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5-1937

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 9, no. 4

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Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 9, no. 4" (1937). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 6.
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BULLETIN

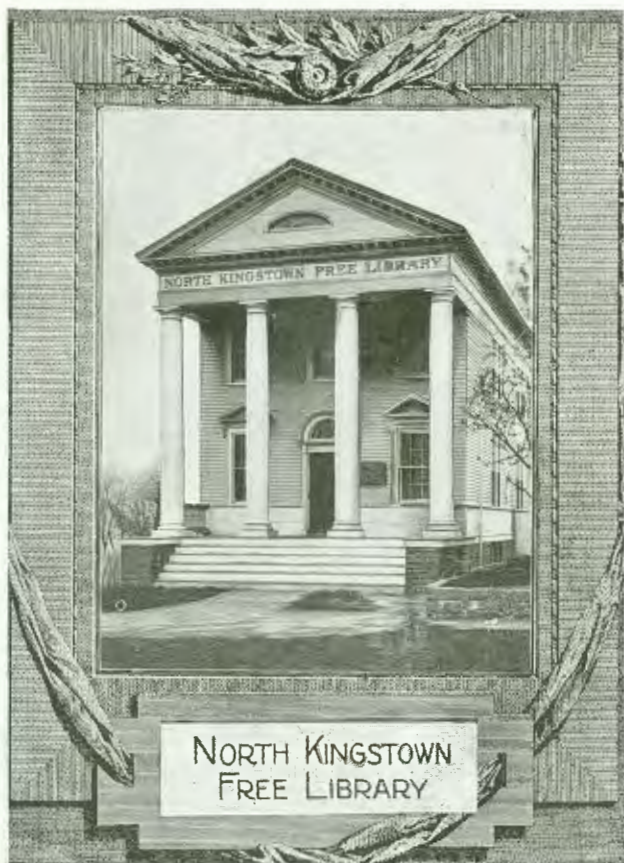
OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 9

MAY, 1937

No. 4



PROGRAM

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 11, 1937

at the

NORTH KINGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY, WICKFORD, R. I.

Miss Annie E. Merithew, Librarian

Morning Session

10:00 GREETINGS

Mrs. Joseph Warren Greene, Board of Trustees,
North Kingstown Free Library

BUSINESS MEETING

Reports of officers and committees
Election of officers

10:30 CURRENT TRENDS IN LIBRARY SERVICE

Leader to be announced

11:00 FORUM DIALOGUE—SUBJECT "THE MENACE OF MEDIOCRITY"

Miss Esther Johnston, Librarian Central Circulation Branch,
New York Public Library

Prof. I. J. Kapstein, English Department, Brown University

12:00 LUNCHEON

Afternoon Session

2:30 WICKFORD'S MOST FAMOUS SON—GILBERT STUART

Illustrated lecture by Prof. Herbert Richard Cross of Wickford

3:30 VISITS TO MUSEUMS.

The Barn Museum and the Gilbert Stuart House will be open

An interesting experiment is being tried in the program for May 11 in the forum dialogue on "The menace of mediocrity". The plan is to be developed much as it is worked out in the popular Town Hall of the air. Two outstanding speakers will present the arguments pro and con regarding the purchase of books for a library. At the conclusion of their talks the meeting will be open to questions from the audience, which may be directed to either speaker through the chairman.

Now is the time to think up all of those puzzling arguments which have been directed at libraries by the citizens of Rhode Island and to rephrase them in the form of questions for the forum.

THINGS TO SEE IN WICKFORD

During the noon hour extra time is planned for visiting some of the delightful and interesting places in the charming village of Wickford. Several of the old houses will be open for inspection: St. Paul's, the old McSparren church erected on McSparren Hill in 1707 and removed to Wickford in 1800, will be open, and the old silver presented by Queen Anne will be on display.

Following the afternoon session arrangements have been made to have the Barn Museum and the Gilbert Stuart House open for guests. Since both of the museums are striving against many odds to maintain themselves financially, the usual admission fee of 25 cents will be charged at each place. Tea will be served at the Gilbert Stuart House for 20 cents. Many members of the Association will not only welcome the opportunity of visiting these places but will be glad of the opportunity of helping in a small way towards their maintenance.

