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BULLETIN

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 9

NOVEMBER, 1936

No. 2



STATE LIBRARY

PROGRAM

FALL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Friday, November 6, 1936

at the

RHODE ISLAND STATE LIBRARY, STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE

Morning Session

10:00 GREETINGS

Louis W. Cappelli, Secretary of State

BUSINESS

Reports of committees

10:30 W P A LIBRARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL PROJECTS
Norman L. Kilpatrick, 1st Vice President, R. I. L. A.

SURVEY OF FEDERAL ARCHIVES
Norman L. Kilpatrick, Brown University Library

WRITERS PROJECTS
Professor Jarvis M. Morse, Brown University

SURVEY OF HISTORICAL RECORDS
Ivor D. Spencer, Brown University

UNION LIST OF NEWSPAPERS AND UNION CATALOG
Miss Dorothy E. Spofford, Brown University Library

SURVEY OF GENERAL LIBRARY RESOURCES IN PROVIDENCE
Mrs. Robert E. L. Faris, Brown University

BOOK BINDING AND OTHER LIBRARY PROJECTS
Herbert O. Brigham, State Librarian

11:30 TODAY'S BOOKS
Bertrand K. Hart, Literary Editor, Providence Journal

12:30 RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF R. I. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
by The Honorable Theodore Francis Green, Governor of R. I.

1:00 LUNCHEON

Afternoon Session

2:30 FILM COPYING OF BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS
Miss Catherine W. Grout, Brown University Library

3:00 MODERN AMERICAN DRAMATISTS
Mrs. Miriam Doan Scott, Librarian, Department of the Drama,
Yale University.

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
Mrs. Dorothy H. Hellen, Chairman
Elmwood Public Library, Providence
Miss Alice McGrath,
Providence Public Library
Miss Mildred Bradbury,
Providence Public Library

Vol. 9 NOVEMBER 1936 No. 2

**BRIEF HISTORY OF THE STATE
LIBRARY**

The State Library, which will be our host on November 6, 1936, was originally founded in 1852 but it has only been active since the construction of the new State House in 1901.

In 1907 the Legislative Reference Bureau was established and in recent years the various activities formerly conducted by the Department of Education, under the reorganization act, were transferred to the supervision of the State Librarian.

In the past few years Unemployment Relief Projects have been conducted by the State Library with field workers at Brown University, Rhode Island State College, College of Pharmacy, Rhode Island Medical Society and many other locations.

The State Library is in the Department of State and the Secretary of State, who is in charge of the State Archives, takes a friendly interest in the library and its work.

The business meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association, will take place in the Hearing Room (Room 313). There will be an opportunity for the members to see the State House both before the meeting convenes and before the afternoon session. There will be exhibits of interest on display in the Hearing Room.

A buffet luncheon will be prepared and served by caterers, in the Hearing Room, after the Governor's informal reception, which will be held in the Reception Room on the second floor.

**SALVAGING VALUABLE
RECORDS**

Wickford, R. I.
October 21, 1936.

To the Editor:—

Speaking before the Library Association at Newport last summer, I advanced a suggestion which appeared to meet with some approval among individual members. I am offering it again through these columns in the hope that somewhere in the state it may inspire action.

In brief the idea was that public libraries, especially in the smaller towns and villages, could render an additional valuable service by offering themselves as repositories for documents of historical worth such as diaries, family records, logbooks, business and professional daybooks calculated to throw light on customs and prices of other days—anything of that general character, but with special emphasis on family records.

With the cooperation of Herbert O. Brigham, state librarian, who I have no doubt would prove friendly to the plan, a master index could be built up at the State Library out of returns provided by local librarians. The utility of this would be that a local student or out of state visitor desiring to know where he may see something dealing with, for instance, the Burdick family would discover that the Westerly Library possessed material not available elsewhere and would be spared long search. Or if some special subject engaged interest the material dealing therewith could be traced readily.

I am confident there is a considerable amount of this local history material awaiting assurance that a safe and permanent repository will care for it. The libraries which undertook such collecting would be supplementing the objects of such institutions as the Rhode Island and the Newport Historical Societies, but are circumstanced to carry on the assemblage of local documents more intensively than either of those.

It would be highly gratifying to me to hear that the work had been undertaken anywhere because such material as I have in mind is flowing out of the state which should preserve it, or is too

frequently being burned or destroyed otherwise. As one instance, the account books of the Robinson store at Wakefield, models of their kind and of great interest, have been promised to the Harvard School of Business Administration; such material should remain here.

