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BULLETIN

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 35

April, 1963

No. 1



SPRING MEETING

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1963

POCASSET COUNTRY CLUB

Portsmouth, Rhode Island

PROGRAM

- 9:00-10:00 A.M. Registration
- 10:00 Welcome from Portsmouth Free Library, Mr. Ernest Denomme, Trustee
Business meeting
- 11:30 "*The Very Idea*", Mrs. Natalie Savage Carlson, Author of children's books.
- 12:15- 1:15 Luncheon, Pocasset Country Club
- 1:15- 2:15 Visits to Portsmouth Free Library
- 2:15- 4:00 Panel discussion: *The Humphry Report*
Participants:
Miss Dorothy W. Budlong, Librarian, Elmwood Public Library; Mr. Elliott E. Andrews, State Librarian; Mr. Richard Hurkett, Librarian, Westerly Public Library; Mr. Robert V. Simpson, Trustee, Arnold Mills Community Library
- 4:15 Tour of Belcourt. \$1.00 per person

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING POCASSET COUNTRY CLUB

The meetings will be held at the Pocasset Country Club which is at the foot of Bristol Ferry Road, Portsmouth, about a quarter of a mile north of Mt. Hope Bridge.

Take Route #195 out of Providence to Exit Route #136, take sharp right on Portsmouth side of Mount Hope Bridge and swing under bridge to Bristol Ferry Road. Pocasset Country Club is at the foot of the road.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

by

ELIZABETH G. MYER, *President*
Rhode Island Library Association

These are times when libraries in Rhode Island are experiencing an unprecedented series of surveys, when public attention is purposely directed to the consideration of the status of libraries, and when information of a comprehensive and detailed nature is being made available for study and implementation.

Inquiry, study, and discussion of library conditions are essential if Rhode Island is not to drift, if the State is to regain the momentum that initially signaled the founding of its various libraries. By means of leadership from the Rhode Island Library Association through its Trustee Committee and Committee on Government Relations and by means of forthcoming recommendations of the Legislative Commission on Libraries, opportunities will be provided for citizens, government officials, trustees, and librarians to understand the urgency of library needs and to reach conclusions as to what action appears most sensible, practicable, and vital for satisfying them.

How shall we react to criticism that is ensuing from revelations of inadequate library service in our State? Librarians may adopt a defensive position. Some may say that they are now doing all that is possible, within their means. They may be quite right. Others may not feel accountable, and, from their "ivory towers," may offer regretful comments but may show no evidence of bestirring themselves to ameliorate matters. Others may shy away from the threat of change and cling more tenaciously than ever to practices of the past.

How will trustees act in the face of new, more ponderable definitions of their responsibilities? Will those who are too frequently absent from meetings, or, in the other extreme, too zealous in mixing with the mechanics of library operation, appraise their role with fresh insight? Among trustees and librarians are so very many who have labored earnestly, diligently, and wisely in the performance of their public trust, who have kept library service alive through years of neglectful public interest.

In what light do officials appear who decide the budgets of public libraries? They may rightly affirm that boards of trustees have not petitioned them for more money, and that therefore they could not be expected to know the needs. Or, they may point to modest increases in appropriations which they have instigated. Rarely are they reminded, however, that the increases hardly compensate for the increased cost of living and the devaluation of the dollar; that present library support is actually proportionately below that of years past. As a rebuttal to criticism of low support of public libraries, citizens may stress the heavy expense of school expansion, and reiterate the defensive attitude that: "This is not the time to ask for more library support." The last mentioned reaction seems to reflect and reinforce the erroneous view that the library belongs on the periphery of public consciousness, on the fringe of institutions deserving public support.

We believe that the focusing of public attention upon the needs of Rhode

Island libraries is a timely, salutary development. The concentration of several evaluative studies upon our State does not necessarily mean that other States of the nation vaunt a superiority or that they do not have similar problems. To us, Rhode Island occupies an advantage position as the recipient of so much professional examination. Our State can prove to the rest of the country that it has the courage to face analysis; that it intends to assume a leadership role; that it can demonstrate within an interesting geographical area a pattern of library service which relates to the educational demands of this era.

We do not wish to stand still. We do not want to go back into the past. We admittedly do not know the answers to all the questions of what is best for the future. We do have the means, however, of working out a solution in the right kind of service for our beloved State. Criticism can be a harsh word from which individuals shrink. It can also be a stimulating incentive, if accepted objectively. Motivated by this latter interpretation, we can profit from criticism of library conditions. Let's discuss it, weigh it and evaluate it; adopting for our use those elements of constructive criticism which seem, in our final judgment, to promise the best possible library service in Rhode Island.

HISTORY

The Portsmouth Free Public Library Association

The frail sapling which flourished into The Portsmouth Public Library was planted by the Reverend J. S. Pearce of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1897, when his Thursday Evening Literary Club outgrew crowded private house meetings and their resulting cleaning and coffee-break labors. During a February meeting, the erudite clergyman literally exploded a firecracker with the announcement that it was time for members to spark a public library!!

