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BULLETIN

V. 33^{#2}

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 33

October, 1961

No. 2



FALL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1961

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
Providence, Rhode Island

PROGRAM

- 9:00 - 9:45 A.M. Registration
- 10:00 A.M. Welcome from Providence College Harkins Hall
Business Meeting
- 10:45 A.M. *Observations and Progress to Date*
Mr. John Humphry, Director, Brown University
Study of Rhode Island Library Service
- 11:00 A.M. *Cuba in Conflict*
Mrs. Carl D. Shafer, Teacher for five years in Cuba
- 12:30 P.M. Luncheon Alumni Hall
- 2:00 P.M. *Trustees—Seen and Heard*
Mrs. Edwin Sherman, Trustee, Providence
Public Library
- 3:00 P.M. Library Film: "The Day the Books Went Blank."
Albertus Magnus Hall
Introduction and Discussion conducted by
Miss Elizabeth Myer, Supervisor,
Public Library Services in Rural Areas
- Exhibits will be open in Harkins Hall from 9:00 A.M. to
4:00 P.M.

Directions for reaching Providence College

If you are to reach Providence College by the public transportation system, take bus on Smith Street as far as River Avenue. Walk one block to the college campus. Harkins Hall is the main building.

If you are driving to Providence College for the first time . . . approaching Rhode Island by any route except Route 44 from the west, make the State Capitol building your guide. On the north side of the Capitol is Smith Street, running from east to west. Follow it west to the traffic light at River Avenue, where you turn right to the college. If you are coming in Route 44 from the west, look for River Avenue and turn left.

The parking area is in the rear of Harkins Hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER FIRST is an important date for Rhode Island Librarians. The Fall Meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association will be held at Providence College and every library should be represented both by staff members and trustees. New business, new programs and changes in on-going programs will be discussed—a very full session for one short day.

The Program itself is, of course, of utmost importance, but equally helpful and enjoyable is the contact with friends and neighbors. Especially for librarians who come from small libraries where there is no one with whom to "talk shop" this meeting gives the opportunity to hear others' problems and to discuss mutual ones. Every librarian has what appears to be insurmountable difficulties; bring them with you and talk them over with friends, with members of Miss

Myer's staff or with whomever sits next to you.

Twice each year Rhode Island Librarians get together for a wonderful time to learn new ways and go over old ways of serving the public. Don't miss this big day in your library year!

And, as a reminder, time is going fast and the final day of reporting comes closer for that big event, the Brown University Study of Rhode Island Library Service. Let us look at ourselves and our libraries, welcome Mr. Humphry and Miss Wickersham when they visit and be ready to cooperate and add whatever we have to a program which will mean bigger and better library service for all of Rhode Island. The results will benefit every library; let us help it along.

See you at Providence College on November First!

DOROTHY R. BARRE, *President*
Rhode Island Library Assn.

Narragansett Bay Penman

(In this column we propose, in the future, to run biographical sketches, comments or reactions from our own Rhode Island book people.)

CAPITAL LETTERS

BY SCOTT CORBETT

Not least among the pleasures of writing books for children is the resultant fan mail. Unselfconscious and artless, it is filled with heartwarming and amusing gems of prose. And since no one is better qualified to appreciate these than the librarians who put an author's books into children's hands, I should like to share some of these with you.

The letter that leaves you ridiculously pleased with yourself: "Dear Mr. Corbett: I like *The Lemonade Trick* because it sounds like a real thing. If I didn't know it was a pretend story, I'd think that it was a real story."

The artlessly delightful comment: "I read *Susie Sneakers*. It was just marvelous. Susie is different than any other 12 year old. That is what amazed me so. I am nine years old."

It is always gratifying, too, to receive a letter from a child in a part of the country that is completely different from the place you wrote about. My first children's book, *Susie Sneakers*, concerned Cape Cod. Part of a letter from one twelve-year-old girl read as follows:

"What gave you the idea to write the book? I suppose the summer tourists gave you some of the ideas. What is the weather like in Cape Cod? The iron mining range of Northern Minnesota is where I live. The winters are very cold and this year was no exception. There are about 8,000 persons in our town. We are lucky here for we have access to a very fine Junior High library and public library . . ."

One of my favorite letters came not to me, however, but to a friend with a young son away in boarding school. After sending him one of my books, she forwarded to me his "short favorable review," as she called it:

"Thank you for the book *Dead Man's Light*. It's quite a thing to get a book with the author's signature in it! That guy was no vegetable to think of a way like that to hide a treasure map!"

One of the most interesting uses of the word "vegetable" I have ever encountered!

The questions asked are many and frank, of course. "How old are you?"—not only do you get this one in letters, but also during the question period after library talks. Not that it matters, of course; the figure, when you mention it, is so large as to be incomprehensible. And they are very nice about your great age, too. Generally they find various ways to indicate that they consider you to be remarkably well-preserved.

Most familiar, perhaps, is this: "I would like to know where you get your ideas for the book?" Less familiar: "I would also like to know what hand you write with."

I owe a good laugh to this one from an eight-year-old:

"I like the book about *The Lemonade Trick* and I liked it so well that I sent it to the Hawaiian children. I mean I sent the book report I wrote."

The budding authors are entertaining, too:

"I am 11 years old. Ever since I was 8 years old I have wanted to write a book. I've started lots of books, but I never get very far . . ."

"I saw you [at a school where I spoke] and I think I like to write a story. I got the idea of a kite. I named it after my brother and I. I am 11 year's old. Would you look over this story and see if you can publish it . . ."

Perhaps my favorite, though, came

from a boy who outlined his idea for a book he wanted me to write, and concluded with these words:

"I have read your other books with keen interest. I hope that you will like the idea of the story. I want you to make it sound better and if you have to, change it, but keep to the idea."

With an audience like this to spur him on, what writer could help but keep to the idea?

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE LIBRARY

The College Library is located on the third floor of Harkins Hall. There are approximately fifty-three thousand volumes in the library. The special collections contain many valuable volumes concerning the Dominican Order and Dominican life, as well as an excellent selection of works concerning Thomistic philosophy and theology.

When the college began its first class on September 18, 1919, with seventy-five students, the library was located in a small room on the first floor of Harkins Hall. In 1929, the library was moved to the third floor of Harkins Hall. When Albertus Magnus Hall was opened in 1948, the space of the library was doubled. At the present time, the Administration of the College considers that a new building is necessary. It is the fond hope of the college that a new library will be a reality within a few years.

The College Library is open to students almost every day and evening of the scholastic year. Those who are not students are welcome to use the facilities of the library in the library. Requests for material on Inter-Library Loan will be honored when it is possible to do so.

Very Reverend Ernest A. Hogan, O. P., who has been associated with this library since 1940, is the Librarian.

ERNEST A. HOGAN, O. P., *Librarian*

NEW LIBRARIES IN THE MAKING

Rhode Island College Library

Soon to be under construction is the new library at Rhode Island College, which will command a central position on the rapidly expanding campus. It will be a modern building of reinforced concrete, simply designed, and made decorative by the use of glass and blue stone.

To be developed in three phases, corresponding to the significant stages in the growth of the college enrollment, the library will ultimately house 300,000 volumes and furnish accommodations for 870 students. The library will also include the college TV studio and the Curriculum Center.

In the beginning, certain non-library uses will be made of space on the third floor, where the Graduate

Division will have offices and classrooms. As the library grows, however, this space will revert to the library for its own development.

University of Rhode Island Library

Construction will begin next spring on a new \$2,000,000 library which will more than double the book capacity of the present library at the University of Rhode Island.

The four-story building, of buff brick with granite trim, will provide room for 452,000 volumes in open stacks. The present university library, jammed into Green Hall, has reached its capacity at 200,000 volumes.

The new structure will dominate the Kingston campus from the northern end of a grass mall, opposite a new \$1,717,000 Health-Science building to be started this fall. The library will be 145 feet square and will seat 780 students. The architects hope to

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work air conditioning into the final plans, money permitting.

Construction will be financed from proceeds of the \$6,000,000 College Development bond issue authorized by the voters last November.

The URI administration has estimated that growth of the library will reach nearly a half million books about 1970. Once the present 200,000 volumes are transferred to the new library, Green Hall will be put to other uses. Entrance to the library will be at the second floor level, because of the terrain.

There will be several reading areas on each floor. The books will be in open stacks, and students will be free to go anywhere among them. The interior will be relatively free of partitions, and no rooms will be more than one story in height. The first floor, although below the entrance level, will be illuminated in part by natural light.

Facilities to be provided under current plans include reading rooms, a periodical room, a reference area, smoking rooms, a government documents section and a room for special collections.

For staff use there will be offices, catalog areas, a receiving area also equipped for binding and book repair, and an elevator for employees.

The library will be just west of Taft Laboratory, a focal point on the campus.

Brown University

The new Brown University Library Building, which is being planned by the New York architectural firm of Warner, Burns, Toan and Lunde, is to be located across College Street from the present John Hay Library. The building will occupy a large part of the lot of land bounded by College, Prospect, and George Streets.

The new facility, which will provide space for the administrative offices, central order and catalogue departments, and bindery for the University Library system, will house the University's collections in the Humanities and Social Studies. The building will be seven stories in height with penthouse for mechanical and air-conditioning equipment. The main floor with entrance, slightly above grade, from Prospect Street will divide the building into two zones. On the floors above the main floor will be located the Social Studies, and on the floors below the Humanities. The main floor itself will house the administrative offices, order and catalogue departments, and the information-reference center of the Library.

To the right and left of the entrance will be located a small lounge area where new books of general interest will be displayed, and an exhibition area. Since the main exhibition area for the University Library system will be in the remodeled John Hay Library, the exhibitions in the New Library will be confined to displays of selected new acquisitions and samples, intended to direct the interested student to exhibitions elsewhere on the Campus.

The Humanities area is very similar in plan to that for the Social Studies. It is reached either by the stairway from the circulating area or by the public elevators. The reading room, at the west of the building, is reached through a lounge exhibition area which will serve as a display area for prints and new books in the fields of

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The final step in the Library development will be to modernize the present John Hay building to become the center for the many special collections belonging to the University Libraries.

The University Library Building will provide more than 200,000 sq. ft. of floor space, shelving for over 1,000,000 volumes, 450 seats for readers in reading rooms, 440 carrels, 44 Faculty studies, and 12 conference rooms. But behind the statistics lie a design for service at the heart of the educational experience in a large University.

At the same time the University is also planning a new Science Library building where all the collections in the Physical and Biological Sciences and Mathematics and Engineering will be collected together. This building of approximately 64,000 square feet will also provide on a temporary basis office and seminar space for the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy. A site for the building will be chosen in the center of the area where the science departments are now located. The architect for the building has not been selected.

ANY DAY

By ALICE V. McGRATH, *Librarian*

Somewhere in the world (it is said) always a bell is tolling. In the Library at Rhode Island School of Design that bell is the telephone bell. At 8:45 a.m. at the Circulation Desk it announces a request from a faculty member to put fifty books on reserve for a class in Art History. (Fortunately, the bibliography is on file in the Library). Five minutes later the first student arrives looking for the books.

At the same time another student wants to know why he can't find Ladi-

slaus Moholy-Nagy's book THE NEW VISION in the catalogue. It turns out that he thinks "Moholy" is a first name and has been vainly searching under "Nagy."

The telephone rings again. "Is ART NEWS still being published?" A look in the Kardex reveals that the last issue was received in June and is the summer issue. Well after all, summer is over. So the desk assistant explains that the September issue is probably late and should be coming soon.

"I'm doing an illustration project on THE RUBAIYAT. Please help me to find some material on Persian Art." A lesson on how to use the catalogue now seems to be in order.

In the meantime the bell is ringing in the Catalogue Room. "Is there a hard cover edition of Malcolm Cow-

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ley's THE EXILES RETURN in print?" The only edition listed is the Viking Compass edition and that was reported out-of-print in 1959. So PAPERBOUND BOOKS IN PRINT is consulted. When given the information the inquirer remarks, "Never mind. I think I'll use Cowley's SHORES OF LIGHT instead."

In the Slide and Photograph Department a Fine Arts student is requesting all the mounted color reproductions of Jackson Pollack and Willem De Kooning; another wants to know who owns the original "La Grande Jatte" by Seurat; an Industrial Design student needs all the clippings he can find on the evolution of the modern kitchen and a faculty member is waiting for help in locating lantern slides on the gardens of Versailles.

Meanwhile, back at the Circulation Desk, a student is complaining because he can't find the book WHAT IS DESIGN which is supposed to be on a reserve shelf. The desk assistant explains that the book is out on an overnight loan and hasn't come back. Since OVERNIGHTS are due back at 10:45 a.m. and it is now later than that, the assistant calls the department in which the borrower is enrolled to leave a message that overdue charges are mounting, and then tries to interest the waiting student in other books on design.

An architecture student wants to know the official term for outdoor music shells. He is introduced to the ART INDEX where he finds under the heading MUSIC PAVILIONS a number of articles describing plans for music "bowls." He goes off with several architectural periodicals. Another architecture student is not so lucky. The desk assistant helps him to find an article on the design of a boathouse only to discover that the entire article has been cut out of the bound volume of ARTS & ARCHITECTURE.

"Have you got that new book on color that just came out?—It's large and very expensive—Who is the author?—Well, I don't know—What is the title?—Oh, something about color—But I know it's expensive—Look over this list of recent acquisitions. If it's new and we have it, you'll find it listed here." And all day long, over and over again the questions: Where's Dr. Reed's office—Where are the books on ceramics—What floor am I on—(The College Building climbs up College Hill and the Library is on the upper fifth level)—Where's the Sculpture Department—Is Mr. Stein in today—Where's the pencil sharpener—Where's the wastebasket—? WHERE'S CHARLIE?!!



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NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR AGING

Rhode Island was host to the New England Conference on Education for Aging, August 29th and 30th. The Conference, under the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, was held at the University of Rhode Island. Seven Workgroups met in conference to consider their individual roles in this ever-increasing problem of the aging. The Workgroup on the Role of the Library presented the following recommendations for consideration of all library groups, large and small, national, state, and local.

Local

1. The Library should make available and make known materials, information, and reference services on aging for all interested agencies and segments of the population. Included also should be informational and recreational materials for the aged as well as materials for *all ages* on preparation for aging.
2. The Library should be made available, if possible, as a meeting place for groups of senior citizens.
3. The Library should undertake study and exploration with senior citizen and other groups on use of senior citizen volunteers in the Library.
4. The Library should involve senior citizens in the planning of library services for the aging.
5. Members of the staff as well as head librarians should be involved in local councils for the aging, organizations, and programs so that library services can be coordinated with other community programs for the aging.
6. Each library should study its community to evaluate what is needed in the areas of library services to aging.
7. Each library should include in its

budget funds sufficient to cover adequate service to the aging.

State

1. State Library Associations should recommend that funds be made available for the provision on a state level of a program that will develop and amplify library service to the aging. (This service may be provided by a state extension service or any other appropriate state library agency.)

National

It is recommended:

1. That the Library Services Branch of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare add to its staff, a full-time consultant specialist in library service to older people.
2. That the American Library Association:
 - a. Accelerate its committee activities and research projects concerned with materials and equipment of particular value to older people with limited vision.
 - b. Produce a film which would demonstrate to libraries the possibilities of library service to older people at its best and at the same time would inform and interest the general public in such service.
 - c. Establish criteria for service to older people in its revision of

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- d. Continue publication of *The News Bulletin for Librarians*, started in connection with the White House Conference on Aging.
- e. Prepare a handbook for librarians on library services to the senior citizen.
- f. Encourage library schools to include *service to the aging* in their curricula.

General Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Each of the six State Library Associations in the New England region immediately appoint one member of its Adult Services Committee or some other qualified person to serve as a specialist in library services to the aged. These specialists should be identified by the Adult Services Committee of the New England Library Association at its conference in October, 1961, and should be charged with the responsibility of planning a demonstration project suitable for application at the community level.
2. Application be made for a grant from the U. S. Office of Education for a demonstration project in library service to the aged based upon the findings of the above Committee of New England Librarians and in consultation with the Director of Regional Office I of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Adult Services Division of the American Library Association.
3. Such application be made by an eligible agency with responsibilities to both rural and urban communities.
4. Information and these recommendations be communicated by the Chairman of this Workgroup to

the American Library Association, other agencies sponsoring this Conference, and all New England State Library Extension Agencies and State Library Associations in the hope that action will result.

GIFTS OR WHITE ELEPHANTS?

A gift, especially when accompanying a giver's good will, is a welcome thing—or is it? Every librarian longs for gifts and frequently solicits them. But, breathes there a librarian with standards so lax that she has not groaned at about one-third of the lot! Geometrys, copyright date 1911. The Bobbsey Twins—why give these to a hospital library? Stoddard's Lecturers, peeling leather and stained pages. Or, for that matter, a set of encyclopedias in sparkling condition, but forty years old, or more. History books, pre-World War I vintage. Religious tracts, of the extremist variety. *Read-*

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So, what to do about them? Your Editors pondered this, and then set forth to find out. The results of our questionnaire condense into something like this:

Everyone, if she has the opportunity, accepts gifts only with the proviso that they will be used if possible, but otherwise that they may be disposed of at the discretion of the Librarian. Most, if they are approached with an offer rather than faced immediately with the books, ask to have a list so that she could pick and choose and leave the onus of residual disposal on the donor.

Once the gifts have arrived, with or without warning, obviously everyone uses what she can. Some are particularly alert for certain types of books, especially those of regional interest. Some of the smaller libraries refer any questionable books to a larger library. Several people select and set aside appropriate books for exchange either with neighbors or with professional exchange groups.

