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BULLETIN

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 25

MAY 1953

No. 1



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PROGRAM OF THE R. I. L. A. MEETING

May 19, 1953

At Westerly Public Library, Broad Street, Westerly

- 10:15 GREETINGS
from Mr. Karl G. Stillman, President of the Memorial and Library Association
of Westerly
- 10:30 BUSINESS MEETING
- 11:15 "THE CONNECTICUT PLAN"
Miss Helen Ridgway, Chief, Bureau of Libraries, State Department of Education,
Hartford, Conn.
- DISCUSSION
- 12:45 LUNCH, Y. M. C. A., 95 High Street
- 2:15 "WHAT MAKES A GOOD CHILDREN'S BOOK"
Miss Doris Patee, Children's Book Editor, The Macmillan Company, New York
- "THE LIBRARY AND THE MUSEUM: What are our Joint Responsibilities to
Europe?" Mr. Francis Henry Taylor, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of
Art, New York City.

The cost of the luncheon will be \$1.35.

Nearby places of historic interest or picnic spots will be suggested at the Meeting, if members wish to plan to visit them in the late afternoon.

Sketch on Speakers

Miss Ridgway was formerly Public Library Specialist at A. L. A. Headquarters, so she is known throughout the country. Miss Patee has been president of the Council of Children's Book Editors and active in developing the observance of Children's Book Week. Mr. Taylor has a world wide reputation as a museum director and writer on art. He was director of the Art Museum, Worcester, Mass., before going to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

WESTERLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library movement in Westerly was a very early one. The first public library in the Colony of Rhode Island was established in Newport in 1700, and the second collection of books designed for public use was established in 1717 in Westerly as the result of a bequest by a Newport clergyman, Rev. William Gibson. The books were put into the hands of the town clerk of Westerly "to be loaned at his discretion to such brethren as might desire the use of them."

From 1717 to 1891 the library movement in the town had its ups and downs, but very few years elapsed even during the most depressing stages without some attempt being made to revive and renew an interest in its affairs. The Pawcatuck Library Company, the first well organized group, was incorporated in 1797, one of the earliest of the so-called "social libraries" in the state.

In 1848, Henry Barnard, at that time School Commissioner of Rhode Island, personally selected and purchased 2,050 volumes for the Library, using for this purpose the then enormous sum of \$1100 which was entrusted to him by the Library Committee. It is doubtful if a wiser choice of purchaser could have been made. Mr. Barnard who later became first Commissioner of Education of the United States was a man of vision and a pioneer in the idea of popular education. A number of the books he selected, still bearing the old bookplate

of the Pawcatuck Library Company may be found on the shelves of the Westerly Library today.

As the years passed the Directors of the Library realized that a library free to all the townspeople would have greater usefulness than one limited to subscribers only. Again and again they offered the Library to the Town, but no definite action was taken. At last in 1891, the town seemed ready to take over the responsibility.

At the same time a strong sentiment was abroad for the erection of a Civil War monument in the center of the town. Just at this time, Stephen Wilcox, president and founder of the Babcock & Wilcox Company, and a native of Westerly, proposed the erection of a memorial building, one that would contain a public library, rooms for the posts of the Grand Army as long as needed, and other features that would make it a real community center. He offered the land and a substantial sum of money with the proviso that a similar amount be raised by the people of the town. Thus the structure was laid for the present library system of Westerly.

Under the direction of Mr. Wilcox the Memorial and Library Association of Westerly was incorporated in 1891 to administer the Library and Park. Though all of the services of the Library are entirely free to the public, its administration is still in the hands of a private corporation, and the town has not yet had to assume responsibility for the Library which it hesitated to accept so many years ago.

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Whether you can get to convention in Los Angeles or not (and most of us can't) remember your A.L.A. dues payable at any time to Marion F. Holt, Membership Chairman, Providence Public Library.

The Newport Historical Society will feature during the summer months the centennial of the expedition of Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry to Japan in cooperation with the Centennial Anniversary Commission appointed by Mayor Dean Lewis of Newport. The librarian would be glad to hear from anyone who has in his or her possession interesting material concerning Commodore Perry and his naval career. Born in Newport, he entered the naval service at the age of fourteen and had a long and distinguished record culminating in the expedition to Japan in 1853.

NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The next Conference of the New England Library Association will be held at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass., September 30-October 2, 1953. General sessions are planned for Wednesday afternoon, September 30, Thursday morning and evening, October 1, and a banquet on Friday night, October 2. The New Ocean House is planning an interesting barn dance for Wednesday evening. Periods have been set aside for meetings of the Special Libraries Association, State library associations, and other special groups. A large number of exhibitors have already expressed their intention of exhibiting both books and library supplies. A preliminary program will be mailed to all libraries in the New England area about the middle of May.

You are invited to join the Children's Library Association, a section of the American Library Association. The Association invites to its membership anyone interested in library work with

children. Membership blanks may be obtained from Helen M. Doolan, Chairman for Rhode Island, Providence Public Library.

The Junior Members Round Table of the American Library Association is anxious to increase its membership with a view towards establishing state chapters of its organization. Special attention is called to its "Newsletter" which is mailed to its several hundred members, containing a listing of openings of particular interest to young librarians. This is a FREE Placement Service. The job advertisements are printed without charge.

Anyone interested in joining the Junior Members Round Table should contact Mr. Daniel W. Hagelin, Chairman, 4818 W. 19th Street, Cleveland 9, Ohio.

The Unesco Gift Coupon Plan, which provides educational, scientific, and cultural supplies and equipment where they are needed abroad, is to have the help of libraries in the form of an informational program under sponsorship of the International Relations Board of the American Library Association.

Exhibit materials about the plan, and informative materials explaining how it establishes direct relationships between donors and recipient groups in the free countries, will be provided libraries which wish to participate, according to the Board Chairman, Douglas W. Bryant, of Harvard College Library.

Libraries themselves will not sell the coupons, it was explained, but present the information. The coupon books will be sold by voluntary community groups or may be obtained direct from Unesco. Equipment furnished through the plan ranges from laboratory equipment and supplies to vocational and handicraft tools, and audio-visual materials.

The project for libraries is being directed by Mrs. Rae Cecilia Kipp, Harvard College Library.

BULLETIN
of the
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

R.I.L.A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

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Wm. H. Hall Free Library

MARION F. HOLT
Providence Public Library

ISABEL S. WALLACE
Auburn Public Library

Vol. 25 MAY, 1953 No. 1

**FROM THE FOUR CORNERS
OF THE STATE**

Auburn Public Library

The Auburn Public Library has doubled the amount of reference work with children during the past year. Because of this, many new reference books have been added including two new encyclopedias.

Barrington Public Library

Miss Mary Falt left Barrington Public Library in August to become librarian in Glastonbury, Conn. She was succeeded by Miss Susan E. Demery.

In February the library had an art exhibition showing the paintings of Miss Harriet Briggs, former librarian at East Providence.

Mr. Robert Meyersahm retired from the Board of Trustees after serving in this capacity for eighteen years. The

Library Staff gave a tea for him at the library on Sunday, March 15th. Mr. Henry Chaffee, trustee of the Providence Public Library has been appointed to succeed Mr. Meyersahm.

Brown University Library

The engagement of Miss Carolyn A. Adams, Librarian of Pembroke College, to Mr. Rowell L. Waller has been announced. A June wedding is planned. Mr. Waller is on the staff of The New York Public Library.

Mr. John G. Buehler, who had been on leave for military service, returned to the Reference Department the first of January.

Miss M. Elizabeth Perkins, formerly in Charge of the Biological Sciences Library, was married last summer to Professor Walter C. Stanley of the Psychology Department and resigned in September. Mrs. Josephine R. Carson, of the Catalog Department, was transferred to the Biological Sciences Library to be in Charge.

Mr. H. Glenn Brown, Supervisor of Readers' Service, is on leave of absence for the second semester of 1952/53. In addition to working on a Directory of Rhode Island printers, booksellers and others connected with the book trade in the State before 1865, Mr. Brown also plans a trip to other New England colleges to study the Library Orientation programs that are in effect. During Mr. Brown's absence, Miss Lydia M. Gooding has been made Acting Supervisor of Readers' Service.

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Miss Adams and Miss Joan Powers, a student assistant, represented Pembroke College at the exercises attending the dedication of the Julia Rogers Library of Goucher College on the new campus at Towson, Maryland, April 10 and 11.

Under the Farmington Plan for the acquisition of foreign publications of research value Brown University Library was assigned the field of modern Italian language and literature. The plan, which went into operation in 1949, has been gathering momentum ever since. During 1951 and 1952, Brown received 1,234 and 1,161 volumes respectively. The total number of volumes that was received from Italy in all subjects was 5,258 and 4,966 volumes respectively. Brown University has felt for some time that the selection of publications was on a too liberal basis and recently has asked that some of the more ephemeral publications be eliminated. The Brown University Library is also responsible for publications in American literature. However, the number of volumes in this field published abroad during the past three or four years has been almost negligible.