LUNCHEON

Arrangements have been made with the management of the Wickford House to serve a special luncheon to members of the Rhode Island Library Association at 75 cents. The following menu has been selected:

Tomato juice
Chicken pie Two vegetables
Rolls
Ice Cream Coffee

The Wickford House is famed throughout Rhode Island as a good place to eat, so that luncheon should prove one more attractive feature of an interesting day on May 11th.

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
Mrs. Dorothy H. Hellen, Chairman
Elmwood Public Library, Providence
Miss Alice McGrath,
Providence Public Library
Miss Mildred Bradbury,
Providence Public Library

Vol. 9 MAY, 1937 No. 4

WICKFORD

By **J. Earl Clauson**

Wickford, where the Rhode Island Library Association will hold its May meeting, has an undocumented claim as the second oldest English settlement in these plantations. It was here that Roger Williams set up his trading post. This, Howard M. Chapin of the Rhode Island Historical Society thinks, may have been in the first year of his abode at Providence, color to the theory being afforded by the fact that the fathers of the city reached the bank of the Moshassuck too late to do much planting in their first year.

Whether or not Wickford antedates Newport makes no difference, of course; the Dutch were trading in Rhode Island territory for some time before the English occupied the land, at Charlestown, Dutch Island, probably at Cornelius Island in Wickford Cove, and on the Warren shore.

The closely built village to which the name Wickford now attaches is actually less ancient than its appearance suggests. Richard Smith, who bought William's holdings in 1651, had built Cocumcussoc, probably on the site of William's trading post, and had collected acreage north and south from there until he was credited with owning a strip nine miles long and three miles wide.

On his death this passed to his children and grand-children, a grandson, Lodowick Updike, becoming owner of most of the present village site. It was not until 1709 that he platted and began selling this property, and the village properly may be considered to date from that year.

The name, however, had been given nearly half a century earlier to the entire countryside now included in the western part of North Kingstown and extending to the northern end of South Kingstown. The Council for the Colony of Connecticut thus christened the section July 10, 1663, choosing the name in honor of Elizabeth, wife of Gov. John Winthrop of Connecticut, she having been born at Wickford, England.

The Council couldn't be bothered to outline the presumably new township. The name itself is one of the few surviving reminders of the long struggle between Connecticut and Rhode Island for jurisdiction over southern Rhode Island.

Updike, the real estate man, changed it to Updike's New Town, and so it was called until well within the nineteenth century. He laid out a road, the present Main and West Main streets, from tidewater to "the country road," otherwise the old Pequot Path which now is the Post Road.

Two or three lively periods of real estate speculation ensued, purchasers buying solely with a view to re-selling at a profit. This accounts for the diminutive lots and crowded housing along old Main street.

If Wickford is not of imposing antiquity, certainly it has preserved its earlier character rather more closely than almost any other village in Rhode Island. A shipping center in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, with packet lines running to Providence, Newport and Stonington, it resisted the approach of the railroad. In consequence the rails were laid two miles to the westward and the village was left undisturbed.

For many years thereafter Wickford continued to be a drowsy, quiet country trading center, well satisfied to be left alone. Then a concession was made to the railroad which permitted laying a spur track to the water at what is known as Railroad Wharf. From here the ferry to Newport ran. Until 1910 or thereabouts it was the favored route for the wealthy and socially inclined of Newport, who came from New York to Wickford Junction and transferred or had their cars switched to the spur track. The elect and their distinguished and sometimes

titled guests became well acquainted with Wickford in those days, and Wickford with them.

The automobile changed all this, as it has altered so much of the old life. The ferry was discontinued; the spur track has been pulled up; even the motor bus which took Wickford people to the train at the junction no longer operates. An infrequent bus to and from Providence is the only connection with the outside world except for private facilities.

This isolation is one of the village's charms. Others are its historic background, its democratic friendliness and its geographical location. The bay thrusts out two long fingers along the shores of which the village is built, with water views for every house. Wickford's biographer, Mrs. F. Burge Griswold, who wrote "Old Wickford," referred to it as the Venice of America.

Mr. John Hutchins Cady in a public address improved on that by speaking of Venice as the Wickford of Europe. Actually, while there are an Italian barber and Italian cobbler in Wickford, there are substantial points of difference and each may assert justly that it is unique. We think the members of the Library Association will like it.

