

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

---

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

---

10-1928

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 2, no. 1

RILA

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin)

---

### Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 2, no. 1" (1928). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 4. [https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin/4](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/4)[https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila\\_bulletin/4](https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/4)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Rhode Island Library Association at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in RILA Bulletin by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons-group@uri.edu](mailto:digitalcommons-group@uri.edu).

# BULLETIN

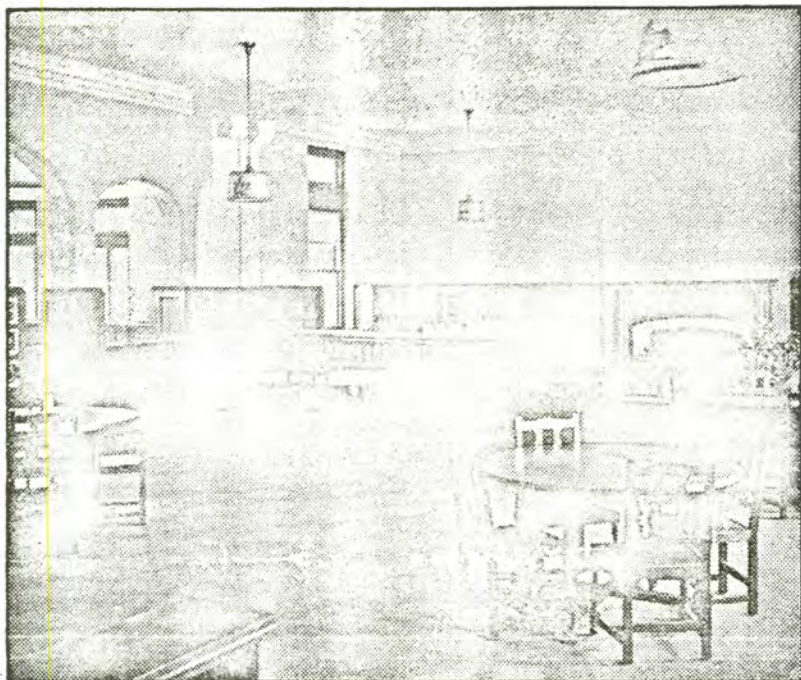
OF THE

## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 2

October, 1928

No. 1



—Courtesy Providence Journal  
New Children's Room, Westerly Public Library

### FALL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Friday, October 26, 1928

#### Morning Session

Chapel of the Beneficent Congregational Church, Providence

10:00 Business

10:45 The R. I. L. A., 1903-1928: Reminiscences

William E. Foster, Providence Public Library.

11:00 Naval Library Activities at Newport

Arthur R. Blessing, Naval War College, Newport.

11:30 Books from the First Presses

Miss Margaret B. Stillwell, Annmary Brown Memorial.

12:15

#### Luncheon

#### Afternoon Session

Library Section of the R. I. Institute of Instruction

Library, Commercial High School

2:00 The School Library, an opportunity and a responsibility

Miss Nina C. Brotherton, School of Library Science, Simmons College.

2:45 The School Librarian at Work

Miss Ruth E. Greene, Commercial High School.

Miss Eleanor M. Barker, Rogers High School, Newport.

Miss Alice G. Hathaway, Bridgman Junior High School.

3:15 The Student's Reading on His Own

Prof. Harry L. Koopman, Library of Brown University.

BULLETIN  
of the  
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Published every now and then, and designed to be of interest to librarians of Rhode Island.

R. I. L. A. Bulletin Committee  
Sallie E. Coy

Westerly Public Library  
May V. Crenshaw

People's Library, Newport  
Josephine A. Hope

Providence Public Library  
Vol. 2      October, 1928      No. 1

### *Birthday Greetings!*

Organized in 1903 "to promote the library interests of the state," the R. I. L. A. is twenty-five years old. We are fortunate to have Mr. Foster with us to celebrate this anniversary, since he was its first president and a prime mover in its organization.

### *R. I. L. A. Meeting in Round Top Church*

The morning session will be held in the Chapel (entrance on Chestnut St.,) of the Beneficent Congregational Church, more often spoken of as the "Round Top" Church, on Weybosset Street. This is one of the oldest church organizations in Providence. It was established in Colonial days, in 1743. The present building was erected in 1809-10, and is regarded by architects as one of the most striking colonial architectural designs in the city.

### *Luncheon*

The ladies of the Church will serve a luncheon in the Chapel at 75 cents per person. All who expect to attend are asked to send in the enclosed slip promptly.

### *Exhibits*

Following up Miss Guerrier's talk last spring the Exhibits Committee, Mrs. Valerie M. Dobson, chairman, plans to show a collection of government documents useful to the small library. Books and editions of special interest to boys and girls of high school age, and the tools of the high school librarian will also be on display.