The step which seems to come next for most of the answering libraries is some kind of a book sale. These sales vary considerably in their method of attack. A number have a continuing book sale, usually on a special shelf, or from a box near the entrance. The price of the books is normally from 10¢ to 25¢. Other libraries have a once-a-year sale where they get rid not only of the residual junk but in some cases, books are solicited for this sale with the advertised intention of raising funds for the library. These sales may be conducted on the sidewalk in front of the library—in the tourist season—on the front lawn, or simply in the library. Mrs. Hellewell of North Kingstown reports:

“The second method is by means of an annual Sidewalk Sale. Books which have accumulated over the year are sold each summer, outside

the library, and they are augmented by others which have been garnered through solicitation from the public. Those which have a dubious sale potential are put into brown paper bags, tied TIGHTLY, and sold as grabs at a nickel a bag! There is only one stipulation: they are not to be returned! We have been able to dispose of some lulus by this method.

Books which are left after the annual sale are given to the Lions for their paper drive, a mutually beneficial arrangement since with their proceeds they have made a handsome contribution to our campaign for building funds.”

Some libraries, instead of conducting their own sales, give the books to other organizations which are conducting book sales. These sales may be church or educationally sponsored.

Mrs. David C. DeJong of the Medical Society Library has a sale-variation

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which no one else seems to have tried, and which might not be feasible in some other setting. Her sale is auction-like. She is apt to inherit whole estates of books, which vary considerably in value. For those with some value, but which are duplicates with her, she offers on a minimum-bid basis, awarding the book at the fixed date to the Society member whose bid is highest. There are, though, usually a group of books which go on the no-minimum bid basis, which means that the member—if he wants to take the chance—might get the book for one cent. What is left goes for waste paper. She accepts gladly (as does St. Joseph's Hospital) all medical journals except the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (of which there are a plethora).

Another variation is the give-away table. This is most often used for children's books, and is usually pretty

popular. North Kingstown includes records and games as well as books in their sales.

The final resort is the paper drive, either self-sponsored or by some organization. Most libraries named the Lions Club paper drive. *Clark Memorial Library* in Shannock, named the local Fire Company—and that one certainly sounds like an appropriate organization to sponsor a waste paper drive. Narragansett Pier suggested that several neighbor libraries get together and the one with the most storage space (is there such a one?) store for all, so that an adequate amount can be collected to make the waste paper sale profitable.

Perhaps bearing in mind that final disposal is possible—if not always profitable—through waste paper drives, one should not quibble too much over the type of material brought in. The hospital libraries,

however, would like to point out that they hope they are not considered the last resort, for they too have standards. Unwelcome are such books as those which tell of grueling experiences in any war—*Andersonville*, for instance; or books concerned with abnormal psychology; stark tragedies; or, the two-volume fine print masterpiece. If the patient is well enough to hold that one up to read, he is well enough to go home. A tasty murder or so is relished, but not the suspense novel in which the action involves a kidnapping (with possible torture or final murder) which one reads with the heart in the throat. Cardiacs do not flourish on this fare. Nor are they interested in old elementary school books, in either good or bad condition. Books that debunk doctors and nurses are not welcomed with open arms either. Let them read those after they go home; while they are “in hospital,” let the spirits be kept up and faith be unshaken. In Rhode Island at least, the *average* patient library is supervised by untrained people who have neither the time nor the knowledge to read critically either the books or the book reviews. How about doing the “selecting” at the library level before passing your overflow undesirables on to the hospital library.

Our R. I. L. A. president presses home the point, however, that whether welcome or unwelcome, all gifts should be acknowledged in writing. “No matter what the gift or how it is to be used or how sincere the verbal thanks, a simple written thanks is also necessary and can often make a friend or alienate one if not sent.”

WANTED: experienced librarian to take charge of new library in small community. Salary \$5200. When applying state degree and experience. Reply to Mrs. John D’Abate, 12 Reservoir Avenue, Johnston 11, R. I.

“YOU’RE ON EXHIBIT”

“You’re on Exhibit,” a two fold pamphlet covering the public relations aspects of exhibits for libraries is available from the Library Administration Division of the American Library Association.

The pamphlet, produced by the Leaflets Committee of the Public Relations Section and initially distributed at the Cleveland Conference, includes these sections: What Can Exhibits Do for Your Library? How to Make Your Exhibits Effective, and Exhibit Tips from an Artist.

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