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BULLETIN

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RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 26

OCTOBER 1954

No. 2

National Newspaper Week this year was observed October 1-8. Its theme was "Your Newspaper—Freedom's Forum".

We of the Rhode Island Library Association are mindful of the contributions of the newspapers of this state and elsewhere to enlightened citizenry.

We hereby express our appreciation for an important job well done.

Walter Curley,
President

**FALL MEETING OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1954

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL BUILDING

75 Fountain Street

- 10:15 REGISTRATION
- 10:30 BUSINESS MEETING
- 11:00 "THE JOURNAL IN THE RHODE ISLAND SCENE"
Mr. Sevellon Brown, managing editor of the Providence Journal
- 12:00 TOURS OF PROVIDENCE JOURNAL BUILDING
- 2:00 "ADULT PROGRAMS"
Mrs. Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor of work with adults,
Boston Public Library
- 3:00 "THE ADMINISTRATION OF SMALLER LIBRARIES"
Miss Miriam Putnam, Librarian of Memorial Hall Library,
Andover, Massachusetts

Tours

Two tours of the Providence Journal Building are scheduled, one at 12 o'clock, the second at 1 o'clock. Each tour will be in three sections, and tickets will be issued. Please sign up at the Registration Desk prior to the meeting, and receive your ticket. Register early to insure preference.

Luncheon

Because of the tours planned during part of the usual luncheon period, and because of the many fine and varied restaurants all readily available in the downtown Providence area, no luncheon is planned. Your dining pleasure is up to your own predilection and/or pocketbook.

YOUR HOST

The Providence Journal Co. will be delighted to have as its guests the members of the R.I.L.A. We hope you will take the tour of the building which has been arranged as part of the program. If you do, you will learn far more about our operation than can be explained in this space.

The Journal maintains two libraries: Editorial and News. The former is a research unit having the usual reference services, files of newspapers from all over the country, and a good collection of material on Rhode Island history.

The News Library is a ready reference service with emphasis on local persons and events. The foundation of this department is its vertical files containing about 3,000,000 clips evenly divided between subject and biographical headings. These are supplemented by biographical and subject picture files containing some 150,000 items.

In addition, the library has a service file listing the name and service record of every person from the Rhode Island area who enters the Armed Services.

It also keeps a record of all bills introduced in the General Assembly. At anytime we should be able to produce a copy of a given bill or law if anyone requests it by number, by subject or by person who introduced it.

Last, but by no means least, the material for the Journal-Bulletin Almanac is collected and edited by the library staff.

BULLETIN
of the
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

R.I.L.A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

ROWELL WALLER
Providence Public Library

MRS. MARYLAND ESTES
R. I. College of Pharmacy

MARION KESSELRING
Brown University

Vol. 26 OCTOBER, 1954 No. 2

FROM THE FOUR CORNERS
OF THE STATE

Auburn Public Library

The jump in circulation is the big news for 1954 at the Auburn Public Library. A general increase in all departments as well as in the number of new cardholders.

We are proud of the new decorations in our Children's Library. The chartreuse linoleum floor covering accents beautifully the print drapes of tomato red, brown and chartreuse. The walls are pale green with ivory trim. Children do appreciate pleasant surroundings.

ISABEL S. WALLACE
Librarian

Brown University Library

On October 8 Brown University announced the gift from the family of John Hay of diaries and notebooks that John Hay kept while he was acting as secretary to President Lincoln. In the notebooks he recorded his experiences while on special missions to Niagara Falls, Cincinnati and Florida for President Lincoln. These diaries and notebooks are one of the chief sources of material for this important period of American history. Another interesting item is the diary that John Hay kept while he was a member of the American Embassy staff at Paris, Vienna and Madrid.

In addition to the gift the family of John Hay have deposited in the Library a large collection of letters both written by and to John Hay. The first group includes letters that he wrote to his fellow secretary Nicolay while they were in the White House and also while they were working on their *Abraham Lincoln: A History*. There is valuable material here both for the historian and the student of literature since there is a considerable group of papers on *The Bread Winners*, a novel which John Hay published anonymously in 1883. The second group of several hundred letters were written for the most part to John Hay while he was Ambassador to Great Britain and Secretary of State. They are chiefly social and personal rather than official. All this material will be on exhibition in the Special Collections room of the John Hay Library during the month of October.

Mrs. Henry D. Sharpe presented more than 1500 volumes from the library of her late husband. This collection contains, in addition to material on Brown University for the Archives Collection, some interesting local imprints and some fine editions of standard works.

The Library has received as a gift from Mr. John Ruggles Egerton the copy of the United States Patent No. 1 which had been granted to his ancestor, John Ruggles, Brown University class of 1813. The patent is for an improvement on locomotive steam engines. Mr. Ruggles, while in the United States Senate, established the patent system and was given Patent No. 1, which was his own invention.

Mr. Stephen F. Kredel, a graduate of Columbia College, 1952, and a Master's degree in library science from Simmons College, summer 1954, joined the staff in the Catalog Department in September.

Last spring Miss Godding and her assistants at the Annmary Brown Memorial started the cataloging of a very interesting group of manuscripts which belong to that collection. Manuscripts cataloged to date have included letters from Jefferson, Washington, Nathanael

Greene, and a considerable collection of General Weeden papers. A start has been made in cataloging the Civil War papers, both Confederate and Union. Other interesting manuscripts include letters by such figures as Poe, William Cullen Bryant, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and material on the seventeenth century witchcraft trials in Connecticut and the French and Indian Wars.

A major acquisition during the summer in the way of equipment was the installation of a new Public Card Catalog in the Circulation Room. The Circulation counter has to be shortened in order to give more floor space for the new catalog. The walls of the room have been painted a soft green and a mottled brown rubber tile floor laid.

Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library

In February of this year, Mrs. Marion V. Leahy was designated by the newly appointed Board of Trustees of the Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library as Acting Librarian to succeed William F. Foley, former Librarian. The Board is made up of George O. Breault, Chairman, Patrick J. Beirne, Secretary and R. Spencer Kyle, Joseph C. Lovely and Louis P. Spitaleri.

The special activity for the year was the arranging for visits from the 5th and 6th grades of all the schools in the city, both Public and Parochial. The children were given "guided tours" through the building and then short instructions in the use of the Childrens' Rooms facilities to stimulate their interest in the Library. Their response was gratifying and resulted, incidently, in considerably increased circulation.

MARION V. LEAHY
Acting Librarian

Elmwood Public Library

1954 has been a busy year of progress and achievement in the Elmwood Public Library. The fact that our reference and circulation work has been climbing steadily in both juvenile and adult departments has of course, pleased us greatly. This summer alone, we circu-

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lated approximately 3,400 more books than in the same period in 1953.

In September we changed our method of book charging and are now operating with the Gaylord Electric Machine. Since our books had previously been equipped with narrow cards, this meant not only issuing new reader's cards, but also, retyping our book cards. The splendid cooperation of the entire staff made it possible to accomplish this in the summer without hiring extra help. The task of removing the date due slips from the backs of the books was handled by two local Girl Scout troupes who volunteered their services for this operation.

We are happy to report also that with the exception of the main reading rooms our entire building has now been relighted and repainted.

In the matter of staff there are two items of interest to record. In August Phyllis E. Glasener completed her year with us as children's librarian, and returned to the New England Conservatory of Music where she is now finishing her last year as a voice student. She has been replaced by Miss Isabelle K. Layer, who comes to us on a year's leave of absence from the Providence Public Schools. We are glad that we can still report all our professional jobs are filled with professional people.

This summer we were happy to welcome Mr. J. Fred Bloomhardt to the library as a student assistant. Mr. Bloomhardt is studying library science at Simmons College and is gaining experience doing part-time work at Elmwood.

Providence Public Library

The first nine months in the new addition have revealed that the building was not an idle dream. The people of Providence have enthusiastically accepted the building as a vital part of their community's service. Over 50,000 additional books were circulated from Central January through September than in the corresponding period a year ago. The total gain for the system exceeds 104,000, which is our best proof that reading is not "on the skids." This figure also reveals substantial gains in our Branches. We suspect that the spotlight of publicity centered on the new central library stimulated reading over a wide area.

Three significant gifts have been received recently. From the library of William Davis Miller, a trustee, over 1600 volumes on printing, Rhode Island history and general literature; from the library of Ellen D. Sharpe 1400 volumes of biography, travel, early children's books, and art; from Julian P. Smith of New York City 450 Merrymount Press imprints. This may mean that our Updike Printing Collection will out-rank the Huntington Library collection of the famous press imprints.

The following persons have joined the library staff recently: Stanley Perry, Reader's Advisor; Virginia C. Grigg, Librarian Tockwotton Branch; Mary R. Doyle, Children's librarian Rochambeau Branch; Frances R. Phelps, Assistant in the Art and Music Department; and Norbert Bernstein, First Assistant in the Cataloging Department.

The following students are enrolled in the 1954-1955 Library Training Class: Mary M. Aitken, Central High School; Julia P. Barrow, Radcliffe College; Irene Bondarev, Cranston High School; Barbara M. Colavecchio, Mount Pleasant High; Ann Rose DeStefano, Mount Pleasant High School; Elizabeth A. Drane, Wheaton College; Cecelia C. Gouveia, University of Rhode Island; Janet W. Heller, Pembroke College; Marquerite Howard, University of Cincinnati; and Ardemis L. Juskalian, University of Rhode Island.

Redwood Library and Athenaeum

The long term project of replacing the missing volumes from the Library's Original Collection, purchased with Abraham Redwood's 1747 gift of five hundred pounds, has progressed during the year with the addition through gift and purchase of seventy-seven titles totaling one hundred and twenty volumes. The missing titles are now being received more slowly as, presumably, the books desired are the rarer ones.

The number of books borrowed during the past year increased by ten per cent for the second year in a row. We are particularly pleased to note a twenty per cent rise in the circulation of children's books, an increase of one hundred per cent over the number of juveniles borrowed three years ago.

The beauty of the interior of the library building has been enhanced by several projects, the most noticeable being the resurfacing of the parquet floors. We were pleased to discover that our venerable building remains relatively immune to hurricane onslaughts, the damage suffered here being mainly of the "branches and shingles" variety.

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Rhode Island Historical Society

Important accessions to the library during the past year include *Queries of Highest Consideration* . . . (London, 1644) and *The Hireling Ministry* . . . (London, 1652). These two books by Roger Williams were the gift to the Society by the Jewish Community of Rhode Island in commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the coming of the Jews to America. The records of the Blackstone Mill (1808-1954) were an important acquisition to the manuscript collection. This was the first textile enterprise of the famous Providence firm of Brown and Ives.

Miss Dorothea R. Paull of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, joined the staff as Administrative Assistant, in March. Before coming to the Society she was secretary to the president at Emerson College, Boston.

Rhode Island State Library

We shall be glad to make every effort to help those free public libraries which have had hurricane damage in the loss of books. Our duplicate collections are ever changing. Please send request for gift titles to the State Librarian.

Book request orders have been coming to us steadily from the free public libraries. There were hundreds upon hundreds during the summer, but few since the hurricane. Please send them regularly throughout the fiscal year, even though you have just a few selections at a time.

The Governor of Rhode Island, the Mayor of the City of Providence and the State Librarian have received letters of sympathy from the Chief Mayor, the City Government and People of Karlsruhe/Baden, Germany, having heard of our hurricane, with consequent disaster. Your donated books in part have been sent at the request of the Ministry of Education to Karlsruhe in the past for the elementary and secondary schools and to restore a bombed library there. The letters state in part: "Though we are not possible to render assistance, we would like at least to express to you how much we sympathize

with your population so sorely afflicted, and we shall always be grateful for the book gifts having reached us from your state during these past years."

The State Library heard from Hurricane Edna, with water driven across the floor under the French glass doors and through the glass skylight roof. Water damage to the new Encyclopedia Americana and the valuable Indexes of the United States Public Documents.

GRACE M. SHERWOOD
State Librarian

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Salve Regina College Library

Several changes have been made in the Salve Regina College Library since the members of the Rhode Island Library Association visited us last Fall. The spacious state dining room which adjoins the library has been converted into a reading room. While the shelving of necessity had to cover the carved panels of the walls and a portion of the tapestry, the general beauty of the room has been maintained and even enhanced by the hundreds of books which now line the walls.

New double-faced stacks have been added to those already in the original library to take care of our ever growing collection. May we take this opportunity to thank two members of the Rhode Island Library Association who have sent us books during the year. To Dr. Grace M. Sherwood and Miss Jeanne MacCready we say a sincere "Thank you."

SISTER MARIE THERESE R.S.
Librarian

University of Rhode Island Library

One of our chief activities during the past few months has been a building survey. Mr. Metcalf of Harvard University, Mr. Gwynn of the University of Chicago and Mr. Engley of Trinity College surveyed Green Hall and made suggestions for the entire use of the building for the library purposes. They recommended that the lower floor which is now occupied by administrative offices be made into space for technical processes, a new reference room and added stack space.

