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BULLETIN
of the
RHODE ISLAND
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION



Vol. 15

JUNE, 1943

No. 2

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
DORIS C. O'NEIL, Providence Public Library
MARIAN L. KESSELRING, Brown University Library

VOL. 15 JUNE, 1943 No. 2

Due to conditions created by the war, the Executive Committee of the Rhode Island Library Association voted to hold a business meeting at the Elmwood Public Library on May 25, 1943, and to omit the customary all-day speaking program. It was also voted to issue the Spring BULLETIN following the meeting so that all members might know the results of the business session.

Report of the Meeting

At the annual meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association held in Providence at the Elmwood Public Library on Tuesday, May 25, 1943, the following officers were elected:

Mr. Francis P. Allen, Librarian of R. I. State College Library was elected President; Mrs. Marguerite R. Wetmore, First Vice-President; Miss Pauline P. Paxton, Children's Librarian, Elmwood Public Library, Second Vice-President; Miss Ruth B. Raymond, Auburn Public Library, Recording Secretary; Miss Mary V. O'Neil, Providence Public Library, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Laurence M. Shaw, Oaklawn Public Library, Treasurer. The Executive Committee consists of the Officers and Mr. John A. Norton, Providence Public Library; Mrs. Muriel C. Wyman, William H. Hall Free Library and Miss Clara B. Mowry, Providence Athenaeum.

It was decided that the Association sponsor a scholarship for R. I. Librarians who are interested in professional study at an approved library school. Applicants may write to the Executive Committee care of the President, Mr. Allen.

Mrs. Sara Sherman, Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the State led a discussion on certification. Due to present war conditions, it was voted that the matter of certification be tabled for the duration.

The following amendment to the Constitution of the Rhode Island Library Association was approved:

"For the duration of the present war, and for six months thereafter, Article Number Six, entitled 'Meetings,' shall be amended as follows:

Insofar as possible, there shall be at least one meeting of the Association each year, such annual meeting to be by preference in the Spring. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Executive Committee is empowered to call meetings of the Association at more frequent intervals, if circumstances warrant; or at less frequent intervals, if, in its majority opinion, the exigencies of war so require."

LIBRARIES AND THE WAR

Barrington Public Library

As in all other libraries, men and high school students like to read technical and war books. Many men, going into the service or into defense work have asked for books to help them brush up on forgotten subjects. Some popular subjects are victory gardens, raising chickens and bees, canning and wartime cooking. Because of the gasoline shortage, the patrons are now allowed to take out six books on a card instead of the former maximum of three.

A very successful hobby show was held recently. Included were a beehive, hooked rugs, painted trays, carved birds, quilts, model airplanes, carved ivory and ship models.

Susan E. Demery, *Librarian*

Brown University Library

The Library of War Information has had a rather interesting history of six months. From a small nucleus of books, pamphlets, and government publications hurriedly assembled early in May, it has expanded so as almost to fill the shelf space of the Special Collections Rooms. Books play a somewhat minor role at the library, for current information is required to answer most materials as newspaper clippings, pamphlets, maps, documents, and magazine articles are necessary. The poster collection too is being used extensively. The clientele of the War Center extends far beyond

the staff, faculty and students of Brown University for we get civilians, school teachers, librarians, young people, and recruiting officers from throughout the state. Comparative monthly statistics tell the story of the growing use of the Center: visitors to the library vary from 11 to 174, readers from 5 to 101, borrowers from 3 to 28. Reference questions increased from 3 to 83, while 81 books were loaned in contrast to 6 in an earlier month. Many and varied are the reference questions that come to the War Information Center. The assembling of war information materials has been an adventure, and their increasing use brings a good deal of satisfaction.

The Rhode Island Historical Society has deposited in Brown University Library the Jillson Collection. This is a collection of about 600 books on drama, for the most part 18th and 19th century publications. It includes complete sets of some famous old collections of plays, such as Inchbald, Dodsley, Lacy, French, etc. It was part of the library of Colonel Charles D. Jillson of Providence.