A SPECIAL TREAT

As a feature of the noon-time tour of Wickford four of the older and more interesting of the houses in Wickford will be open to members of the Library Association. The houses and their owners are as follows: THE LADD HOUSE, 1794, Mrs. Arthur B. Ladd; THE GARDNER HOUSE, 1786, Miss Abbie P. Gardner; THE OLD NAR-RAGANSETT BANK HOUSE, 1768-1805, Col. Hunter C. White; CROSS-HOLME, 1745, Prof. Herbert R. Cross. All of these are private homes, the owners of which have graciously consented to greet their guests and to show them about. Some of the interiors are architecturally interesting and all contain antique furnishings.

All arrangements for this delightful feature of our program have been made by Prof. Cross.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

It is proposed to amend in part Section 5 of the Constitution of the Rhode Island Library Association. Paragraph three of this section now reads:

"There shall be a committee of three on relations with the Rhode Island State Board of Education."

This is to be amended to read:

"There shall be a committee of three on relations with the State of Rhode Island."

LIBRARY NOTES

Anthony Free Library

The Anthony Free Library is open throughout the year on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 to 6 P. M. No difference is made in this schedule during the summer months. The pupils from the schools are our steady patrons. We are about to include a goodly number of Junior Literary guild books, adding them each month. I am pleased that the circulation is keeping up well and hope to add other new books shortly.

Myra S. Anthony, Librarian

Apponaug Free Library Association

Apponaug Free Library has established a very successful Story Hour with Puppet Shows, every other Wednesday afternoon, at 3:30 P. M., under the supervision of Miss Ernestine Baxter, WPA story teller. Many times 150 children have attended. Plans are being made for a larger room as children come from three primary schools in the neighborhood.

A new magazine stand of current magazines for adults and juveniles is appreciated by all the borrowers.

Three Student Aid girls from Lakewood High School have been given work in the Library and have proven a great help in many ways.

The Book Committee is planning to have Food Sales, Whists and Chowder Dinners on the Library lawn in the summer. The proceeds will be used for books and magazines.

Mrs. W. E. Compston, Librarian

The Providence Athenaeum

Miss Helen Day, assistant at the Providence Athenaeum, was married to Mr. Carl Vance Sewall of Walpole, Massachusetts, on February 13. Miss Barbara Hubbard, a graduate of Pembroke College in Brown University in the class of 1936, has been appointed to succeed Miss Day.

Elmwood Public Library

Summer plans are not definitely formulated so no report can be made at this time. This library has promoted Publicity features outside the library as follows:

1. The Elmwood Public Library has endeavored to develop community interest in the library, by conducting a course of six travel lectures, illustrated by slides and motion pictures during the winter months. The audience was taken on long voyages with our speakers: To the Philippines on the "China Clipper"; To Germany by the dirigible "Hindenburg"; To Russia, Hungary and Roumania; To the Orient stopping off six weeks in Japan; and a five week tour of our own great and wildest of the National Parks, Glacier Park, Montana.

2. By distributing posters in the Elmwood section of Providence calling attention to the Library with these words: "Lincoln walked 20 miles to borrow a book, The Elmwood Public Library has more and better books than Lincoln ever knew. Are you using the Library?"

3. The regular weekly book-notes in the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin.

4. Consultation and advice about Vocations and reading interests.

5. Counselor service through the advice of an ex-teacher, Mrs. Marguerite Morey, who meets young people who are out of work, on Wednesdays from 3-5 in the library. These young people are given advice about employment problems and use of leisure time.

The Elmwood Public Library reports no changes on its Staff this year with the exception of Doris Dow, Simmons 1928, who became Mrs. Henry Howland last September and continued her work in the library until April 1st. Mrs. Howland has been a member of the Staff since May 1930, first as assistant

cataloguer, later in charge of Periodicals and Registrations and assisting in general Loan Desk and reference work. Mrs. Howland's resignation was accepted with deep regret as her gracious personality, willing cooperative spirit and capacity for efficient service, have won an unusual place in the hearts of her fellowworkers and patrons of the Library.

On the morning of May 15th unusual festivities in celebration of May Day will take place at the Elmwood Public Library when the children of the Story Hour will honor their May Queen by dances and songs around the Maypole on the library lawn.

The People's Library, Newport, R. I.

The picture collection is being revised preparatory to being housed in new permanent files.

The children's department in cooperation with the local Boy Scout office is working on a Scout reading program, which is to be used by the various troops throughout the city.

The People's library is now a deposit station for the Merchant Marine Library Association.

Louise Cottrell

Rhode Island State College Library

Our summer plans are chiefly the move in to the new library building, Green Hall, which will be ready sometime in June.

