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Rhode Island Library Association

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5-1946

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v.18, no.1

RILA

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### Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v.18, no.1" (1946). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 22.  
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# BULLETIN

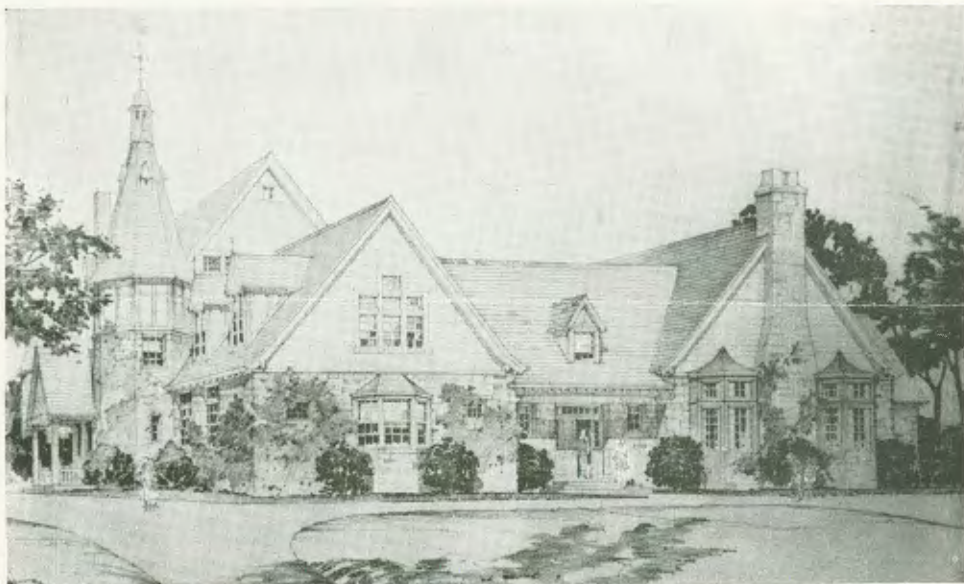
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## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 18

MAY, 1946

No. 1



### SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 21, 1946

BARRINGTON TOWN HALL, BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND

#### General Session

10:00 BUSINESS SESSION

10:30 THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN GERMANY

Professor Sinclair W. Armstrong, Brown University

11:00 PUBLIC RELATIONS IN LIBRARIES

Miss Ellen M. Carey, Public Relations Assistant,  
Providence Public Library

11:30 THE PROBLEM OF UNDERSTANDING RUSSIAN SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC MOVEMENTS

Professor Philip Taft, Brown University

#### Round Table

10:30-12:00 SMALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

Conducted by Miss Elizabeth G. Myer, Librarian  
Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Old Lyme, Conn.

12:00-2:00 LUNCH

2:00 FATIGUE IN READING (Illustrated)

President Leonard Carmichael, Tufts College

3:00 MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS IN RHODE ISLAND HISTORY

Mr. Clifford P. Monahan, Assistant Librarian,  
Rhode Island Historical Society

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  
S. EMILY SEREX Elmwood Public Library  
MARTHA B. FINCH Providence Public Library  
DORIS LEAVENS Providence Public Library

VOL. 18 MAY, 1946 No. 1

### Barrington Public Library

The Barrington Public Library is an outgrowth of the Barrington Library Society to which the Rhode Island General Assembly granted a charter in February, 1806, and the first election of officers, a librarian and treasurer was held on the first Monday of May, 1806. History and theology composed the body of the library, and into it were allowed no books of fiction, which the fathers believed "worketh abomination and maketh a lie." At first, the library was housed in the home of Rev. Samuel Watson who acted as librarian. Later, Rev. Francis Wood held the office.

The first public meeting for a library organization was held at the school-room of Isaac F. Cady (across the road from the Town Hall) on January 1, 1880. Donations of books had been received, and a Board of Trustees elected. On the second of March the Trustees voted to transfer books and other library property to the town, and, at the annual Town Meeting, April 7, 1880, the library became the property of the town, and Mr. Cady's school building was hired to house the library. Mr. Cady was the first librarian, and the library of 2000 volumes was opened to the public on May 8, 1880. In 1888 upon the completion of the Town Hall, the library was transferred to the room provided for it. In 1898 the library contained 8,606 volumes, and reported an annual circulation of 5,253 volumes with about 250 volumes added annually, from town and state funds.

In 1938, the present library building

(a wing of the Town Hall) was completed, partly from W.P.A. funds and partly from town appropriation. In 1945 the library contained 22,905 volumes, with a circulation of 47,870 volumes.