The Friends of the Library of Brown University have just finished a most satisfactory season. There were eight meetings during the year. Five of these were devoted to "Reading Worth While Books," the subjects being the War, American history, Psychology, Biology, and Recorded Music. The most popular meeting was in April when Robert Frost read his poems to an audience of a thousand at Alumnae Hall, Pembroke College.

Henry B. Van Hoesen, *Librarian*

Elmwood Public Library

Like all libraries, the Elmwood Public Library has lost heavily in circulation and reference work in both adult and juvenile departments.

An unusual display of army and navy medals and decorations is to be loaned to the library by a jewelry firm in Attleboro. It is hoped that this exhibition will be of outstanding interest to the community.

Sara E. Sherman, *Librarian*

Rhode Island State College Library

The State College Library in cooperation with the Rhode Island Ex-

tension Service has available a selected list of films dealing with agriculture and conservation. We are also about to obtain a considerable number of excellent films from the Pan-American Institute of the World Affairs Council. Many of these latter films are in color and are highly recommended by Dr. Irwin M. Tobin, the local Secretary of the World Affairs Council.

The war has had a marked effect upon the numbers of the student body. Whereas two years ago at this time the students numbered around 1200, there are now approximately 500.

Francis P. Allen, *Librarian*

William H. Hall Free Library

Several months ago, the William H. Hall Free Library held a most interesting exhibition. Over 100 pictures of men and women in the armed services were loaned by patrons. They included everything from snapshots to framed portraits. A simple mimeographed questionnaire was also filled out for a permanent record for the library. This exhibition created a great deal of interest in the community.

Muriel C. Wyman, *Librarian*

Providence Public Library

The Library and the personnel have been living and working in a community stirred and motivated by all the effects and influences of a nation at war—the draft and enlistment for the Armed Forces; Civilian Defense; scrap drives; food, fuel, gasoline and tire rationing; war industry employment with an accent on overtime; Red Cross volunteer service; domestic-servant-less housewives, shopping for food; and other human experiences of a new order.

It is a minor miracle that in an environment of these habit-dislocating influences, our people have had time or desire to read books during the past year. That 1,177,673 books were borrowed from the library system; that 26,987 men, women and children applied for library cards, and 107,606 fact-finding and research questions were answered is clear testimony to the rugged vitality of the old fashioned custom of book reading. And all this, despite reduced library schedules, fewer new books, and staffs handi-

capped by personnel shortages. That the statistics of service are far below those of the deflated 1930's is to be expected.

Among activities and new tasks due to war are the following: the War Information Center; the publication entitled "Blackout and Air Raid Protection"; the collection of more than 17,000 books for the Victory Book Campaign by the system; equipping buildings for blackout and dimout, including air raid shelter rooms; classes in First Aid for employees, on library time; preparations to protect especially valuable books; arranging for War Risk Insurance protection on all properties; and converting the Central Library heating system to coal.

Clarence E. Sherman, *Librarian*

Rhode Island State Library

With the termination of the State-Wide Library Project in January, 1943, the State Library was authorized to add eight Library Project workers to the regular staff. This assures the continuing of the State Library's Bindery, the expansion of the Library Extension Service, the cataloging of permanent Post Libraries for the armed forces (the sixth Post Library is ready to be released to Fort Nathanael Greene, half the funds having been given by residents of South County) and the collection and distribution of books in connection with the 1943 Victory Book Campaign.

The 1943 total of books received at the State Library (there are many still to be brought to the State House) for the Victory Book Campaign is 53,934 as of May 7, 1943. The grand total of 1942 and 1943 VBC collection in Rhode Island is 149,570. The 1943 total distribution has been 25,558. The grand total of distribution in R. I. (1942-1943) is 71,284. In addition to local distribution, each Battalion of the U. S. Naval Construction Training Center registers with the State Librarian for books. Each member of the Battalion takes a book and when they reach Island X the books are put together and the Battalion has its Library. Similar procedure holds for the Fighter Groups of the U. S. Army Air Force. Each small boat in Navy Service has its allotment. Many important vital technical and reference

texts have been purchased for the Army and Navy upon request and distributed from the Book Pool. A mailing list for request titles reaches all battle fronts by post and carrier. Subscriptions to periodicals have also been arranged and paid for.

