

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

2-1929

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 2, no. 2

RILA

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin

Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 2, no. 2" (1929). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 24.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/24https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/24

This Book is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in RILA Bulletin by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.

BULLETIN

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 2

February, 1929

No. 2

THE SPIRIT OF A LIBRARY

Upon the hearth the fire crackles;
And students, freed from textbook shackles,
Embark for lands of fame and glory
With well-known books of song and story.

Across the walls the firelight gleams
And falls upon the shelves of dreams,
All wrapp'd in covers red and blue—
Great dreams of authors old and new.

A library should with firelight glow;
It holds the greatest truths men know,
For youth has need of warmth and light,
To keep its life flame burning bright.

ELIZABETH DIETZEL,
of the Cranston High School Library Circle.

New Library Buildings

November, 1928, will be remembered as a particularly happy season in R. I. Library history for that month saw the completion and dedication of three long desired library buildings. Edwards Hall at Kingston, one of three new buildings at the State College, dedicated on Sunday, November 25th, now houses the R. I. State College Library in surroundings both attractive and convenient.

The dedication and opening of two new branch buildings mark an important development in the Providence Library system.

The Wanskuck Branch, one of the oldest and liveliest branches in the library system was first opened in 1910, and has been of particular significance in its community. The new building, which was dedicated and officially opened on Nov. 20, is of brick construction, Rhode Island Colonial style, and has a very attractive facade. Its size is approximately 80x50 feet. The main floor comprises the circulation area, the librarian's office, children's room, adult reading room and reference room.

The interior of the building is oak with a special finish, and all of the furnishings have been made expressly for this building.

The Tockwotten Branch has served the southeastern part of the city since 1912. First known as the South Main Street Branch and later the Brook Street Branch from its various locations, now situated in the remodelled church building on the corner of Hope and Power Streets, it is to be known as the Tockwotten Branch.

This building has been rebuilt for a double purpose, to house a branch library and to store books from the Central Library so that overcrowded conditions there may be relieved.

The area above the branch, once the church auditorium, will be used more and more extensively for storage as occasion demands. 300,000 volumes is the capacity, and shelving has already been provided for 75,000.

A bas-relief, "Roger Williams Went Out and Taught the Indians," designed by Miss Mabel Gardner of this city, is now on display at this branch. The sculpture is the joint gift of the artist and Knight C. Richmond, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Providence Public Library.

The cast, which measures 30 square feet, consists of six figures. The historical incident of Roger Williams receiving salutations from the Indians took place at Slate Rock, only a quarter mile away from the building of the Tockwotten Branch.

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
Sallie E. Coy

Westerly Public Library
May V. Crenshaw

People's Library, Newport
Josephine A. Hope
Providence Public Library

Vol. 2 February 1929 No. 2

We are indebted to Miss Anne W. Carpenter, librarian at Cranston Street High School Library, for the charming verses on the front page of *The Bulletin*. They were written by one of the members of her Library Circle when the fireplace in the High School Library was dedicated.

The Handbook

Does the 1928 Handbook list your library and the names of the assistants correctly? A sheet will be printed before the annual meeting bringing the Handbook up to date and correcting any errors. Members are asked to send corrections to Miss Alice W. Morse, William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, before April 1.

The annual meeting will be held at Westerly, on Thursday, June 6.

R. I. L. A. Honor Roll

The Membership Committee reports the following libraries as having 100 per cent enrollment in the R. I. L. A.: Anthony; Audubon Society, Providence; Crompton; Cross' Mills Library, Charlestown; East Providence Free Library, Rumford; Elmwood; Greene; Knightsville Community; Langworthy Library, Hope Valley; League Free Library, Warwick; Little Compton; Manton Free Library, Exeter; North Kingstown Free Library, Wickford; North Scituate; Norwood; Oaklawn; People's Library, Newport; R. I. College of Education; R. I. School of Design; Sayles Free Library, Saylesville; Valley Falls; Watchemoket, East Providence; Westerly and William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood.

The total enrollment to date is 303 individual and six institutional memberships.

