

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

3-1933

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 6, no. 1

RILA

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

Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 6, no. 1" (1933). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 34. https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/34https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/34

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.

020.6
R346

BULLETIN

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 6. MARCH, 1933. No. 1

THE REFERENCE LIBRARIAN.

See the Reference Librarian and the joys that appertain to her;
Who shall estimate the contents and the area of the brain to her?
See the people seeking wisdom from the four winds ever blown to her,
For they know there is no knowledge known to mortals but is known to her;
See this flower of perfect knowledge, blooming like a lush geranium,
All converging rays of wisdom focussed just beneath her cranium;
She is stuffed with erudition as you'd stuff a leather cushion,
And her wisdom is her specialty—it's marketing her mission.
How they throng to her, all empty, grovelling in their insufficiency;
How they come from her, o'erflooded by the sea of her omniscience!
And they know she knows she knows things—while she drips her learned theses
The percentage of illiteracy perceptibly decreases.
Ah, they know she knows she knows things, and her look is education;
And to look at her is culture, and to know her is salvation.

From The Song of the Library Staff,
by Sam Walter Foss.

WHAT VALUE LIBRARIES?

The following editorials should be noted:

CLOSING LIBRARIES.

"It is to be hoped that Mayor Quinn of Pawtucket will be successful in his efforts to find other ways of saving \$26,000 during the coming year and thus make unnecessary the closing of the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library and its branches as proposed by Budget Director Williams."

The article then proceeds to emphasize, not only the invaluable aid that is given by the library to high school students, but especially the tremendously increased use of the library resources by adults during the depression.

"The volumes on the library shelves are the everyday person's university . . . To close the Pawtucket library at this time would be decidedly unfortunate. The step should be avoided if there is any possible way of doing so."

Evening Bulletin, Jan. 31, 1933.

According to the *Sunday Journal* for Feb. 5, a letter of protest against the closing of the Pawtucket Library has been sent by the Nathaniel Green High School Parent-Teacher Association.

"DEPRESSION COLLEGE"

This editorial notes the increased circulation over 1931 at the Providence Public Library, 8 percent, amounting to 1,729,574 volumes.

"There is, of course, no way by which the good that these institutions are doing in this period can be measured. But the increased use to which their facilities are being put constitutes eloquent evidence of the fact that they are filling a very real need in these days of stress."

Evening Bulletin, Feb. 6, 1933.

WHAT JIM TULLY THINKS OF IT.

Jim Tully, author of "Beggars of Life," who, in his youth, saw life from the point of view of a tramp, says of libraries:

"I have never had a discourteous word spoken to me by an attendant in an American library. One must bear in mind that library women are chasms away from such fellows as I was both in outlook and training. There was always something heroic about these women and girls. They were ever ready to fan the spark in the least promising mortal."

The Librarian, *Boston Transcript*,
Jan. 25, 1933.

APROPOS OF MASEFIELD'S VISIT.

According to facts gathered from Rhode Island libraries, Masefield's poetry is more popular than his novels. His most popular poetical works have been variously reported as follows: "Salt water ballads," which comes first in line; "Everlasting mercy"; "Wanderer of Liverpool"; "Selected poems"; "The dauber"; and "Good Friday." At one library, "Martin Hyde" is the most in demand of Masefield's prose works.

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
JOSEPHINE A. HOPE,
PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNISE KANE,
CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL, PROVIDENCE
MRS. DOROTHY H. HELLEN,
ELMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, PROVIDENCE

VOL. 6. MARCH, 1933. No. 1

The gap between theory and practice is always one of wonder and readjustment. The young man or woman, completing a Library School course in these troubled times, is being confronted with the actualities of the everyday round of questions; the stupidities of a reading public, as well as its likeable qualities, and the major, to say nothing of the minor, accomplishments of smooth teamwork among the members of the staff. So, in honor of the fledglings in the library profession, we present this fantasy, a real agony in 4 fits.

