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BULLETIN
of the
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 13

MAY, 1941 *c-2*

No. 2



Program

SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Monday, May 12, 1941

WILLIAM H. HALL FREE LIBRARY, EDGEWOOD, RHODE ISLAND

- | | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 9:30 | GREETINGS | Mr. Frank Bowerman
President, Board of Trustees |
| 9:45 | BUSINESS MEETING | |
| 10:15 | SPRING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN | Miss Pauline Paxton |
| 10:45 | THE PARIS LIBRARY IN WAR-TIME:
UNORTHODOX ADVENTURES OF AN ORTHODOX LIBRARIAN | Miss Helen Fickweiler |
| 11:30 | FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF LATIN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION | Professor Irving A. Leonard |
| 12:30 | LUNCHEON | |
| 1:00 | THE CONTEMPORARY NOVEL | Dr. Israel J. Kapstein |

The after-luncheon speaking is open to librarians not attending the luncheon.

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

ROSE KARLIN, Providence Public Library
LOUISE ALLEN, Elmwood Public Library
ESTHER C. CUSHMAN, Brown University Library

Vol. 13 MAY, 1941 No. 2

William H. Hall Free Library

The Edgewood Free Public Library had its inception in the Edgewood Library Club — a magazine and reading club of twenty members — organized in 1892. In 1896 a meeting of persons interested was held and the Edgewood Free Public Association was organized. The library was first opened in a school house at Warwick and Park Avenues, and functioned only on Saturday mornings.

In 1897 the new building on Norwood Avenue was opened to the public at a cost of \$1250.00. By 1908 this building had been paid for solely by the women of Edgewood who were organized as the Woman's Auxiliary of the Edgewood Free Public Library. This Auxiliary, later known as the Edgewood Civic Club aided the Library financially up to 1921.

On June 3, 1916, Mr. William H. Hall of Edgewood died, leaving the residue of his estate to found the present William H. Hall Free Library. In 1921 the trustees of this new Library voted to take over the management of the Edgewood Free Public Library. The present building was dedicated on November 11, 1927. The library has grown from 800 volumes to over 37,000. A picture collection numbering 46,000, a clipping collection of 20,000 and a large pamphlet file supplement the books. The circulation in 1940 was 124,000.

Miss Alice Morse has been librarian since 1909. For many years she has served the public of Edgewood faithfully and well and she is held in great esteem by the readers of this library.

In 1933 she resigned on account of ill health, but her resignation was not accepted. Instead the first assistant, Mrs. Muriel Wyman was made Associate Librarian and thus relieved her of the more strenuous work.

MURIEL C. WYMAN,
Associate Librarian

The William H. Hall Free Library is located at 1825 Broad Street, Edgewood. Those who come by trolley car should take the Pawtuxet car, and get off in front of the Library.

Our Speakers

On May 19, 1941, Alfred J. Knopf will present to librarians and the book world "a new novelist of major stature and a novel which may well become 'The novel of the year'". The novelist is I. J. Kapstein, the novel his story of American democracy and patriotism called "Something of a Hero".

The title "Something of a Hero" is from Santayana and expresses perfectly the theme of the book. "If a noble and civilized democracy is to subsist, the common citizen must be something of a saint and something of a hero."

"Something of a Hero" is John Cantrell's story. He is a Civil War Veteran. His life has spanned these major crises of American life: the Civil War, the 1907 panic, the World War and the post-war adjustments — the boom and the 1929 crash.

He has learned that people are merely individuals, seeking a way of life that is decent and good, that most people struggle for something just beyond their grasp, that controversies somehow end, and that there can still be hope for a man even though he says one thing, does another. The American spirit, a blend of the aspirations of a multitude of individuals, somehow bridges the gap between "The Creed and the Deed".

Mr. Kapstein has worked on his novel for four years, rewritten it three times, cutting mercilessly until now

"each character is a different aspect of democracy because democracy is the people living in it".

"It is a dramatic novel, has richness and diversity. It tells of love and murder, wars, strikes, bank runs, bootlegging, empire building, robber barons, self-sacrifice and corrupt intrigues, generosity and greed. . . . It values people above causes, believing people are fundamentally decent and try to do the right thing . . . it makes you proud to live in America."

"Something of a Hero" is Mr. Kapstein's first long novel but his other work includes poetry, short stories, his brilliant novella "The Song the Summer Evening Sings" which was included in "The Flying Yorkshire Man".

Mr. Kapstein was graduated from Brown University in 1926, received his doctorate in 1933, the title of his thesis being "The Sources and Development of Shelley's Philosophical Ideas".

He is now assistant professor of English at Brown University.

Miss Helen Fickweiler was working in the American Library in Paris at the outbreak of the War. She arrived in this country, via Lisbon, the middle of April.

