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BULLETIN

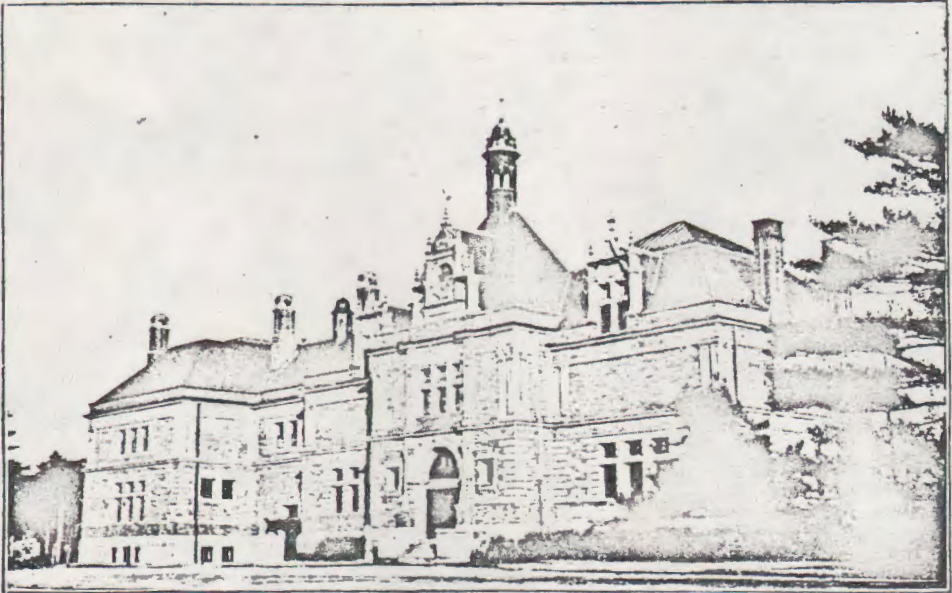
OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 4.

OCTOBER, 1930

No. 1



ROGER WILLIAMS PARK MUSEUM, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

FALL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1930

MORNING SESSION.

AUDITORIUM OF THE ROGER WILLIAMS PARK MUSEUM.

- 9.30. Business.
- 10.00. What our Museum can do for Librarians.
Mr. William L. Bryant, Director of the Museum.
- 10.15. Report on the American Library Association Conference.
Mr. Clarence R. Sherman.
- 11.00. Book Theft Detection Methods.
Mr. George Berquist, of the N. Y. Public Library.
- 12.00. Demonstration of the Detroit and Gaylord Charging Systems.
- 12.30. Inspection of Museum:
Luncheon — No place designated.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY.

- 2.00. The Book World.
Mr. Bertrand K. Hart.
- 3.00. Address.
Dr. Henry B. Van Hoesen.
- 4.00. Inspection of Exhibits.

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

HARRIET M. BRIGGS, WATCHMOKET

PUBLIC LIBRARY, EAST PROVIDENCE

MARIAN F. BONNER PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vol. 4. October, 1930. No. 1

TRUST FUNDS.

In response to a request from the Committee on Library Revenues of the American Library Association, Mrs. Congdon sent a questionnaire to all the libraries of the State to ascertain the number of library institutions having trust funds, and the amount of such trust funds, the income of which is for the purchase of books or the general maintenance of public libraries. Fifty five libraries reported and the information was forwarded to Mr. Samuel H. Ranck, Chairman of the Committee.

We shall greatly appreciate having the libraries of the State who have not responded to this request send in the information as soon as possible, so that our report for Rhode Island may be complete.

LIBRARY CONVENTION.

The Northeastern Library Convention which was held in Swampscott, June 13-18, had an outstanding attendance of over Eight hundred librarians, of which number, forty were from Rhode Island. One of the very delightful features of the convention was a Hostess Committee under the direction of Mrs. Joyce Bisbee Holder, which extended hospitality, provided social and recreational activities, and arranged consultations for librarians seeking specific help or advice.

The entire program under the efficient leadership of the Chairman, Mr. George Evans, librarian of the Somerville Library, was so well distributed throughout the day and evening, that everybody had time for a bit of recreation, motoring, swimming, golf or social teating, which relieved the strain of overcrowded program usual at library conventions.

The outstanding speakers of general interest, were Mr. Rollo Walter Brown, well-known writer and educator, who talked on "The Biographer Looks Twice at Life"; Mrs. Gordon Brinley in mediaeval costume, who gave a delightful interpretive reading from the "Canterbury Tales"; Mr. Odell Shepard, professor in Trinity College, who spoke on "New England Poetry and Poets", paid special tribute

to Emerson, Thoreau and Robert Frost, reading characteristic selections from their poetry. Mr. Arthur W. Peach, professor in Norwich University, outlined the "Significant Aspects of Contemporary American Literature"; Mr. Arthur G. Staples, editor of the Lewiston Journal, talked most delightfully about Edna St. Vincent Millay's early life in Rockland and Bangor. Miss Eva S. Smith, head of the Children's Department of the Carnegie Library School, Pittsburgh, read a paper on "Open Doors to Literature". Mr. Eric Kelly, professor of Dartmouth College, Newberry medalist, spoke on the subject, "Symbolism in Children's Books".