An organizational meeting of March 13th, 1897 generated great enthusiasm, so much that nothing was accomplished. Five nights later another meeting resulted in the election of officers including Trustee John L. Borden who was a fortuitous selection, for he was reputedly wealthy, and his gentle persuasive wife loved books and learning.

The new Trustees stretched meager money and physical resources, alternately sleeping or crying through

problems haunting the embryo institution. The Library was dedicated at the height of the Spanish-American post-war hysteria, December 29, 1898,

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which will give you a rough idea of obstacles overcome. Our book collection resembled a second hand junkshop of family discards, featuring, of course, Victorian printings.

Once launched, the Library's initial impetus shifted to apathy. It was rugged hoeing, to keep the books circulating six hours weekly, fair weather or foul Winter. Staff, Officers and the weekly cleaning woman essentially shared one passion for books. Repairs and renovations were done by volunteers from the Board and by library patrons.

Throughout the roaring 20s, The Providence Plantations' humble contribution toward our new books and the Librarian's meager stipend, which supplemented the Town of Portsmouth's annual \$300 bonanza appropriation, dictated a parsimonious Library existence. However, our fortunes improved with the passing of our lamented benefactor John Borden, octogenarian, in the arms of his friend-advisor George Hicks who was Library Treasurer. The Borden Trust Fund administered by Town Council, was a \$50,000 vitamin injection for our lethargic eleemosynary institution. Our income crawled up to above the \$2,000 mark! Increased hours and improved book services resulted; oil lamps and bucket flush facilities became superannuated.

Changing times and public attitudes were accelerated by World War II and our Library was rediscovered by juveniles. Curious adults began casually to drop in and to perceive that most libraries were not necessarily prehistoric caves with torpid receptionists dealing in stone tablets and hieroglyphics.

We pride ourselves that Portsmouth Library's 66th year of history deals mainly with people and not statistics. Space limitations oblige us to compress years and highlight the Susan Demery Revolution of 1960,

when she and her seraphic helpers ruthlessly discarded obsolescent volumes which included many 1898 estate windfalls. In a dusty Herculean labor of love, these adamantine angels, recatalogued the 10,000 volumes retained and projected us into a 20th Century operation.

Portsmouth circulated 40,000 in 1962 among 1900 patrons including 1200 juveniles. Public Library Services and Elizabeth Myer, enlightened Federal-State Aid, plus our Staff and heaven-sent Glen Foundation contributed to Progress.

Our budget of \$7,444.02 is inadequate except for minimal services in a 27½ hour 5-day week. With hope and prayer, for a continuance of good fortune, we progress toward a greater dimension in our favorite community.

NARRAGANSETT PENMAN

How a Book Is Born

By MARIBELLE CORMACK

My stories have always come to me out of the stuff that dreams are made of, often from old tales and legends recounted in a family of notably long memories. They frequently concern real people in the family or clan. Others have come right out of the Park Museum's cases.

Often my museum studies took me far afield; and, in these locales, I laid the current story. Such a story is *The Lady Was A Skipper*, a sea tale of the Pacific Islands; and *Star Crossed Woman*, a whaling story, of a Providence man, one Captain Nathaniel W. Soule. Among our South Sea treasures is a giant Ava Bowl he brought from Tonga in Polynesia. In the records of the R. I. Historical Society I found the proof: I even found his signature on his return from the Voyage of the *Bowditch*, an incident which I used in my story; I felt as if I had reached across the

years and touched his hand. His step-grandchildren brought me his journals and log books. There is another signature in the log book collection of the Providence Public Library. At John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, I studied the maps of the Royal East India Company with which he must have been familiar—many islands not “laid down” in his time. We have in the Museum old navigation instruments and charts. With these, planning his methods of navigation was relatively easy. So the story was born with a “time twist” in which a modern girl was washed back in time and was picked up in the Pacific by Capt. Soule. This came out of the haunting memory of *Berkeley Square*, a Broadway hit of the 1920's. The two study trips I made to the Pacific Islands in the 1950's enabled me to give this story authenticity. On the latter trip—in 1957—I served as navigator on an ocean-going ship which travelled over some 6,000 sea miles. The sense of being one with the past among the palm-covered islands was startlingly real.

The story now on the typewriter takes place on the Scottish border in the stirring days of 1688-1730. Its hero is a colorful character found in my family genealogy.

WHAT IS A RARE BOOK?

By THOMAS R. ADAMS

John Carter Brown Library

The question of what is a rare book is one that must rarely trouble the librarian of a small public library, whose primary job is to provide the books wanted and needed by the people of the community. Probably the only time the matter comes up is when a reader brings in a cherished volume for advice or when the library needs to be weeded of little used material. On the other hand, the publicity releases of booksellers such as

A. S. W. Rosenbach or P. Kraus may haunt the librarian with the thought that a volume worth thousands of dollars might be neglected or thrown away through ignorance. The main thing to remember is that very few books out of the millions and millions that have been printed are worth enough to get concerned about. However, it is well to be alert to certain fundamentals about rare books, because you never know when one will turn up.