Isaac Ray Medical Library Butler Hospital

The library has shown considerable growth during its first year. There has been much interest in the growth of the book collection and many valuable gifts have been received. The papers and correspondence of G. Alder Blumer, M.D., Superintendent of Butler Hospital from 1899-1921, were given by Miss Mary Blumer. This is a most valuable addition to the historical collection.

Seminars and conferences for the Medical Staff have been held at the Library throughout the year. Dr. Gregory Zilboorg, Consultant in Psychotherapy and Research, has held bi-weekly seminars. Dr. F. C. Redlich, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, Yale University, talked informally on "Recording devices for

psychiatric interviews and examinations". Dr. Paul D. MacLean, of the Department of Neurophysiology at Yale spoke on "Visceral brain and emotional behavior". Other visitors were Dr. Robert P. Knight, Medical director of the Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge and Dr. Daniel Blain, Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association.

The first issue the Bulletin was published in February. It is to be published quarterly and will provide an organ for the expression of current interests and research projects of the Medical Staff.

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Davisville Free Library

On July 18th a Lawn Party was held at the library featuring a doll carriage parade and a contest for decorated bicycles.

New members of the association were elected in July, and an increase in book circulation was noted.

World War Records II Division of the State Library, succeeds to her position, combining his present duties with this new work, assuming this position January 4, 1953. Mr. Jackson is eminently qualified; has been liaison officer for the State Library in close relation with research at the Rhode Island Historical Society and State Archives; member of the Varnum Continentals in East Greenwich, and the Graves Registration Commission created by the Legislature in 1950, with members appointed by the Governor.

The final date for the filing of book order requests from State-Aid Appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953 is the first of May. This gives the Assistant time in which to process the orders through the State Department of Finance, substitute other titles for those reported out of print or out of stock, and prepare the accounts for State Audit in June. At the close of the 1952 fiscal year, there remained an unexpended balance of \$1,500.00 from the State-Aid Appropriation. The State Librarian obtained permission from the Budget Officer to use this sum for technical professional texts to be loaned through Library Extension Services to free public and school libraries in this State organizing or reorganizing.

At the close of the 44th legislative day of the 1953 January Session of the Legislature, 369 Senate bills had been introduced into the General Assembly and 437 House bills, the major part of

which were drafted by the State Librarian and processed by the Staff.

Quoting from the Report of the Joint Special Committee to study major changes in the Rules of Both Branches of the Legislature, December 29, 1952:

"Our State Library has admirably fulfilled its purpose of drafting new bills at the request of State Departments and individual legislators. Under the capable supervision of Miss Grace Sherwood, our library has performed its duties to the satisfaction of both political parties. Our library personnel in cooperation with the Law Revision Commissioner is readily available to the legislators and State Departments desiring research material as well as expert bill draftsmanship.

Therefore, at this time we do not see the wisdom of recommending the creation of a new agency for this purpose."

The Rhode Island State Library's Book Pool for the Armed Forces is now entering its Twelfth Year of Operation.

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Providence Public Library

The 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Library for service was observed on February 4th with exercises in the Providence Journal Auditorium. President Henry S. Chafee presided and the guest speaker was Dr. Charles R. Sanderson, Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library. Governor Dennis J. Roberts, Mayor Walter H. Reynolds and Librarian Clarence E. Sherman also spoke.

Work on the Central Library addition is progressing satisfactorily and completion is promised for September. Following the moving of more than 300,000 books to new departmental and book-stack locations, the building should be ready for dedicatory exercises in early October.

It is hoped that the Rhode Island Library Association will plan to hold a meeting in the new auditorium during the 1953-54 season.

The Library's monthly bulletin, "A Reader's Guide to Books," has been discontinued and has been succeeded by an entirely changed publication, — "Book News".

Library service is to be improved at the Olneyville Branch. A store on the street level of the building is being converted to an Adult Circulation Room. The library quarters on the second floor will be devoted to reference and reading for adults and service to children.

The new Reading Improvement Service for out-of-school residents of Providence has been received with a lively welcome. The Reading Accelerator Machine is attracting considerable attention.

Preparation for a TV program entitled "The Magic Armchair" are in progress. The Library's three radio programs continue on the air.

