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BULLETIN

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



PROGRAM

SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 23, 1944

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 52 POWER STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Morning Session

- 9:30 GREETINGS William G. Roelker
- 9:45 BUSINESS MEETING
- 10:00 DEMOBILIZATION AND THE PLACE OF
THE LIBRARY IN WORLD AFFAIRS Katharine Howes Wead
- WHAT THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
IS DOING ABOUT DEMOBILIZATION Stuart C. Sherman
- 11:00 CHILDREN'S BOOKS Virginia A. Fooks
- LUNCHEON

Luncheon will be served at the Carrington House, 66 Williams St. Mrs. Harford Powel will be on hand during the noon recess, and will be glad to act as guide for those interested in making a tour.

Afternoon Session

- 2:00 Miss Grace M. Sherwood,
State Librarian
- 2:15 PANEL DISCUSSION—WHAT KIND OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SHOULD WE SEEK? Professor Charles A. Baylis
Professor Matthew C. Mitchell
Professor Chester H. Kirby
- 3:00 THE MAKING OF *AWOL* Bertrand L. Shurtleff

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

Vol. 16 May, 1944 No. 1

Rhode Island Historical Society

The Rhode Island Historical Society held its first meeting in July, 1822. From its earliest days it has been encouraged by a subsidy from the State and from 1822 to 1834 it actually held its meetings in the State Senate Chamber.

Later, Brown & Ives extended the hospitality of its spacious counting house, as did Cyrus Butler in the upper story of the Arcade. In 1844 the Society moved to the Cabinet, 68 Waterman Street, designed by James C. Bucklin, eminent Rhode Island Architect, which it continued to occupy until removal to the new home, John Brown House, 52 Power Street.

John Brown House, home of the Rhode Island Historical Society, was built by John, third of the famous "Four Brown Brothers" (Nicholas, Joseph, John and Moses), merchants of Providence. Joseph, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Rhode Island College, (now Brown University), designed the house in the Federal style, but died before work was started.

Though the cornerstone was laid in 1786, the house was not ready for occupancy until the spring of 1788 because of the length of time necessary to finish the elaborate wood-carving on the main floor.

The original house is 54 by 50 feet, three stories and attic, with four rooms on a floor, divided by a wide hall running north and south through the center. The framing is of heavy oak timbers (John Brown was a famous shipbuilder) buried in massive brick walls—even the interior partitions are solid brick.

On the right of the door on the main floor, the former drawing and music rooms are used by the Society for lectures. The former library at the left of the entrance is the Director's office. The dining room is a museum. All of the rooms on the first floor are furnished in the style of the period. Portraits and paintings from the Society's large collection are hung throughout the house.

The library occupies the second floor. The large south-east room is given over entirely to the Society's large and increasing collection of published genealogies. A separate room, on the third floor, houses the manuscript genealogy notes, including the Bates, Briggs, Greene and Calef collections. The Charles P. and Martha A. Benns collection of records from 1,000 Rhode Island graveyards is available on microfilm.

Other second floor rooms are the Rhode Island room, the New England room and the Reference room. The catalogues flank the Assistant Librarian's desk in the hallway.

The Society's library now contains approximately 100,000 volumes and pamphlets and 100,000 manuscripts. Among other items are such notable papers as twelve original letters of Roger Williams, the revolutionary correspondence of Governor Nicholas Cooke, official papers of Commodore Esek Hopkins, first Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy, eighteen volumes of Moses Brown papers and many others relating to the Channing-Ellery, Greene, Champlin, Tillinghast, and other families.

Our Speakers

Miss Katharine Howes Wead, a graduate of Smith College, is Secretary of the Connecticut Library Committee. She is the author of various articles on Chinese literature, children's literature and regional library demonstrations in Vermont.

Mr. Bertrand L. Shurtleff, whose book *AWOL, K-9 Commando*, has recently been published, is a graduate of Brown University and a teacher of English at East Providence High School.

Miss Virginia A. Fooks is Supervisor of Children's and School Libraries at the Providence Public Library.

Professor Charles A. Baylis is Associate Professor of Philosophy, Professor Matthew C. Mitchell is Associate Professor of Political Science, Professor Chester H. Kirby is Assistant Professor of History at Brown University.

Mr. William G. Roelker, our host for this meeting, is the Librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Mr. Stuart C. Sherman is the Providence Public Library's Branch Supervisor.

R. I. L. A. Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Rhode Island Library Association, with the approval of the Executive Committee, has decided to offer no R. I. L. A. scholarship until after the war.

Among Librarians

At the Auburn Public Library, Miss Ruth B. Raymond has resigned.

Mrs. Lilla Taudvin Knight is now in charge of the Circulation Department at Brown University Library, replacing Mr. John H. Ottemiller. Miss Drusilla May, of the Catalog Department, has joined the Waves.

The Elmwood Public Library has appointed Miss S. Emily Serex, Boston University and Simmons graduate, formerly cataloging assistant at the

Middlebury College library, head cataloger to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Miss Katherine E. Hunt, who is now living in Asheville, North Carolina. Miss Pauline Paxton has resigned as children's librarian, and has gone to Ardmore, Pennsylvania to live. Miss Barbara L. Morey, University of Pennsylvania and Simmons graduate, comes from the Rochester Public Library to succeed Miss Paxton. Miss Ruth White, Gilbert Stuart Junior High School librarian, has become a Spar.

The William H. Hall Free Library has named Mrs. Alice S. McPeck children's librarian. A graduate of Simmons, she was formerly children's librarian in the Providence Public Library.

