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Miss Esertide Brown  
Librarian's Office

# BULLETIN

OF THE

## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 8

MARCH, 1935

NO. 1

### THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

Catching and holding the interest of children seems to be the eternal quest of all who work with them, and this was happily solved by Miss Margaret Reid in a "January" poster exhibit, held at the Elmwood Public Library. Manilla mounting paper, or light weight cardboard, was used as a foundation for the posters, the size being governed by the space to be filled. Birthdays of famous men, historical events, dates of interest in connection with books and authors, were decided upon, and the clipped picture box rummaged to find available material for illustrating the posters. The Children's Almanac of Books and Holidays, compiled by Helen Dean Fish and published by Frederick A. Stokes Company, has ample material for this phase of poster work. The Almanac is also reproduced in full in the back of the Junior Book of Authors, published by the H. W. Wilson Company, and copies are available from the Stokes Company, in pamphlet form, the cover done in colors, for twenty-five cents, direct from the publisher.

Under the general caption of "Onward and Upward with the Arts," the New Yorker for December 8, 1934, calls our attention to the St. Nicholas League. Refresh your memory by turning to the back pages of your St. Nicholas, and you will find that membership is open to all readers, who may compete in poetry or prose, photography, drawing or puzzles.

Elwyn B. White, whose researches extend as far back in the archives of the League as 1904, discovered, in October of that year, that a sixteen year old youth, hailing from Milton, N. H., and signing himself Robert Edmond Jones, received a badge, which he acknowledged as follows: "Dear St. Nicholas League:—My badge came last night and I am more than delighted with it ... I mean to work hard this summer all by myself and shall send in more drawings, even better, I hope, than the one which was printed ...". To quote Mr. White, "They say he is even now doing the same high grade of work in the field of stage design."

For those who are special devotees of Edna St. Vincent Millay, it will be gratifying to learn that her talents were duly recognized and rewarded as early

as 1904 by the League's Honorable Mention, for an original prose composition entitled "A Family Tradition." Rewards followed in November, 1905, February and September, 1906, and the spring of 1907. But it was in August of that year that E. Vincent Millay, as she signed herself in the fifteenth year of her age, found her poem "Vacation Song" in the pages of the League. Three years later, Miss Millay, now automatically hors de concours, bade farewell to the League in her letter published in October:

Dear St. Nicholas: I am writing to thank you for my cash prize and to say good-bye, for "Friends" was my last contribution. I am going to buy with my five dollars a beautiful copy of "Browning," whom I admire so much that my prize will give me more pleasure in that form than in any other.

Although I shall never write for the League again, I shall not allow myself to become a stranger to it. You have been a great help and a great encouragement to me, and I am sorry to grow up and leave you. Your loving graduate, Edna Vincent Millay.

To again quote Mr. White: "Thus Edna walked stately out of the League, a copy of Browning in her hand, leaving a youngster named Scott Fitzgerald holding the fort in the same issue, with a prize-winning photograph called "Vacation Scene." The poem "Friends," for which she received five dollars, is reprinted hereunder. The editor seems to have had some vague notion that he was dealing with an authentic talent, for the verses appeared at the head of the League section and were prefaced with this editorial comment: "This contribution is a little gem in smoothness and perfection of its rhythm, in its deft use of contrast, and its naturalness of expression from first to last."

### FRIENDS

#### I. He

I've sat here all the afternoon, watching her busy fingers send  
That needle in and out. How soon, I wonder, will she reach the end?  
Embroidery! I can't see how a girl of Molly's common sense  
Can spend her time like that. Why, now—just look at that! I may be dense,

BULLETIN  
of the  
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Published every now and then,  
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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

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But, somehow, I don't see the fun in  
punching lots of holes down through  
A piece of cloth; and, one by one, sew-  
ing them up. But Molly'll do

A dozen of them, right around  
That shapeless bit of stuff she's  
found.

A dozen of them! Just like that!  
And think it's sense she's working  
at.

But then, she's just a girl (although  
she's quite the best one of the lot)  
And I'll just have to let her sew,  
whether it's foolishness or not.

II. She

He's sat here all the afternoon, talking  
about an awful game;  
One boy will not be out till June, and  
then he may be always lame.

Football! I'm sure I can't see why a  
boy like Bob—so good and kind—

Wishes to see poor fellows lie hurt on  
the ground. I may be blind,

But somehow, I don't see the fun. Some  
one calls, "14-16-9";

You kick the ball, and then you run  
and try to reach a white chalk-line.

And Bob would sit right there all  
day

And talk like that, and never say  
A single word of sense; or so

It seems to me. I may not know.

But Bob's a faithful friend to me. So  
let him talk that game detested,

And I will smile and seem to be most  
wonderfully interested.

---

All League members stood for "in-  
telligent patriotism, and for protection  
of the oppressed, whether human be-  
ings, dumb animals or birds." To fur-  
ther quote Mr. White's delightful  
article, "I well remember how vital to  
one's progress in the League was kind-  
ness-to-animals. Without kindness-to-  
animals, you didn't get far in the St.  
Nicholas League, unless, like Edna  
Millay, you were really talented. (A lot  
of us boys had no perceptible talent,  
but were just sissies who stayed in-  
doors and read magazines while normal  
kids were out playing I Spy). It was  
a buddy of mine two houses up the

block, an observant child named E.  
Barrett Brady, wise in the ways of the  
world, who put me on to kindness-to-  
animals in its relation to winning a sil-  
ver or a gold badge. Barrett said it was  
worthwhile to put plenty of it in. As  
I look through the back numbers and  
examine my own published works, I  
detect running through them an amaz-  
ing note of friendliness toward dumb  
creatures, an almost virulent sympathy  
for dogs, cats, horses, bears, toads and  
robins. I was kind to animals in all  
sorts of weather almost every month  
for three or four years. The results  
were satisfactory. I won both the sil-  
ver and the gold badge, and was honor-  
ably mentioned several times."

Achievement was sweet. Pages of  
old numbers of St. Nicholas re-echo  
names long familiar to present day  
readers. Successful puzzle winners in-  
cluded Ringgold W. Lardner, Stephen  
Benet, John C. Farrar, Alan Dunn,  
Wilella Waldorf and Louis Kronen-  
berger. Robert Benchley shone in the  
field of art, while Conrad P. Aiken,  
even at that early age, ran true to form  
in a poem called "The Lullaby." Joseph  
Auslander "made ten successful ap-  
pearances in two years, and was twice  
publicly reprimanded by having his  
name published on the "Careless Roll"  
—once for no address, once for sending  
in a contribution without the proper  
endorsement. (All League contributors  
had to get a parent or guardian to  
write on the back, "This is Joseph's  
own work" and sign it. If you forgot  
to, your name was published among the  
Careless.)

Did space permit you might be re-  
galed for many columns with the  
youthful achievements of budding  
artists, poets and puzzlers. Suffice it  
to say that should you lack for occu-  
pation on a quiet rainy afternoon, when  
business is dull, you will find shining  
on the pages of your old bound vol-  
umes of St. Nicholas these lustrous  
names, glowing with a softer radiance  
than any adult success may bestow, for  
they were lighted by the undaunted  
confidence of youth, and, in that juve-  
nile Hall of Fame, we find inscribed,  
Viola Beerbohm Tree, Laura Benet,  
Elinor Wylie (Elinor M. Hoyt), Cor-  
nelia Otis Skinner, J. Deems Taylor,  
Janet Flanner, Alan Seeger, Sigmund  
G. Spaeth, John C. Mosher, Norman  
Geddes, Vita V. Sackville-West, Stella  
Benson, William R. Benet, William  
Faulkner, Alice Hughes, Norman Klein,  
John Macy, Corey Ford, Frances  
Frost, Ward Greene, John S. Martin,  
Margaret E. Sangster, Niven Busch,  
Jr., Robert Garland, Peggy Bacon,  
Faith Baldwin, Margaret Kennedy,  
Clarence C. Little, Reginald Marsh,  
Bennett Cerf, Kay Boyle, Alice Har-  
vey, Frieda Inescort, Weare Holbrook,

