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Rhode Island Library Association

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# BULLETIN

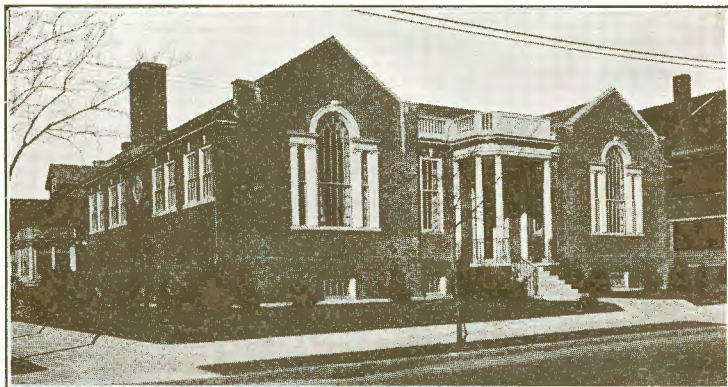
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## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 14

MAY, 1942

No. 2



### PROGRAM

#### SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 5, 1942

ROCHAMBEAU BRANCH LIBRARY, 708 HOPE STREET, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

#### Morning Session

- |       |   |                            |
|-------|---|----------------------------|
| 9:30  | GREETINGS   | Henry S. Chafee            |
| 9:45  | BUSINESS MEETING                                      |                            |
| 10:15 | VICTORY BOOK CAMPAIGN AND LIBRARY WORK IN R. I. CAMPS | Grace M. Sherwood          |
| 10:30 | THIS WAR  | Professor Robert H. George |
| 11:30 | SPRING BOOKS: EVERYTHING BUT FICTION                  | Sallie E. Coy              |
|       | RECENT CHILDREN'S BOOKS                               | Virginia Fooks             |

#### Afternoon Session

- |      |                                      |                            |
|------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2:00 | GREETINGS                            | Mildred F. Chase           |
| 2:10 | WHAT A WAR DOES TO BOOKS AND READERS | Clarence E. Sherman        |
| 2:30 | POETRY AND "NO SECOND SPRING"        | Susanna Valentine Mitchell |
| 3:30 | HOW I CAME TO WRITE MY BOOKS         | Marion Nicholl Rawson      |

Luncheon will be served at the Fourth Baptist Church, next door to the Rochambeau Branch Library.

To get to the meeting, take the Hope Street car and get off at Rochambeau Avenue.

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
DORIS C. O'NEILL,	Providence Public Library

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### Our Speakers

Mr. Henry S. Chafee, President of the Board of Trustees of the Providence Public Library, has for many years devoted much of his valuable time, energy and enthusiasm to furthering the development of this library.

Miss Grace M. Sherwood, State Librarian, is State Chairman of the Victory Book Campaign.

Professor Robert H. George, a member of the Brown University faculty since 1923, is Professor of History. In April, as part of the War Training Division program, he gave a series of lectures for students, army men and civilians on "How We Got into the War".

Miss Sallie E. Coy, Librarian at Westerly Public Library and past president of the R. I. L. A., is one of the Association's best known and hardest working members.

Miss Virginia Fooks came from Enoch Pratt Free Library to the Providence Public Library, where she is Supervisor of Children's and School Libraries.

Miss Mildred F. Chase, a graduate of Brown University and Simmons College, is Librarian of the Rochambeau Branch Library.

Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian of the Providence Public Library, is

a director on the National Board of the Victory Book Campaign.

Susanna Valentine Mitchell who is in private life Mrs. William Gammell, Jr. of Potowmut, published in 1923 a distinguished volume of verse titled "Journey Taken by a Woman". This April her first novel appeared. It is called "No Second Spring" and is a brilliant, sensitive character study of the Dudley family, and particularly of Cyntra Dudley. A "must read" on the Spring list.

Mrs. Marion Nicoll Rawson's newest book, "New Hampshire Borns a Town", was published a short time ago. Readers are finding it just as delightful as her eleven earlier books, all of which are concerned with the preservation and appreciation of old things, old customs and old traditions.

### R. I. L. A. Handbook

The committee announces that the new 1942 Handbook, resplendent in a blue cover, and revised up to April 1942, will be ready for distribution at the meeting.

### Victory Book Campaign

Thus far, the total number of books collected is 65,000 for the state of Rhode Island and 6,635,577 for the country as a whole. Although a considerable number of books were not considered suitable 2,406,135 books have been distributed to the armed forces.

### New England Library Association

The conference will take place this year at Poland Springs, Maine, from September 30 through October 3. This 1942 conference will take the place of the autumn meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association. It will be the autumn meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### Elmwood Public Library

A beautiful museum case especially designed by the Library Bureau has been given to this library. It is made of plate glass with bronze frame of spacious dimensions, 5 x 6 feet, with movable shelves. Exhibitions of choice Tiffany glass, fine handbound books in tooled leather, antique brass candlesticks and dolls from all countries have been the outstanding exhibits to date. The next exhibit will be North American wildflowers painted by Mary Vaux Walcott and published by the Smithsonian Institute.

Six lectures have been held during the winter season with excellent attendance. National Parks, South America, Cape Cod, Nantucket, Civilian Defense and Hawaii were the subjects discussed and illustrated with beautiful motion pictures in color.

