

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

5-1948

Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 20, 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. 20, no. 1" (1948). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 43.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/43https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/rila_bulletin/43

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. 20

MAY, 1948

No. 1



SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 18, 1948

Community Hall, North Scituate, Rhode Island

MORNING SESSION

- 10:00 WORDS OF WELCOME,
Mrs. Henry W. Rice, Pres., Board of Trustees, North Scituate Public Library
- 10:05 BUSINESS SESSION.
- 11:00 STATE AID FOR MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARIES,
Mr. Milton E. Lord, Librarian, Boston Public Library
- 12:00 STRETCHING THE BOOK BUDGET WITH POCKET BOOKS,
Miss Dorothy Brown, Providence Public Library
- 12:30 LUNCHEON AT NORTH SCITUATE BAPTIST CHURCH.

AFTERNOON SESSION

- 2:00 GREETINGS FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
Mr. Paul North Rice, President of A. L. A.
- 2:45 THE ORIGIN OF THE NEWPORT TOWER,
Mr. John Howard Benson, Rhode Island School of Design
- 4:00 TEA IN THE LIBRARY.

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

MARGARET E. DREWETT Brown University Library
CLARA B. MOWRY Providence Athenaeum
MRS. HELEN E. DEJONG,
Rhode Island Medical Society Library

VOL. 20 MAY, 1948 No. 1

How to Get to North Scituate

A bus operated by the North Providence Bus Lines leaves Providence at 9:30 each morning in front of the Providence Journal Building on Fountain Street.

If driving from Providence, take Route 6 out Hartford Avenue, which leads out of Olneyville Square. Follow this road for about eight miles until you reach the four corners at North Scituate. Turn right at the light. The library is on the right just beyond the corner. The Community Hall, where the meeting will be held, is opposite the library.

North Scituate Public Library

The North Scituate Public Library Association was incorporated in 1906, with a membership of 110 persons. The library was housed in an office building on the Dr. Charles Fisher estate, and cared for by committee members. Funds were provided by Town Council appropriation and by the North Scituate Needle Club which was formed to support the Association. The Club sponsored candy sales, concerts, lawn parties and the publication and sale of cook books which brought in substantial funds.

Overcrowding led to the construction of a new building, the present one, in 1925.

The collection has grown, thanks to the interest and help of many friends. The library now has a registration of 734 persons. Its 6925 volumes have a yearly circulation of 13,010 books and 682 magazines.

The North Scituate Community House

The North Scituate Community House was erected in 1825 as a school house. It also served, in the early years, as a meeting place for the Free Will Baptist Church. After a century of service as a school house, the building was restored and improved by the Town of Scituate and made available as a community center.

In restoring the building every care was taken, consistent with its functions and with modern convenience, to retain the original layout and to re-use the original woodwork. The outside of the building is unaltered. The stone steps, the entrance doors and the many-paned windows are as they have been for generations. The main schoolroom has been restored to its original size and shape. The blistered paint on the lower ceiling moldings marks the location of the original wood burning stoves that heated the building. Parallel rails on the walls of the large room are reminiscent of the blackboards that once served the schoolroom, and the planetarium in the center of the graceful ceiling is the one at which Scituate boys and girls gazed more than a century ago.

Speaker's Who's Who

Mr. Paul North Rice is Chief of the Reference Department of the New York Public Library. As President of the American Library Association, he is believed to be the first holder of this office to bring greetings and problems of our national association to the library association of the smallest state.

Although there are two committees of your Association at work on these two phases of library service in Rhode Island, both are aiming toward the same goals, and cannot be separated from each other.

To obtain a picture of local conditions a brief questionnaire was mailed to all of the free public libraries this spring which would provide some standards of measurement with which to work. Up until the time of publication of this report, only slightly more than 50 per cent of the questionnaires had been returned. It is hoped that this does not mean that the remaining libraries do not wish to be eligible for financial aid, and that their reports will not soon be received.