THE LIBRARIAN'S BLUES.

Scene 1.

Scene: A library. Place: Anywhere.

As curtain rises, smart pages, clad in crisp rainbow-tinted smocks, pass to and fro, bearing armloads of books, gay in the latest bindings.

Telephone rings. The assistant, a living exponent of the arts of Patou, Worth and Vionnet, not to mention Helena Rubenstein, paces on perilous heels, to the ringing instrument.

This is the Ann Vickers Library. Yes, Mr. Brown, we have dictionaries. Your wife is working a puzzle? We are sorry. We do not loan the dictionaries, but Mrs. Brown would have to use them at the library. A what? A three-letter word dictionary? No, I'm sorry. We do not have one. Mrs. Brown would have to find the three-letter words herself. What? Oh, no, we do not rent jig-saw puzzles. I'm sorry. You wished something else? A snappy book? You don't want it for yourself, but a friend told you about it? What was the title and I will look it up for you. "Broken Shoulder Straps?" I'm sorry, we do not have it. Try the rental library. Goodbye.

Scene 2.

Mob scene; rush hour in the afternoon. Assistants scurry to and fro. A small girl, escaped from her indifferent mother, circles the loan-desk, and nearly falls down the stack staircase. Assistant smiles sweetly, asking the little girl to return to her mother. At intervals two other assistants separate her from the paste, the telephone and the stairway. Little girl appears for fourth time.

Assistant, at desk: You will have to stay

with your mother. We cannot speak to you again.

Mother of child, now appears in line bearing books to be charged: I do not think it was necessary for you to speak to her that way. She's an only child.

Assistant rallies long enough to hand mother a placard bearing the inscription, "Parent Training Class", and faints into the black-out.

Scene 3.

Telephone on Reader's Advisor's desk rings: Yes, I am the Reader's Advisor. You wished what, madam? "It can't happen again"? Just a moment. We have nothing listed under that title, but we do have Grave's "Good-bye to all that." Oh, that's what you wanted? All right, we will save it for you. Yes, the book's in. Goodbye.

The advisor turns to greet a very quiet, unobtrusive little mouse of a woman. Good-afternoon, Mrs. Howe. You'd like a book that would stir you into action? We might be able to give you a book that would answer your requirements. And another for what? To make you just radiate when you enter a room? Well, please come with me and I will try to help you. (Exit to another department).

They return. Please fill out a card at the registration desk, Mrs. Howe. Registration Assistant hands Mrs. Howe a card.

Please fill this in.

Mrs. Howe: Name? Shall I put my husband's name? He always reads most of the books—No? Occupation? I don't do anything—I just keep house.

The assistant finally rescues Mrs. Howe from her mental fog, and, presenting her with a nice new card, sends her to the charging desk, where this scene bursts upon her view:

Scene 4.

A glorified chorus of young women, costumed after the manner of Miriam Hopkins in "Trouble in Paradise," smart business frock and horn-rimmed glasses. Accent action in chorus with steel dating stamps, worked in unison. Though this may prove destructive to the dating stamps, who doesn't feel that way at times?

Orchestra, hidden behind the forest of "loaned" rubber plants, swings into the recent popular air, "Pink elephants," while the young women, seated close together at the Loan Desk, join in with

Love stories for the flapper,
Love stories for her Ma,
A mystery for her brother,
A Tarzan for her Pa.
We try to please old ladies
Who want a little thrill;
We cater to the Old Men's Home,
We're never, never still.
The telephone keeps on ringing
Another renewal—well—
Please give the author and title,
YOU HAVEN'T THE BOOK? OH—
(strike bell here)
Our heads are fairly whirling.

"Now which book shall I choose?"
It isn't any wonder that we have
The Librarian's Blues.

DOROTHY H. HELLEN.