The Fairest of the Fair

At the last Providence County Fair held at Burrillville very generous space was allotted for exhibits of rural libraries of Providence County. Twenty-three rural libraries furnished attractive posters, 18 by 36 inches, besides other material for the exhibit. It was gratifying to observe the hearty co-operation of the librarians and of their trustees in making this exhibit a success.

This year, for the second time, six public libraries in the Pawtuxet Valley exhibited at the Pawtuxet Valley Agricultural Fair, held at Fiskville. Visitors at this fair showed great interest in these exhibits and especially in that of the library from their own community.

The House That Jack Built

The House That Jack Built is the official title of the library at the Naval Training Station, Newport, R. I. It is a one-story stucco building, with a collection of about 5000 volumes, about two-thirds of which are fiction. The Bureau of Navigation provides these books, sending shipments of new titles to the station quarterly. The library is also used as a writing room and writing materials are furnished to the men.

A librarian, Miss Alice H. Savage, employed by the Bureau of Navigation, under the Civil Service, administers to the wants of these young men, many of whom spend their leisure time in study, rather than in the reading of fiction. As to their choice in books, material on mathematics and the trades is always in demand. When it comes to fiction, western and detective stories supply the excitement and action craved.

Harrison Room at Redwood Library

The original room of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, which for some years has been used as a store room has recently been restored to its simple Colonial design. It is known as the Harrison Room, honoring the architect, Peter Harrison, who built the room one hundred and eighty years ago.

Beneath the floor of the Harrison Room a new basement providing additional stack room has been added. This reconstruction has been made possible through the kindness and generosity of the president of the Board of Directors, Dr. Roderick Terry.

The Life Membership Fund

Perhaps many members of the Association do not know that we have a life membership fund of \$436.00. It is derived from the dues of life and institutional members and has been increasing gradually for years. \$86.00 was added during the past year. Because of the reduced state of the treasury, it has been necessary to use the interest for current expenses. Now that the annual dues have been raised to 75c, it should be possible to keep the interest for special projects, perhaps a small scholarship to send a member of the Association to a regional conference, or to contribute toward expenses at a summer school. There are many ways in which the money might be spent, and the larger the amount the greater the possibilities.

Most trustees who wish to keep informed about the library interests of the State, would rather not be bothered with a small annual assessment. By paying \$10.00 and joining as a life member, anyone—librarian, trustee, interested friend,—may be sure of two things: (1) of receiving all notices of meetings, bulletins, etc., without further effort, and (2) of adding to the life membership fund and so enhancing the library interests of the State.

Six libraries in the State have become institutional members by paying \$15.00 each. This practical form of aid to the Association is recommended to all libraries.

Can you procure a life or an institutional member for us?

ADELE C. MARTIN.
President.

175 Years Old

In December the Providence Athenaeum celebrated the 175th anniversary of the founding of the old Providence Library, one of the two libraries that united in 1836 to found the present institution.

It is one of the few remaining proprietary libraries which derived their inspiration from the Philadelphia Library Company, organized by Benjamin Franklin in 1731. The Redwood Library in Newport, another one of this type, was founded in 1747.

They Both Read and Write

Everyone knows that librarians are supposed to "read a lot," but in Rhode Island they not only read, but write, also. The Library Journal of October 1 contains a most enjoyable article by Dr. Harry Lyman Koopman, librarian of Brown University, entitled "Reading—The Unsociable Art." This paper was the substance of Dr. Koopman's presidential address to the American Library Institute of which organization he became president in 1928 to serve for a term of three years.

"Library Orientation of Freshman Students," is the subject of an article in the Library Journal of December 15, by F. K. W. Drury, formerly assistant librarian at Brown University. Before he has been away from Rhode Island too long for us to dare call him a Rhode Islander, we might also mention the fact that Mr. Drury is the author of the textbook "Selection and Acquisition of Books for Libraries," now in use in a preliminary edition in the library schools.

Mrs. Mary S. Puech, librarian of the R. I. School of Design, also appears in the December 15th number of the Library Journal as the author of an article describing the history and work of her unique and valuable library.

The February issue of the Wilson Bulletin contains an interesting paper, "Some European Authors," by Miss Ruth Cowgill, head of the Foreign Department, Providence Public Library. This was one of the series of book talks being given in the Providence Library this winter.