### Rhode Island Historical Society Library

The library has practically recovered from the throes of moving from the Cabinet on Waterman Street. The collections are being constantly increased with an emphasis on local history, genealogy, newspapers, manuscripts, and ephemeral material. The library is concerned primarily with Rhode Islandiana, and desirous of weeding its shelves of some extraneous material, i. e., about seventy-five copies of Van Dyke.

Mr. Peter Davidson, who faithfully served the Society for more than twenty years, resigned in June, 1945. The staff now consists of William Greene Roelker, director and librarian; Clifford Philip Monahan, assistant librarian; Mrs. Daisy W. Seamans, library assistant and Miss Louise G. Huling, secretary.

A museum displaying some of the Society's collection of historical relics has been recently opened. The exhibitions are changed usually at the end of the month. A rather extensive display of World War II souvenirs of Rhode Island veterans is to be held during the summer months.

The Society's membership has constantly increased. At present there are over 1200 members, taking advantage of the library, lectures, and historical museum.

### Westerly Public Library

Job opportunities today was the subject of a series of lectures held in the Westerly Public Library during February and March. They were planned especially to aid the returned veteran and the displaced war worker, and were sponsored by the Library and the Y. M. C. A. in cooperation with the Division of General College Extension of the Rhode Island State College.



Members of the State College faculty were the speakers at these sessions.

John. Rae, well known illustrator, has been showing a group of pictures at the Westerly Public Library for the last month. In addition to some local portraits, the exhibit includes studies of Carl Sandburg and Albert Einstein. Both of these men were painted from life, the original sketches of Mr. Einstein having been made at Watch Hill.

#### **Weaver Memorial Library**

Miss Caroline A. Bowen who has been on leave for the duration to serve in the WAVES has again taken up her work at the Weaver Memorial Library.

#### **William H. Hall Free Library**

The William H. Hall Free Library of Edgewood will celebrate this year the twenty-fifth anniversary of the management functioning under the William H. Hall endowment. A "Friends of the Library" group was formed in March with forty-two charter members. They hope to offer soon a series of programs to be given in the auditorium of the Library. The Activities Committee are presenting in May a public lecture by Robert P. Tristram Coffin which is the first of a series. The young people will give their annual Music Week program in May which consists of vocal, instrumental and dance numbers.

#### **U. S. Naval Training Station Library**

The Library at the Training Station has been moved. After almost thirty years of use, The House that Jack Built, which formerly was the main Station Library, has been closed, and the Library moved to larger quarters. The new situation, in Building No. 108, a building to be devoted entirely to Library purposes, is in a very desirable location, really in the centre of Station activities.

A large entrance hall contains a writing room and store room for extra books. The main Library holds about 12,000 fine books on every subject. Reading tables and chairs, as well as

leather arm-chairs and couches, make the Library inviting and comfortable.

Library hours are from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. weekdays; 1 p. m. to 9 p. m. Sundays and holidays.

#### **Brown University Library**

Mr. Jack E. Brown was appointed Assistant Librarian on January 1, succeeding Mr. Edward G. Freehafer. His particular responsibility is the Order Department. Mr. Brown was formerly Assistant Librarian of the Edmondton Public Library and since 1942 had been with the New York Public Library. Mr. J. W. Gordon Gourlay, a graduate of the University of Michigan Department of Library Science, was appointed Circulation Chief on January 1, succeeding Mrs. Lila N. Knight. Mr. Franklin F. Bright, also a graduate of the University of Michigan Department of Library Science, was appointed an Assistant in the Order Department on March 15. The Humanities Reading Room, located on the top floor of the Main Library and closed during the war, was reopened on March 4. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Cagle is in charge, assisted by Mrs. Shirley C. Lyman. Miss Elizabeth K. Thomas, formerly Assistant in Charge of the Biological Sciences Library and recently returned from service in the WAC, returned to the staff as a Cataloger on March 1.