We also had Mr. Wyllis Wright, the librarian at Williams, here to survey technical processes. He spent two days here in September. We are now awaiting his final report and hope he will have some suggestions that will mean more efficient operation of this division of the University of Rhode Island Library.

F. P. ALLEN
Librarian

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West Greenwich Public Library Association

We have had a very good year. Our circulation has grown quite a good bit in the last three months. There has been an addition of over 50 new books and a big donation of used books. Of course we have the problem of transportation as our members are scattered over an area of many miles.

The West Greenwich Elementary School children have a small library of our books, which the principal, Mrs. Mildred E. Lineham, chooses for them. This is widely used, and seems to encourage more reading among the youngsters.

CATHERINE H. WRIGHT
Librarian

Westerly Public Library

"The Art of Ancient Peru", the most extensive showing of the year in the Museum of the Westerly Public Library, was on display during the summer. It consisted of textiles, pottery, and other art facts, many dating back to pre-Inca civilization.

In early October a collection of thirty paintings of New England Journeys by New England artists was shown through the courtesy of the Ford Motor Company.

One hundred and twenty-five young readers took part in the summer reading project in the Children's Room. This year a sailboat race was the incentive, with laps from lighthouse to buoy to the breakwater, earned by each book read. Each reader had his own boat with gaily colored sails set on the course which was erected in the Children's Room atop a high table.

Several hundred books belonging to the Westerly Public Library were in

the hurricane stricken area, but fortunately, within a year the Library had written an extended coverage policy on its book stock, so that the loss was fairly negligible.

The Library is observing the 60th anniversary of its founding and many unusual events are planned throughout this year.

William H. Hall Free Library

On May first the opening of an exhibition of pictures from Meeting Place was held in the auditorium of the William Hall Library. Included were different types, something of interest for everyone. The pictures were for rent or for sale, some renting for as little as \$1.10 a month. The plan of Meeting Place is to bring genuine works of art into the home or office. The library is glad to do what it can to help foster this project.

On June 17th the Cranston Bi-Centennial Art Exhibit opened at the William Hall Library. Guests were invited, and coffee served. The exhibit, which continued until Labor Day, was held in cooperation with Meeting Place artists and was open to any Cranston artist, former resident of Cranston, or one who had painted a Cranston scene. No restriction was made as to type of

picture or sculpture. They were judged by Mr. David Aldrich and prizes were awarded.

The William Hall entertained the Providence Water Color Club, June 26th. Members met there and then left to paint interesting scenes in Cranston, returning later to exhibit their astounding work (painted in two hours or less) and to have refreshments. Most of the pictures remained in the Library throughout the summer, subject to rentals or sale. Having an original work of art in your home is a thrilling experience borrowers are finding.

Regional Library Examinations

It has come to the attention of the State Librarian that examinations are being held periodically for the position of Librarian, grade GS-7 in the Federal Service. Vacancies in the First Region, comprising the New England States, will be filled from the list of eligible librarians. The salary range for GS-7 is \$4205 - \$4955.

There are also vacancies in grades GS-5-4-3. Applications will be accepted for all examinations until further notice. If you are interested, write to William A. Foley, Regional Director, United States Civil Service Commission, Boston 9, Massachusetts.

THE 1954 ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA

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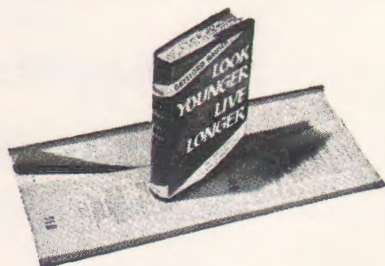
RILA members who heard Miss Flora Belle Ludington, former president of the ALA, speak at our state meeting in May will remember her remarks on the value of the national association to the individual member. The ALA Membership Committee is working for increased membership to meet increased responsibilities and to improve services. Rhode Island needs 16 new members in 1954 to regain its 1951 enrollment. Invitations to join the ALA have been sent to librarians in the state who do not already belong, and members in larger libraries have interviewed prospective members in their libraries. Please consider this an invitation to join if you have not already received an individual invitation. New members joining now will get a bargain, for their memberships will continue through 1955.

Have you sent your membership application and dues to ALA headquarters in Chicago?

LYDIA M. GOODING

*Rhode Island Representative
ALA Membership Committee*

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