While a complete report of this survey will be made at a later date, it is not too early to state that important reference works are badly out of date, hours of service are insufficient, town appropriations are inadequate or non-existent, and that wages are insufferably poor, which naturally affects the quality of service. One librarian reported that she gave her services entirely without compensation in order that she could buy a few new books with the meager funds available. To be sure, the hours of service were small in that library, but to have worked without compensation is not ethical. Also alarming is the age of some book collections. It would be better to have no encyclopedias at all, than to have sets nearly one-hundred years old.

What immediate hope is there for improving these conditions? In February the Library Demonstration Bill was passed unanimously by the Senate. The latest A. L. A. *Federal Relations News* hopefully indicated that the bill might pass the House by a substantial majority. If the present international news does not cause Congress to shelve all social legislation, and it does pass, \$25,000 is expected to be made available as of July 1, 1948.

The program of library development in Rhode Island would then proceed with two phases:

Phase I Library Demonstrations under federal aid for five years. During this period demonstrations would be carried on in many free public libraries to show what adequate library service means, and to prove the need for additional funds to make this service permanent.

Phase II State Aid

Here it would be the responsibility of the state to establish or continue adequate library service. Should the Library Demonstration Bill fail to pass at an early session of Congress, plans would then be made to introduce a state aid bill into the state legislature.

The two main problems before us now are to establish local standards of service, using the A. L. A. National Plan as a guide, and to set up formulas for the most equitable distribution of the funds to be made available either under federal or state aid.

A more complete report will be submitted to the Association in the near future.

Barrington Public Library

The Barrington Public Library has presented three free lectures since last May, all well attended. Professor Charles H. Smiley of Brown University gave an illustrated lecture on his trip to Brazil. Mr. Gordon B. Washburn, Museum, Director, R. I. School of Design, gave an illustrated talk on "New England Clipper Trade With the Orient," and Dr. Marguerite Appleton, also of the School of Design, spoke on "Current Books".

During Book Week, the children enjoyed a puppet show presented by Mrs. Alsop and Mrs. Milne. At the Christmas Party the youngsters were mystified by C. Foster Fenner.

Three interesting exhibitions were held in the Library. The Barrington Sketch Group had a splendid exhibit of their work, opening the show with a delightful tea. In March, Mrs. Mollie Nye Tobey displayed her sketches, designs and paintings. The display of art work by the school children of Barrington, scheduled for May 16-22, promises to be extremely interesting.

Brown University Library

The Annmary Brown Memorial, 21 Brown Street, repository of one of the world's prime collections of rare books, was formally transferred in February to Brown University, as perpetual trustee.

The museum was established by the late Rush Christopher Hawkins as a memorial to his wife, Annmary Brown Hawkins, in 1905. It contains a most notable and representative collection of books from the earliest European presses, showing the progress of printing through the first half century of the art, from about 1460 to 1500. There are also two galleries of paintings, one by old masters and one by later artists. In addition there are personal mementos of Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins. The building will continue to be open to the public, free of charge, from Tuesday to Friday, 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.

Recent acquisitions of Brown University Library include a microfilm copy of the Robert Todd Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress. There are 99 reels representing 194 volumes containing 18,350 papers.

Another microfilm acquired is that of The Times (London) which completes the University's file of this newspaper.

Under the "Farmington Plan" for the cooperative acquisition of foreign publications, Brown University Library has been assigned the fields of American literature and Italian literature. This plan, which was originated in 1942 and put into effect in January, 1948, provides that the publications of Sweden, Switzerland and France shall be acquired by various libraries in the United States, each library being assigned certain fields of knowledge.

At the May 3 meeting of the Friends of the Library of Brown University the speaker will be Mr. John T. Winterich, well known to Providence and the author of *Early American Books and Printing* and *A Primer of Book Collecting* among others. Fellow librarians are always welcome at the meetings of the Friends of the Library.

Elmwood Public Library

Sara E. Sherman left the library in September 1947, Ellen D. Stone succeeding her as Librarian.

Muriel E. Dubuc, Acting Head of Circulation since December 1945, left the library in February, 1948.

Adelaide Knight, Treasurer of the Elmwood Public Library Association, and for many years active in its work, died on January 29th. Miss Knight was a life member of the Rhode Island Library Association.

