

5-1940

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

RILA

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin

Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 12, no. 2" (1940). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 13.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/13https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/13

This Book is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. 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. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.

BULLETIN

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 12

MAY 1940

NO. 2

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 smörgåsbord 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. I. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

Edith R. Blanchard, Brown University Library
Barbara Hubbard, Providence Athenaeum
Rose Karlin, 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 collection 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 on 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 of 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 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 1, 1941, and that applicants must submit a report of their library work during the past year, emphasizing any special project undertaken.

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 these twenty-five years in spite of the ever-mounting number of diversions 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 13,689 books (1923-1924) with a circulation of 76,897, to the present impressive figures of 53,771 books (1939-1940) with a circulation of 266,226. The registrations have increased from 1,281 (1923-1924) 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

The Webster Knight Stamp Collection was publicly exhibited for the first time at the *John Hay Library* on the evening of March 22nd. The speakers were E. Tudor Gross who gave a sketch of Webster Knight, Colin Makepeace who discussed Colonel Knight's will, and Professor Chambers who spoke on philately and presented the keys of the collection to President Wriston. The collection is one of the most complete in existence so far as United States stamps is 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.

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 and the Merrymount Press. The exhibition will consist of a comprehensive collection including books in their finished state, and studies, proofs, designs, 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 professional equipment of 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 may 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 circulation and the *Gilbert Stuart Junior High School Library*, Providence, is no exception. Contests are good starters and at the suggestion of Mrs. Sara E. Sherman, Librarian of the Edge-

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, florists 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 practice. This is being done under the state fair trade acts backed by the Tydings-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.