LEISURE AND THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

The library has long been pictured as a laboratory equipped and used for reference purposes. As such, it plays its part in the High School, with its gay, hurrying groups of students. Their first thought, on entering the library, is to find what they are looking for quickly and then rush away to something else. This is the age of speed and the young people are not slow to follow the pace. Every Tom, Dick and Mary wants something short and to the point. All material must be ready for use at a moment's notice.

Is there no way of bringing back a sense of leisure? Isn't there any time for people to get the habit of browsing among the different kinds of books? It is often in this way that many a student discovers for himself the truth of the quotation, "There is no frigate like a book to take one lands away."

Can we not all try to make the school library a practical application of the conviction that the best aim and result of education are to help students not only to educate themselves, but also to help them make the best use of their leisure times?

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Report of Committee on Mutilation of Public Library Books and Other Printed Matter, June 3, 1932.

Although fully aware of the increasing mutilation of public printed matter, especially by students in connection with project assignments, your committee believes that it is unwise to request, either through the State Board of Education or directly to our local school authorities, that the project method of instruction be eliminated. Rather do we feel that some provision should be first introduced that would be hopeful of success in removing some of the menacing influences of the project use of books as it affects collections of public printed matter. Accordingly, the following recommendations are offered:—

1. Librarians.

To the librarians of public libraries and junior and senior high school libraries, it is recommended that there be introduced systematic instruction, stressing the importance of fair play in the use of public printed matter.

It would be desirable to mention the vital importance and the influence of all public property (including parks, playgrounds and libraries) in modern community life emphasizing, in that connection, the essential value of equal opportunity for all.

It should be possible in such instruction to present examples of mutilated reference books, etc., bringing home to the consciousness of the group how the absence of the section or the missing page affects the work of the next student who takes it up after a

book has been mutilated.

A dual appeal should be made to the sportsmanship of the student as well as to the natural selfish interest of being able to obtain material when he desires it without risk of finding it removed by another student.

It is suggested that some provision be made in even the smallest communities for this sort of instruction.

2. Teachers.

To the teachers, it is suggested that those engaged in assigning projects in which the collection of illustrative printed matter is to be employed particularly stress the importance of using no printed matter that is not owned by or given to the student concerned. With each assignment, this reminder should be given to the class.

It is further suggested that the idea introduced by some teachers, in which extra credit is given to the students who present original sketches, although often artistically elementary and crude, in order to discourage the perfunctory pasting of printed pictures, should be given more general publicity.

It is believed, also, that the parent-teacher associations might be interested in supplying teachers with illustrated periodicals to be placed at the disposal of the students for clipping. This would be particularly helpful in the many cases where children have no periodicals in the home and are often tempted, because of this fact, to mutilate public and school library printed matter.

To make this plan effective, it should be adopted by the State Board of Education, supplemented by an appeal by the librarian of each public library to her local school authorities for support.

CLARENCE E. SHERMAN,
Chairman.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE.

In one respect, all libraries seem to be affected in the same way by the depression; greatly increased circulation, accompanied by a smaller appropriation with which to carry on.

The Adams Library, Central Falls, reports the death of one of its trustees, Mr. Charles S. Foster.

From the Anthony Free Library we hear of repairs and changes in equipment and arrangement that have proved most satisfactory.

Due to the valuable aid of the Auburn Library Club, who have raised money by bridge parties, etc., the Auburn Library has been able to buy \$50.00 worth of juvenile books. Also, this library has extended its schedule to six hours daily.

The Barrington Public Library notes the increased use of books on the economic and the political conditions of the country.

The Library of Brown University has the following interesting items to report:

Dr. H. L. Koopman, Librarian Emeritus of Brown University, gave a talk on Jan-

uary 28 before the Massachusetts Library Club, on the topic "Hawthorne's new Adam and Eve—ninety years later."

Dr. H. B. Van Hoesen, Librarian of Brown University, reported on "The college library and the depression", at the Conference of Eastern College Librarians on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. On Jan. 16 he spoke at the New Bedford Free Public Library on "Tools of knowledge." He is giving a course in bibliography at the Columbia University School of Library Service during the spring term.