Mrs. Edward MacDowell, wife of America's greatest composer, and founder of the famous Peterborough Colony, gave delightful reminiscences and played several of her husband's compositions in masterful manner.

Mr. John Farrar, former editor of the "Bookman", and now vice president of Farrar and Rinehart, spoke in entertaining spicy fashion about the "Literary World of New York and the Dollar Book Experiment".

The Costume Party Wednesday evening will be long remembered in library annals, for no such gorgeous pageant, in which librarians participated, was ever known before. All who attended the party were invited to appear in any American costume representing some well known historical or literary character. About 200 librarians took part. Episodes from the early history of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, were enacted by groups from the Boston, Newton, Somerville and Lynn public libraries.

Mr. Daugherty, dressed as a Town Crier; Mr. Evans as John Winthrop, and Mr. Belden, as an Indian in full war paint regalia, are among the never-to-be forgotten memories of the most delightful library convention ever attended by the writer.

WILLIAM EATON FOSTER.

The death yesterday of William Eaton Foster, for more than half a century the librarian of the Providence Public Library, removes from this community a citizen of rare quality and personality, to whom it owes a great debt of permanent gratitude.

Among the sharply drawn characters who tell Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" the Clerk of Oxenford has always been dear to the world of readers:

For him was lever have at his beddes
heed

Twenty bokes clad in blak or reed
Of Aristotle and his philosophye
Than robes ricke of fithle or gay
sautrye.

It was he who told the lovely tale of Grisilde. His type is a blessed one that has bred true in the English world for a thousand years, and all who knew William Eaton Foster realized that in him the type had found a worthy modern representative.

His literary favorite was not "Aristotle and his philosophye," but Horace and his poetry, which formed for him a spiritua! Sabine farm of retreat from the stir and clamor of modern life. Mr. Foster was not only a reader with the eye. He was also an interpreter with the voice, being an excellent private actor, as the members of the Providence Review Club and Shakespearean Society have long known to their satisfaction.

His love of letters did not impel him to the writing of books in the field of literature, though he left a monument of historical biography and over a period of many years had made distinguished contributions to the science and practice of bibliography and librarianship. He was rather the cause of writing in other men and its enthusiastic aid. In a special field of authorship—one whose fruits are not gathered during a man's lifetime—he was distinguished, namely, in letter writing. He had correspondence with many a scholar of Oxford and Cambridge in England and of the seats of learning and centres of literary industry in America. He never surrendered the pen to the typewriter, still less to the stenographer. His long, carefully written letters are all in his large and distinct handwriting.

As he loved his like-minded friends who, however widely scattered, formed a group ever present with him, so he loved his own chosen city of Providence, delved into its literary past, and collected its associations, traditions and legends with a lover's delight. With all this he was in his daily life a man of action, building up in the course of more than fifty years a great public library with an administration at once scholarly and popular and reaching out with its branches into all sections of the community. The motto of the Providence Public Library is "Enlightenment." That was Mr. Foster's interpretation of the service to democracy which it was his privilege to render.

The library will be his monument, not merely in form but also in spirit. But those who had the privilege of knowing him intimately will see behind all his tireless, efficient, public activity the modest, companionable man of letters, living, in the midst of a machine world's turmoil, the quiet, fruitful life of the spirit. The lines already quoted do not complete the portrait of Mr. Foster's prototype or his own, and so

we leave to Chaucer the summing up of his character:

Of studie took he most cure and
most hede,
Noght o word spak he more than
was nede,
And that was seyde in forme and
reverence,
And short and quik, and ful of hy
sentence.
Souning in moral vertu was his
speche,
And gladly wo'de he lerne, and
gladly teche.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. KOOPMAN.

A tribute from William E. Foster,
Librarian Emeritus of the Providence
Public Library.

It is a long and influential term of service that Dr. Harry Lyman Koopman has just brought to a close in his retirement from the position of Librarian of Brown University. He now becomes Librarian Emeritus.

It is a distinguished record of service which Dr. Koopman leaves behind him, retiring as he does at the University's specified limit of 70 years of age, and after 37 years of service in this position. He has seen the Brown University Library expand from a collection of 30,000 volumes in 1893 (the year in which he took charge) to its present total of about 425,000 volumes. This latter figure includes not merely the central or main library (housed in the John Hay Library building) but all the various department libraries included in the entire "Brown University Library system".