Miss Priscilla Russell, first assistant in the Children's Department will continue her course begun last summer at Simmons College Library School, and expects to receive a regular library degree upon completion of four summer courses.

### Providence Athenæum

In an attempt to solve the pressing problem of lack of space, it is planned to place in storage a considerable number of books for which there is little or no call, such as government publications, old reference books, etc. This operation should clear enough space on the Reading Room shelves to bring together from the general collections a judicious selection of interesting titles. Besides helping to relieve the crowded condition of the general shelves, the purpose is obviously to provide more ready accessibility of desirable and favorable reading matter in the Reading Room.

The Athenæum, having provided itself with additional fire fighting apparatus and fixtures, feels it has met half-way the threat of air-raids. With regard to the safe storage of valuable

items, the segregation of rare books has been effected, in accordance with suggestions of the R. I. Branch of the National Committee for conservation of Cultural Resources, in such a way as to enable quick removal to a safer place in the advent of extreme emergency.

The Athenæum has collected a total of 446 books for the Victory Book Campaign, of which 353 were contributed by the shareholders and 93 by the Athenæum.

### William H. Hall Free Library

A series of four demonstration lectures on orchestral instruments was given at the library recently by Ruth E. Tripp, State Supervisor of WPA music programs, illustrated by members of the Rhode Island WPA symphony orchestra.

The response to the Victory Book Campaign was very good, 5,020 books having been sent from this library to the State House.

### Providence Public Library

In accordance with the appeal of Governor McGrath to reduce fuel consumption in all public buildings even if shorter schedules of hours are required, the Library system is operating on revised schedules.

The Central Library opens at 10 a.m. weekdays instead of an hour earlier. On Sundays the building closes at 8 p.m. instead of an hour later.

The following branch libraries open Saturdays at 1 p.m. instead of at 9 a.m.: Rochambeau, Smith Hill, South Providence, Sprague House, Tockwotton, Wanskuck and Washington Park.

Regular schedules will be resumed at the close of the heating system.

Two First Aid classes have been started at the Central Library, with 30 librarians and janitors in each class.

The total number of books collected for the armed forces thus far is 9,711.

### **Brown University Library**

Due to the three semester plan adopted at Brown University because of the war, the Library will be open the full schedule of hours during the summer. This includes evenings as well as Saturdays and Sundays.

### **Rhode Island Historical Society**

The plans for moving the Rhode Island Historical Society collections to the John Brown House are progressing. The wine cellar in the Brown House has been transformed into a vault to store the most valuable Rhode Island material in the Society's collections. Because of the kind of material, it has been decided to move by installments rather than moving the entire collection at once. The first installment was moved April 7th, and comprised three truckloads of books and manuscripts from the vault in the Waterman Street building. The rarer newspapers and the rest of the Rhode Island collection are to be moved in the near future.

### **Rochambeau Branch Library**

This branch of the Providence Public Library was established in 1915 as a memorial to a young musician of great promise through the interest and assistance of the Monday Morning Musical Club. A room was obtained in the Rochambeau School and the library, known as the Elodie Farnum Memorial Library, was originally for children only. As the neighborhood increased in population due to the development of new residential areas on the East Side, the branch expanded to serve adults as well as children and a larger room was provided for its use.

In November, 1930, the entire collection was moved to a new building erected by the Providence Public Library under a cooperative arrangement with the City Government and renamed the Rochambeau Branch Library. It is composed of Harvard brick with trimmings of limestone. The style is Rhode Island colonial. From September to December, 1939,

this branch was one of two branch libraries to be closed because of insufficient funds. It was reopened when the City increased its appropriation.

From a beginning of 700 books, the facilities have been extended to include a present stock of 15,574 volumes, with an annual circulation of approximately 100,000, and a reference question count of 2,646, serving a clientele of over 5,000 borrowers.

In each of the books in the Elodie Farnum Children's Room is a plate designed by the late H. Cyrus Farnum, a well known Providence artist and Elodie's father. Over the fire-place is an appropriate bronze tablet. In the reference room hangs her portrait. All these devices serve to perpetuate the origin of a library whose growth has extended far beyond its original resources and hopes.

MILDRED F. CHASE,

### **Appointments and Resignations**

William H. Jesse, formerly Circulation Chief at Brown University Library, resigned in February to accept the position of Assistant Librarian at the University of Nebraska. His successor at Brown is Mr. John H. Ottemiller, formerly at Columbia College Library.

Miss Mary P. Lane, Barrington Public Library, has resigned to accept a position at the Laconia Public Library, New Hampshire.

Miss Esther Levine, Publicity and Catalog Assistant at the Providence Public Library, is now Camp Librarian at Fort Wright, N. Y.

Miss Doris C. O'Neil has taken over Miss Levine's publicity work.

Mr. John P. Binnington has succeeded Mr. Ralph Kramer as Assistant Librarian in charge of Circulation and Reference at the Rhode Island State College Library. Mr. Kramer resigned to accept a position with the United States Bureau of Immigration. Mr. Binnington received his M.A. in English from Wesleyan University and his B.S. in Library Science from Columbia University, School of Library Service.