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Providence, R. I.

Personnel changes are active all over the country and the Providence Public Library is no exception to the trend. The following have been appointed to the staff during the past several months:

Eleanor A. Antonelli, Helen E. Bolster, Constance A. Byron, June E. DeBlasio, Felicia DiNofrio, Sandra S. Eisenberg, Shirley Garreau, Norma R. Garriepy, Dorothy B. Hammell, Jacqueline M. Morin, and Marion W. Ricketson.

In addition to the regular Training Class for librarians beginning in the autumn, a short summer course in July is planned. Mrs. Eleanor G. Pyne, formerly Reference Librarian, is in charge of the training program. A leaflet entitled "A Career with a Challenge" is being distributed.

Redwood Library and Athenaeum

The most important activity of the past year has been the accessioning and cataloging of approximately one hundred volumes purchased in England as replacements for those missing from the library's original collection as assembled in 1747. It is hoped that the missing titles will be acquired during the coming year.

Other time-consuming activities include inventory, weeding and a start toward recataloging the phonograph record collection.

Rhode Island College of Pharmacy

The Rhode Island College of Pharmacy Library had another busy year.

It was used more than ever by both professors and students. The circulation, although still small, has increased a great deal.

In the fall the librarian, Gertrude F. Forrester, gave a short talk to the senior class explaining the Dewey Decimal system, the Dictionary Catalog and the Library of Congress cards.

New fluorescent lights were installed in the library and made a great improvement.

Rhode Island School of Design Library

This year has been exceptionally active, due in large part to new academic courses in the curriculum which have greatly increased the use of the reserve book system. Circulation remained at the same level as during the academic year 1949-50 when student enrollment was at its peak.

There have been several personnel changes. New members of the staff are Mrs. Mary Haig, Cataloger and Assistant; Mrs. Anne Bartlett, Assistant, Slide and Photograph Department and Mrs. Roberta North, Secretary and Assistant. Mr. Americo Izzi, Preparator, who has been on the staff since 1947 was granted a leave of absence in order to serve with the Armed Forces.

Rhode Island State Library

Miss Elisa S. Daniels, Assistant to the State Record Commissioner, has retired because of ill health. Mr. Henry G. Jackson, Executive Secretary of the

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East Greenwich Free Library

A series of five lectures were presented this fall and winter. Speakers included Dr. Chas. Smiley of Brown University, Sevellon Brown III, editor of the Prov. Journal-Bulletin, Dr. Marguerite Appleton of the Museum of Art, Hugh B. Cave, author and lecturer and Ernest K. Thomas of the R. I. Horticultural Society. These lectures were very well attended and the Association intends to continue this program.

At the annual meeting in January Mr. Wm. Greene Roelker was elected president of the East Greenwich Free Library Assn. to succeed Mr. Camilo Rodriguez, who served for the past three years.

Elmwood Public Library

1952-53 has been a busy active year at Elmwood. The most noteworthy thing, as far as convenience is concerned, has been the installation of a 1A Key Telephone System which now makes it possible to transfer calls around the building.

The Great Books Group flourishes under the able leadership of Mr. Hans Wormser, an engineer at the Universal Winding Co. This is the fourth year for this program.

In April the library sponsored a spring series of travel movies in sound and color, entitled "Vacation Days Ahead". Films were shown on the first three Tuesdays in the month and included pictures of New England, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Louisiana, Arizona, New Mexico and Alberta.

The Children's Room had an unusually busy year. One of the many activities was a monthly story hour at St. Joseph's Hospital Children's Ward. This had the double advantage of entertaining the children and giving the student nurses some idea of the value of bibliotherapy.

Greene Public Library

The library held a Public Auction in July. A host of articles were sold, these having been donated and collected by

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members of the association. The tidy sum realized from the auction was put toward the cost of redecorating the interior of the library. This work, completed last December, improved the library greatly.

Pontiac Free Library

The library has been redecorated, inside and out. New fluorescent lighting and venetian blinds add much to the appearance of the interior.

The library entertained at a Children's Christmas Party in December and was host to the annual meeting of the Warwick Public Libraries Association in March.

The Providence Athenæum

The Providence Athenæum is planning to celebrate its two hundredth anniversary this year. Tentative plans projected by a committee, of which Mr. Albert E. Lownes is Chairman, include an open house and tea this spring and an evening meeting with a well-known speaker next fall.

