Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 8, no. 2

RILA

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

Recommended Citation

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. 8 JUNE, 1935 No. 2

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1935, JESSE M. SMITH MEMORIAL LIBRARY,
HARRISVILLE, R. I.

Morning Session
10:45 Addresses of Welcome
Miss Dorothy M. Cummings, Librarian
Mr. Austin T. Levy
Business Meeting
Propaganda
Professor Benjamin C. Clough, Brown University
12:30 Adjournment
Luncheon: Loom and Shuttle Inn

Afternoon Session
2:30 Unemployed Youth
Mr. George Horr, Superintendent, South Main St. Boys' Club.
Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian, Providence Public Library
Re-organization of the State Library
Mr. Herbert O. Brigham
The Re-cataloguing Problem
Miss Edith N. Snow, Re-cataloguer, Providence Public Library

Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1935, JESSE M. SMITH MEMORIAL LIBRARY,
HARRISVILLE, R. I.

Morning Session
10:45 Addresses of Welcome
Miss Dorothy M. Cummings, Librarian
Mr. Austin T. Levy
Business Meeting
Propaganda
Professor Benjamin C. Clough, Brown University
12:30 Adjournment
Luncheon: Loom and Shuttle Inn

Afternoon Session
2:30 Unemployed Youth
Mr. George Horr, Superintendent, South Main St. Boys' Club.
Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian, Providence Public Library
Re-organization of the State Library
Mr. Herbert O. Brigham
The Re-cataloguing Problem
Miss Edith N. Snow, Re-cataloguer, Providence Public Library

Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1935, JESSE M. SMITH MEMORIAL LIBRARY,
HARRISVILLE, R. I.

Morning Session
10:45 Addresses of Welcome
Miss Dorothy M. Cummings, Librarian
Mr. Austin T. Levy
Business Meeting
Propaganda
Professor Benjamin C. Clough, Brown University
12:30 Adjournment
Luncheon: Loom and Shuttle Inn

Afternoon Session
2:30 Unemployed Youth
Mr. George Horr, Superintendent, South Main St. Boys' Club.
Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian, Providence Public Library
Re-organization of the State Library
Mr. Herbert O. Brigham
The Re-cataloguing Problem
Miss Edith N. Snow, Re-cataloguer, Providence Public Library

Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library
A NEW LIBRARY

The history of the Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library began in 1894, when, according to the will of Mrs. Mary E. Smith, a fund was given to the town for the establishing of a library. Her husband, Jesse M. Smith, had been a prominent business man in the town, and, though Mrs. Smith had lived in Harrisville only since her marriage, she had the welfare of the town very much at heart. Her will provided that the residue of her estate should be left to the town of Burrillville, to be known as the Jesse M. Smith Fund; and, that, "as soon as the amount of such fund will justify the undertaking, it shall be devoted to the erection and maintenance of a Public Library in the said village of Harrisville". Some of the townspeople who had known Mrs. Smith felt that her desire to give a library as a memorial to her husband was inspired by her frequent visits to Uxbridge, Mass., where she often saw the library, which, she felt, was just the kind to bring pleasure and interest into the daily lives of the people.

Although the Fund was given in 1894, it was not until 1898 that the town voted to accept the trust created by the will. It was to administer the Fund as required by the will. And it was not until 1905 that any sort of building was erected. At this time the village lacked any hall in which to hold entertainments and dances, and many felt this an excellent opportunity to secure not only a library, but also a hall and new quarters for the town offices. Consequently a large brick building was erected in the center of the village, and two rooms on the second floor were devoted to the library.

As is usual in small towns, it was felt impossible to keep the library open for more than two afternoons and evenings during the week, and, though various librarians gladly gave their time and services for very small renumeration, the growth of the library was slow and uncertain.

It was not until the winter of 1933-34 that operations were begun to build the end of the building in which Mrs. Smith had wished for the town. Due to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Austin T. Levy, and to their great interest in the welfare of the town, a community project was planned which included the erection of a small library, just such a one, it seems certain, as Mrs. Smith would have suggested had she been able to do so.

The library opened in its new quarters on April 21, 1934. With such pleasant surroundings and with the library hours increased to every afternoon and evening in the week, with the exception of Wednesdays and Sundays, its growth has been rapid. There has been a 300% increase in circulation, the juvenile circulation alone exceeding the total of the previous year, and there has also been an increase of 332 borrowers. Even more gratifying than any statistics, however, is the assurance that the library is gradually becoming a habit in the lives of many in the community and that eventually it can hope to fill the place in the life of the town which Mrs. Smith hoped for it.

HOW TO GET TO HARRISVILLE

By M. Chine

Take Route 101 to Chepachet. At Chepachet take Wallum Lake Road and then take the right fork to Harrisville. Those south of Providence can take the Victory Highway to Chepachet.

THE UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND THE LIBRARY

The economic crisis through which this country has been struggling has affected many groups of people in different phases of life. And the high schools are no exception. The schools must meet the crisis of decreasing funds and increasing attendance. The cause of this increase is due to various factors.

Students who, in prosperous years, would not have been attending private schools, are now rubbing elbows with their fellow classmates in the public schools. Boys and girls who might have dropped out when they reached the legal school-leaving age are staying on. There are many more postgraduate students than in former years. Many cannot go on to college and so they are taking advantage of additional courses in the high school. In the good years, 91% of those who took the college course went to college. Now, only 75% can go.

Increased attendance has been noted in the trade schools also. And there is a change in the personal there too. The average age has increased for one thing. Older boys who had left school to go to work, and now are either without jobs or are on part time work, return to take up special courses. Formerly the majority of the students came from the 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Now 10-15% are high school graduates. Many students of this age were discouraged if their energy was not employed or will they miss opportunities? Will they have any chance for a job when they graduate? It is easy for them to appreciate a college education more than did the children of youth? Only time can give the final answer.

Meanwhile, what can the library contribute to the community? A bit too involved with the library and the community, a bit too involved with the community, or both? The library is in full in the limited. It may not be available here, but it is available in the neighborhood. Unfortunately there is no way of knowing whether the following list will be of interest to Rhode Island librarians and the public.

A "VOCATIONS" BOOK


**The Book of Opportunities for Youth.** By Putnam. Revised and enlarged in 1931. 350 pages. $3.00 cloth.

**Occupations for Women.** By Putnam. Revised and enlarged in 1931. 350 pages. $3.00 cloth.

**Outline of Careers.** By Putnam. Revised and enlarged in 1931. 350 pages. $3.00 cloth.
The crisis through which we are passing is not a single one, but a complex of interrelated crises. It is a crisis of employment, a crisis of education, a crisis of health, a crisis of leadership, and a crisis of personal and social values. Each crisis is a problem in itself, but they are all interdependent and interrelated. The crisis of employment, for example, is not just a problem of jobs, but a problem of education, of the skills and attitudes of workers, of the structure of the economy, of the distribution of wealth, and of the values and expectations of the population. The crisis of education is not just a problem of schools, but a problem of the quality of instruction, of the content and methods of education, of the preparation of teachers, and of the expectations and aspirations of students. The crisis of health is not just a problem of illness, but a problem of the distribution of health care, of the availability of medical facilities, of the attitudes and behaviors of patients, and of the values and priorities of the society. The crisis of leadership is not just a problem of the effectiveness of leaders, but a problem of the qualifications and training of leaders, of the role of leaders in society, and of the expectations and demands of the public. The crisis of personal and social values is not just a problem of individual attitudes, but a problem of the norms and traditions of society, of the influence of media, and of the role of culture in shaping behavior.
Guidance of Youth. Davis.
Ginn. $1.76.

Vocations. Proctor.
Houghton. $1.48.

Vocational Civics.
Ginn. $1.25.

**The Girl and Her Future. Hoerle.**
Discuss the task of getting a job and the requirements of voc- old occupations.
Smith. $2.00.

REGIONAL MEETING

A regional meeting, including the li-
rary associations of New England, New
York, New Jersey and Ontario, will be held at Lake George the week of
September 9.

FROM HERE AND THERE

Anthony Free Library reports a

growing demand for popular technical

subjects.

In Barrington two new members
have been added to the board of

trustees: Russell Field and Robert

Meyersham, taking the place of the

secretary and treasurer who resigned
in April. The latter were Ebenezer

Tiffany, treasurer, who had served for
37 years, and Frederick Church, secre-
tary, who had served for 15 years.

The Brown University Library's
first experiment in substituting films
for books was made for the Music De-
partment. Several scores have been

successfully photographed on moving
picture films, and, when projected in
the classroom, have given complete

satisfaction.

A number of the staff of the Library
of Brown University attended the Con-
ference of New England College Li-
brarians at Trinity College and Wes-
leyan University on May 10 and 11.

The People's Library at Newport,
through the assistance of the F E R A,
has been able to have its building re-
painted both inside and out. The
Children's Room has been improved
the most of all, for the walls have been

painted a cheerful buff which gives the
room a sunny appearance on the dul-
lest days.

In the will of Albert W. Whiting of
Whitinsville, Mass., who died in Paris
on March 6, 1935, a bequest of $5,000
is made to the Providence Athenaeum,
to be known as the "Mrs. Sarah Helen
Whitman, Mrs. Catherine Hart, Mrs.
Annie Frances Field, Miss Eliza C.
Lippitt and Miss Nora Perry Fund",
the income to be used for the general
purposes of the Society.

With simple but appropriate cer-
emonies, the five large murals painted
for the Boys' and Girls' Department
of the Providence Public Library by
Edward Dubuque, under CWA and
FERA auspices, were unveiled Tues-
day afternoon, April 23. William Davis
Miller, President of the Board of
Trustees, presided, and the speakers
were Governor Theodore Francis
Green, L. Earl Rowe, Museum Direc-
tor, Rhode Island School of Design;
and the artist, Mr. Dubuque. Five
school children, representing as many
schools, pulled the cords revealing the
paintings. Clarence E. Sherman, the
librarian, accepted the custody of the
paintings.

Miss Mildred R. Bradley has been
appointed Head of the Art Department
of the Providence Public Library, to
assume her duties on June 1. She is a
graduate of Simmons College and was
Head of the Fine Arts Department of
the Boston Public Library.

Miss Marion L. Arnold, formerly
Head of the Art Department, becomes
Associate Art Librarian.

Margaret Ridlon Van Ingen resigned
as Librarian at the Rhode Island State
College Library on April 1 to take a
position with the New York City Public
Library. Nathalie Elaine Briggs, a
graduate of the college in the class of
1933 and of the Library School at
Syracuse University in the class of 1934,
had been added to the staff.

The seventh in a series of talks at
the Robert Beverley Hale Library of
Matunuck was given on Saturday, May
11. Dr. Roger Perkins, member of the
School Committee of South Kingstown,
who has recently returned from a six
weeks trip through the West Indies
and northern South America, gave a
travel talk, "Through the West Indies".

Dr. Perkins illustrated his talk with
motion pictures, which he made during
his trip. Tea was served in the
Children's Room.

The boys and girls of Westerly are
rallying to the old familiar cry, "The
circus is coming!" This is the form
which the Westerly Public Library's
summer reading project has taken, and
never has a plan been so enthusiastic-
ly received. To date, over 500 tickets
have been issued. The price of ad-
mission to the big tent is the reading
of five books before June 1. On that
day the circus will have a grand open-
ing, with a parade in which the boys
and girls themselves will take part.

From then until Book Week the ac-
ove in the Children's Room will assume the
likeliness of a real circus tent. Inside
will be a merry-go-round with cut-outs
of famous animals on it; a peep show;
freaks; and all things which go to
make up a regular circus. The children
will be asked to read one book for each
object which they see, so that by
Book Week they should be better
acquainted with the animals and the
countries from which they come. They
will be asked to read ten books in all,
and those who finish can be sure of a
gala celebration at the end.