Miss Florence Kennison, my secretary, plans to be married in June but hopes to continue on the library staff. She marries Mr. Bruce Fisher of the Psychology Department.

F. P. Allen, Librarian

John Hay Library

The staff of the John Hay Library held a luncheon and staff meeting on April 6. The luncheon was held at the Pheasant Shoppe and among the guests were President Henry M. Wriston, Mr. H. L. Koopman, Librarian Emeritus and Mrs. Koopman, and Mrs. H. B. Van Hoesen. The meeting was held at the Faculty Club. Papers were delivered by Mr. Koopman, on the growth of Brown University Library, by Mr. Peter K. Hristov, a graduate student from Bulgaria on Educational Systems in Europe, and Mrs. R. W.

Hathaway, Jr., Secretary to the Librarian, on Some Unusual Accessions A group discussion was held afterwards on staff manuals and library questionnaires. After the meeting, the group adjourned to Dr. Van Hoesen's for tea.

Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library

Miss Genevieve M. Chute an assistant at the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library has resigned. She was married to Joseph L. Sylvestre on April 10th, 1937.

An increase of circulation has led the Board of Trustees to open the Darlington Branch on Saturday mornings, formerly the Branch was opened only on Monday and Thursday from 3 p. m. to 8 p. m.

For the third time in as many years the annual appropriation for the Pawtucket Library has been increased, this year's appropriation being about fifteen hundred dollars above last year's expenditures.

Frank E. Greene

Auburn Public Library

We have not done much along the line of "promoting" beyond posters, and displays of books on special subjects. We are now trying to build up and round out our book collection. And as we have no regular book fund other than what we receive from the State, it is not an easy task.

Largely through funds donated by the Auburn Library Club, a very active women's organization here in Auburn, we have: 1. developed a collection of books for young people of junior and senior high school age; 2. purchased a number of books for use in work with the schools; and 3. added many books to our juvenile shelves, which until recently have been neglected for years. Before we try to stimulate children's reading, we feel that we must have more and better books to offer.

Then, too, a large section of the library has to be recatalogued, and a

smaller section reclassified, and this work is being carried on as rapidly as possible.

Ruth B. Raymond, Librarian

William H. Hall Free Library

We plan to have a Coronation Exhibit of pictures for the showcases. In June, we will start a project on "Traveling through New England," that will consist of pictures on the various sections of the coast, Cape Cod, Maine, etc., of the mountains, of sports that may be practiced in the various parts of New England, an exhibit of the more common shells and seaweed to be found at the seashore and of plants and flowers that grow inland. There will be suitable books to supplement the pictures and exhibits.

"Grabs, Grabs, each one free and warranted to give pleasure"—this will be the caption that will hang over a large bag in the Children's Room this summer. When a grab is pulled from the bag, the child will find that it is a small, colored paper book. On one leaf there will be a note telling what kind of a book is to be read: biography, history, etc., and on the other leaf there will be a space for the title of the book the child chooses to read. When the book has been read and reported on, the child may keep the grab, which makes a very nice bookmark. When the child has ten of these grabs his name is placed on the library Honor Roll.

Annette E. Mitchell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Harriet M. Briggs, Chairman,
Watchemoket Library, East Prov.
Clara B. Mowry,
Providence Athenaeum
Sara E. Sherman,
Elmwood Public Library

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Myron A. Hawkins, Librarian,
Harmony Library, Chepachet, R. I.

"REVIEW COPIES"

Librarians will find the following article quoted from the *New Yorker*, for Jan. 30, 1937 of interest:

"Books no doubt mean to you what they mean to Christopher Morley and to us—old friends, companions of long summer afternoons and winter evenings, of which we grow fonder and fonder as they become dog-eared with use. It will grieve you to learn what the professional book reviewers do with the copies given them by publishers for review. They take them right down to 80 Fourth Avenue, before there's the least chance of their becoming dog-eared, and sell them to a Mr. Schulte. Mr. Schulte invariably pays one-quarter the list price of a book, and buys anything—hack love stories, children's books, the latest Huxley or Maugham, expensive limited editions, detective stories, or technical expositions. The monthly income of a busy reviewer who sells all his review copies is about enough to pay the rent of a small apartment. We know all this because we have been down to Mr. Schulte's place, which is just above Tenth Street; shaken hands with Mr. Schulte and his silent partner, Mr. Pesky; and inspected, superficially, his stock of a million-odd second-hand volumes (not all review copies of course).