Miss Lucile E. Champlin is now serving as librarian of the Kingston Free Library.

The Providence Athenaeum has added to its staff Miss M. Patricia Tamarkin, University of California graduate, formerly associated with the Berkeley and San Francisco public libraries to succeed Miss M. Adeline Williams, who has entered the U. S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

At the Providence Public Library, Mr. John A. Norton, Assistant Librarian, has been granted a leave of absence while serving in the U. S. Army, Mr. Stuart C. Sherman, Brown University and Columbia School of Library Service, formerly Librarian of the Brooklyn Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, has been appointed Branch Supervisor. Other appointments include Mrs. Ruth P. Burnett, Simmons, Business Branch assistant, Miss Barbara M. Wemmell, Simmons, Reference Department assistant and Miss Ida May Anderson, formerly children's librarian at the William H. Hall Free Library, now children's librarian at the Alneyville Branch Library. Resignations include Mrs. Alma S. Thomas, Catalog Department assistant, who

has retired, Mrs. Marguerite Nahigian Miller, children's librarian in the Boy's and Girls' Department and Mrs. Helen Fickweiler Oustinnoff, Reference Department assistant.

The Rhode Island State College Library has appointed Mrs. Carlton Leavitt, Connecticut College graduate, assistant in charge of circulation to succeed Mr. John Binnington, who has entered the U. S. Navy. Miss Elva Nelson has replaced Miss Clover Morrison who resigned to enter the Catalog Department of the Providence Public Library. Miss Doris Sherriff, Simmons, has succeeded Mrs. William Russell.

The Weaver Memorial Library has granted leave of absence to Miss Caroline A. Bowen, who has joined the Waves.

Book Pool

The most pressing project of the Rhode Island State Library is its Book Pool for the Fighting Services. The General Assembly has appropriated \$1,000 to purchase the titles, requests which are sent to us from many theatres of operations and we have a weekly mailing of parcel post packages which is startling. The City of Providence will appropriate shortly and perhaps other cities and towns later will follow this precedent. They have already been approached. The necessary permissive legislation has been passed by the Legislature.

With the termination of the National Victory Book Campaign, it becomes the State's responsibility to care for book requests. The R. I. Congress of Parents and Teachers in January and February raised money for the Book Pool and collected books.

We plan about May, 1944, to organize a State Victory Book Campaign and shall welcome with avidity the assistance of all the free public librarians and their friends.

School Libraries

In March a new agreement between the Providence Public Library and the Providence Department of Public Schools for the operation of junior and senior high school libraries was drawn up. The written original agreement for the junior high schools made in January, 1931, and for the senior high schools in May, 1938, were combined with changes so that the same agreement now covers both types of libraries. The general pattern of the first senior high school agreement was followed.

The original objectives and standards of the agreements were retained, the chief differences being that the School Department now pays for books, periodicals, binding, and salaries. All books for the junior high school libraries were formerly paid for by the Providence Public Library, as well as part of the librarians' salaries.

The Providence Public Library now agrees to order, classify, and catalog books for the school libraries, to supervise the selection of books and general management of the libraries, and extends the privileges of staff members to the school librarians. In exchange for these services, the School Department gives the Public Library the free use of any of the junior high school libraries it may select for neighborhood service after school hours. At present, the three school libraries that since the opening of the junior high schools gave such service have reopened on a limited schedule.

Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, formerly operating under the same sort of agreement with the Elmwood Public Library, now joins the seven other junior high school libraries in this new agreement with the Providence Public Library.

Exhibitions and Lectures

The Elmwood Public Library has held an interesting arts and handicrafts exhibition, and is now featuring a display of foreign and native birds, which was arranged by Mr. William L. Bryant, Director of the Park Museum. Lectures held there last winter included Books for Winter Reading, South America, Music Appreciation, Wildlife in Action, and a film, Battle of Russia.

The William H. Hall Free Library had an illustrated talk on Mexico, given by Miss Louise Hobson, in conjunction with an exhibition of arts and crafts of our neighbor to the South. Music Week was observed by the Junior Library members' participation in a musical program, with Mrs. Grace P. Hey directing the newly formed rhythm band.

The Providence Public Library honored the memory of the Rhode Island author Howard P. Lovecraft, teller of weird tales, with a lecture by Mr. Winfield T. Scott, literary editor of the *Providence Sunday Journal*, and an exhibition of manuscripts, books and other material owned and lent by Brown University. Two music groups met at the Library; the Rhode Island chapter of the American Federation of Organists heard a talk by Mr. Lawrence Apgar, and the Schubert Club members were told about the resources of the Music Department by Miss Marion Arnold, head of the department.

Looking Ahead

A post-war planning committee has been established at the Providence Public Library to study and report on the place of the library in the period following the termination of the war. Three sub-committees are investigating the place of books, reading and libraries in the post-war world, the rehabilitation of demobilized servicemen and industrial workers, and the role of the Providence Public Library in the times of peace and reconstruction to come.



Announcement

The Providence Public Library is pleased to announce the re-opening of the library on Sundays. The Reference and Periodical Departments are open to the public from three o'clock until eight o'clock every Sunday.



We Remember

Miss Isable Eddy, who retired in 1942 after twenty-five years as librarian of the Kingston Free Library, died at her home on August 4, 1943. During her years of service she received no remuneration but gave willingly and unstintingly of her time and effort. In her passing the library has lost a valued friend and the community, an esteemed citizen.

LUCILE E. CHAMPLIN.

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