### *Rhode Islanders at Conference*

Thirty-three R. I. delegates visited the Pine Tree State when the All New England Library Conference met at Portland in June. The total attendance at this Conference was 422.

### *Please Come to Order!*

Two matters of importance are to come up at the business meeting.

1. A vote will be taken to amend the constitution by substituting the following for the second paragraph of Article V:

There shall be a committee of three to prepare the Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association.

2. In his address at the Toronto Conference in 1927 (printed in the "Library Journal" and "Libraries" for July 1927) Dr. George H. Locke, the retiring president, recommended that the president of the A. L. A. be elected for a two year term of office, instead of one, and as a corollary to this, suggested that the A. L. A. conferences be held once every two years with alternate regional conferences.

At the New England Regional Conference last June, this recommendation was referred to the various state associations. An opportunity for discussion will be given on October 26.

### *To Buy—Or Not to Buy!*

Every librarian at some time is overwhelmingly besieged with the demand that he buy a subscription set, without which his library cannot possibly exist. For such a time of stress here is something worth knowing.

Subscription sets are evaluated by a committee of the Massachusetts Library Club. Mr. Leslie T. Little of the Public Library, Waltham, Mass., who is chairman of this committee, offers to send the report of the committee on a particular set or sets to any librarian inquiring.

### *Let Us Borrow*

Following the Inter-Library Loan symposium of last spring, it will be helpful to note the following books in foreign languages which may be borrowed from some of the Public Libraries of the state. Many of the libraries of Rhode Island have at some time availed themselves of the generosity of the Providence Public Library, and will be glad to know that they may borrow from these other libraries on the usual I. L. L. terms, that is, the borrowing library will pay postage, keep books for not more than one month, and be responsible for them in general.

Harris Institute, Woonsocket, has approximately 1000 French books mostly fiction; People's Library, Newport, approximately 150 French, 160 German, 48 Italian, 16 Portuguese and 11 Spanish; Westerly Public Library has 318 French, 50 German, 312 Italian and 64 Spanish.



## Where to Buy

The Massachusetts Library Club Bulletin for March, 1928, gives a list of recommended dealers in foreign books. This list was compiled by the committee on Work with New Americans, 1928.

### R. I. State Documents

The Rhode Island State Library is the distributing agency for documents issued by the State of Rhode Island. A certain number of the larger libraries are on the mailing list for all documents issued by the state. A systematic mailing to all libraries in the state is not furnished, but any library may be placed upon the complete mailing list upon the written request of the librarian, or a selected list of documents may be chosen to be forwarded as issued.

HERBERT O. BRIGHAM,  
State Librarian.

### Providence Public Library Branches

The building projects of the Providence Public Library have created a state-wide interest in the work of its branches. While something of the importance of this phase of its work has been realized by many people, a special emphasis has been placed upon it with the building of the new Wanskuck Branch and the remodelling of the building on Hope Street, soon to house the present Brook Street Branch. The following sketches give a brief survey of this field of service of the Providence Public Library.

#### Brook Street Branch

The Providence Public Library has recently purchased the disused church building at the corner of Hope and Power Streets, formerly occupied by the Hope Street Methodist Church, and are remodelling it for the use of what is now known as the Brook Street Branch, at the corner of Brook and Transit Streets. One of the most interesting features of the remodelled branch building on Hope Street is the large storage section that is equipped to accommodate an overflow of 300,000 books from the main library.

#### Elodie Farnum Memorial Library

This branch library is situated in the heart of a rapidly growing community, largely composed of the American born. As the majority of the people own their homes, the library serves a permanent rather than a

floating population. The professional and business men come here for recreational reading and for serious reading of a non-technical nature. Housewives, business and professional women, too, use the library and its books for pleasure and profit. Brown University instructors and students are among its patrons.

Although many boys and girls use the library for study and home reading, the larger proportion of the work is with the adult rather than the juvenile reader.

#### North End Branch Library

One of the oldest and most interesting of the branches of the Providence Public Library is located at 49 Orms Street, in an old settlement house, rich with memories of vital service to its community.

To stand at a window, or on the stoop, and disentangle the sounds that fill the air is to realize the richness of this library's opportunities. The drone of pupils at oral study of Hebrew from the school next door, the occasional tenor of the cantor from the Synagogue beyond, factory rumblings, soft vesper bells and playground laughter combine in a bewildering medley.

The book stock reflects the varied interests of its users, biography, drama, social studies and continental fiction—but the most notable feature of the work has grown out of the challenge from a large non-English reading public, which has been answered by several innovations by the branch administration. Home visiting, classes for the learning of English, teas and racial group meetings form a spectacular part of branch routine.