"Schulte's Book Store is, we are told the largest second-hand book store in this country; largest in the world, for all they know. The partners are inclined to regret the review-copy end of their business—ties up too much money, they say. Standard practice is

to ask half the list price for a book, but of course a great number of books won't sell at that price, and wind up on the ten-cent table. Publishers are annoyed at their new books being offered at half-price, and Mr. Schulte says he doesn't blame them. He does his best to mollify them by refusing to take advance orders for new books; just lays them out on tables, on a first-come-first served basis. Best customers are small public libraries; working on a slender budget, they find that it pays them to shop around in Schulte's.

"Schulte's buys the review copies of Lewis Gannett, Harry Hansen, Irita Van Doren, Isabel Paterson, Robert Van Gelder, Franklin P. Adams, Will Cuppy and William Soskin, to name just a few. The Schulte collection of second-hand theological works is famous, and you'll always see a divine or two looking around. (Come to think of it, we have seen very few first-hand theological works.) Mr. Schulte has had all sorts of dealings with the great, including Mr. Rockefeller, Sr. Mr. R's secretary called up once and said that he wanted a certain hymnal which he had used in Sunday school, long ago; no expense was to be spared in getting a copy. Mr. Schulte just walked over to his ten-cent shelf, picked out the hymnal, and sent it around to Mr. Rockefeller with a bill for ten cents."

PUBLICITY SERVICE UNCERTAIN

(Reprinted from *A. L. A. Bulletin*,
April, 1937)

Less than 500 librarians have subscribed for the cooperative publicity service which the A. L. A. Publicity Committee proposes initiating if 1,000 advance subscriptions can be secured. How soon the project can be launched depends largely on the profession. Do librarians want publicity aids—12 post-

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(Continued from Page 7)

ers a year and 12 monthly issues of "Publicity Tips"—enough to pay \$6 a year for the service? If 500 more librarians promptly agree that they do, the service can be launched this fall. School, college, and public libraries, and state library commissions are now on the advance subscription list. Some libraries are taking a subscription jointly. Branch libraries—public or school—may subscribe for \$4 a year if the main public or school library has a \$6 subscription.

More publicity is essential, leaders inside and outside the library profession agree, if libraries are ever to have better understanding and support from the public. "Permanent growth and improvement must grow out of an informed public opinion and the duty is upon those assuming leadership to create such opinion," said Marion A. Wright, chairman of the South Carolina Library Board, speaking at the Richmond conference.

Library objectives can be accomplished "only when citizens in sufficient numbers determine to extend and improve an essential service which is essentially their own," Secretary Ickes told the same conference. "Librarians and library trustees cannot do the job alone."

For only fifty cents a month the proposed non-profit publicity service offers to aid librarians in their efforts to increase citizen interest and support of their libraries. One usable idea a month should be worth much more than the subscription cost—and a monthly poster would be received for good measure. Why not pledge an advance subscription today? No money will be collected until the service is started. Address the A. L. A. Publicity Committee, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

NONSENSE

A lady sez to me, sez she,
Her eyes a-glint and-twinkle
"I'd like a very snappy book,"
(Her face had many a wrinkle.)

I charmed her with Boccaccio,
Contes Drolatiques, (Balzac)
She read them both, with zest and
verve,
(My Gawd! she's coming back!)

Please bring me the shoe-horn and tal-
cum,
Please shake me down well in my
clothes,

If I get in this two-way-stretch girdle,
There won't be much left, goodness
knows!

There won't be much left for I'm melt-
ing,
Into tiny fintesimal streams,
With humidity taking me off—at the
hips,
I'll soon be the girl of your dreams!

The Ballad of the Elmwood Elms

There was discussion in our town,
Petitions there were many,
Full much as a hundred names were
signed
From Anthony down to Denny.

"They want to cut our fair trees down,
They want to spoil their beauty!
To law, to law," the cohorts cried,
"And on, then on, to duty!"

But came the men with timber saws,
Came men with ropes and axes,
Came down the trees, and end to shade,
As sure as death and taxes!

And now upon a moon-lit eve,
A lass—her poor brain turned,
Goes up and down the avenue,
From stump to stump, so spurned!

She clasps a tape-line in her hand—
Now is she up to tricks?
Ah, no, you'll hear her mutter low,
"A perfect thirty-six."

Dorothy H. Hellen