The General Assembly renewed the annual appropriation of five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars for this special program of advertising the State and building good-will. This Special Account for the Armed Forces is not a part of the State Budget.

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Riverside Free Public Library

The period of 1952-53 was exceptionally good. Many improvements were made to the inside of the building, such as new floor, fluorescent lighting, walls redecorated. We have had several fine Art displays from members of the Providence Art Club. They were greatly enjoyed by our patrons.

We have added most of the new current fiction and have an excellent Children's Department. A Story Hour is held every Monday and the average attendance is thirty-five children. Besides the Story, games are played and Holiday Parties are given.

Several donations have been given the Library from individual book shelves and many popular books both

old and new have found their way to our shelves.

This year we purchased a new set of Americana Encyclopedias which are used by students constantly.

Sayles Free Public Library

A very large and successful bridge was held in May 1952 and another will be held on May 15, 1953, the proceeds to be used for the purchase of children's books.

Mr. Fenno J. Porter, connected with the library for thirty-five years and librarian for twenty-seven years died in July. His wife who assisted him for the past twelve years is now librarian.

Sherman Leclerc Free Public Library

In 1952 there was an increase in circulation of 1015 books, which was very encouraging. The library is now open each Wednesday from 1 P.M. to 4:15 P.M.

Summit Free Library

This library is open on Saturday afternoons from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. The library has 7535 adult books and 636 juvenile books and last year circulated 2633 books.

U. S. Naval Air Station Library At Quonset Point

STANDING ROOM ONLY is available at times at the Naval Air Station Library at Quonset Point when all chairs are occupied and 40 or more latecomers have to sit on the deck or prop themselves, book in hand, against the bulkheads.

Open 7 days a week, the library provides officers and enlisted men with books for self education, recreation, professional reading and leisure time interests. A branch at the N.A.S. Infirmary also provides bedside book service to patients, and reading material to doctors, nurses, corpsmen and ambulant patients. A growing increase in circulation indicates the usefulness of both centers.

Recent redecorations have provided the library with soft green walls, and gayly upholstered easy chairs. These, together with shelves bright with plastic jacketed books, make it a colourful and inviting spot for off-duty browsers.

U. S. Naval War College Library At Newport

Mr. Arthur Blessing, librarian at the War College, retired in March 1947 and lives in Lakeland, Florida. The present librarian is Mrs. Emily C. Heffernan.

University of Rhode Island Library

Mr. Francis P. Allen, Librarian of the University of Rhode Island, writes of their Cooperative Agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library. As of April 15, 1953 they are providing library services to agricultural research and program personnel in the New England states plus Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. This is a joint agricultural library program in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library in Washington.

The library will provide services to the field staff of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in this area, as the library which has served this group has been in Philadelphia and is being transferred to Kingston. This means that over 20,000 volumes will be sent from the Philadelphia center and will enrich the library holdings at Kingston. The

library also has a contract which means that certain salary costs and the purchase of additional copies of publications and periodicals will be part of the contract.

Weaver Memorial Library

Mrs. Margaret Maryott from the circulating library of the Book Shop and Miss Barbara Janice Crocker, formerly of the Providence Public Library, have joined the staff of the Weaver Memorial Library.

Some of the juvenile books at the library have been covered with wallpaper and plastic covers and this has increased the circulation.

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The Friends of the Library group at the William H. Hall Free Library have been very active under the leadership of Mr. G. Raymond Haslam. The first program was given by Mr. Milton Goff, a trustee, who showed a colored moving picture "Cruise in the Caribbean". The second program was a lecture and pictures "Across America afoot" by Mr. Stockdale assisted by his dog. In the spring Aristide and Teresa Cianfarani gave a demonstration of sculpture. He delighted the group by modeling the head of one of the audience and his wife added many humorous incidences of their career. In April the Friends sponsored a large bridge to raise money for a flagpole for the grounds.

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During November an antique glass exhibit was arranged in the Library by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leach and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hopps. Both Mrs. Leach and Mr. Hopps are trustees. This display attracted many people

from outside the community.

The book circulation has exceeded that of last year and the number of schools borrowing deposits has increased.

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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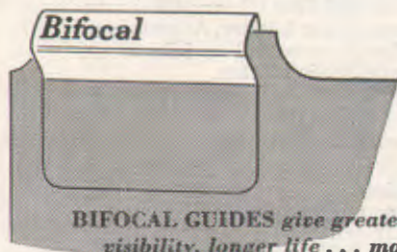
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