Horatio Winslow, Lee Simonson, Marjorie Allen Seiffert, Anne Parrish, Richard Whorf, Leane Zugsmith, Clement Wood, Edmund Wilson, Lyle Saxon, Marion Stobel, Mary F. Watkins, Jeanne de Lamarter, Susan Ertz, Henry Dreyfuss, Elizabeth Hawes.

And again, in the inimitable words of Mr. White, "The League is still our white plume. We graduates know what it was like to wear it. These later, slight victories, such as they are, fail to make the heart pound; the twilight of an Honor Member is a dim and unsubstantial time. Give me again October, 1914, and my drawing (which would have been published had space permitted) called "The Love of a Mother Rabbit!"

DOROTHY H. HELLEN.

#### SOME EARLY RHODE ISLAND HIGHWAYS

The Robert Beverly Hale Library of Matunuck sponsored a most interesting lecture, on February 2, when Mr. Carder Whaley addressed a large gathering on the early history of our first Rhode Island highways.

One of the earliest highways, said Mr. Whaley, dating near 1670, was over Tower Hill, through Curtis Corner and the Ministerial Lands to Worden's or Great Pond, and skirting the east shore southerly.

Another road, passing through the Ministerial Lands, is the Perryville-Kingston Highway. Using a plat, Mr. Whaley showed the layout and gave the history of the various places along this road from the White Oak Bars on "Back Side Road", across Alewife Brook, through Tuckertown, across Mink Brook, over the Ministerial Lands, near Sylvia Tory's home, through the Great Swamp, west of Toby's Neck, by Teffts or Larkin's Pond, and entering Kingston Road near the Chepuxet River.

The Ministerial Lands were bounded on the west by Worden's Pond and extended easterly by the property of the late John Albro, and along Curtis Corner Road. This land, set apart for the benefit of the "orthodox church" by the original landholders, the Seven Purchasers, and comprising about 300 acres, later became a point of controversy between Reverends McSparren and Torrey. Each sought, for their respective churches, the benefits accruing from these lands. This dispute, after being threshed out in the courts of England for a period exceeding twenty years, was settled in favor of Dr. Torrey. Later this property was surveyed and sold to individual land seekers, the income being established

for a fund now enjoyed by the present Kingston Congregational Church.

This explains in part why the name Ministerial Road has been suggested as an historical name for the Perryville-Kingston Highway, which passes through it.

#### TRAVELLING LIBRARY DISCONTINUED

It is to be noted with regret that Mrs. Congdon must discontinue her work with travelling libraries. Any effectiveness in the pursuance of this work requires an increased appropriation, and the state is reported as being unable to provide it.

#### COMMITTEE FOR STATE CERTIFICATION

The new committee, appointed to draw up a plan for state certification of librarians, is as follows: Miss Sallie E. Coy, chairman; Miss Harriet M. Briggs, Miss Mittie Arnold.

#### NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

The Brown University Library has the following items to report:

Increased demands on the library reading room made it necessary to extend the Reference and Circulation Departments into the adjoining main cataloguing room. This was done by removing the middle section of the card catalogue and opening up an archway between the two rooms. The cataloguers were removed to offices on the ground and mezzanine floors. These changes increase the capacity of the reading room approximately twenty-five per cent.

Since October the library has had 28 students on F. E. R. A. aid. Among the projects they have been working on, the following are of particular interest:

1. Applying dressing to leather bindings.
2. Arranging, cataloguing and filing sheet music.
3. Briefly cataloguing, accessioning and arranging manuscripts.
4. Sorting miscellaneous Brown University publications which have been in storage.
5. Assisting with the project of collecting undergraduate literary publications.

