membership/subscription list	300	—
Contribution to Alberta Letts Trust	1,000	—
CLA Intellectual Freedom Fund donation	500	500.00
Standing Committees		
APLA Alberta Letts Fellowship	40	—
Publications	100	—
Relations with Other Organizations	100	4.00
Resolutions	10	—
Conversation of Library Materials	80	—
Atlantic Provinces Library Trustees	25	—
Executive Committees		
Aims and objectives	10	—
Bulletin Management Board	10	—
Committee Structure	10	—
Finance	10	—
Membership	175	—
Merit Award	50	29.69
Nominating	25	—
Special Committees		
Bibliographic Centre	100	—
Co-operative Book Storage	75	—
Intellectual Freedom	25	—
TOTAL - EXPENDITURES	\$7,025	\$ 3,654.24
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	+ \$1,149	+ \$ 2,614.08
CASH ON HAND, 30 APRIL 1979		\$14,135.10 (3)
CASH ON HAND, 15 SEPTEMBER 1979		\$16,749.18 (4)

- (1) Revised, incorporated changes arising from 1979 Annual General Meeting decisions.
 (2) Special Grants revenue of \$2,500 received in 1978/79 fiscal year.
 (3) Included \$10,000 invested in Guaranteed Investment Certificates, Cooperative Trust of Canada.
 (4) Includes \$12,000 invested in one-year Guaranteed Investment Certificates, Cooperative Trust of Canada.

J.E. Sutherland, Acting Treasurer

Membership Committee Report
September 21, 1979

On 15 September 1979, APLA membership stood at 227, of which 7 were honorary or life members, 195 were renewals, and 24 were "new" memberships. The provincial breakdown (with September 1978's figures in brackets) is as follows:

New Brunswick	77	(76)
Newfoundland	25	(23)
Nova Scotia	116	(144)
Prince Edward Island	18	(19)
Other locations	8	(8)
Total	244	(270)

This number is down significantly from the 270 members at the same date last year. The drop in Nova Scotia members is noticeable, but the numbers for all provinces except Newfoundland are down. Taking the new memberships into account, 116 of last year's members have not renewed for 1979/80.

Attached to this report are lists, arranged by province, of (1) current members, (2) 1978/79 members who have not yet renewed, and (3) current members arranged by name of institution/organization.

Current activities

A "second notice" to all 1978/79 members who had not yet renewed their membership was included with v. 43 no. 2 of the **APLA Bulletin**.

The convener wrote a membership column for issue no. 2 of the **Bulletin**; a similar column will appear in future issues.

Membership cards/receipts have been mailed to all current members.

The project to automate the membership records is well underway. Data for all 1979/80 members (as well as all **Bulletin** subscriptions) have now been entered into the database, and the programs for producing various listings (including the attached lists) and mailing labels are now operational. The program for producing the 1979/80 **Membership Directory** will be ready presently.

Future and proposed activities

Given the relative success of last year's major membership drive, we propose a similar campaign this year. This will include the mailing to each library in the Atlantic provinces of a membership package consisting of a letter from the appropriate provincial vice-president, sample copies of an issue of the **Bulletin** and, of course, membership application forms. These packets will be addressed, where possible, to an existing member of APLA within the library for distribution within the staff.

By asking members to be actively involved in the membership drive, we hope to spread fulfillment of the Membership Committee's mandate among many more people than has formerly been the case. For this reason, we propose to limit official membership on the Committee to the Councillor for Membership (convener), the four provincial vice-presidents, the Treasurer, and President (ex-officio).

The 1979/80 **Membership Directory** will be published later this fall with distribution now expected with issue no. 4 of the **Bulletin** (early January).

Respectfully submitted,
 J. Elizabeth Sutherland, Convener
 Susan Svetlik, Acting Convener

Finance Committee Report
September 20, 1979

The finance committee met three times since May, 1979.

1. Joan Moore's resignation as treasurer was accepted and interim arrangements were made to carry on the work of the association until the executive meeting of Sept. 21, 1979. Betty Sutherland was appointed treasurer and Susan Svetlik was appointed councillor for membership pending ratification by the executive. They will both serve until the AGM, May, 1980.

2. Approval was given to the president to travel to Corner Brook to meet with the local arrangements committee. As this is the first time the president and the conference are in separate provinces this was considered necessary. Estimated cost of the trip was \$200.00.

3. Approval was granted to the Intellectual Freedom Committee to produce a television spot on the "freedom to read". The committee agreed to the expenditure of up to \$600.00 for this spot which would be produced at the lowest cost possible.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lorraine McQueen,
 Convener

have a look at
**corner
 brook**
 newfoundland

have a look at
**corner
 brook**
 newfoundland



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INTRODUCING

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICE**

National Book Centre is pleased to introduce BABS*. Our Book Acquisition and Bibliographic Service is a collection of services designed to meet the needs of Canadian Libraries, whether they be Public, Special, Government, Elementary School, or Secondary School.

The Book Acquisition service is designed to provide books quickly and efficiently at a reasonable cost. Acquisition problems, which are essentially publishing industry problems, will be automatically taken care of by BABS*.

The Bibliographic service is a Professional Cataloguing and/or processing service which is being greatly expanded and is aimed at getting the book on the library shelf quickly.

National Book Centre has created a Multi-Key Random Access Canadian Data Base which will serve as the foundation for BABS*. Beginning early in 1980, the Data Base will represent some one-half million bindings complete with acquisition data. Cataloguing data will be available for some 250,000 titles.

*TRADE MARK REGISTERED.

FEATURING

a book acquisition service...

Our Book Acquisition service is being entirely restructured and will consist of the following:

One source to deal with, which is capable of handling all orders and providing an acceptable order turnaround for New Titles, Forthcoming Titles, Serial Monographs, and Back List Titles. BABS* will also be able to handle Back Orders for all titles as required.

The following problem areas will be dealt with effectively: No Canadian Rights, Not Our Publication, Not Yet Published, Cancelled, Postponed, Out of Stock, Out of Print, Agency Change, Price Change, Invalid ISBN Numbers, and Title Changes.

The Service will carry and build an inventory of New Titles, as well as Back List Titles; and, in addition, BABS* will offer a Projected Inventory of Forthcoming Titles.

Invoicing Options will also be offered, along with a computerized Budget Control, and specially prepared catalogues for specific markets.

The Service will offer Pre-Publication Selection, a complete Standing Order Service, and eventually a Machine Ordering Service whereby customers may transmit purchase order data to the Book Centre using a "point of acquisition" terminal.



...and a bibliographic service

BABS* will provide professional cataloguing and processing services which offer the flexibility and options suitable for most types of libraries.

The cataloguing services will be based on the latest editions of classification schedules, subject heading lists, and cataloguing rules. In the early part of 1980, National Book Centre will be using the 2nd edition of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, the 19th edition of Dewey Decimal Classification, the 11th Abridged Edition of the Dewey Classification, and the latest editions of Sears and Library of Congress Subject Headings, supplemented by the Canadian Companion to Sears and the list of Canadian Subject Headings from the National Library of Canada.

The cataloguing services will be tailored to the requirements of the customer and will allow for optional treatment in such areas as biography, fiction, easy reading, cuttering (author letters), designation of juvenile material, extra unit cards, etc.

Our usual processing services have been expanded to include a number of options, one of which will be processing the books with the required materials for some of the commonly-used theft detection systems.

All of these services are designed to meet the needs of Canadian libraries and be consistent with currently accepted professional practices.

WATCH ATLANTIC PROVINCES LIBRARY JOURNAL Bulletin for more information on BABS or write today to the Sales Manager, National Book Centre Limited.*

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BOOK CENTRE
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66 Northline Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4B 3E6 (416) 751-3530

Publications Committee Report

September 21, 1979

The committee consists of:

Lynn Murphy
Jean Ellis
Eric Swanick, Corresponding Member
Margot Schenk, Convener
Betty Sutherland, Treasurer APLA (ex officio)

Activities to-date:

1. The convener attended a meeting of the Committee on Relations with Other Organizations to advise on the progress of the **Directory of Library-related Organizations**. This may be published later this year in the APLA Bulletin.
2. The publication **Thirty-four Atlantic Provinces Authors** is at present being mailed, along with the posters, to school and public libraries in the Atlantic Provinces. Angelo Rebeiro of the Canadian Book Information Centre has assumed responsibility for this.
3. **APLA Proceedings, 1979** is (are) proceeding.
5. We are all thinking about the new editor for the **APLA Bulletin**.

Submitted by
Margot Schenk, Convener

Committee on Relations with Other Organizations

The Committee has met once since the Annual Meeting of APLA. The meeting was held in Halifax on August 3, 1979, with a good representation of the membership in attendance.