Very sincerely,
J. EARL CLAUSON.

JUST A REMINDER

At the Newport meeting in June, there was a vote passed which read, "The Librarian, or some person designated by her shall be requested to write a signed history of her particular library, and file same with the secretary." It was also suggested that this should be the contribution of Rhode Island Libraries to the Tercentenary Celebration, so that material for a history of the Library Movement here in the state would be available, should it seem desirable at any time to develop such a thing.

WARWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Warwick Public Library Association, an organization composed of the Librarians and members of the six Public Library Associations of the city of Warwick will meet in Norwood Public Library, Monday evening, November 2, 1936. The purpose of this organization is to promote the interests of the Public Libraries in the City. A set of resolutions will be presented on the death of the Reverend W. H. Lane, late Librarian of Old Warwick League Library and one of the organizers of the association. Miss Sallie E. Coy, Librarian of the Westerly Public Library, and President of the R. I. L. A. will speak on the activities of the Westerly Library and also of the benefits to be derived by all Librarians and members of Associations in joining the Rhode Island Librarian Association.

MRS. W. E. COMPSTON,
Oct. 19, 1936. Secretary.

LIBRARIANS ATTENTION!

The Executive Committee wishes to publish a revised edition of the Rhode Island Library Association Handbook. All changes of name, library or position should be forwarded to Miss Thayer not later than December 1, 1936.

ANOTHER RECORD

Mrs. Emma S. Bradford, Librarian of the Barrington (Rhode Island) Public Library, writes us this letter:

"I was interested in the article in the Triangle in regard to the Library of New Bedford, Mass. I think our library is running a close second to their record.

"This library was founded in 1880 and has only had three librarians. The present librarian began her work on August 3, 1889, and I am quite sure I am the oldest librarian in years of service in the State of Rhode Island."

A. L. A. BULLETIN NOTES REGARDING CERTIFICATION

Regarding certification, a pamphlet reprinting five articles which appeared in the A. L. A. Bulletin in 1935 and 1936, is available upon application to the Board of Education for Librarianship, American Library Association, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

NATIONAL BOOK FAIR

An exhibit to demonstrate the services of the public library to the community is being arranged by the New York Public Library for the New York Times National Book Fair November 5 to 19, at the International Building in Rockefeller Center. The display is being shown at the request of the Book Fair authorities.

OFFICERS, 1936-1937

President
Miss Sallie E. Coy
Westerly Public Library
First Vice-President
Mr. Norman L. Kilpatrick
John Hay Library, Brown University
Second Vice-President
Miss Ruth C. Coombs
Providence Public Library
Recording Secretary
Mrs. Muriel Wyman
William H. Hall Free Library, Edge.
Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Margaret Reid Alsop
Elmwood Public Library, Providence
Treasurer
Miss Gertrude E. Brown
Providence Public Library

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers and
Mr. Laurence M. Shaw
Providence Public Library
Mrs. Maude Compston
Henry Warner Budlong Library
Apponaug
Miss Mary McIlwain
John Hay Library, Brown University

COMMITTEES FOR 1936-1937

R. I. L. A.

BULLETIN COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dorothy H. Hellen, Elmwood
Public Library, Providence,
Chairman.
Miss Alice McGrath, Providence
Public Library.
Miss Mildred Bradbury, Providence
Public Library.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Miss Marion Bonner, Providence
Public Library, Chairman
Miss Gertrude E. Brown, Providence
Public Library.
Mrs. Harriet L. Shaw, Oaklawn
Public Library, Oaklawn.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

Miss Edna Thayer, Providence Public
Library, Chairman.
Miss Clara Mowry, Providence
Atheneum.

Miss Esther Cushman, John Hay
Library, Brown University.

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH STATE

Mr. Clarence Sherman, Providence
Public Library, Chairman.
Mrs. Sara E. Sherman, Elmwood
Public Library.
Mr. William Davis Miller, Wake-
field, R. I.

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Miss Ida Anderson, William Hall
Free Library, Edgewood,
Chairman.
Miss Aimee Draper, Providence
Public Library.
Miss Dorothy Spofford, John Hay
Library, Brown University.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE R. I. L. A.

Since May the following have joined
the R. I. L. A.

