Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 12, no. 2

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PROGRAM

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Monday, May 13, 1940
BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, BARRINGTON, R. I.

Morning Session
10:00 ADDRESS OF WELCOME
   Robert F. Meyersahm, Board of Trustees,
   Barrington Public Library

BUSINESS MEETING
   Reports of Committees
   Election of Officers

11:30 A SYMPOSIUM: Bringing the Community to the Library
   SPEAKERS: Miss Ida Anderson, William H. Hall Free Library
              Miss Mildred R. Bradbury, Providence Public Library
              Miss Sallie E. Coy, Westerly Public Library

12:45 LUNCHEON

Afternoon Session
2:15 THREE PRINTING ANNIVERSARIES
   Dr. Laurence C. Wroth

LUNCHEON ARRANGEMENTS

Following the morning session of the Annual Meeting a smorgasbord will be served by the Woman's Club of the White Church, Barrington. The cost of the luncheon will be sixty cents.

Librarians who expect to drive to the Rhode Island Library Conference at Barrington should use Route 114. Route 103 is under construction.
BULLETIN of the RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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

R. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

Edith R. Blanchard, Providence Athenaeum
Barbara Hubbuch, Providence Athenaeum
Rosa Karrin, Providence Public Library

Vol. 12 May, 1940 No. 2

BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The history of the Barrington Public Library dates from May 1880, when the original proportion of two thousand books, housed in the school building owned by Thomas F. Cady, was first opened to the public. Mr. Cady was the first librarian. Later as the Library grew, it was moved into two rooms in the Town Hall, where it remained until 1939. On October 10th of that year, a complete new wing, having been added to the Town Hall, the Library moved into its new quarters there.

There is now a convenient, modern charging desk in the entrance hall, a large reading room and reference room for adults, a children’s room, two floors of stack, and space for expansion in the basement.

The Library is open every day except Monday, and also three evenings a week. It employs three full time workers and a high school assistant two days a week.

MARY PHILLIPS LANE,
Librarian.

DR. LAURENCE C. WROTH

We are fortunate in having as a speaker at the afternoon session May 13th so distinguished an authority on printing as Dr. Laurence C. Wroth. Dr. Wroth is the Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library of Americana. He has also been Research Professor of American History at Brown University since 1932. He is the author of numerous books on printing, and librarians probably frequently read his column in The New York Herald Tribune Books, which appears under the heading Notes for Bibliophiles.

Dr. Wroth is a delightful speaker, his profound knowledge of printing history being cloaked in a gracious urbanity of style which makes his subject interesting even to those equipped with limited previous information.

AWARDS

Mary R. Lucas of the Providence Public Library has been awarded one of the American Library Association Fellowships for the academic year 1940-1941, and she has accepted the award.

The Rhode Island Library Association Scholarship award of fifty dollars, for the year 1940, has been granted to Helen M. Stikeman, Desk Assistant at the Westerly Public Library. Miss Stikeman is a Providence girl, a graduate of the Class of 1938 at Rhode Island State College. Her first introduction to library work was in the Providence Public Library where she served as messenger. While a student at Rhode Island State College she worked as an assistant in the college library. Since September 1938 she has held the position of Desk Assistant at the Westerly Public Library. She hopes later to attend the Carnegie Library School in order to further equip herself for her chosen profession.

The 1941 meeting of the American Library Association will be held in Boston, and Rhode Island librarians will do well to remember in this connection the Conference Award of Twenty-five Dollars to be used for attendance at such library meetings outside the State. Rules governing the granting of the award were given in full in the last Library Bulletin. It should be borne in mind that recommendations must be in the hands of the President of the Rhode Island Library Association before April 1st. Each application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from librarians who know the applicants and will submit a report of their library work during the past year, emphasizing any special project undertaken.

The Webster Knight Stamp Collection was publicly exhibited for the first time at the Elmwood Library on the evening of March 22nd. The speakers were E. T. Updike, who gave a sketch of Webster Knight, Colton Malpeaque who discussed Colonel Knight’s will, and Professor Chamber who spoke on philately and presented the keys of the collection to President Wroth. The calculation of the number of stamps in the collection is one of the most complete in existence so far as the United States stamps are concerned, and has a catalogue value of $200,000. To provide for its maintenance, a gift of $50,000 accompanies the collection. The collection is now open to the public. The hours are 9 to 5, Monday to Saturday.

NEWS FROM RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES

Elmwood Public Library

At the annual meeting of the Elmwood Public Library Association, the members of the Executive Board drafted plans for a Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration to be held in May.

The Elmwood Library was organized in 1915 by a group of public-spirited women of the Elmwood section of Providence, and housed in a Ward Room over the Elmwood Fire Station, until it was moved, in May 1924, into the beautiful and spacious quarters of the Knight Memorial Library Building erected in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knight, life-long residents and benefactors of Elmwood. During those twenty-five years in spite of the ever-mounting numbers of members of modern life, this library has steadily advanced to its present proportions.