Mr. Mahlon K. Schnacke, Assistant Librarian of Brown University, is to become Librarian of the American Academy of Rome next fall for a period of three years.

Miss Esther C. Cushman contributed an appendix, "Alphabetical list of authors of books Lincoln studied," to M. L. Houser's recent publication, "Abraham Lincoln, student: his books."

The Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library reports interesting news about its children's work: a large attendance at story hours (104 at the main library and 83 at the branch), and an attractive Book Week display. The latter consisted of a selection of new books, ranging from the picture book to junior fiction on one table, and a large map of the United States on another. Red and blue streamers connected the different states with the books pertaining to them.

At the Elmwood Public Library, with a book collection of 40,000 volumes, there was a circulation of 26,000 in November. Miss Reid, the children's librarian, has been giving marionette shows for the Park Museum circle of children. These are reciprocated by nature stories, illustrated by lantern slides, told to the children at the library by Miss Cormack of the Park Museum.

The Esmond Public Library is supported by the Esmond Mills and is open Monday evening from seven to nine. The year's circulation amounted to 5,698.

A tripled circulation is reported from the George Hail Free Library, Warren, and a noticeable increase in the borrowing of non-fiction.

The Harris Institute Library featured a marionette show at the Social Branch for Book Week, which proved to be most popular. Two Americanization classes have been formed, one at the main library, and the other at the Social Branch in the French district.

The Providence Athenaeum has in its collection the elephant folio edition of Audubon's "Birds of America." Also, it has received several donations, with the request that volumes not needed be given to smaller libraries. A list of these books may be obtained upon request.

Due to a reduction in budget, the Providence Public Library is now issuing its bulletin, *Books for All*, monthly, instead of semi-monthly.

Several changes have been made in the Circulation Department at the Central Library. A new charging desk has been

placed near the entrance to the department. Thus readers may conveniently have their books charged at the point where they leave the Circulation Department. The file of books that have been charged has been transferred to the stack, while the other activities of the department are carried on at the main desk, which has, in this way, been relieved of much congestion.

Two interesting exhibits have been featured in the Boys' and Girls' Department. At the time of the Louisa M. Alcott Centennial, the books mentioned in "Little women" were displayed in the glass cases on the second floor as well as copies of "Little women" in half a dozen or more languages. The Lincoln exhibit, in the Boys' and Girls' Library, included some of the books that Lincoln read, as ascertained from perusing many biographies.

Miss Sallie Coy of the Westerly Public Library spoke on "Outstanding books of 1932," at the Robert Beverly Hale Library in Matunuck, and Miss Estelle Wheelless, the children's librarian of Westerly, told stories to a group of Matunuck children.

The Westerly Public Library reports that:

During Book Week at Westerly, "The pot of gold," a play portraying many characters from bookland, was presented to an audience of more than three hundred boys and girls. On Friday afternoon, John Rae, well-known illustrator and author-illustrator of several popular juvenile books, entertained with crayon drawings, harmonica and piano solos, impersonations and a ready flow of witty remarks. Mr. Rae's original illustrations, including the frontispiece of "Debby Barnes, trader," were shown in the museum.

A novel story hour was held during the Christmas holidays for the older boys and girls. Mrs. Herbert Knox, a summer resident of Stonington, entertained the children with the story of a holiday week in Japan. She illustrated the talk with fascinating curios and costumes, and concluded with one of the beautiful legends of Japan.

Beginning February 15, an amateur art exhibit will be held at the library. Every medium of art will be displayed, and persons of widely varied experience and training will exhibit.

The increase in the circulation of music scores is especially noticeable, a gain of over 100 per cent in the first four months of the library year.

From the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, have been received the following notes:

A brief training course for the messengers has been given this year, resulting in a marked increase in their usefulness.

To celebrate the Louisa May Alcott Centennial, a play, "The perfect holiday," which consisted of scenes from "Little women," was given by the Summer Reading Club of the library.