Providence Public Library

Some progress can be reported with plans for the addition to the central building. An architect has been appointed and is about to proceed with the preliminary drawings. Various department heads have met with the Librarian more or less regularly during the year to draw up details for the location and equipping of the service and non-service departments.

A program to increase the library's endowments was formulated by the Trustees. Nearly 2500 possible friends of the library are recipients of four well-designed brochures which outline the problems of financing the library's service, and invite them to contribute toward increasing the library's endowment or its current income.

Plans have been drawn for a new Mt. Pleasant Branch Library to replace Sprague House. An excellent site has been selected, and funds are available, but additional funds are necessary, if the building is to be constructed according to present plans.

The Washington Park Branch hopes to move soon to a new building. Mayor Roberts has promised the fire station building on Broad Street when it is vacated by Hose 18. This building can be remodelled easily to make a good-sized library with reading, reference and children's rooms on the first floor, and extra book space, staff rooms and a meeting room on the second floor. Washington Park residents are planning to conduct a campaign to contribute toward the expense of converting.

The Olneyville Branch also hopes to have a new building, or renovated quarters in the present building. Exact plans cannot be made until the question of the proposed freeway around Olneyville Square is decided.

Among the resignations since last autumn were Rosamond H. Danielson, Head Cataloger, who accepted a position in the University of Missouri Library. Mrs. Emma Lou Burgess, Tockwotton children's librarian, expects to be leaving Providence this spring. Matrimony claimed Ellen M. Carey, public relations assistant; and Ethelwynne Ashcroft, a branch children's librarian. Ernestine Stone and June C. Johnson resigned to continue their education. Barbara M. Wemmell of the Reference Department, accepted a position at the Schenectady

Public Library. Mrs. Edna Lager joined the Reference Department staff last November.

In March, nine young women completed the requirements of the 1947-1948 Library Training Course, and were placed as substitutes in the library system. Recruiting candidates for a new class, to begin in September, is now going on.

Weaver Memorial Library

A discussion group has been organized at the Weaver Memorial Library which meets alternate Monday evenings. Miss Anna Wright, a delegate to the World Youth Festival in Prague, Czechoslovakia spoke to the group on February 26th.

Children's Book Week the library gave a marionette show at the Hollywood Theatre for the lower grade children. Rufus Rose was the puppeteer presented.

William H. Hall Free Library

The William H. Hall Free Library of Edgewood, aside from being busy with the routine business, has been conducting a very interesting as well as a very lively experiment in the Children's Department. This library, being very much of a community center, has added simple and inexpensive handicraft to its juvenile recreational features. A Picture-Book story hour is held on Wednesday afternoons for pre-school children. Simple handicraft and sometimes a game or song to tie in with the story delight the little tots. This group is growing weekly and brings many young mothers of the community to the Library who have not been readers before. The Saturday morning story hour also makes "something to take home". This has kept the attendance from 50 to 100 children each week with more older children coming than before. Often a voluntary play or puppet show is

put on by a group and a very interesting newspaper has been edited by the children. Occasionally recordings are used with certain stories. The response from the parents and children make it seem worth while to continue this experiment for the remainder of the year.

The Friends of the Library have offered four programs this year, namely—a panel discussion “How to Improve the Library”, “Musical Glasses”, by Ada H. Miller, movies of New England furnished by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad and “Town Meetings, Past and Present”, by Prof. Clarence M. Webster of Brown University.

Recruiting Librarians

A special committee appointed last fall by the President to study plans for recruiting for librarianship within the state, presented the following recommendations which were unanimously adopted by the Executive Board:

1. That the guidance and vocational counselors of all the Senior High Schools of the state be supplied with the best printed information on librarianship as a career.

2. That specially selected senior librarians, accompanied by attractive, enthusiastic junior librarians, be chosen to speak informally on librarianship as a career, to small groups of potential librarians in the senior classes.

3. That a follow-up be made by the Rhode Island Library Association either as an invitation to attend its next meeting, a tea, or by conducted library visits.

Permission was granted by the New England School Library Association to reprint, with necessary revisions, a circular on library work as a career. They will be widely distributed this

spring to guidance counselors in the schools, and to potential librarians.

SALLIE E. COY
VIRGINIA FOOKS
EDNA THAYER, *Chairman*

Congressional Quarterlies Presented

The Providence Journal Company presented gift subscriptions of the *Congressional Quarterly* to thirty-two free Public Libraries of the state in February. A series of articles describing the special features and potential use of this important reference tool appeared in the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* after the announcement of the gifts was made by Mr. Sevellon Brown, Editor.

The *Quarterly* is a comparatively new reference work, and will make it easier for the people of Rhode Island to follow the progress of federal legislation and to see how their representatives voted on various issues. It is particularly urged that every possible effort be made to publicize this useful compilation to the communities we serve. Community newspapers, clergymen, organizations and schools should be apprised of their importance so that the greatest possible use will be made of them.

Join the R. I. L. A.

The Rhode Island Library Association extends an invitation to every library employee and trustee in Rhode Island and nearby libraries to become a member of the Association. Suggestions for new members may be sent to Mrs. Mildred Wunsch, Chairman of the Membership Committee at the Rhode Island State Library. The dues for personal members are: Annual \$1.00, Life \$10.00. Institutional Dues are: Annual \$1.00, Life \$15.00. Dues are payable to Mrs. Laurence M. Shaw, Treasurer, Oak Lawn Public Library, Oak Lawn, Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Officers, 1947-1948

PRESIDENT

STUART C. SHERMAN, Providence Public Library

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. GRACE P. HEY, William H. Hall Free Library

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

H. GLENN BROWN, Brown University Library

RECORDING SECRETARY

MISS HARRIET M. BRIGGS, Weaver Memorial Library

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MISS ISABEL WALLACE, Auburn Public Library

TREASURER

MRS. LAURENCE M. SHAW, Oak Lawn Public Library

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers and

MISS RUTH E. GREENE, Central High School Library

MISS HELEN A. POTTER, East Greenwich Public Library

MISS EDNA THAYER, Providence Public Library

BULLETIN COMMITTEE

MISS MARGARET E. DREWETT, Brown University Library, Chairman

MRS. HELEN E. DEJONG, Rhode Island Medical Society Library

MISS CLARA B. MOWRY, Providence Athenaeum

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE STATE

MISS EDNA THAYER, Providence Public Library, Chairman

MISS CAROLINE A. BOWEN, Weaver Memorial Library

MRS. HELEN S. JERRETT, Old Warwick League Library

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

MISS WEST DEROCCO, Providence Public Library, Chairman

MISS MARY H. FALT, Barrington Public Library

MISS ELIZABETH A. HOUGH, Providence Public Library

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

MISS MARY PIKE, Gilbert Stuart Junior High School Library, Chairman

MRS. BARBARA SESSIONS, R. I. School of Design Library

MISS ANNE W. HANDLEY, Providence Public Library

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MRS. MILDRED A. WUNSCH, R. I. State Library, Chairman

MISS LOUISE M. HIMES, Westerly Public Library

MISS EDITH M. L. CARLBORG, Brown University Library

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MR. DAVID A. JONAH, Brown University Library, Chairman

MISS RUTH E. GREENE, Central High School Library

MRS. MURIAL C. WYMAN, William H. Hall Free Library

RECRUITING COMMITTEE

MISS EDNA THAYER, Providence Public Library, Chairman

MISS SALLIE E. COY, Westerly Public Library

MISS VIRGINIA FOOKS, Providence Public Library

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

MR. STUART C. SHERMAN, President of Rhode Island Library Association, Chairman

MISS EDNA THAYER, Immediate Past President

MISS GRACE M. SHERWOOD, Rhode Island State Librarian

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MISS SALLIE E. COY, Westerly Public Library, Chairman

MR. FRANCIS P. ALLEN, R. I. State College Library

MR. STUART C. SHERMAN, Providence Public Library

MISS GRACE M. SHERWOOD, Rhode Island State Library