The book collection in these sixteen years it has occupied the Knight Memorial Library Building, has grown from 13,869 books (1923-1924) with a circulation of 76,897, to the present impressive figures of 5,771 books (1939-1940) with a circulation of 266,226. The registrations have increased from 1,381 (1923-1926) to 11,442 (1939-1940).

This Twenty-fifth Anniversary has therefore a deep significance for the many patrons of this Library, but most especially for the members of the Executive Board who have struggled so valiantly to keep its rapid growth commensurate to its fluctuating pulse of financial uncertainty.

Brown University Library

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During the past winter Mr. Carl L. Cannon, Visiting Associate in Bibliography at the Brown University Library, has arranged for a series of interesting exhibitions. These have included 18th Century Plays and Novels, Highlights in Rhode Island History, English 17th Century Newspapers, Lesser known Lincoln Prints, and Guy de Maupassant first editions.

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Providence Public Library is one of three New England libraries which will have the honor of showing the work of Daniel Berkeley Updike, artist, at the Mermay Public Library. The exhibition will consist of a comprehensive collection including books in their finished state, and studies, proofs, design, etc. There is also a selection of books by other printers which have most influenced Mr. Updike in his work. The collection is one of the travelling exhibits from the American Institute of Graphic Arts. It will be on view at the Providence Public Library from June 10th to June 22nd, 1940.

The Providence Public Library is making an experiment of the following plan during 1940 and 1941. For the purpose of developing the cooperation between the members of the Staff, absence from duties for study during the summer months is possible under these conditions:

1. The study program must have the approval of the Library Committee.

2. Not to exceed three Staff members to be absent for this purpose during the same summer.

3. Four weeks at half pay (in addition to the regular vacation) will be granted.

Gilbert Stuart Junior High School Library

Every library looks for ways of increasing its usefulness. At the Westerly Junior High School Library, Providence, is an exception. The school was opened two years ago, and at the suggestion of Mrs. Sara E. Sherman, Librarian of the Edgerton
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wood Library, a radio book review contest has been initiated. Any student in the school may qualify by submitting a two hundred to five hundred word review of a book in the school library. A committee of teachers, including the librarian, selects each week the winning review which is read by its author over the school radio. Books reviewed over the radio are given special publicity in the library, and art teachers have co-operated in supplying posters. The contest has been exceedingly helpful in encouraging more thoughtful reading and increased care in writing. It has also served to draw the student’s attention more particularly to the school library.

**Westerly Public Library**

By means of the questionnaire method the Westerly Public Library is endeavoring to study the use of the Library and of the leisure time activities of the boys and girls in Westerly and Pawcatuck. Through the co-operation of the public and parochial schools in that area questionnaires have been filled out by pupils in grades four to nine inclusive. When completely tabulated a fairly accurate picture of the reading habits of this age group should be achieved.

Garden Book Week was observed at the Westerly Public Library as a community affair. Merchants, Botrats and Garden Club all joined with the Library in a display that attracted hundreds of people to its Museum. In addition to a most attractive display of books, periodicals and pamphlets by the Library—garden tools and implements, seeds, plants and flowers, trellises and garden furniture, bowls and other containers made the room a vivid bit of spring.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

Miss Elizabeth D. Packer, senior assistant on the Staff of the Elmwood Public Library, recently resigned her position to take effect May 8th. She will at that time join the Staff of the Great Neck Public Library, Long Island, N. Y.

Miss Edith A. Wright has been appointed assistant in charge of the Humanities Reading Room at the Brown University Library. Miss Wright is a graduate of Mount Holyoke and Bryn Mawr, and has held positions in the Bryn Mawr and Temple University libraries.

Miss Alice Burnham terminated her connection with the Providence Public Library in March. She is now acting Librarian at Butler Hospital.

Miss Helen E. Mabbott, Simmons '39 was appointed in February to the staff of the Children’s Department of the Providence Public Library.

**LIBRARY DISCOUNTS**

A Special Committee of the American Library Association has been appointed to study the problems arising from the proposal of several American publishers to put into immediate effect a maximum library discount of 25% on certain of their books. During the past nine months four publishers have adopted the principle of restricted discounts, and now several others are planning to follow the same policy. This is being done under the state fair trade acts backed by the Tylings-Miller Act.

The Special Committee is studying the idea of a fair scale of library discounts, but has decided that immediate action should be taken to bring about amendments to state fair trade acts. If amendments that will specifically exempt libraries of a non-profit making character from the intent of the laws are secured, then the contracts drawn by the publishers cannot affect discounts to libraries. New York State has already passed an amendment to this effect.