A number of matters were discussed as follows:

1. **Directory of Library Related Organizations** - This project was supposed to have gotten off the ground last year, but apparently a number of things happened, mostly in the area of communication, and it was delayed. However, the committee has set the wheels in motion again and will be using the APLA Bulletin to do a pilot project by publishing a list and soliciting additional information as well as attempting an update for publication later this year or next.
2. **Relationship of CLA to Regional/Provincial Library Associations** - The committee is still waiting for a reply from CLA. ASTED has responded favourably to some form of cooperation which the Executive will be discussing at its meeting. The reason for the delay from CLA is that a report will be coming before the fall meeting of CLA Council on the whole issue and hopefully our President will have an opportunity to express the committee's sentiments at that time.
3. **Membership on the Committee** - Last year APLA Executive approved a rotation system of membership which saw Norman Horrocks conclude his term this year. Barbara Eddy, Vice-President for Newfoundland has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Also, the Committee has added another valuable member in the person of Ms. Angela Rebeiro, Canadian Book Information Centre in the Atlantic Provinces.
4. **Provincial and Regional Library Association representation on CLA Council** - Some concern was expressed over the fact that all other Provinces, except the Atlantic Region, were represented by a Provincial Library Association, while the APLA representative had to speak for four provinces. It was decided to write the Executive Director and ask for the rationale behind this provision. A letter has been forwarded and hopefully a report on it can be included in my next report to you.
5. **Next meeting** - A meeting is being planned for early winter scheduled to meet in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

Submitted by
Pearce J. Penney, Convener

Bibliographic Centre Project Committee Report

September 21, 1979

The Bibliographic Centre Project Committee held its first meeting on September 14, 1979. Several new members have been added to the committee. Due to the size of the committee and the amount of work to be done it was decided to divide the whole committee into five (5) working groups. Each group would have one aspect of the total project on which to work. The working groups were defined and convenors for the first meeting of each working group were appointed each working group is encouraged to coopt others who can assist in the attainment of their goals.

- Group (a) Costing - UTLAS: Travis, Levesque, Mitra (Convener)
Group (b) Costing - AAU/BNA: Bull, Tayyeb, Svetlic (Convener)
Group (c) Structure of Bibliographic Centre: Nicholson, Currie Barker (Convener)
Group (d) Funding Agencies: Travis, Somers (Convener)
Group (e) DOBIS/PATHER: J. Miner (co-opt), Bates (corresponding), Tayyeb (Convener)

The Institutions represented are: Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Acadia, Saint Mary's University, Mount Allison, Universite de Moncton, St. John Public, Dartmouth Regional Library, Halifax School Libraries, Halifax Public, and N.S. Provincial

I will try to attend meetings of all 5 working groups. Ray Carter will be a resource person for any of the groups and they should feel free to call on him.

A close working relationship will be maintained between the Bib Cap Committee and the BNA User Group which seems to be working toward the same goal.

The next meeting will be September 25 of Conveners, Ray Carter and Ron Lewis to develop terms of reference for each of the groups.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald A. Lewis
Convener

Intellectual Freedom Committee Report

September 21, 1979

Since the Moncton conference in May, the committee has been occupied working on its structure and guidelines. These were presented at the executive meeting at Wolfville, N.S. on September 21, to be ratified at Corner Brook in May 1980.

The I.F.C. consists of a convener and a member from each of the Atlantic Provinces. A provincial sub-committee will be organized to deal with issues on a local level and to keep the rest of the committee informed of developments. The members of the committee thus far are Howard Cogswell, New Brunswick; Charles Cameron, Newfoundland; Pat O'Meara, Nova Scotia, and myself as convener. Those interested in the provincial sub-committee is encouraged to contact their local convener.

The major project for this Fall is the production of a short public service message for television, to cost approximately \$600.00. Copies of this sport will be made available to interested libraries. A file on intellectual freedom issues is being maintained and is available to anyone in A.P.L.A.

CLA

In Ottawa this June, the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee maintained a high profile. APLA's contribution of \$500.00 to the International Freedom Fund led, in the finest traditions of Atlantic Canada, to a flurry of bank-wagon-jumping by other organizations and institutions. A collection of intellectual freedom "horror stories" was compiled, and the topic of censorship in school libraries was discussed at a workshop.

The annual meeting of the I.F.C. was well attended by interested CLA members and a package of materials from the Atlantic Provinces was distributed. As a result of this meeting, two resolutions were passed at the annual general meeting in which CLA Council was asked to consider allocating financial and personnel resources in the cause of intellectual freedom and to send a letter protesting the Attorney General of Ontario's harassment of Pink Triangle Press.

Andrew Poplawski
Convener

Intellectual Freedom Committee Proposed Guidelines Goals and Objectives

1. To promote awareness among librarians of the necessity of intellectual freedom in libraries and related institutions in the Atlantic Provinces.
2. To alert members of APLA to instances of infringement of the CLA **Statement on Intellectual Freedom**.
3. To publicize the role of libraries in the promotion of intellectual freedom.
4. To educate governing bodies of libraries to the concept of intellectual freedom.
5. To support with organizational time related organizations in matters of censorship.

Focus

Because of the limited resources of APLA and in order to avoid duplication of effort of other organizations such as CLA and Civil Liberties Associations, the Intellectual Freedom Committee will act as an informational, rather than as an advocacy body.

Structure

The committee shall be composed of a convener and one committee member from each of the Atlantic Provinces.

Duties

The convener, in consultation with the executive, shall be responsible for: (1) carrying out the committee's goals and objectives, (2) coordinating and directing the activities of the committee members, (3) report regularly to the membership through the **APLA bulletin**, (4) establish and maintain liaison with regional and national organizations with similar concerns. Each committee member shall be responsible to: (a) establish a provincial sub-committee composed of concerned individuals, (b) gather from the disseminate to libraries and other institutions information on intellectual freedom, (c) inform the convener of any developments in their provinces and suggest appropriate courses of action, (d) establish and maintain a liaison with local groups with similar concerns.

1980 Conference Local Arrangements Committee

The local arrangements committee for the 1980 conference in Corner Brook is: Elinor Benjamin, Charles Cameron and Elizabeth Behrens. The conference will be housed in the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, The Arts and Culture Centre and the Glenmill Inn. All Facilities are

modern and well adapted to our conference. In addition, the location lends itself to extra-conference activities which will help those "from away" to see and savour Newfoundland. I am confident of an excellent conference in Corner Brook.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine McQueen
Local Arrangements Committee
(Ex-Officio)

1980 Conference Program Committee

September 17, 1979

The Program Committee of the APLA Conference 1980 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland has been established. Members to this committee were invited not only because of their special interest in the Conference theme, "Libraries and the Law", but also because they represent the various aspects of the library community at large. They are as follows:

Ilda Leja, Nova Scotia Legislative Library, Co-Convener

Margaret Murphy, Nova Scotia Dept. of Attorney General Library, Co-Convener

Linda Keddy, Dalhousie University Law Library

Bill Mitchell, Halifax County Regional Library

Dorothy Long of the Dalhousie Law Library has also kindly volunteered to help on the Program Committee as much as her time will allow and her extensive experience as a law librarian will be greatly appreciated. Of the four members, Keddy will be representing academic libraries, Mitchell public libraries, with Leja and Murphy representing government and special libraries.

The Program Committee held its first meeting on Monday, 10 September 1979. Lorraine McQueen was present to advise us on what the APLA Executive was expecting from the 1980 Conference and on what had been accomplished and decided thus far. The Committee was then able to draw up a tentative conference schedule which Lorraine McQueen took to Corner Brook.

It was generally agreed that certain principles would guide the activities of the Program Committee. They are as follows:

1. That every effort would be made to have all workshops and discussions reflect the theme of the Conference.
2. That considerations would be made to insure that every kind of library and librarian would find something on the program that they could not afford to miss.
3. That the program would be oriented toward the practical as well as the theoretical in order to ensure that librarians will be able to return from the Conference with usable ideas.
4. That efforts would be made to include key library people in the program who will serve as drawing cards. This would also guarantee their own attendance at the Conference.

At the first meeting, Lorraine McQueen also mentioned the possibility of receiving \$1000 as a special CAPL fund to assist local library associations in improving their conference programs. Because of the lack of information as to what alternative courses of action were possible after initial refusal by CLA Council, the Committee did not pursue this issue. However, the extra \$1000 would be welcomed by the Committee. This money could be particularly useful in bringing in more resource people to give workshops and to participate in theme sessions. It was also our understanding that this money could come from the APLA treasury as well. We, therefore, leave it to the discretion of the APLA Executive as to whether they wish to make further application to the CAPL fund at the next CLA Council meeting in October.

The next meeting of the APLA Conference Program Committee will be held on Monday, 24 September 1979. The purpose of this meeting will be to meet with Lorraine McQueen to discuss the modified Conference program and to begin the ground work for setting up the workshops and theme sessions. It is our intention to invite a number of resource people — from the legal community, from the social services community and from the library community — to assist us in the search for speakers and participants. We are confident that the 1980 APLA Conference will be full of substance and will be one that no librarian could afford to miss.