#### Olneyville Free Library

The Olneyville Free Library has operated as a branch of the Providence Public Library since 1920. An outstanding feature of this branch is the large number of adult readers taking advantage of its service. Demands from these readers are of the same varied nature as those met at the Central Library. The annual report of 1927 shows that the library contains more than 16,000 volumes, serves more than 6,000 registered card holders and loaned more than 100,000 volumes during the year.

#### Sprague House Branch

The Sprague House Branch of the Providence Public Library, located in the Mount Pleasant District, was for some time, like many branches, used mostly by children, but during the past few years there has been a steady increase in the number of adults, both men and women. It serves many Italian and Polish readers, and a few French and Lithuanians.



### **Wanskuck Branch**

A new building for the Wanskuck Branch Library is being erected on Veazie Street, next to the Veazie Street School. This branch, from its very location, situated about three miles from the center of the city, seems to have been designed for a community library.

As part of its development along that line the library has promoted clubs of different kinds. Foremost among these is the Fortnightly Reading Club which has a present membership of eighty women. It is affiliated with the Federation of Women's Clubs, gets out a yearly program which includes besides a study course a number of distinguished speakers, holds several guest nights during the season and gives a noteworthy musicale in commemoration of National Music Week, each year.

Then there is the Phi Delta Sigma, a debating society of young people between the ages of 15 and 19. These meet weekly, are learning parliamentary procedure and gaining the ability to express themselves in public. In addition to club debates, three or four public debates are held each season.

The newest club is the Dramatic Society of younger High School girls, which meets to read plays and expects to produce one a year. The school library clubs consisting of grammar school boys and girls, are an interesting experiment of co-operation between Veazie Street Grammar School and the library.

The annual Community Night, participated in by the entire neighborhood, is usually the most significant event of the year, and completes the program of community service of the Wanskuck Branch.

The new building will probably be ready for use some time this fall.

### **Who's It and Why**

Miss Annise Boyd Kane, 1910 Simmons, has been appointed librarian of the Classical High School, Providence.

Mrs. Marguerite R. Wetmore, who served for 18 years as custodian of the Foreign Department of the Providence Public Library, has resigned. Under her direction the library established active relations with all the local agencies in the fields of naturalization and Americanization.

Miss Ruth Cowgill, head of the Foreign Division in the Detroit Public Library, has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Wetmore. Miss Cowgill is a graduate of Washburn College; studied at Harvard University and the Sorbonne, Paris, and prepared for librarianship at the Pratt Institute Library School.

The Providence Athenaeum, Miss Grace P. Leonard, librarian, is now publishing a quarterly bulletin, the first number of which appeared in June. It is composed principally of news items and of short lists of new books and additions to the periodical files, and makes a very attractive addition to the library publications of our state.

### **Dedication of New Wing at Westerly Public Library**

The new addition to the Westerly Public Library, built by Mrs. William D. Hoxie as a memorial to her husband, whose own plans for erecting such a structure were cut short by his death in 1925, was dedicated and opened to the public on Sept. 21st. The dedicatory exercises were simple but impressive. Rev. Nehemiah Boynton, D. D., of Newton Center, Mass., former pastor of Mr. and Mrs. Hoxie in Brooklyn, delivered a brief dedicatory address and presented the addition, in behalf of Mrs. Hoxie, to the trustees of the library. Mr. Charles Perry, chairman of the board of trustees, accepted the structure with a few words of thanks.

The new wing, to be known as the William Dixie Hoxie Memorial, adjoins the main building on its easterly end, closely following the architecture of the older part. The Children's Room occupies the main floor of the addition. The walls of this room are stippled, of soft cream color, overlaid with green, the woodwork butter-nut and the flooring cork tile. A large fireplace with beautifully carved mantel is located at the easterly end of the room. On the park side of the building is a large semi-circular alcove for story-telling. Its many windows command a clear view of Wilcox Park, the grounds of which surround the library on three sides.

In the basement is located the museum. The entrance to this room is made attractive by heavy wrought iron gates. The walls and ceiling are finished in light tan colored stucco, the floor is of terrazo, and the lighting fixtures are of bronze. Glass exhibition cases are ranged the full length of the room.

On the second floor is the art gallery, also finished in cream color. The woodwork is quartered oak and the floor cork tile. A special reflecting device makes the lighting an unusually fine feature of this room.

The moving of the art gallery into the new wing makes possible a new stack room adjoining the reference room, and incidentally the reference department will no longer be overcrowded, since it now enjoys nearly one-third more space.