In addition to these specific projects, many of the students have been used in the routine work of the various departments.

The Greene Public Library reports a beautiful collection of butterflies loaned to the library for exhibition by Mr. Arthur Kingsford of Riverside.

On account of the great need for more space, the Providence Public Library is discontinuing its Foreign Department, although the collection is still kept together in the stacks, and many more of the books than formerly are available for circulation at the branches. The quarters on the second floor, formerly occupied by the Foreign Department, are the new quarters for the Industrial Department, formerly housed on the third floor. The collection now includes the books on theoretical science as well as applied science, and the name of the department has been changed to the Science and Industry Department.

Readers cards are now being issued free of charge to the non-resident students of most of the colleges and schools of Providence. Students must be full-time graduate or full-time undergraduate students. The application card is to be signed by the Principal, the Dean or the Librarian, or some other authorized officer of the school or college, and each institution included agrees to take the initiative in clearing up any cases of overdue books and unpaid charges. An invitation to participate in this arrangement has been sent to all the schools and colleges in the city and nearly all have accepted it.

Borrower's cards may be obtained by other non-resident students for the regular fee of \$1.00 a year.

The time of the library broadcast, "On the Library Steps", has been changed from Thursday at 6:30 p. m. to Thursday at 10:30 p. m.

The following staff changes have recently taken place:

Miss Bertha H. Lyman, for 24 years Reference Librarian, has retired, and is to devote her attention to the systematic examination of the Central Library books for the purposes of transfer or discarding, so as to bring up-to-date a collection of books that has been growing more than half a century and is approaching the half-million mark.

Miss Bess McCrea, previously Assistant Librarian, has returned to the library as Reference Librarian, from convalescence after a long illness.

Mrs. Willard Beatty, nee Teller, formerly First Assistant in the Reference Department, has resigned, and is being succeeded by Miss Alice McGrath, formerly Head of the Foreign Department, who, besides her duties in the Reference Department, continues carrying on the service to the former Foreign Department clientele. The assistants in the Foreign Department, Miss Mabel Marshall and Miss Elizabeth Welt, have had duties assigned as follows: Miss Marshall is in the Cata-

loguing Department and is continuing her work with blind readers. Miss Welt divides her time between the Reference and the Cataloguing Departments.

Miss Helen Bowerman and Miss Bertha Wheeler have exchanged positions, one formerly being assistant at the Tockwotton Branch and the other at the South Providence Branch, respectively.

Owing to the resignation of Mrs. John D. Rusher, Jr., nee Perry, formerly Children's Librarian at the Rochambeau Branch, Miss Amy Wilcox has taken her position and Miss Viola Fitch has succeeded Miss Wilcox as Children's Librarian at Sprague House Branch. Mrs. Alice Chamberlin has been appointed Children's Librarian at the Washington Park Branch.

There have been the following changes in the junior high school library personnel: Miss Edna Shea is head of the Nathanael Greene Junior High School and her former position at the Roger Williams Junior High School has been taken by Miss Katherine Gallivan.

The following interesting exhibits have been held at the Westerly Public Library:

The Narragansett Collector's Club, composed of South County stamp collectors, held its first competitive display at the library January 26-27. An open meeting was held on Saturday evening and a number of new enthusiasts joined the ranks.

In line with the popular interest in handwriting, an exhibit of autographs of well-known people is being held in the museum of the library. Among those on display is a collection of autographs of Rhode Island librarians past and present.

An amateur art exhibit was sponsored by the Westerly Library, and was held there from February 25 to March 25. One feature of the exhibit was a display of amateur photography in the museum. This has been assembled and arranged by the High School Camera Club, one of the more vigorous and youthful of the various local hobby groups.

Other interesting activities of the library are as follows:

A series of nationality nights is being held at the library. On January 31, a German program was presented in honor of Schubert's birthday. Each number was true to form, even to the inclusion of selections by an old-time zither player, a reminder of the days when every German community held its song-fest.