Grace M. Sherwood, *Librarian*

U. S. Naval Training Station Libraries

The past two years has shown a great development in Naval Libraries from coast to coast, and aboard all the ships at sea.

Under the able management of Miss Isabel DuBois, Director of Libraries of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C., Naval Libraries are now a recognized equipment of all ships and stations.

Miss DuBois has been directing this work since 1917, when the need for books as a recreational adjunct to the training of sailors for World War I was felt. Since then, the growing importance of literature of all kinds in Naval Libraries has been emphasized by the demand that is met to get every kind of a book that could be of service to men in the Navy.

Down at Newport, the work has developed within the past two years just as the Station has grown; and by expansion I mean variety in reading tastes as much as increase of book circulation.

Two years ago there was one Library here with a Branch at the Naval Hospital, managed by myself. I had a collection of about 6500 very special books at The House that Jack Built and some 2000 at the Hospital. The Hospital work was managed two afternoons a week, and it consisted mostly of work with the patients in the wards, although the Staff too had access to the books on the Book-Cart.

At the House that Jack Built an attendance record has always been kept; for to my way of thinking, the reading public is often just as important as the public which takes the books out of the Library. In April 1941 the monthly report showed an attendance of 2197; April 1943 showed that the attendance had doubled, and that figure did not include any of the other Libraries.

We now have 6 Libraries to cater to the reading tastes of our large personnel; besides the House that Jack Built, there are 4 full-time Libraries on Coddington Point, as well as the Naval Hospital Library which is a full time going concern.

Two of the Branch Libraries are Recruit Libraries, and two of them are in the area of the Trade Schools and their work is largely reference work, although of course many text-books are circulated among the staff and students of the Trade Schools.

Much thought is given to provide the student with all the necessary helps that will enable him quickly to master a subject; for the training is intensive and one must learn quickly. So the latest books must be provided for the student of Radio, Navigation, Electricity, Aviation as well as numerous other sorts.

Alice H. Savage, *Librarian*
The House that Jack Built

AMONG LIBRARIANS

Providence Athenæum

Mr. Henry Adams LaFarge resigned as Librarian in November, 1942 in order to enter work more directly connected with the war effort. He is now in the engineering division of the Chance Vought Aircraft plant at Stratford, Connecticut. Mrs. Annie C. Cooke has been appointed Acting Librarian.

Brown University Library

Mrs. Georgia C. Haugh, formerly connected with the University of Michigan Library, is temporarily with the Catalog Department while her husband is at the U. S. Naval Air Station at Quonset Point.

Mr. Norman L. Kilpatrick, Assistant in Charge of the Preparations Division, has accepted a position with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library in Washington. He reports for his new duties as Head of the Order Department in July.

Mr. John H. Ottemiller, in Charge of the Circulation Department, is the compiler of a dramatic index which is being published by the H. W. Wilson Company this month. Its title is "Index to Plays in Collections." It is a cumulative index to 327 play anthologies and collections of literature pub-

lished between 1900 and 1942 and has an author index, title index, and list of collections analyzed.

Miss Elizabeth K. Thomas, in charge of the Biological Sciences Library, has joined the WAAC and reports for duty sometime in June. Miss Edith A. Wright, formerly in the Order Department, is now at the Library of Congress, working on the "Books for Latin America" project sponsored by the American Library Association.

Elmwood Public Library

Miss Ruth White, Gilbert Stuart Junior High Librarian three years ago, has recently joined the SPARS.