Prepared by
Ilda Leja, Co-Convener

Alberta Letts Fellowship Committee Report

September 19, 1979

The Committee has been formed, and consists of the following:

Mary E. Cameron

Shirley Elliott, N.S. Legislative Library

Mary Beth Harris, University of P. E. I.

Bertha Higgins, N.S. Provincial Library

Mary McCullough, Halifax County Regional Library

Margaret Williams, Memorial University

Ellen Webster, Convener

Although we have been unable to arrange a Committee meeting before the Executive meeting, one is planned for within a few weeks' time.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Webster, Convener

A SECOND OPINION — FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

TOMORROW IS SCHOOL AND I'M SICK TO THE HEART THINKING ABOUT IT, by Don Sawyer, Douglas & MacIntyre, 1979, 205 pp., \$10.95 cl., ISBN 088894-228-1.

A short while ago, in *Books Now*, a book review talked about the "real and true" and "objective" nature of Don Sawyer's observations about his time as a teacher in a Newfoundland outpost. Real and true some of them may be, but objective is hardly the case. They reek of the same cultural imperialism which has dominated Newfoundland for centuries.

Don Sawyer is a nice

American with his heart in the right place — oh so assuredly in the right place. Unable to find employment anywhere else, he came to Newfoundland, somewhat like a peace corp member heading to Outer Mongolia. He labels his outpost (or outpost) Hoberly Cove, what would appear to be Musgrave Harbour, or some place near it on Newfoundland's north-east coast. There he found, surprise, surprise, children who were brilliant and imaginative, although primitive, and a hide-bound authoritarian society. Through sheer love, kindness, and free school ideas, and the help of a few other progressive

teachers, who all seem to be Americans, he produced shining examples of the democratic ideal who sadly lapsed into unemployed drunken pregnancy when he left.

The depressing part of all this is that Don Sawyer is obviously a lovely person. As with many lovely people, his overwhelming naivety sweeps away problems. And like all too many lovely people, having swept, he leaves, the system in ruins and nothing in its place. His free-wheeling American individualism shows no respect for the religions of the community, for the school system in general, or for any social structure, including rules of grammar.

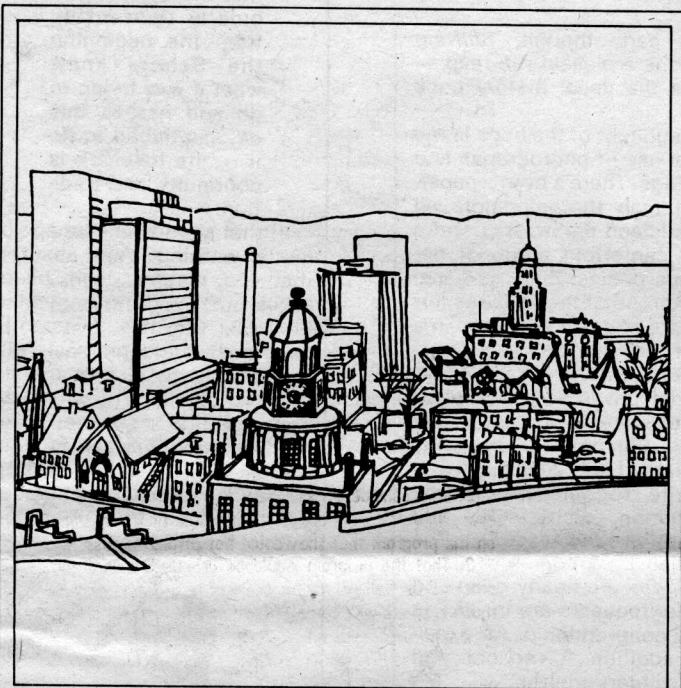
If this is Musgrave Harbour, Sawyer presents a very

strange and stridently external view of a not unusual Newfoundland outpost. A telling comment comes when he states that one family flew a French flag. Presumably he had seen the pink, white and green of the old Newfoundland tricolour. And yet he is just surprised to see a French flag.

I have nothing against people from away; I am not a native Newfoundlander myself. And a number of Sawyer's ideas, and his sensitivity to the children, are obviously positive. But for God's sake, two winters, one Christmas and no summers don't qualify you to understand a place. Nice colonial governors are still colonial governors. (Terry Goldie)

Books Now

Design: Promotional Print and Product Development Ltd., Halifax.



THE BATTLE OF CITADEL HILL, by Elizabeth Pacey, Lancelot Press Ltd., 1979, 151 pp., \$4.95 pb., ISBN 0-88999-101-4.

For two decades, the world's cities have witnessed clashes between high-rise developers and advocates of construction that complements, not dwarfs, its settings. As evidenced in Elizabeth Pacey's *The Battle of Citadel Hill*, even Halifax's modest downtown core has been victimized by the siege.

The Halifax controversy centers on the view from "the city's Guardian", Citadel Hill. Skyscrapers obstruct the Hill's historic vista of the harbour, a vista that epitomizes the city. Developers doggedly insist that policies protecting the view are prohibitive to the economy and self-destructive to the city's growth. With equal zeal, conservationists and vocal factions of the citizenry defend the Citadel's historic panorama. The debate assumes symbolic proportions.

Those are the classic opposing stances — Pacey's

book deals with the series of skirmishes that began in the early sixties and climaxed in 1974 with a bylaw favouring preservation of the view. Amid proposals, counter-proposals, and endless bickering, the reader can assess the antics of various council members and a handful of persevering developers. Sections of the book do get bogged down in plan details and endless talk of "view planes"; the confrontations supply almost all the drama.

Personally deserving of praise are the farsighted Lou Collins, one of the first to foresee the threat, and organizations like Heritage Trust and the Downtown Committee, who fought for preservation. Deserving of censure are the moguls who valued (and still value) monetary gain over our vanishing heritage. Pacey, herself a development opponent, tries throughout to be an objective recorder, but her outlook is partisan; in this reviewer's opinion, the bias is warranted. (Doug Watling)

Books Now

Our Books Atlantic, P.O. Box 968, Armdale P.O., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4K9 422-6658 vCopyright 1979 ISSN 0707-6924

OF FISH AND REFLECTIONS

THE THEORIES OF FISH, by Bernell MacDonald, Fiddlehead Poetry Books, 1979, 40 pp., \$3.50 pb. (Chapbook).

One of the finest licenses of the poet is to be able to select a favourite line, a from youth with adult inflection. In doing so he creates sweeping generalization for a both image and meaning. "The book's title. In the case of *The Theories of Fish*, many might expect a book of fish poems, but this is not to be. Only one poem centres on aquatic creatures while the remainder are reflections on numerous subjects.

Prince Edward Island native Bernell MacDonald, who now lives on a farm outside Toronto, lives up to the high poetic quality of his last book, *Parentheses* (1974). None of

the utterances of *The Theories of Fish* are profound or complicated exercises in verse structure or diction. Many are epigrammatic; others are reflective passages which illustrate well an economy of words.

If any one 'theory' dominates this volume, it is MacDonald's ability to mould thoughts from youth with adult inflection. In doing so he creates sweeping generalization for a both image and meaning. "The Urological Argument" is an excellent example. To MacDonald "the jungle is (as) vast" as the diversity of his subject matter. He says, "But I am not lost." Indeed he is not. There is maturity and confidence in *The Theories of Fish*. It took "four years to have written this book." Surely we won't wait so long for his next. (Michael O. Nowlan)

Books Now

SHOTGUN AND OTHER STORIES

Kent Thompson

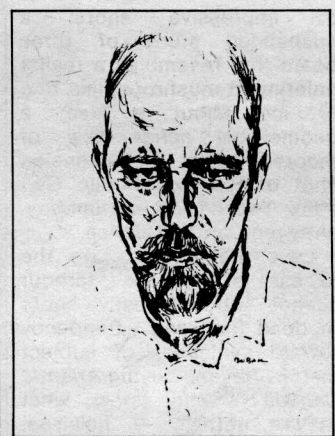


THE CRAFT OF FICTION

SHOTGUN AND OTHER STORIES, by Kent Thompson, New Brunswick Chapbooks, 1979, 107 pp., \$3.00 pb., ISBN 0-920084-04-4.

Having generated considerable success in a series of poetry titles, the New Brunswick Chapbooks, with the driving force of Nancy Bauer, has released its first book of fiction. This departure from publishing strictly poetry is both challenging and ambitious, but the small New Brunswick house has just created an editorial board under the direction of JoAnne Claus. Since this is indicative of progress, the move to fiction is probably a sound one.

It is fitting that Kent Thompson's work becomes the first fiction title in the Chapbooks series, for the U.N.B. Professor of English has demonstrated through various aspects of narrative "the craft of the short story". *Shotgun and Other Stories* is a selection



Pendrawing of Kent Thompson by Bruno Bobak.

of ten pieces that ably illustrate this theory.

The title story, "Shotgun", which is undoubtedly Thompson's finest, is related from the point of view of an old man while "Among Women" and "The Pilot" are seen through a woman's eyes. Other stories are narrated by youth, and by a drunkard; still others are static glimpses which verify Thompson's own reaction that he attempts "to structure the story by means of emotional weights". By referring to the stories as static, there is no intention to label them as dull or boring. On the contrary, these static glimpses move rapidly from scene to scene while the reader tries to keep pace with the narrative voice and the pattern the author is developing.