Most librarians know the joys of writing annual reports—many times they themselves find them interesting, always they hope their trustees will, never do they expect the public to do so. Hence, when a librarian's report receives attention to the extent of a column and a half in the New York Times Book Review it is a noteworthy achievement. Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, has received this distinction. In the section Notes on Rare Books, Times Book Review, Nov. 18, 1928, we read, "A librarian's report from the pen of Lawrence C. Wroth is something to be approached with a foreknowledge of pleasure and to be reviewed with deference. . . . We should have more librarians of his stamp at our centers of learning, wherever there is a concentration of great literary treasures of the past. But unfortunately they do not grow on trees."

Who's It, and Why!

Miss Katharine Reed Vining, who has been an assistant in the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, for nearly nine years, was married on February 2nd to Charles Daboll Kenney. They will live in St. Louis, Mo.

The reading facilities for the children of Edgewood have been extended, by opening a branch library in the Children's Room of the Roger Williams Park Museum. This is called the Park Branch of the Elmwood Public Library. Miss Marion Skeel, who received her professional training in the Library School of the R. I. College of Education and is now cataloguer of Specimens for the Museum, has charge of the work.

President of the Board of Trustees of the Providence Public Library since November 13, 1903, Professor Henry B. Gardner this year refused re-election to that position at the annual meeting of the Board on Feb. 8, 1929. Not only has the length of his service been unprecedented, for his term of service has exceeded that of any other president by seventeen years, but his administration has had many excellent results, both tangible and intangible.

Mr. William Davis Miller, who like Professor Gardner has had a life-long connection with Providence, was elected the new president of the Board.

Miss Evelyn Chase was appointed as an assistant cataloguer in the Brown University Library in January.

Mr. Francis K. W. Drury, a former president of the R. I. L. A., has resigned his position as assistant librarian of Brown University Library, to become executive assistant to the Board on the Library and Adult Education of the American Library Association. Mr. Drury will be greatly missed at R. I. Library gatherings.

By invitation of the R. I. State Federation of Women's Clubs, Miss Ida M. Anderson, children's librarian of the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, broadcast a talk on children's books and reading the week of Children's Book Week.

Mrs. Valarie M. Dobson has resigned from the Providence Public Library staff to take up her new work at the Veterans' Hospital Library, Pittsburgh, Pa. Due to her removal from the state the Library Association loses a very efficient chairman of the Exhibits Committee.

The children's story-hour at the Providence Athenaeum is being conducted by Miss Margaret Reid of the Elmwood Public Library.

The office of the Library Division of the State Board of Education has been moved from Custom House Street to Rooms 11 and 12 at the State House. Telephone Dexter 2360, Room 11. All A. L. A. publications and other publications of interest to librarians are on file and may be consulted or borrowed at any time. Anyone desiring to get in touch with Mrs. Anne W. Congdon, library visitor, will be glad to note this change of address.

Children's Book Week was observed at the Elmwood Public Library by an attractive display of children's books and by a Poster Contest for which two prizes were awarded. As a special feature, a motion picture film of "Alice in Wonderland" was shown in the Library Auditorium on the afternoon and evening of Nov. 16 to a most enthusiastic audience which filled the auditorium to its capacity.

Miss Alice I. Franklin has been appointed librarian of the Adams Library, Central Falls, to succeed Mr. J. Eliot Davison, who resigned as librarian last April to accept a similar position in St. Augustine, Fla. Miss Franklin was first assistant at the Adams Library for ten years previous to her appointment as librarian.

An evening of airplane models with pictures of aviation was given in the auditorium of the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, Feb. 20th, by Mr. Augustus L. Newman, of Edgewood, who has taught more than one hundred boys the art of making the models.

The Providence Public Library is holding a series of informal book talks this winter on Monday afternoons at 4:30. These talks are being given by members of the library staff and by outside speakers who are contributing their time for this service. The four remaining talks will be given by Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, associate librarian; Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library; Miss Dorothy G. Bell, librarian of the Business Branch, and Rev. Augustus M. Lord, D. D.

Miss Madeline Cutler of the Brown University Library Staff and Mr. Charles B. Dixon were married on Feb. 16. Mrs. Dixon will continue to work at the library.