Miss Eleanor Hocker, Loan Desk assistant, is now Librarian of the Fort Adams Library. Miss Roberta Smith, Simmons '43, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Providence Public Library

The Providence Public Library reports 26 changes in the staff of librarians including 11 losses due to marriage, or better paid positions elsewhere. The effects of this turnover, as well as the losses among shelf and janitorial forces, have been felt in the quality of the Library's service and the standards of shelf and building maintenance.

WE REMEMBER

MILDRED ROCKWOOD BRADBURY

It was long before these days of global war and priorities that my acquaintance with Mildred Bradbury began. It was, as I recall it, during the summer of 1919 when, as a student in the School of Library Science at Simmons College, she came to the Lynn Public Library (of which I was then Librarian) to engage in several weeks of practice work. Immediately we were aware that a person of no ordinary abilities was with us.

Her first position in the library world was that of Assistant to the Librarian in the School of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University, then there followed a year in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library. From 1925 to 1935 she was Assistant in Charge of Fine Arts in the Boston Public Library. It was from that post that we lured her to Provi-

to occupy the position of Art Department Librarian in the Providence Public Library. She filled that responsible position with rare distinction until 1942 when following a serious illness, she was finally obliged to surrender her duties in October.

The Librarian and the Trustees accepted her resignation with reluctance and regret, believing that there was passing out of our library family one of the most capable librarians ever associated with this institution. Miss Bradbury died in December.

She had an intellect that was always alert. Her mind responded to the stimuli of daily living with the instantaneous click of a camera shutter. But there was a more exceptional quality. The development of the mental film after this camera-like power of observation was past, was simply made only if spot decision were required. Otherwise, all the reflection of careful analysis would be a part of her thinking processes.

Mildred Bradbury was a real librarian in the good old fashioned sense of the word. She respected the "Sears-Roebuck" agencies of modern library science—the A.L.A. as a clearing house of ideas and practices, L. C. printed cards, H. W. Wilson bibliographical publications, and other first aids to librarians brought to our desks via U. S. Mail. But she believed also that God meant librarians to do many things for themselves, and she never feared to face such tasks. Dissatisfied with the Art Section of the Dewey Classification, she and our Re-Cataloger brought out a revision that has attracted favorable comment from many sources.

Her delicious sense of humor, her trigger-wit in conversation, who of us exposed to those delightful personal qualities can ever forget them? Finally, and just to round out a character that was not without its nobility, there should be mentioned her devotion to her companion through many years—her mother.

Clarence E. Sherman.

EVELYN CHASE

During the fall of the year 1929 Miss Evelyn Chase joined the staff of the Rhode Island School of Design as

Librarian. In the first building erected by the School, opposite the First Baptist Church on Waterman Street, she reorganized and enlarged the library facilities and increased its activity among the student body.

Later she helped plan the new rooms in the College Street building and arranged personally for its excellent installation. There she was responsible for development of its fine studios atmosphere and increasingly valuable service to the students and faculty of both day and evening schools. Two assistants were added and the library steadily grew in size and quality under her expert guidance and understanding judgment.

She endeared herself to all who came in contact with her and commanded their highest personal regard and professional respect. In her relations with the museum activity and specialized technical and Fine Arts education she always made wise choices for the Library Committee's consideration, based upon her personal knowledge of the various departmental needs.

She maintained a cheerful spirit at all times, receiving the fullest cooperation in her dealings throughout the growing institution. Even when forced to retire through her lingering illness she kept a close contact with her library until it became necessary, at her own suggestion, to appoint a successor.

Miss Chase's death was a distinct loss to the Rhode Island School of Design and her memory will long be cherished, for the spirit she engendered is permanent and lasting.

Royal B. Farnum,
Executive Vice President
Rhode Island School of Design

A Plea

The Editor of the BULLETIN wishes to urge all librarians to assist in making the BULLETIN as informative as possible. It is the official publication of your Association and it reports your activities and those of your fellow-librarians. Do not hesitate to send in to the Editor any news of library activities which would interest others in the Association. This is your BULLETIN—make the most of it.