Miss Pauline Paxton came to the Elmwood Public Library last June from the Akron, Ohio, Public Library.

Professor Irving A. Leonard came to Brown last September as Professor of Hispanic Civilization from the Rockefeller Foundation where he had been for three years Assistant Director of the Division of Humanities.

Dr. Leonard was graduated from Yale University in 1918, did graduate work at the University of California in Spanish Literature for his master's degree and work in Spanish American Cultural History for his doctorate. He studied in Spain, 1930-1931 and

in Mexico, 1932 on a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. In 1936 he received a Guggenheim fellowship for research. He studied in Peru and Chile. In 1939 he spent much time in Mexico. He was an American delegate to the First Conference of Intellectual Co-Operation at Santiago, Chile. Dr. Leonard has also done research in Japan, China and Europe as well as the Central and South American countries.

At Brown, Dr. Leonard will direct, with Dr. Lawrence Wroth and Dr. Henry B. Van Hoesen, the three year project organized to record on microfilm rare and ordinarily inaccessible material on Latin American culture, printed works published in Mexico and Central and South America. Albert Harkness will do the field work as well as the actual microfilming. Prints will be made at the University's new laboratory.

Brown University is already outstanding for its Latin American Collections which include in John Carter Brown Library 5,000 titles on Latin America printed before 1801 and another 5,000 titles of related interest. The George Earl Church Collection in the John Hay is rich in political science and documentary material. The Harris Collection of Poetry and Plays contains 700 volumes of Latin American Poetry.

NEWS FROM RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES

Brown University Library

After several preliminary meetings, a new Staff Organization was started with a dinner meeting. Dr. Van Hoesen, who addressed the group, presented an illustrated account of the Growth of Libraries.

Three new assistants in the Circulation Department, recently appointed, are Miss Margaret M. Porter, Pembroke, '39, Miss Madeline C. Keefe, Simmons, '40, and Mrs. Olive G. Hudson.

William H. Hall Free Library

The William H. Hall Free Library has recently opened a Music and Art Department where may be found books on different phases of art and music as well as biographies of artists and musicians. Here too, may be found a piano, radio and victrola which are available for use at all times. A feature of this department is a collection of victrola records which may either be played at the library or taken home, the charge being two cents a day per record in the latter case.

To inaugurate the circulation of these records, a series of four music talks has been given in the department's attractive room by Miss Ruth Tripp, supervisor of the Rhode Island W. P. A. music project. On April 15th a group from the Rhode Island W. P. A. Symphony Orchestra gave a program at the library. They demonstrated their instruments and played Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony, a recording of this symphony having been heard during one of Miss Tripp's talks.

Besides the symphonies the collection also includes operas, other classics and popular records. The number of these records is constantly growing as is the number using the library victrola, the average being twenty a day. Suffice to say, the new venture is meeting with great success.

Elmwood Public Library

The Elmwood Public Library has now on display an interesting collection of objects representing the industry and art of Central Europe. This exhibit was borrowed from the Children's Museum, Jamaica Plains, Mass., and is available to out-of-state libraries provided exhibits are called for and returned by the borrower.

The monthly lectures held throughout the season in the Elmwood Library Auditorium have been enthusiastically attended. The last one will take place on May 19th, when Prof. Olin S. Pettingill of Carleton College,

Minnesota, will lecture with motion pictures in color, about "Birds That Haunt The Waterways."

Providence Public Library

The Providence Public Library has recently added a radio-phonograph, two small turntables equipped with earphones and a collection of records to its resources in the Music Division. At present the use of the records is restricted to the listening room.

A series of talks illustrated with records and radio have been given by Miss Ruth Tripp at the Olneyville Free Library this winter. The series was ended by a concert presented by the W. P. A. Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Edouard Cafier.

The following have recently completed the Training Course at the Library: Mildred T. De Simone, Dorothy M. Streeter, Doris M. Riley, Arlene I. Wilson and Beatrice A. Wooley.

Certification

The Committee on Relations with the State is pleased to report that the Permissive Act has now passed the House and gone to the Senate. We hope that the provisions added in Section 2 of this Bill may put an end to doubt and fear, and that our Association will at long last be able to take a progressive step forward by adopting certification. Only thirteen states are now without a Plan of Certification.

Section 2 reads as follows:

The provisions of this act shall not apply to the libraries of villages serving a population of 2,000 or less. The librarians of the said respective free public libraries holding offices or employments upon the effective date of this act shall be considered to have been automatically certified and protected by the provisions of this act.

MRS. SARA E. SHERMAN, *Chairman*

MRS. F. W. WETMORE
HARRIET M. BRIGGS
ALICE COON
FRANCIS P. ALLEN