#### **Providence Public Library**

At the Providence Public Library, Mr. John Norton, who was granted a leave of absence to serve in the U. S. Army, returned to his former position in April. New appointments include Miss Ellen Carey, Boston University and Simmons, formerly at the Rochester Public Library, who has been appointed Public Relations Assistant. Miss Janet S. Dickson, University of Toronto, Simmons and Columbia University, who was at the Library of the New Jersey College for Women, has been appointed head of the Order-Catalog Department. Miss Frances Sanford, Simmons, formerly at the Springfield College Library, Spring-

field, Massachusetts, is now Librarian at the Washington Park branch. Mrs. Mildred Sayward, Wheaton College and Simmons, came from the Morrell Memorial Library, Norwood, Massachusetts, to be librarian of the Smith Hill branch. Miss Barbara White, Colby College and Columbia University, has been appointed an assistant in the Art Department. Miss Edith M. Woodward, Colby College and Simmons, formerly Librarian at Dun & Bradstreet's, New York, is now an assistant in the Science and Industry Department. Mrs. Ella Sherman, who was an assistant in the Information and Reference Department for many years, was retired on January first of this year.

### **Rhode Island State Library**

The Rhode Island State Library will be glad to receive donations of newer fiction and nonfiction for local Installations and Naval Hospitals in Rhode Island and for the libraries of the Armies of Occupation in Germany and Japan. The General Assembly has recently made an additional appropriation of \$5,000.00 for the Rhode Island State Library's Book Pool for the Armed Forces. Towns and cities are augmenting this fund at their financial meetings. Over \$15,000.00 was spent for new books distributed from the Book Pool in 1945 to fill overseas and local requests.

The Library Extension Service offers the loan of freshened collections to small free public libraries desiring to select material for reading purposes; also to rural schools, Girl and Boy Scout camps, lighthouses, Coast Guard Stations, and isolated communities.

The State salary checks to librarians, receiving less than \$500.00 annually from any other source, will be distributed by the State Librarian in June before the close of the State's fiscal year, June 30, 1946.

Miss Elizabeth G. Myer, formerly of the staff of the Providence Public Library and non-relief Director of the Rhode Island State Library's WPA Library Project, who has been in the

service of the United States Navy as an officer in the WAVES and has now been discharged, has recently accepted a position as Librarian of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

### **Oak Lawn Free Public Library**

The Oak Lawn Free Public Library marked its fiftieth anniversary with a special program April 16 in Grange Hall. The Library plans to add two wings to the present building on Wilbur Avenue, which was a public school before being converted into a library.

The need for more space was mentioned at the twentieth annual meeting in 1916 and has steadily grown more pressing. For some years the collection of almost 11,000 volumes has been kept nearly stationary in size because of the necessity of discarding freely to make room for new books.

The officers will try to increase subscriptions for life membership to further the building project. Last year the fee was lowered to induce more people to join during the anniversary year. Since 1900 membership fees have been set aside for a building fund, which totalled \$2599.67 at the time of the 1945 financial statement. Some years ago it became evident that an enlargement of the present structure was all that could be undertaken. The association purchased the property in 1932 from the city and did considerable repair work.

### **Elmwood Public Library**

Circulation and reference work are increasing. The attendance at the Saturday morning story hour has averaged sixty children. The sudden and frequent changes of staff members during the year have made it exceedingly difficult to carry on the work. We were especially fortunate in finding Mrs. Muriel Dubuc, a graduate of Colby College who for the past two years was on duty with the U. S. Coast Guard, to take charge of the Circulation Department.

To be of practical help to returning



veterans we have bought a set of the latest American Job Series of Occupational Monographs, which we keep on special shelves with college catalogs and Civil Service publications.

The exhibitions which were much enjoyed were Music Boxes, Pictures of Old Houses of Rhode Island, Historical Coins, Handicraft of the Indians of British Columbia, Ship Models, Souvenirs from Germany, Famous Madonnas, Mrs Moulson's Moppets, Early American Newspapers, Stamp Collections.

The auditorium lectures were "Highways and Byways of Current Literature," by Dr. Marguerite Appleton; a motion picture sound film, "One Day in Soviet Russia," narrated by Quentin Reynolds; "Rhode Island's Treasure Chest," by Mr. Gordon Washburn, director of the Museum of Art; "Our Country, East and West," by Mrs. Charles F. Towne; "Australia" by Mr. Arthur Linder, a veteran who spent considerable time there.

#### **Loans To Smaller Libraries**

To encourage greater use of books in the smaller communities of the state, Mr. Clarence E. Sherman Librarian of the Providence Public Library, has made the following proposal:

In a period of more active reading and consultation of books, it is suggested that an informal regional plan be set up to encourage extensive inter-library loan relations among the smaller libraries of the state. The Westerly Public Library might be willing to sponsor inter-library service to that portion of the state south of Wickford. The People's Library of Newport could serve the needs of the island; and Woonsocket, the northern part of the state as far south as Pawtucket. The rest of the state would be in the accepted territory of the Providence Public Library.