Miss Esther S. Levine
Miss Elizabeth Johnson.
Miss Mary A. McIlwaine
Norman L. Kilpatrick
Mrs. M. Veronica Hurley
Miss Dorcas Austin
Mrs. Edwin H. Arnold
Miss Frances Perry
Miss Alice V. McGrath
Alfred South
Miss Aleda Cady
Mrs. Mildred A. Wunsch
Miss Marianna Spizzirri
Miss Ruth Miller
Miss Pauline T. Carr
Miss Elizabeth Welt
Miss Emma Louise Heald
Mrs. Dixwell Goff
Miss Aurilla Hurd

BE SURE YOUR NAME IS IN THE HANDBOOK

Will chief librarians make a deter-
mined effort to bring the desirability of
membership in the Association to the
attention of staff and trustees. A new
Handbook is in preparation and new
members will be included up to the
time of going to press.

MARIAN BONNER,
Chairman, Membership Committee

W A R N I N G

The Better Business Bureau of Providence reports that "an individual is approaching librarians seeking the privilege of having libraries use a book jacket upon which advertisements of local merchants are to be published.

"After securing the libraries approval the individual then solicits merchants, using the name of the library and collects advance sums of money for advertisements.

"One such solicitation which was recently reported to the Bureau was made in June and to date there has been no delivery of the jackets.

"Librarians approached to lend their name to any form of advertising scheme are urged to refer the agent to the Bureau for investigational purposes, before entering any agreement."

LITTLE BOOKS

(Children's Book Week, November
15-21st, 1936)

While hunting up a very smudged Reader's Guide reference for a high school youngster in *Lit Digest* 82:13-15 S 13 '24 we happened on what might be termed in *Lit Digest* 82:28-29 S 13 '24 "A library for dolls."

It may be a far cry from John Newbery, that tender-hearted but shrewd book-seller of St. Paul's Churchyard in the London of the middle 1700's, to the London of the 1920's, when two hundred dignified British authors contributed in manuscript for a doll house library all first editions that can be seen nowhere else, including Mr. E. V. Lucas book on the whole duty of dolls, with a word on each page, and Sir James M. Barrie's inimitable "Autobiography" which we will print in full, further on. These very dignified authors wrote either original tales, mostly about dolls or child life, or copied excerpts from their earlier favorite works, to be bound in tiny inch by inch and a half finely tooled leather covers. This "little library" is shelved in Her Majesty the Queen's Doll House, that model of all doll houses yet un-architected.

Perhaps the shades of the gay little books, just vest-pocket size, bound in flowered gilt Dutch paper covers that we are told, were hand-colored by the children themselves, who flocked to the shop of John Newbery with their pennies, come and call upon their more modern cousins, in the Doll House Library. Perhaps even Pierre Lapin, from the French of Beatrix Potter's immortal "Peter Rabbit" hurries to put on his English gaiters and hang his very English umbrella on his arm, and hastens to join the party. And maybe little books from America and all the other countries in the world where little books for children are an art, little books that travel many times to library mending rooms and binderies, such as Racketty Packetty House and Little Black Sambo and Polly Patchwork and the Twin Lambs, attend every soiree in the Queen's Doll House.

And while the little books are cavorting or curtesying in London, all over

the state of Rhode Island to say nothing of everywhere else in these United States, Children's Librarians are concocting, and hatching and brewing and pasting and doing all the delightful mysterious things one does with book-jackets and colored paper and clothes pins and silver and gilt tinsel, to surprise the children for Book Week.

Clothespin dolls representing all the favorites from King Arthur and Hitty to Pinocchio and Topsy will parade, for "All young gentlemen and ladies, who are good, or intend to be good," to quote an inscription from one of John Newbery's own books, in the Children's Room at the Elmwood Public Library during Book Week. So clever are the likenesses that anyone familiar with Children's books will see many old friends, and delightedly recognize Captain John Silver with his crutch, and Tinker Bell in her white and silver with gossamer wings.

DOROTHY H. HELLEN

From the Queen's Doll House Library
Autobiography of
J. M. Barrie
March 1922.

CHAPTER 1

At six it was thus I wrote my name,
James Barrie.

CHAPTER 2

At twelve it was not quite the same,
James M. Barrie.

CHAPTER 3

At twenty, thus with a caress,
James M. Barrie.

CHAPTER 4

At thirty I admired it less,
Jas. M. Barrie

CHAPTER 5

At forty-fifty it was so
J. M. Barrie.

CHAPTER 6

And so I think the M will go
J. Barrie.

CHAPTER 7

(L'Envoi)

One tear for twenty's youthful swank
And then the name becomes a blank: