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RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

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# BULLETIN

of the

## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 23

MAY, 1951

No. 1

### SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 22, 1951

Parish House  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Greenville, Rhode Island

#### MORNING SESSION

10:00 GREETINGS AND GETTING TOGETHER

10:15 BUSINESS MEETING

11:00 SYMPOSIUM ON WEEDING THE COLLECTION

David A. Jonah, Librarian, Brown University Library, Chairman  
Carolyn A. Adams, Librarian, Pembroke College Library  
Nathaniel Dame, Nathaniel Dame & Co., Book Counselors, Roxbury, Mass.  
Mary H. Falt, Librarian, Barrington Public Library  
William G. Roelker, Director, R. I. Historical Society and Trustee,  
East Greenwich Free Library

1:00 LUNCHEON—RUSTIC INN, Scituate  
(Transportation will be provided)

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

2:15 PROVIDENCE BUILDS A CENTRAL LIBRARY

Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian, Providence Public Library

2:45 CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE MODERN NOVEL

Edwin O'Connor, Author of the newly published novel—The Oracle

Latest information from the New England Transportation Company tells us that busses marked Wallum Lake leave from the New England Bus Terminal, 5 Eddy St. and pass thru Greenville. A partial schedule is printed below:

#### Leave Providence

9:00 A. M.  
11:00 A. M.  
12:00 A. M.  
1:45 P. M.

#### Leaving Greenville

3:20 P. M.  
4:00 P. M.  
4:15 P. M.  
5:30 P. M.

#### Arrive Greenville

9:20 A. M.  
11:28 A. M.  
12:20 P. M.  
2:06 P. M.

#### Arrive Providence

3:45 P. M.  
4:35 P. M.  
4:40 P. M.  
6:00 P. M.

If you are driving, take Smith Street, Route 41. Greenville Center is 8 miles from Providence.

BULLETIN  
of the  
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

R. I. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE  
CATHERINE C. BLODGETT

Providence Public Library  
DORIS L. LEAVENS Providence Public Library  
MARY H. FALT Barrington Public Library

VOL. 23 MAY, 1951 No. 1

### Barrington Public Library

The library sponsored one "Library Night" this year when Mr. W. Allen Traver gave a second kodachrome travelog, in response to popular demand. On this occasion he showed beautiful slides of his eight weeks' trip to the West Coast, visiting our National Parks *en route*. An informal coffee hour followed.

The Record Library, at the end of its second year, continues to be very popular and long-playing records (33 $\frac{1}{3}$  rpm) are now being added. Children are as enthusiastic as the grown-ups over this added library service.

As a special feature for Book Week, Miss Maribelle Cormack, well-known Providence author of children's books, gave a talk on her adventures writing books. She displayed many of the original illustrations used in the stories. The children were much intrigued by her mascot—a tiny stuffed mouse.

Girl Scouts held a display of their handiwork in the Main Reading Room for one week. A group of these Scouts, working towards merit badges, have been given instruction in the use of the library by Miss Alice Franklin, Children's Librarian.

### Brown University Library

Due to the increased use of microfilm by its professors and graduate students, Brown University Library purchased last fall a second Recordak reading machine. Brown has also purchased a Readex reading machine and subscribed to the microprint edition of the Sessional Papers of the Parliament of Great Britain.

The number of inter-library loans has been increasing so steadily at Brown University that the handling of them now occupies almost the full time of one reference assistant. A survey of the volumes loaned last year (856) showed that 550 were made to colleges and universities, 83 to hospitals (all in Rhode Island), 54 to industrial research libraries (almost all located outside of New England), 47 to agencies of the U. S. Government, and smaller numbers of loans to public libraries, art galleries, etc. Loans have even been made to foreign countries.

After a comparatively quiet period in personnel we suddenly had a large turnover in January and February. The Circulation Department lost three assistants and a messenger. The Catalog Department lost a documents cataloger and two typists. Reference lost an assistant. The Social Studies Reading Room lost not only its assistant but also Mr. Elliott E. Andrews, who had been in charge for several years. Mr. Andrews left to accept the position of Librarian of the Providence Journal Company. We were fortunate in being able to fill his position almost immediately by the appointment of Mrs. Marion Allen Sabol, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and the University of California Library School. The most recent resignation has been that of Mrs. Phyllis M. Keeney from the Catalog Department, who had to leave because her husband's business has been transferred from Providence to Durham, N. H.

One of the largest gifts to the Brown University Library this year has been a collection of 643 albums of phonograph records from Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholas Brown together with a card catalog for the 3500 records in the collection. The major works of all the great composers as played by the leading symphonic orchestras are represented. The Library hopes to have the records arranged and ready for use next fall.

This collection, added to the Sackett Collection, the Carnegie Music Col-

lection, and several other small collections, brings the total number of phonograph records in the Brown University Library to well over 10,000.

Last year a Vocarium record playing unit was purchased for the Pembroke Library and about a hundred of the Harvard University Vocarium records. The response has been so good by the Pembroke students that we have now secured for the John Hay Library a double Vocarium unit for the benefit of the men students. The purchase of this special equipment was made possible by donations from two friends of the University.

Another fine gift consisted of 221 books on architecture, from Mrs. William R. Walker. Most of the books are large folios, 18th and 19th century works by standard authors. Among them are Piranesi's *Opere* in 25 volumes, Carter's *Ancient architecture of England*, Palladio's *Architecture*, and Gibbs' *Architecture*.

Dartmouth College Library has presented us with several cartons of miscellaneous American poetry for the Harris Collection and we have found a larger number than we had anticipated of useful titles.

The McLellan Lincoln Collection has had loaned to it by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Walling of Boston a very fine miniature of Lincoln painted from life in 1864 by Daniel Huntington (1816-1906). During the Civil War period Huntington painted portraits of many of the prominent military figures. Generals Grant and Sherman and Admiral Dupont among them, and also companion portraits of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

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### Elmwood Public Library

This has been a busy, and on the whole happy, year at the Elmwood Public Library.

In July we were greatly saddened by the passing of Miss Bertha C. Johnson, who for several years had served the library faithfully and ably as President of its Board of Directors. Missing Miss Johnson as we do, we

nonetheless feel fortunate in her successor Mrs. Norman H. Whitehead, who took over the leadership in the fall.

Many physical changes have been made in the library this year and a list of our building improvements is a pleasant one to contemplate. These changes include: new paint and a partial cork floor in the Children's Room; new paint and fluorescent lighting in the staff offices and work rooms; stepped up lighting in the reading rooms; a new varnish job on the tables and chairs throughout the building; a bronze hand rail on the front steps; a new landscaping job on the grounds; and the construction of a fire exit from our Auditorium.

Our Great Books Group, now in its third year continues to flourish under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy C. Piez.

Events in the Auditorium have included a Rum-Tique Sale and films on Sturbridge Village, Hawaii, Mexico, Sweden, India and Yugoslavia.

Last but not least, the Providence Public Schools, the Providence Public Library and the Elmwood Public Library sponsored a Book Fair for students which received nationwide publicity in library and educational magazines.

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### Jamestown Philomenian Library

At the annual meeting October first, 1950 the following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Fred Caswell; vice president, Julian Collart; secretary, Mrs. Alfred Bowser; treasurer and librarian, Mrs. Frank Braman. Miss Catherine Carr was elected assistant librarian. She was succeeded at her death in November by Mrs. Hope Carr, who was elected at a special meeting to fill this vacancy.

Reports were read on the installation of the Coleman furnace and the piping of water into the building. It was reported that the Philomenian Library had not yet been adversely affected by the popularity of television.

On the contrary, library statistics for 1950 show an increase in new-members and a larger circulation of books than were shown the previous year.

### **Providence Public Library**

Ground for the addition to the Central Library was broken December 18th and extensive changes in the present building were started. A new driveway, garage and loading platform near the Greene Street side of the property are nearly completed. Adjacent receiving and shipping and inter-branch delivery areas will soon be ready for use; rooms for supplies and building maintenance equipment, also. Locker rooms and lavatories for librarians, messengers and cleaners are in process.

The garage next to the boiler house has been sold and removed. The old driveway gates and walls are down, the gates to be moved to the new drive.

Excavation for the new wing on the former parking lot is completed and the shoring along the sidewalks has been installed. Concrete piers are being poured to support the main floor of the new building.

Because of the delay in receiving structural steel, the original time-table for construction has been changed. It is hoped that the entire project may be completed by late 1952.

When the Honorable John J. Hearne, Irish Ambassador to the United States was in Providence to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, he requested that a visit to the Alfred M. Williams Memorial on Irish Culture in the Providence Public Library be placed on his itinerary. Accompanied by Governor Roberts, Mayor Reynolds, representatives from the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and members of the Williams Memorial Advisory Committee, the Ambassador spent some time examining the splendid collection of 18th and early 19th century Irish street ballads in the Memorial. He also asked to see other parts of the Library remarking "Libraries are a great thing for the people".

A notable addition to the Williams Memorial was made on March 3, when the Library acquired a copy of the reproduction of *The Book Of Kells*. The original is one of the treasures of the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. The calligraphy and illumination of the Four Gospels in Latin with notes in Gaelic is the work of Irish monks and is believed to have been produced as early as the 8th century. The reproduction in two volumes is now on exhibition at the Central Library and will remain on view indefinitely.

Mary Gould Davis, author, editor and former Supervisor of Story telling in the New York Public Library conducted a three-day workshop in December for Branch and Children's Librarians of the Providence Public Library. The fascinating lectures and stimulating demonstrations in story-telling given by Miss Davis at Central and at South Providence and Rochambeau Branches were received with great enthusiasm.

The Providence Public Library cooperated with the Providence Public Schools and the Elmwood Public Library in sponsoring Providence's first city-wide Book Fair, held at Hope High School, March 5-9. Authors, editors, illustrators, librarians, teachers and students met together to exchange ideas on books and reading.

On May 4, Miss Gertrude E. Brown, Cashier, retired after twenty-five years of service in the Library. Miss Brown was the Librarian's Secretary from 1926 through 1942. Miss Ann M. Rafford assumed the duties of Cashier on May 5.

New members of the Library staff are Mrs. Marjorie F. Brady, Assistant in the Art Department, Mrs. Ann W. O'Leary, Assistant at Wanskuck Branch and Walter W. Curley, Assistant in the Business and Industry Department. Last October, the position of Public Relations Librarian was established on a full-time basis after several years of part-time coverage. A former staff member, Alice V. McGrath was appointed to the position.

Persons interested in applying for admission to the Library's 1951-52 Training Class should see the Assistant Librarian before June first. The six-months course is conducted annually to fill positions on the Staff of the Providence Public Library. Included in the 1950-51 Training Class for Librarians are Natalie F. Cook, Barbara J. Crocker, I. Betty Fein, Marjorie Kuit and Louise N. Makepeace.

#### **Redwood Library and Athenaeum**

A twenty percent increase of shareholders is reported as the result of a successful drive conducted by the Redwood Library this year. New equipment has also been recently added to the library. In December a new 240 drawer mahogany card catalog case for non-fiction entries was installed, making possible the use of standard size catalog cards.

The old and valuable holdings of the library are now housed in a rare book collection and research center for which three rooms have been set aside. There has long been a need to segregate this material from the general collection, better to serve the demands of students and research workers.

#### **Rhode Island Historical Society**

The Rhode Island Historical Society, a privately owned institution serving the public, contains the third largest genealogical collection in New England. In the field of Rhode Island history and Rhode Island imprints the Society's collections are unequalled. The Society owns items printed by James Franklin in 1728, and its file of the Providence Gazette, beginning in 1762, is complete except for four issues.

Several collections of valuable manuscripts are to be found among the thousands in the library. Enriching its collection of local industrial history are the Almy and Brown papers, the earliest records of an American textile factory. The record of Rhode Island's overseas trade in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries is found in

the Nightingale-Jenckes papers, the Champlin papers, the Obadiah Brown papers, and the Custom House papers (1790-1894). Other collections of manuscripts are valuable sources of legal history, while the Foster, Ward, and Hopkins papers are rich background material in eighteenth century history. There are many other miscellaneous but important document sources in the Rhode Island Historical Society, too numerous to list.

#### **Rhode Island State Library**

We report the development of two new free public libraries, namely: Foster Public Library, Mrs. Sally Simmons, President of the Association; Mrs. Elinor R. Dorman, Acting Librarian. The Town of Foster has recently voted an appropriation of \$100. for its support and advanced the appropriation for the other library in said town, The Tyler Free.

West Greenwich, although cared for through the Library Extension Service in five locations, has not had a free public library of its own. The construction of a new school building has released the old school building for development of a public library, for which plans are well underway.

Please search your duplicates. Gifts from your shelves will help to augment the initial collections.

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The General Assembly at the present session granted an additional appropriation of \$5 000.00 for the Rhode Island State Library's Book Pool for the Armed Forces. This, with other appropriations from cities and towns and special releases from Welfare Funds in local and overseas Installations, provides excellent financial bulwark for the Book Pool's Program.

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If you have duplicates in English and in German, carefully chosen, suitable for replacements in a high school library in Karlsruhe, U. S. Zone, Germany, we shall be glad to ship them with our own gifts. We have received letters of appreciation from the Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe, the Mayor, the

Director of the school and from 16 young men and women enrolled therein.

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The final date for receipt of your book orders to be paid from state aid is the *first of May, 1951* to allow a month for processing, return of invoices and payment of bills before the State's books close the 30th June.

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If you are a professionally trained librarian and interested in a position in the library service of the U. S. Army in the overseas commands (Japan, Germany, Panama, Alaska, Okinawa or State-Side) basic salary \$3,100.00 with transportation, subsistence, housing, etc., write to Miss Helen Minaker, Librarian, Recruiter, Overseas Affairs Branch, Civilian Personnel Division, Department of the Army, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington 25, D. C.

#### **University of Rhode Island Library**

With its transition from State College Library to State University Library the administration of this institution hopes to be able to enrich the library's resources and expand its services.

Miss Diana Hutchinson, who left the library staff to be married, is now working in the Newark, New Jersey, Public Library. She has been succeeded as assistant librarian in charge of government documents by Mrs. Elizabeth Cook Bartlett, a graduate of the Simmons College Library School. Mr. F. P. Allen, University librarian, represented the Rhode Island Library Association at the Midwinter Meeting of the A. L. A. Council in Chicago in January.

The University of Rhode Island Library took part in the Book Fair at Hope High School sponsored by Providence public schools and libraries, contributing rare items from its extensive Rhode Island Collection.

#### **William H. Hall Free Library**

The residents of Edgewood have enthusiastically attended two fine programs sponsored by the Friends of the William H. Hall Free Library.

On Tues., Feb. 20th, the Rev. Robert H. Schacht of the First Congregational Church (Unitarian) of Providence gave an interesting lecture on "The man of the century—Albert Schweitzer." This was held in the Music Room. Recordings of Schweitzer's organ music were played at the beginning of the evening.

As a co-sponsor of World Affairs Week, the Friends presented at their meeting on Wed., Mar. 14th, Devere Allen, Editor of Worldover Press, who spoke on "Is there a chance for peace?" Mr. Allen, with his experience in foreign reporting and a background of 25 years spent in the study of international questions, was thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience. The speaker was introduced by one of the "Friends", Judge Patrick P. Curran.

The two remaining meetings for the season will be "An old-fashioned square dance" on Thur., Apr. 12th, with Mr. Andrew J. Reed, Jr. as caller and Mr. William E. Toll as pianist and on Wed., May 9th, a colored film with sound effects "Song of the mountains—Lake Louise and Banff." shown by Mr. Milton L. Goff. All meetings are open to the public. The officers for the current year are Chairman, Mrs. Robert L. Craig; First Vice-Chairman, Mr. Roger E. Hard; Second Vice-Chairman, Mr. Wendall H. Brown; Treasurer, Mr. Joseph W. Crump and Secretary, Mrs. Leroy B. Lundblad.

A large exhibit of Japanese material and prints loaned by Col. J. L. Daneker was on display during March.

The circulation of the Pocket Books and the Pay Collection has increased this winter. Since January the circulation in the Juvenile Department has increased each month and the number of supplementary reading deposits to the schools has also multiplied. An 8th Grade Reading Club meets at the Library every two weeks for Library instruction.

#### **New England Library Association**

The New England Library Association will hold its 1951 Conference at

the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass., October 10-13 and hopes for a large attendance. The theme of the Conference is "Arsenals of a Democratic Culture".

The Caroline M. Hewins lecture sponsored by the Children's Section of the Massachusetts Library Association will be given on Saturday, October 13. The speaker will be L. Felix Ranlett, Librarian of the Bangor Public Library. His subject: "The Youth's Companion".

The R. I. Library Association will be responsible for Friday afternoon program. The following are members of the committee which is planning the program for that day: Miss Doris Chapdelaine, Harris Institute Library, Chairman; Miss Carolyn Adams, Pembroke College Library; David Jonah, John Hay Library; Miss Ruth C. Coombs, Clarence E. Sherman and Miss Edna Thayer, Providence Public Library; J. Alden Manley, Redwood Library.

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#### **Children's Library Association American Library Association**

Anyone interested in library work with children is invited to join the Children's Library Association, a section of the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People of the American Library Association. When you become affiliated with the Children's Library Association you help by your support to further its work with children. You receive the magazine *Top of the News* with booklists, up-to-the-minute ideas for your work, and news of children's library work throughout the country. You have an opportunity to vote for Caldecott and Newbery Awards and, above all, you identify yourself professionally.

Children's Library Association dues are included in the A. L. A. dues. You merely choose the section if you wish to identify yourself with it.

Application forms for membership may be had from the undersigned.

VIRGINIA FOOKS  
Providence Public Library

#### **Alumni Association of the Columbia School of Library Service**

The Executive Board of the Alumni Association is anxious to increase the number of dues-paying members this year. Among the Association's projects is the publication of Library Service News which keeps members informed about their colleagues, the activities of the Association, and the instructional program of the School of Library Service. An outright grant of \$450 annually for a scholarship is made to an outstanding student in each year's class by the Association. The Association also sponsors the annual Alumni Day meeting at the school, and the recruiting of desirable candidates for the profession is one of its major objectives. All Columbia S. L. S. graduates should be interested in furthering this professional program. Rhode Island alumni who are not members of the Association may join by getting in touch with Catherine C. Blodgett, Chief Cataloger, Providence Public Library. Dues are \$1.00 annually.

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#### **Whaling Log Books**

A check-list of all known log books of American whaling vessels is being compiled by Stuart C. Sherman of the Providence Public Library. 2,039 have been located so far in many parts of the country including Hawaii. Individuals or libraries owning log books are urged to communicate with Mr. Sherman.

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#### **Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers**

As we go to press, Rhode Island catalogers and reference librarians have attended the spring meeting of the Boston Regional Group at the Boston Public Library on Thursday evening, May third. Following a coffee hour at seven o'clock, there was a brief business meeting. A stimulating panel discussion on the topic "Reference Use of Subject Headings" was the feature of the evening's program, with Miss Ruth Leonard, associate professor at Simmons College, serving as moderator.



# RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Officers, 1950-1951

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## FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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