As Nancy Bauer points out in her introduction, *Shotgun and Other Stories* "could serve as a manual" for the study of short fiction. What better recommendation could a book have! (Michael O. Nowlan)

Books Now



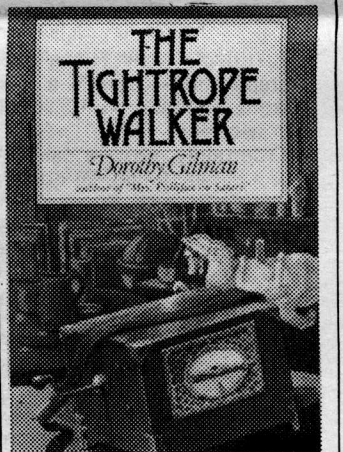
THE TIGHTROPE WALKER

THE TIGHTROPE WALKER: by Dorothy Gilman, Doubleday Canada, 1979, 186 pp., \$9.95 cl.

Dorothy Gilman's *The Tightrope Walker* is a diverting little mystery that brings sophistication and modernity to the amateur sleuth genre — an adult Nancy Drew. The story is narrated by 22 year old heroine Amelia Jones, blessed with an inheritance and burdened with insecurities. Rather impetuously, she buys an antique and curio shop and then, folks, the action begins.

Repairing an old hurdy-gurdy, Amelia finds an ominous note and determines to track down the source. Aided by a chance acquaintance (graphologist Joe Osborne) and buoyed by Zen proverbs from her guru, she sets out to unravel the mystery, undergoing her own spiritual odyssey in the process. With Joe's help, she pursues a coincidental trail of clues and winds up in Maine, having lost her virginity along the way. From amidst the tangle of clues, Amelia discovers that the mysterious Hannah of her note is the author of a mystical novel that practically moulded her character throughout childhood. Coincidence indeed!

Gilman's melodramatic buildup is entertaining, a pleasant investigation that contrasts with the book's final pages, which are pure suspense. Of course, the suspense is of a particular kind — not "Will Joe and Amelia pull through?", but "How will they get the bad guys?". In any case, Joe and Amelia survive and *The Tightrope Walker* rates high marks



as good, clean fun.

Amelia is mainly responsible for the book's success: self-deprecating, slightly naughty, and definitely flakey, she is a likeable narrator. The fine line Gilman must observe in Amelia's behaviour is the balance between cuteness and naivete — sometimes cute wins out. Joe and Amelia's conversations also have a "gee whiz" flavour that can be annoying, but Gilman is certainly skilful with characters and plot construction. *The Tightrope Walker* is the kind of book that begs adjectives like "charming" and "delightful"; if those words are part of your critical vocabulary, I suggest that you check out Gilman's book. The author, by the way, is a resident of Nova Scotia since she relocated from New York several years ago. She is the author of the famous *Mrs. Pollifax* novels, and her book about moving to Nova Scotia, *A New Kind of Country*, was published in 1978. Reviewed by Doug Watling, Halifax, N.S.

Books Now



HINES '79

ATLANTIC CANADA, by Sherman Hines, forward by Harry Bruce, Clarke Irwin, 1979, unpaginated, \$24.95 cl., ISBN 0-7720-1278-4.

Atlantic Canada is Sherman Hines' third collection of photographs, following the successful *Nova Scotia* and *Outhouses of the East*. The new volume is large (quarto-size) and, at \$24.95 definitely a reasonable buy for 150 photos in full colour. Harry Bruce handles the introduction in the familiar tones of the repatriate; his "wildness" theme clashes slightly with Hines' pictures, which exude tranquility.

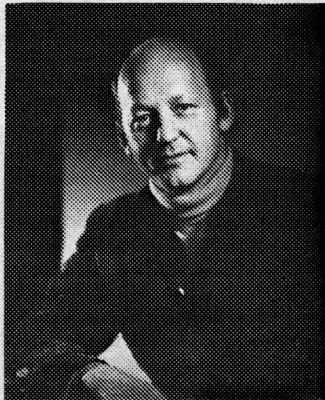
As we've come to expect, many of the shots in *Atlantic Canada* are immaculate and beautiful, bringing to mind a dictum of Susan Sontag's:

So successful has been the camera's role in beautifying the world that photographs, rather than the world, have become the standard of beauty.

Justifiably or not, Hines' photographs have become a touchstone of beauty in the Atlantic provinces.

Certainly, no one can question Hines' technical qualifications. Above all, these pictures appeal to the senses. There is an abundance of nature shots — Hines' vision of Atlantic Canada excludes the general public. Out of almost 150 photographs, only 11 contain people, and only a handful of these are close-ups. Those uninterested in natural photography should look elsewhere.

A large number of the shots in *Atlantic Canada* have been taken at dawn or twilight, a tactic that yields stunning pictures but sometimes veers close to cliché. Water often plays a dominant or supporting



role and gulls are everywhere. Hines seems to enjoy the interplay of hues in monochromatic shots and includes many shots that are interesting solely because of the splash of colours. Quite a few photographs are intentionally underexposed, but overall Hines avoids gimmickry.

Perhaps more than anything else, the reader should begin to appreciate the amount of work involved — to get shots of this quality, you have to go out and find them. There are a number of impressive shots: a suspended study of three boats that resembles a realist painting; a mushroom-like ring of ice about a tree; a geometrical aerial view of moored boats; a Dickensian shot of Halifax's Public Gardens; two barrels of flamboyantly red Cortland apples.

Less praiseworthy are the excess of Halifax Harbour scenes, two unevocative shots of dead fish, and a tendency toward sameness of subject matter. Anyone buying *Atlantic Canada* should know what they're getting — flawless, professional photographs that will charm the reader, and occasionally approach art.

Doug Watling

Booky Now

FLAME OF SERVICE IN N.B.

Methodism — A Flame, by Aubrey M. Tizzard, published by R.&A. Tizzard, Box 130, Newtonville, Ontario, 125 pp., coil-bound pb., no price shown.

Of the major factors which help preserve our Atlantic heritage the many local church histories are among the most valuable. Recently a small history of the first church at Dorchester, N.B., established in 1780, joined the growing collection. Privately published, like most of these histories, the book is a fine little off-set production which reveals much of the faith of the pioneers who settled in Albert County.

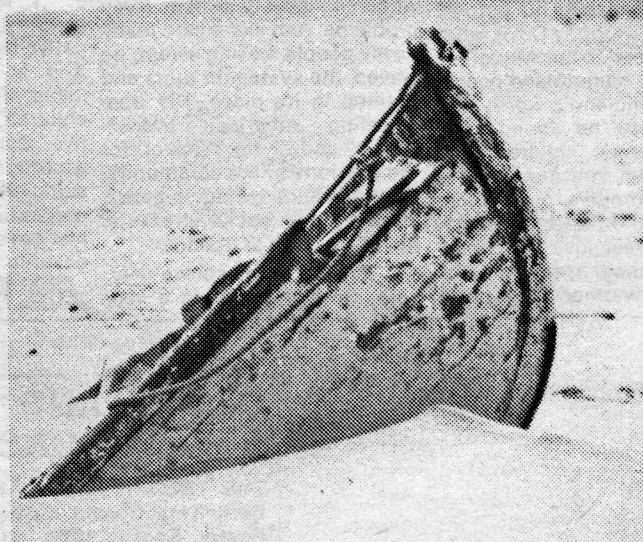
Author Rev. Tizzard makes it clear that church and clergy came first in the founding community, despite the settlers' great physical problems of food and shelter.

His research appears very thorough, while his table of costs and parish statistics are interesting and valuable. Of special interest are the chapters on building and rebuilding of churches as fire or necessity required. *Methodism — A Flame* is not only a history of a church; it is also an overview of a village's growth and progress.

Reviewed by Michael O. Nowlan, Oromocto, N.B.

Booky Now

Shifting Sands



THE COMPLETE STORY OF SABLE ISLAND

SHIFTING SANDS, by Jack Zinck, T&T Publishing, 341 Poplar St., Dartmouth, N.S., 1979, 97 pp., 6"x9", \$4.50 pb.

Shifting Sands is the first book from Dartmouth's new publishing venture T&T Publishing Company. Author Jack Zinck, also the owner of T&T, tells the story of Sable Island: a complete reference of the geographical, historical, political, and geological aspects of the fabled island off Nova Scotia.

Zinck knows his material intimately and is a competent writer, although there are a few times (particularly in the section on shipwrecks) when the work is stiff. His device of using spaces between paragraphs to mark the end of one tale and the start of another often make the text disjointed and awkward to read. For the

most part, though, *Shifting Sands* is a pleasure to read — unlike the usual history book fare.