According to the plan, any library needing a book not appropriately a part of its own collection, would first apply to the nearest regional library. If the book is unavailable there, the request would then be sent to the

Providence Public Library. This Library is prepared to proceed if the project meets with the approval of the regional libraries indicated.

It should be added that reference books or volumes of rare value would not be available for inter-library lending, but should be consulted at the library possessing them.

Rhode Island Library Association,  
Executive Board.

#### **State Federal Relations Committee**

Miss Edna Thayer, President of the Rhode Island Library Association, has announced the appointment of Miss Sallie E. Coy, Librarian of the Westerly Public Library, as coordinator of Rhode Island plans for extending better library service throughout the State. This appointment is in line with the American Library Association plan to perfect an organization in each state to work with the Federal Relations Committee. In addition to Miss Coy the State Federal Relations Committee consists of Stuart C. Sherman, Providence Public Library as publicity manager, Miss Edna Thayer, president of the R. I. L. A. and Miss Grace M. Sherwood, State Librarian.

The immediate objective of this committee is to enlist support of the Hill-Douglas Public Library Demonstration bill, (H. R. 5742 and S. 1920) now in Congress. If passed, this bill will give Rhode Island \$25,000 annually for four years to be used to demonstrate adequate public library service to the people now without it, or inadequately served. It also provides means for studying various methods of providing public library service primarily in rural areas, and for studying the effect of planning on an area basis upon the development of library service.

#### **Recruiting For Librarianship**

The New England School Library Association has launched a recruiting program to interest students in professional librarianship. A pamphlet "Librarianship as a Career" was prepared and distributed to vocational and stu-

dent advisors in schools and colleges in New England. This was accompanied by a letter stating the need for librarians and offering the services of the organization's Speakers' Bureau for speaking to students about librarianship. The pamphlets may be secured by writing to Miss Florence Derr, Librarian, Manchester High School Central, Manchester, N. H. Price 10c for single copies; 75c for 50.

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### Join the R. I. L. A.

The Rhode Island Library Association extends an invitation to every library employee and Trustee in Rhode Island to join the Association. The dues for personal members are: Annual, \$1.00; Life, \$10.00. Institutional fees are: Annual, \$1.00; Life, \$15.00. These are payable to Mrs. Laurence M. Shaw, Treasurer, Oak Lawn Public Library, Oak Lawn, Rhode Island.

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### A. L. A. Membership

Dues in the American Library Association are being solicited at this time. They may be sent either to F. P. Allen, Librarian, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, Rhode Island, or directly to the American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois. The scale of annual dues is as follows:

<i>Salary</i>	<i>Dues</i>
\$1200 and under	\$2.00
\$1201-\$1500	\$3.00
\$1501-\$2100	\$4.00
\$2101-\$3000	\$5.00
\$3001-\$4000	\$6.00
\$4001-\$5000	\$8.00
\$5001 and over	\$10.00

All members receive the Bulletin. The Association will hold its annual meeting in Buffalo, June 16-22.

Librarians wishing to affiliate with the Children's Library Association, a section of the American Library Association, have only to indicate that section on the membership blank. The dues for this section are included in the

A. L. A. dues. Membership blanks may be secured from Virginia Fooks, Providence Public Library, Providence 3, Rhode Island.

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### Conference of the New England Library Association

The New England Library Association will meet at the New Ocean House at Swampscott, Massachusetts, October 17 through October 19, 1946. All librarians of New England are invited to attend. Dr. Karl T. Compton, famous physicist and president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has accepted the invitation to speak at the final session of the conference, Saturday evening, October 19. Paul Howard, director of the A. L. A. National Relations Office in Washington, will be the speaker on Friday evening, October 18. Other speakers prominent in publishing, library, and national affairs will address the general sessions, and there will be many round tables for libraries of various sizes and for special library interests. Time will be set aside for the business meeting or other special meetings of all cooperating library associations and groups. A large space in the central foyer of the hotel will be devoted to exhibits of library equipment, books, and services.

Registration will start after lunch on Thursday, October 17 and will continue all through the conference. The registration fee is one dollar. The first general session will occur at 8:15 P. M. Thursday, October 17. On Friday and Saturday the morning sessions will begin at 9:30, the afternoon meeting at 2:15 and the evening meetings at 8:15.

The New Ocean House operates on the American plan. Prices per person per day, including room and meals, are from \$6.75 up. Reservations should be made direct to the hotel. Persons staying elsewhere and wishing to eat at the hotel may arrange to do so. Guests at the conference may remain through noon of Sunday, October 20.



# RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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