But it is much more than an increase in mere numbers that Dr. Koopman's efforts have brought about. The period in question has been very definitely one of enrichment as well as enlargement. This is perhaps most strikingly shown in the "Special Collections" which have conferred so great a distinction on the Brown University Library. There are eleven of these; and, without enumerating them all, mention may well be made at this time of the extraordinarily rare and valuable McLe'lan Collection on Abraham Lincoln, the Hoffman Napoleon Collection, housed in a specially fitted room; the Chambers Dante Collection, and the Wheaton Collection on International Law. There was one collection which the Brown University already possessed when Dr. Koopman took charge in 1893 and only one. This was the Harris Collection of American Poetry and even this collection owes to Dr. Koopman's efforts an additional aid which has enormously increased its value and especially its comprehensiveness. It was in 1914 that Dr. Koopman succeeded in inducing the Library of

Congress to turn over, from time to time, to the Brown University Library (for inclusion in this poetry collection), one copy of every copyrighted volume of American poetry. In these sixteen years, upwards of 16,000 volumes have been received from this source. It will be easily seen how much this factor of increase has meant in placing this important collection in a position where it has no rival.

Under Dr. Koopman's policy of generously cooperating with the various departments, the "department libraries" at Brown University have multiplied until now there are 20 of them. One of them, that of the Department of Economics, now has a total of about 16,000 volumes. In connection with the modern methods of university study the department library is a factor of essential importance.

In 1908 Dr. Koopman was made a member of the faculty of Brown University, as Professor of Bibliography. He at once developed some very successful measures for introducing each undergraduate not only to the resources of the Library, but also to the methods of most effectively using the given library.

As might be expected from Dr. Koopman's wide sympathies, the other libraries of Providence and indeed of Rhode Island, have felt the beneficent results of his efforts. He served as President of the Rhode Island Library Association from 1904 to 1907. In a wider field he served as President of the American Library Institute in 1928-1929. He holds degrees from Harvard University and Colby College, one of the latter being the degree of Litt. D. conferred in 1908.

From the first, Dr. Koopman has been active with his pen, as well as his voice. He has nearly a dozen volumes to his credit; and several of these are volumes of poetry, for which he has an unusual gift. There are, however, two books in particular, which, written in prose, not only show graces of style, but are pretty certain to gain the interested attention of the intelligent reader. These are "The Mastery of Books", published in 1896, and "The Book Lover and His Books," published in 1917. These same graces of style are very much in evidence in some of the editorial articles which, in these last few years, Dr. Koopman has contributed to the pages of the Providence Journal. It may perhaps serve to "take off the edge", so to speak, of the regret caused by his retirement from his library post, that he will still speak to us in the pages of a newspaper. It has been announced that at Dr. Koopman's completion of his service at the Library he will join the regular staff of the Providence Journal.

Through the pages of the Journal Dr. Koopman's friends (and they are legion), may still feel that they are listening to his voice. Long may he continue in the enjoyment of unimpaired health and strength, to devote himself to these congenial pursuits.

DR. HENRY BARTLETT VAN HOESEN.
LIBRARIAN OF BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

Dr. Henry Bartlett Van Hoesen came to Brown University Library as associate librarian in September, 1929. He succeeded Mr. F. K. W. Drury, the former assistant librarian who resigned to undertake special work with the American Library Association in Chicago. In July of this year, upon the retirement of Dr. Koopman, he took his place as Librarian.

Dr. Van Hoesen graduated from Hobart College in 1905. He received the degree of A. M. from Princeton in 1906 and of Ph. D. in 1912. He studied abroad at Rome and the University of Munich, and has made a name for himself as a bibliographer and a student of Greek and Latin papyri. He was for several years instructor in classics at Princeton and at Western Reserve University. In 1915 he returned to Princeton as curator of manuscripts and rare books. The next year he was appointed assistant librarian, and has since devoted much time to graduate instruction in bibliography and the preparation of a recently published text-book in that subject. During the war he was librarian at Camp Dix for two months. He has been president of the New Jersey Library Association and active in the American Library Association. Since 1925 he has acted as secretary of the American Library Institute.

His publications include numerous contributions to library and philological magazines. He has published two books "Roman Cursive Writing," issued in 1915, which has received high praise from critics both in this country and abroad; and "Bibliography Enumerative and Historical" published last year, which at once took its place as an authority.

During the first semester of this year Dr. Van Hoesen will conduct a course in the Graduate School of Brown University entitled "A general introduction to bibliographical studies," open to both graduates and undergraduates.

APPOINTED LIBRARIAN.

Miss Sallie E. Coy has been made librarian of the Westerly Public Library, taking the place of Miss Adele C. Martin.