A highlight of the book is the liberal use of photographs and drawings. There's even a paper-scroll map that pinpoints all Sable Island shipwrecks and a color centerfold photo of her famous ponies. Zinck is especially proud of these extras, for they are unusual additions in a small publisher's early books.

They are illustrative of T&T's two objectives as a publisher: quality material at reasonable prices. For now the company consists of only Jack Zinck and his wife. Together they handle production, distribution, and promotion. Successfully. The original 2,000 copies of *Shifting Sands* are nearly gone and reorder requests are in. T&T is to be congratulated. An excellent addition to school and public library shelves.

Donalee Moulton.

Booky Now

HOBERLY COVE

TOMORROW IS SCHOOL AND I'M SICK TO THE HEART THINKING ABOUT IT, by Don Sawyer, Douglas and McIntyre Ltd., 1979, 205 pp., \$10.95 cl.

This rather unwieldy title is taken from a note written by a student in "Hoberly Cove" Newfoundland to his teacher. Hoberly Cove isn't the real name of the place where author Don Sawyer and his wife Jan went to teach in September, 1969, but the incidents and the people he describes ring as real and true as a church bell on a cloudless June morning.

Sawyer is sometimes savagely critical of the education system in Newfoundland and sometimes despairing of his own capability to cope either with the system or with the students. Throughout he maintains a sense of humour and sympathy and eventually empathy with the teenagers in his class and the whole community of Hoberly Cove.

The school board which hired the Sawyers was an Integrated School Board, and the fledgling public school system which replaced the denominational ones was merely two years old. There were naturally still some bureaucratic and emotional conflicts to be resolved on that score. As

well, there were a disproportionate number of teenage pregnancies, young people who had returned from Toronto to live on welfare at home, the unfairness of urban oriented I.Q. tests, the dusty library of 200 outdated books, the indomitable spirit of the people, and the stunning creativity and imagination of the children.

The Sawyers taught here for two years, Jan in the primary school, Don in the high school. Their innovative teaching methods, fresh approaches and genuine caring made a difference during those two years. Yet, Sawyer reports that during the school year after they left, 90% of his former Grade 9 class either dropped out of school or failed Grade 10. Though all but one of his Grade 11s managed to pass their exams and matriculate, only one girl went to university. She later wrote to Sawyer and told him that the majority of her classmates are "still at home, doing absolutely nothing."

Writing from the objective distance of ten years, Don Sawyer has some very valid things to say, not only about Newfoundland education, but about educational methods and results in general.

C. Heather Allen
Booky Now

A LEGAL LEGACY

A History of the Dalhousie Law School, by John Willis, University of Toronto Press, 1979, 302 pp., \$20.00 cl.

University of Toronto Press has acquired an enviable reputation as a publisher of high-quality specialist books. John Willis' *A History of Dalhousie Law School* is firmly within that tradition, impeccably produced and tastefully represented.

I suspect that, for Dal Law graduates, Willis' book will be mandatory reading. One of the few University faculties with an ingrained sense of tradition, Dalhousie's Law School has evolved nobly and sometimes laboriously, as Willis notes in his introduction:

Of the themes to be borne in mind by the reader of this history the first, and the most outstanding, is that the story is singularly uneventful; from the beginning the School knew what it was trying to do and has to this day continued to do it... Its hallmark is continuity and tradition.

If that sounds like an apologist's warning, rest assured that the history itself bears Willis out. From its beginning in 1883, Dal has constantly lured past graduates back into the fold — familiarity breeds loyalty. Luckily, Richard Weldon, the first dean, set standards of erudition and humanity that lent the school lasting dignity. An astonishing number of graduates have become public figures: Angus L. Mac-



Donald, L.P.D. Tilley, R.B. Bennett, Allan Blakeny, Alex Campbell, Richard Hatfield, and Gerald Regan, to name only a significant few.

Like many institutions founded on enthusiasm and little money, the Law School has had to cope with meager financing, cramped quarters, an inadequate library, and, occasionally, insufficient staff. As with schools in similar circumstances, forceful personalities like Weldon and Horace Read (who did much research for this history) pushed the school through rough times. Almost unavoidably, Willis' book, though totally objective, is a lament for the warmth and brotherhood of past years. The Law School today is still energetic (Dal Legal Aid, for instance), but competitiveness and larger enrollments have contributed to a more prevalent impersonality.

Willis himself has done a commendable job collating his research and making the history readable. The book is really only of marginal interest to anyone not connected with the school, but past graduates and those partial to the study of Law will no doubt find *A History of Dalhousie Law School* irresistible reading.

Reviewed by Doug Watling, Halifax, N.S.

Booky Now

High Interest/Low Reading Level Books and the Reluctant Reader

Cathy Bethune is a second year student at the School of Library Service, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

The subject of high interest/low reading level books has aroused much interest and discussion from librarians and educators alike. Should these books exist at all? If so, for whom are they suited? How can they be identified? When are they good? Not unlike other concepts and philosophies in the field of Children's Literature and Education, this relatively recent development in book production is fraught with controversy and confusion. One cannot look at this type of literature without being inundated with information and opinion on the reluctant, slow and retarded reader. Methods for establishing children's interests with regard to books are as varied as are the techniques for establishing the reading level of a given book and the reading ability of a specific child. Most alarming is perhaps the tendency on behalf of professionals to look at the hi-lo book as a panacea — a new cure for our ailing young.

Instrumental in this whole discussion is the question of the value of reading. Our society is one that places a very high value on literacy, and the avenue to literacy is books. We seek education and achieve it through reading. The vast financial expenditure on education at all levels is testament to our desire to gain knowledge. The vehicle is, to a great degree, the written word. In our environment reading is a necessary tool utilized throughout our lives in the pursuit of success. And so our children must learn to read. "We want them to grow up confident and competent in the world of language and learning. We want them to be able to express their thoughts effectively to others and to receive and understand the thoughts of others spoken or written. We count on books to make them at home with language and ideas."¹

Unfortunately society is falling far short of producing a population of avid readers. The education indexes are jammed with citations dealing with reading problems of every sort and circumstance. To stress the importance of literacy, the 'reading movement' has grown with tremendous momentum. Every aspect of reading behaviour has been dissected and analyzed. A plethora of definitions are available discriminating a wide variety of types of readers. Although these definitions overlap the some extend the following example seems to represent the general consensus of those professionals who are involved in the field of problem reading. "The slow reader is one whose reading age is considerably below his chronological age; the reluctant reader is technically capable of reading up to an almost average level of ability but for a variety of reasons does not do so."² For all intents and purposes the terms "backward reader" and "retarded reader" seem to be synonymous with the "slow reader" mentioned above. Special educators, psychologists, remedial reading teachers and others have for years been examining the cause of reading difficulties in youngsters and developing programs to help enable these children to overcome or compensate for their disabilities. I will leave the problems related to reading disability and retardation to those specialists whose business it is. It is the isolation of the reluctant reader as a distinct segment of the school population that is of interest here. This is a relatively new development challenging educators and library service personnel.

When we are told that "approximately ten percent of the population read roughly eighty percent of the books"³ concern is understandable. Does this mean that a huge majority of society is either reading-disabled or reluctant to read? It is highly unlikely that our schools have failed so desperately and so it seems safe to assume that a significant proportion of our

population is non-reading by choice. "Many college graduates do not read a book a year and many people cannot even think of a book they would like to read." Education journals are repeatedly publishing articles with titles similar to "Combating Apathy: Literature and the 'General' Class"⁵; all desperately searching for a way to serve the multitude of students who read reluctantly, if at all.

Much discussion has arisen in an attempt to disclose the reason for the growing number of reluctant readers. Perhaps the most blatant excuse for not reading is the increased availability of television and the variety offered by that medium. Studies have shown that many children spend more hours watching television than they do in school — an alarming situation; one that leaves little time for leisure reading. But it is perhaps more realistic to admit that children often have unfortunate early encounters with books and subsequently choose to avoid them. Reading achievement is shown to be a more middle and upper class value and therefore the child from the lower socio-economic group is deprived of the parental modelling at work in more advantaged segments of the population. Many children do not have the benefit of books until they reach school and all too often the fare in the primary grades is geared entirely to developing skills. Reading for many becomes associated with work and insecurity. "By the time many students reach high school they may equate reading with ridicule, failure or exclusively school-related tasks."⁶ Schools do not have the reputation of allowing children time to read books of their own choosing for fun and without the threat of evaluation. This failure on the part of the school, coupled with a recognized poverty of language experience by many young children in the home, are no doubt the major reasons why children are not choosing to read.

It is here that high interest, low reading level books are supposed to be an answer, if not *the* answer. These books prescribed for "reluctant, retarded or problem readers among older students who need books with reading levels below their interest levels."⁷ There appears to be an underlying assumption at work in the philosophy of the "hi-lo" book. It seems that the advocates of this type of literature feel that if one needs high interest levels in a book then one must also require a controlled reading level below that which would be otherwise expected, considering one's age and maturity. Withrow, Carey and Hirzel say, "The recommendation for reluctant and for poor readers to read much easy interesting material is sound."⁸ The rationale for this statement is to provide the reader a familiarity with the basic one-thousand word vocabulary, to establish good habits of eye movements, and to develop reading confidence. These arguments may well apply when dealing with the "poor" reader but there seems to be no reason for including those children who are classified as reluctant.

To be sure the reluctant reader desperately needs to be very interested in the reading material for it to have a positive impact; but that is not to indicate a limited attention span or abandonment of that interest once aroused because of having to work to maintain it. In fact the opposite appears to be true: "Books that are high in interest may be reacted to as appropriate in difficulty even though two or more grade levels above the pupil's reading levels. At the same time books are often rated by children as too hard even though below the pupil's reading levels when interest is low." Daniel Fader insists that even "semi-literate readers do not need semi-literate books ... Bright, average or dull — however one classifies the child — he is immeasurably better off with books that are too difficult for him than books that are too simple."¹⁰

With regard to subject matter, "Interest then is the primary factor to be considered in attempting to stimulate reading."¹¹ Unfortunately reading interests are elusive and difficult to study. The number of factors influencing a child's reading interests is unmanageably large and the unlimited combinations of these factors and the extents to which each affects a given child are impossible to determine. Nevertheless, there are some obvious generalizations based on a number of survey tools, both formal and informal, that can be utilized. The child's age most definitely has a large impact on his or her reading interests as does the sex of the child (at least at certain ages). For example, nursery rhymes are not as appealing at eight as they were at age four, and a personified steam shovel does not have the fascination for a twelve-year-old that it does for a six-year-old. At ten and twelve girls generally prefer more gentleness in a story than do boys. Intelligence seems to be a more crucial factor as children get older in that brighter children tend to have wider interests and broader appreciation limits. Family background obviously is also a strong influence on the child's reading interests.

Another very important influence is peer reading behaviour. As with adults — and perhaps even more so — a book popular with a friend comes highly recommended indeed. Reading interests are also complicated by a "peculiarly personal interaction between the child and the book, an interaction as different in each case as readers may differ from each other in breadth of experience and quality of mind."¹² The information provided in the literature on children's reading interests is very generalized. It hardly needs to be mentioned that it is imperative to take cues from the child when trying to determine specific reading interests.

Given that we can establish what a child is interested in reading and given that we can supply children with books relative to that interest it is perhaps important to look at the kind of book that is more likely to hold that interest. Barbara Bates has best delineated the characteristics of high interest/low reading level books and her views are held by most other authors concerned with motivating youngsters to read. "The type of story is the most significant influence upon preference throughout the elementary ages. Not until the reader approaches maturity does literacy style supplant the element of content in significance. If a book, then, has a modicum of the style elements characteristically appealing to the age, it is likely to prove acceptable."¹³ In reference to style, children and adolescents prefer conversation to narrative; fast-moving action to description; and a well developed but not complicated plot. The story line should be direct without complicated, out-of-sequence techniques such as flashbacks and unclear trips of fantasy. Generally speaking, plots should be realistic and easy for the child to relate to. The characters should be few and well developed preferably through their own action and dialogue rather than by heavy third person description. Involving the reader emotionally is also crucial and appears to be most effectively accomplished at least with children from the fourth grade up, through a realistic theme dealing with some familiar crisis in everyday life. It is important that the book come to a satisfactory conclusion or provides clearly the sought-after information, otherwise the reader may in future avoid similar frustration.

There are also a number of physical characteristics that contribute to ease in reading. A book is easier to read if it is not too long and if it is divided clearly into chapters that are also not too lengthy. (For a reluctant reader each chapter can be an accomplishment in itself and a psy-

chological boost.) Clear type sized between the limits of nine point and twelve point can be read equally fast. Off white or cream colored paper of good quality seems most appealing to the reader. Wide margins and a little extra leading space between lines also make a book read more easily.

The above general description of a high interest/low reading level book, except perhaps with respect to length, seems also to fit the description of the vast majority of books that can be considered easy leisure reading for adults. Remembering that our goal is to change the reluctant reader into a child or adolescent who chooses to read, it seems logical also to provide "easy reading" as opposed to arduous material as we do for the adult. We are in the vendor's position and wish to promote a pleasant product, namely, books. But if we take high interest, easy reading books and superimpose a low reading level (such as would be required by backward readers), are we not doing the reluctant readers a great disservice?

Bates suggests in her article that hi/lo books utilize a simple vocabulary avoiding abstract terms. "An occasional long word that is familiar keeps readers stretching and makes the book seem adult."¹⁴ Surely, this statement is tokenism at its worst! Also grammatical construction and syntax should be uncomplicated and, while sentences should be varied in length, none should run more than two and one-half lines. Subordinate phrases and clauses should be used sparingly. Stylistic devices such as symbolism are confusing and should therefore be for the most part eliminated. Applying the above controls would guarantee a low reading level. But when recommending a book for a reluctant reader, remembering that if he or she is interested enough to read above the level expected and also bearing in mind that he or she is probably capable of reading almost as well as other children the same age, is this controlled vocabulary and language necessary or beneficial? Fader's belief, as put forth in *Hooked on Books*, emphasizes this. "The interaction between reader and book in no case demands an understanding of every word by the reader. In fact, the threshold of understanding — of meaningful interaction — is surprisingly low, and even in many complex books can be pleasureably crossed by many simple readers."¹⁵ Therefore, it is the inclusion of the reluctant reader in the recommended audience for hi/lo books to which I take exception. It is perhaps unwise so quickly to lump together all problem readers suggesting that these books will serve all needs.

I would like to suggest a possible parallel dealing with the development of language. It is meant only as an interesting observation that may be worth considering when thinking of the reluctant reader. It has been shown by both American and Russian experimenters that it is more difficult for young children to learn simplified, impoverished language than to learn language by "expatriation". This term has been used by Cazden to describe adult responses to toddlers' telegraphic utterances. These responses focus beyond the child's grammatical limits and ideas. For example, a child says, "Dog bark," and the adult replies, "Yes, but he won't bite." This type of response is in contrast to the more expected aid to language development, that of "expansion". For example, the child says, "Dog bark," and the adult replies, "Yes, the dog is barking." While expansion does little more than iterate what the child knows says Cazden, expatriation provides the same amount of modelling as well as introducing varied concepts and grammatical elements; subsequently, children develop more language.

Other studies show that reading books to children even before they appear to be able to understand language has proved to produce similar results in that read-to children progress significantly faster in their language development. They exhibit increased vocabulary and greater syntactical facility. The above information is not intended to be an analogy for the promotion of at least normal reading levels in books for reluctant readers. Rather, it is a comment that might prove relevant when applied to reading development.

It is perhaps also worth mentioning that numerous reports have been made to teachers of the problem of reluctant readers in the classroom. In general these articles are descriptive and therefore cannot be called upon to prove anything. However, there are common elements in these accounts of how teachers motivate children to read. Generally speaking the main ingredients seem to be a dynamic, concerned teacher, a gimmick or two, and a vast supply of reading material for students to draw on by choice and at will. One delightful account tells of a teacher who motivated her students to read by reading orally to them the beginnings of very suspenseful short stories, and then informing the pupils that if they wanted to know the endings they would have to read the remainder themselves from the mimeographed sheets she provided. Rarely in these reports is there reference to the use of low reading level books, let alone the promotion of them.

In summary, I would like to urge caution on the part of the educator and the librarian when considering the aptness of low reading level books. There does not appear to be evidence suggesting the necessity for controlled reading level for purposes of comprehension in the reluctant reader. Nor has it been indicated that the reluctant reader reads more if the material is on a relatively low reading level. Motivation through high interest levels does, though, seem mandatory.

The Russian psychologist, Vygotsky, sums it up well by suggesting that "The only good kind of education is that which marches ahead of development and leads it." 16

Footnotes

1. Frank, Josette. *Your Children's Today*. Doubleday, 1969, p.14.
2. *The Reluctant Reader*. The Library Association, County Libraries Group, 1969.
3. Barmore, J.M., and Morse, P.S. "Developing Lifelong Readers in the Middle Schools" *English Journal*, April, 1977, p. 57.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 57.
5. "Combatting Apathy: Literature and the 'General' Class". *English Journal*, Sept. 1969.
6. Gentile, L.M. and McMillan, M.M. "Why Won't Teenagers Read?" *Journal of Reading*, May, 1977, p. 649.
7. Bates, B.S. "Identifying High Interest/Low Reading Level Books", *School Library Journal*, Nov. 1977, p. 19.
8. Withrow, D.E., Carey, H.B., and Hirzel, B.M. *Gateways to Readable Books*. H.W. Wilson Co., 1975, p. 14.
9. Spache, G.D. *Good Reading for Poor Readers*. Garrard Publishing Co., 1972, p. 2.
10. Fader, D.N. and McNeil, E.B., *Hooked on Books*, Berkley Publishing Corp., 1969, p. 66.
11. Spache, G.D. *Ibid.*, p. 2.
12. Fader, D.N. and McNeil, E.B. *Ibid.*, p. 67.
13. Spache, G.D. *Ibid.*, p. 16.
14. Bates, B.S. *Ibid.*, p. 21.
15. Fader, D.N. *Ibid.*, p. 67.
16. Pines, M. *Revolution in Learning*. Harper and Row, 1967, p. 190.

N.B. Libraries

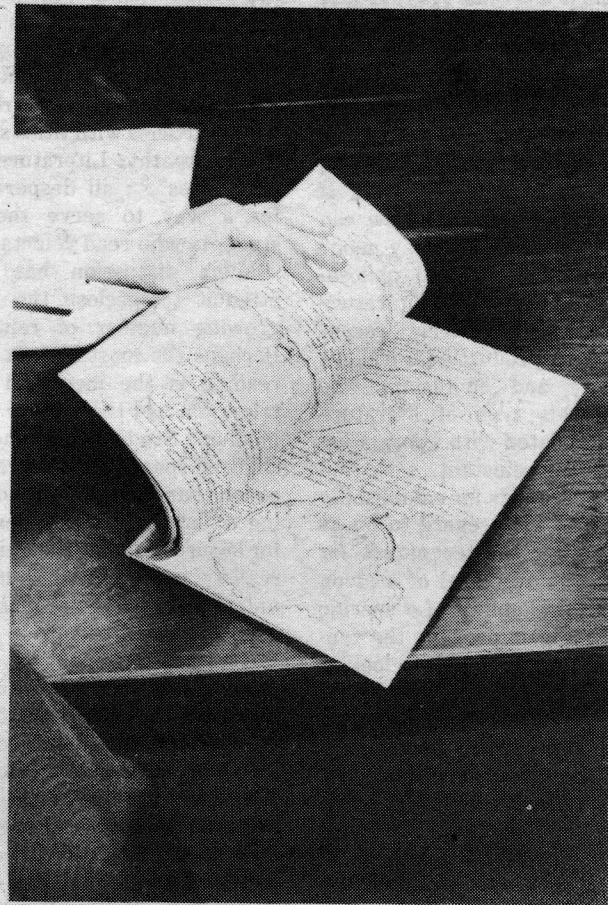
The 1979 edition of the Directory of New Brunswick Libraries/Répertoire des bibliothèques du Nouveau-Brunswick has just been published. Compiled by Claude Potvin and Alban Arsenault, this Directory lists the libraries of New Brunswick according to types and places. It includes information on the collections, the staff, and the hours of opening of each library. Two indexes, one by place, one by subject, make it very useful.

The Directory sells for \$5.75, including postage. It may be ordered from:

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Dalhousie University Libraries



A handwritten journal, describing the work of a 1684 French expedition which charted parts of the coast of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, has been purchased by the Dalhousie University Library with the aid of a grant from the Secretary of State.

The 34 large folio pages were written by a mapmaker on the ship Marianne during a voyage that lasted from July 19 to September 14, 1684.

The journal was purchased from an American dealer after more than a year of negotiations.

A grant under the federal government's Cultural Property Export and Import Act covered 75% of the purchase price.

The document was authenticated by the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa before the deal was concluded.

The journal contains daily entries and 25 cartographical diagrams and topographical illustrations showing islands, capes, inlets, rivers, and other geographical features.

Nothing in the document identifies the author, although there is a list of the crew

which includes a M. Challe, who may be the author.

The ship which carried out the expedition was owned by a French merchant named Bergier, who obtained fishing rights in the area about that time.

The mapmaking voyage apparently started near Lunenburg, but there were few observations taken during the first week.

Detailed observations start on July 25 in the vicinity of Grand Manan Island, with water depths, currents, landmarks, and danger zones clearly indicated.

The journal ends abruptly on September 14, when the Marianne had reached St. Mary's River.

Throughout the journal are extraneous observations including descriptions of the foliage on shore, an abundance of fish off Cape Fourcheu, and accounts of disembarkments, during one of which a crew member attempted to desert.

Appended to the journal is a 12-page inventory of equipment, such as sailing gear and armaments.

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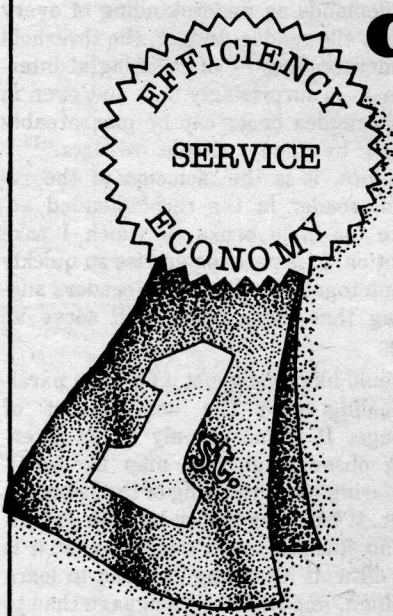
foundland and enjoys the distinction of being catered to by two fog-free airports, Deer Lake and Stephenville.

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W.K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library

The Library is seeking an individual to provide editorial services for Health Sciences at Dalhousie University. The position involves editing research manuscripts for publication or conference presentation, and assisting with the preparation of grant applications. Some instruction in technical writing for inexperienced authors is also required.

Candidates should have a strong background in written communication and a familiarity with medical/scientific terminology.

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Dartmouth Regional Library requires a Head of Reference Department. Duties include coordinating the work of the Department, selection of reference materials, supervision of staff and planning future and innovative reference/information and film services to meet community needs.

M.L.S. or equivalent degree and at least two years relevant library experience.

Library Council of Metropolitan Milwaukee

In response to the growing concern about security and emergency problems in libraries, the Library Council of Metropolitan Milwaukee has produced a workshop kit entitled "People, Problems and Policy." The kit includes a "discussion starter" 10 minute color 16mm film (or 3/4" video tape); a detailed discussion guide with a step-by-step outline for a two hour workshop; and resources for future planning including sample security policies from different types of libraries.

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B3A 1M1

Discussion Guide are "Defining Problem Behavior," "How to Cope With Problems" and "Planning Security Policy." Also included are samples of security policies from different types of libraries, a subject bibliography, and suggestions for follow-up workshops.

The workshop kit may be rented or purchased from LCOMM, 814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Rental fee is \$15.00. The kit with 16mm color film is \$140.00; with 3/4" color video tape \$50.00. Additional Discussion Guides are \$5.00. For more information contact: Mary Cronin, Director, Library Council of Metropolitan Milwaukee (414)271-8470.

New Brunswick Indexing Project

Eric L. Swanick is on the staff of the Legislative Library, Province of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

Following the general meeting of the Council of Head Librarians of New Brunswick/Conseil des directeurs de bibliothèques du N.-B. on 24 April, 1978, an indexing committee was established. This committee consisted of Agnez Hall (N.B.L.S.), Patricia Ruthven (U.N.B.F.) and Eric Swanick (Legislative Library). According to the terms of reference, the committee was to "determine ... what is taking place in the area of indexing at the present time, to study the feasibility of a cooperative approach to N.B. indexing ... and to establish goals and objectives for future indexing and to make available what has already been done". And secondly, we were to obtain "... the active cooperation of the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada/Société canadienne pour l'analyse de documents ...".

Our first meeting took place in mid-July, 1978. The result of this meeting and several informal discussions was a bilingual questionnaire which was sent in early October to 100 institutions and individuals within the province. The answered questionnaire was to be returned by 8 December. On 22 December a letter was sent to those who had not returned their questionnaire and requested they do so. The results were quite gratifying; we received 79 out of a possible 100 returns. Several of the completed questionnaires necessitated further letters or telephone calls in order to clarify certain details concerning their indexing project.

A few comments are in order concerning the format of the indexing inventory. The basic arrangement is by location (city, town, or village) as indicated in the table of contents. Each inventory is divided into four sections consisting of the following: contents, information, contact and availability. The exceptions to this format are the published indexes in which case we substitute an "author" entry for the "contact" entry. The section "contents" is confined to single items if possible and, as is often the case, to entire collections. By "information" and "contact" we give the necessary details on where and whom to

contact. The "contact" section is divided for updating purposes. The "availability" section is self-explanatory. There are two appendices: one for material indexed by the Provincial Archives, the other for material indexed by Project Preservation held in the St. Croix Public Library. The index is by subject, author (if applicable) and title. No attempt has been made to assess or evaluate any of the indexes; nor have we searched for indexes awarded through grants by the LIP, OFY or other similar programs. We are still receiving information on indexes by "word of mouth". And a final note, the inventoried material is in the language in which we received it.

Questions 4 and 5 of the questionnaire requested what indexing projects should be considered and whether the institution or individual would be willing to participate. We have an inventory on both of these questions. As to what should be indexed, most suggestions reflect the interests of that particular institution and/or individual. The support was sought and obtained from the Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada/Société canadienne pour l'analyse des documents.

At the recent meeting of the CHLND/CDBN-B at which we presented our report, we went on to make a number of further recommendations, one of which was the publication and sale of this inventory which numbers over fifty leaves in length. Target date for publication is this fall and at that time an announcement will be in the *APLA bulletin* concerning its availability, costs, etc. As well, the Committee has been given a permanent status (with the same members) and other institutions have requested the opportunity to work with us in completion of previous terms of reference and in pursuit of new objectives such as updating this inventory, an examination of current indexing practices in both government and non-government institutions as well the possibility of sponsoring a workshop on indexing practices as well as completing last year's.

Our first task is to publish the inventory.

Publications Received

Alphamaze. Vol. 1. Edited by Marlene Hurst. Ann Arbor, Mich., University Microfilms International, 1979. (300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106) \$2.50.

The Crawford symposium. Edited and with an introd. by Frank M. Tierney. Ottawa, University of Ottawa Press,

1979. ISBN 0-7603-4385-5.

Guide to Canadian photographic archives = Guide Les archives photographiques canadiennes. Provisional ed. Alain Clavet, coordinator. Ottawa, Public Archives, 1979. (395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N3) ISBN 0-662-50346-5.

Annotations Manual

Anna Oxley is Maritimes Regional Librarian, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, Halifax, N.S.

Agnes H. Bokross' *Annotations manual* (Ottawa, National Library, 1979) is a spiral-bound 8 1/2" x 11" manual designed primarily for use in a public library cataloguing department. The manual was compiled and edited by the staff of the Multilingual Biblioservice of the National Library of Canada, and was intended as a directional aid in annotating foreign-language collections.

No index is provided, but a fairly extensive "Table of Contents" outlines main areas of emphasis in five chapters: 1. General Principles; 2. Children's Books; 3. Biography; 4. Books Classified According to the Dewey System; and 5. Fiction.

Well-illustrated, with many examples of actual catalogue cards, this manual explains in exhaustive detail the tone, content, and direction of annotations for foreign-language materials.

Available free of charge and worth every penny!

Schools A-V Kit

Resource services for Canadian schools, by Frederic R. Branscombe and Harry E. Newsom (Toronto, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1977) now has an accompanying Audio Visual Kit (slides and cassette) which can be used by anyone trying to implement or improve resource centre/library standards in his/her own school or system. The kit may be borrowed free of charge

from one of several deposits across Canada. Anyone in Quebec or the four Atlantic provinces who would like to borrow this kit should direct requests to:

Library Department
2790 Oxford Street (Ardmore School)
Halifax, N.S.
B3L 2V5

Nova Scotia Union Catalogue

Jerry Miner is the Union Catalogue Librarian at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Halifax, N.S.

In 1978 the Reference Services Section of the N.S. Provincial Library began to keep detailed statistics on the union catalogue operation. The statistics that have been gathered and analysed for 1978 yield invaluable factual information which allows us to look objectively at the Nova Scotia Union Catalogue as a tool for supporting Provincial Library services. We have every reason to believe that 1978 was a representative year for the NSUC and that the data used in the study can be trusted for its accuracy and reliability.

The Nova Scotia Union Catalogue acts as a service point for university, provincial and federal government, regional public, school, and special libraries in and outside the province. Until this time very little has been known about NSUC's usage by the various segments of the library community. We trust that the summary below of the salient findings of our study will be enlightening and beneficial to all libraries in their plans for future cooperative projects.

NSUC Composition

77% of the NSUC accessions were reported by the university libraries. In fact, 60% of the total reports came from Dalhousie, St. Mary's, St. Francis Xavier, and Acadia Universities.

21% of the reports came from provincially funded libraries of which the majority (15%) were from the Regional Public Libraries. Only nine of the twenty-seven provincial government libraries and only one school library reported to the NSUC.

Although all the federal government libraries reported, only 2.5% of the reports came from this sector.

NSUC Supported Services

These services include the interlibrary loan service; Reference Services staff verifies request in bibliographic sources, finds location, and transacts the loan.

As a switching service, the staff finds locations for interlibrary loan request received by mail and sends request to nearest location.

For telephone location service staff give locations of materials in the province over the telephone to requesting library.

The NSUC was predominantly used as a location device for supporting the sharing of resources through the interlibrary loan process, and the rationalization of collections. The NSUC was rarely (if ever) used for cataloguing support during the period studied.

By far the greatest users of the interlibrary loan and telephone location services were the provincially funded libraries (54%) of which the vast majority (47%) were the Regional Public Libraries. The majority of public requests (67%) were filled within the Regional Library

system while only a small number (16%) were filled in other libraries of the province. While the Regional Public Libraries predominantly used the interlibrary loan service, the other provincially funded libraries used only the telephone location service. Of the twenty-seven provincial government libraries, thirteen used NSUC supported services, and individual civil servants rarely used the services.

By far the greatest users of the telephone location service were the university libraries in the metropolitan area (59%). 45% of the total telephone location requests were from Dalhousie and St. Mary's Universities. The switching service was used mainly by the non-metropolitan universities and colleges of the province (13%); however, this represented only 16% of the total number of interlibrary loans received. Acadia University (6.5%) and the College of Cape Breton (3.6%) were the greatest users of this service. Most of the interlibrary loans requested by universities were borrowed from other university libraries. Dalhousie (7%), St. Mary's (4%), and Acadia (4%) Universities were the largest lenders in the university category.

12% of the interlibrary loan requests came from out of province borrowers. 50% of the requests were from the Atlantic Provinces; however, the largest single borrower was Ontario (30%).

The use of NSUC supported services by federal and commercial libraries was very small (5.2%).

25% of all the interlibrary loans received were not located in the province of Nova Scotia. Of the 12% located outside the province (the other 13% were mainly Regional Public Library requests which were not sent outside the province for a location), the vast majority (9.6%) were located in Ontario and Quebec. Only 2% were located in the Atlantic Provinces.

Conclusions

The greatest users of NSUC supported services, the Regional Public Libraries, were on the whole quite self-sufficient in meeting their information needs and did not depend heavily on other types of libraries in the province.

While the university libraries were the major contributors to the NSUC, they were not a major source for Regional Public interlibrary loans.

The majority of university interlibrary loans were borrowed from other university libraries in the province, and libraries outside the province.

Atlantic Province libraries relied quite heavily on Nova Scotia as their source for interlibrary loans; however, Nova Scotia relied on Ontario and Quebec.

Most Regional Library interlibrary loan requests not located in Nova Scotia were not forwarded outside the province for locations.

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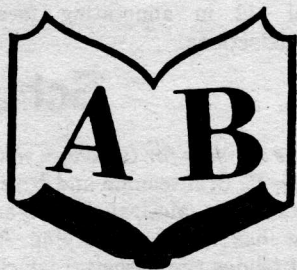
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CLA Gay Interest Group

A Gay Interest Group is one of the first to take advantage of guidelines recently adopted by CLA Council for an experimental period of two years. Under the guidelines, "Council may authorize the establishment of an Interest Group of not less than 15 members of the Association who are interested in the same aspect of librarianship not within the scope of any one Division" when those 15 members of the Association request recognition (see CLA Council Document, 789.223). On 15 June 1979, at the annual convention of CLA in Ottawa, a meeting of gay librarians attending the conference began planning for such a group.

Among the proposed objectives of the Gay Interest Group are the development of communications between gay men and lesbians working in and using Canadian libraries, the enhancement of library service to the gay community and to people in the community at large who are concerned about gay issues and materials, and the promotion of access to sources of information about gays. The new Interest Group will be made up of members of CLA who share these concerns and who wish to

work toward the achievement of these goals.

A Task Force on Gay Liberation has existed as part of the Americal Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table since the early 1970s. With the formation of the Canadian Library Association's Gay Interest Group, members of CLA, both gay and straight, will have their own home-grown opportunity to liberate themselves and their libraries and to work toward improving access in Canadian society to information about gay lifestyles and concerns.

Any member of CLA interested in joining the Group will be welcome. There is no membership fee beyond Association dues. Inquiries may be addressed to:

Tom Edge
10610-127 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 1W1

or
Tom Flemming
5264 Morris Street, #1604
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1B5

Halifax City Regional Library

A number of the new 4-track cassette players have been ordered. Because of projected changes in the Talking Book format, it will be necessary to purchase cassette players to lend to nursing homes, senior citizens complexes and individuals making use of the Talking Book Service. The library was pleased to learn that the Library Services Branch, Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services, Province of British Columbia, is now making a selection of their Talking Books available for purchase by public libraries outside the province.

The popular noon hour open lecture series and/or university credit course offered by St. Mary's University in

cooperation with the Halifax City Regional Library started its third session at the Main Library on Spring Garden Road on September 11. The 1979/80 series focuses on the development of contemporary Canada from its roots in the Macdonald and Laurier eras. The lecturer is Dr. Henry Roper.

Basic education classes for adults who want to learn to read and to do everyday math and English are being offered at the North Branch Library. Math classes for adults interested in upgrading their Grade VII education are also being offered under the sponsorship of the City of Halifax Continuing Education Department.