The first thing to remember about rare books is that their importance rests on the fact that they are desirable as physical objects. A person who wants a specific copy of *Black Beauty*, no matter whether it is the first edition or the seventy-fifth edition, wants a rare book. On the other hand, the person who simply wants the text of *Black Beauty* to read does not want a rare book. All he wants is the text.

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It is here that the complicating element of money enters the picture.

There are two factors that go into the question of value: desirability and scarcity. The first of these is by far the most important. When more people want either the first or the seventy-fifth edition of *Black Beauty* than there are copies to go round, the price obviously behaves in a certain way. In actual practice of course, the desirable edition is usually the first. Still another consideration in the matter of desirability is the physical condition of the book. The collector is in pursuit of a physical object, and he is going to get the best copy he can find. Rebound, well-worn ex-library copies filled with marks of ownership like perforations and book stamps rarely have any charm for the collector unless he knows that it will be almost impossible to obtain a better copy.

The relationship between scarcity and rarity is one that is often misunderstood. They are not the same thing. A book may be very scarce, yet have a low market value. If a person wanted a copy of the first edition of Dr. Samuel Johnson's celebrated *Dictionary*, he could probably get one today. It is still a comparatively common rare book and somewhere in the antiquarian book trade there is probably one in stock. The price would be high, but it could be had. On the other hand, it would probably be very difficult to obtain a copy of the seventeenth book issued by the Harvard University Press. Yet, if you did find one in the out-of-print market the price would probably be a comparatively modest one. Scarcity must be linked with desirability before the book becomes valuable in the rare book market.

The practical question of how to tell a rare book, in the last analysis, is ask an expert. Generally speaking, there are two kinds. People who run

rare book and special collections, and members of the antiquarian book trade. The latter are by far the most important, because their living depends upon knowing the value of rare books. However, they are professional men and women so their time is worth money. The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America have issued a brochure on books and values which contains a discussion of what goes into determining the value of a book, a list of the membership and their special fields of interest. Not all antiquarian booksellers belong to the Association, just as not all librarians belong to ALA. However, the list provides a good point of departure. A copy of this brochure may be obtained free by writing the Association at 3 West 46th Street, New York 36, New York.

I realize that the above comments would not be of much immediate

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value to a librarian confronted with a question by a reader. There are certain very general rules of thumb that are used to determine whether a book is worth preserving as a rare book, although this does not necessarily mean that it will have a high commercial value. They are: any book printed before 1600; any book printed in England before 1700; and any book printed in the United States before 1820. The best way to determine whether a book has any commercial value is by consulting *American Book Prices Current*. This series of annual volumes runs back to 1895 and lists books that fetched over \$5.00 at public auction. The individual prices often need interpretation. One final point that should be kept in mind is that the mark-up on rare books is substantially greater than in other lines of business. One hundred per cent is not regarded as out-of-line for a knowledgeable bookseller.

LIBRARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Kingston, R. I.—Dr. Jon R. Ashton, lecturer in library science at the Columbia University school of library science, has been appointed dean of the new University of Rhode Island Graduate Library School, it was announced yesterday by Dr. Francis H. Horn, URI president.

The Board of Trustees of State Colleges approved the establishment of the school last October 3 effective with the 1963-64 academic year starting July 1 when Dr. Ashton's appointment also becomes effective.

A graduate of Washington State University in 1936 with the B. A. degree, and the M. A. in 1937, Dr. Ashton received the Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1944, and the M. A. in Library Science from Wisconsin in 1951.

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the Universities of Florida, Wichita, Kan. and Coe College from 1939 to 1950, Dr. Ashton was appointed chief of the humanities division of the Washington State library in 1951. For the next two years he was assistant professor of library science at the University of Wisconsin, and in 1954 became head librarian at the University of North Dakota, and editor of the "North Dakota Quarterly."

In 1959 he was appointed professor and head of the department of library science at Northern Illinois University, and the next year was named general adviser to the chancellor of libraries, associate director of libraries, associate professor of literature, and acting director of libraries at the University of Puerto Rico.

He was appointed lecturer in library science at Columbia last year.

INTERSTATE LIBRARY PACT IS APPROVED

State and local libraries in Rhode Island were authorized to provide co-operative services with other states under an Interstate Library Compact, by virtue of legislation enacted at the state house.

Governor Chafee signed the week-old bill shortly after receiving it from the House. That chamber had passed

it in concurrence immediately after receiving it from the Senate, which had acted on the bill Wednesday.

The legislation was supported by the Rhode Island Library Association and by the Legislative Commission on Libraries.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES

By K. K. MOORE, *Chairman*

The Legislative Commission on Libraries has put in a busy fall and winter in its assignment to study the library laws of the state, to review the Humphry report, and to prepare recommendations for new library legislation. Because the publication date of the Humphry report did not occur until late March, and since no report was yet available on the American Library Association survey of state library agencies, the Commission requested and gained approval from the General Assembly for an extension of time to make its complete report on or before January 30, 1964.

In the meantime the Commission has been meeting regularly since last fall. In early November the Brown University Press made available galley-proof copies of the Humphry report. The Commission has been studying his recommendations care-

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fully and has made some decisions on a number of individual points, subject to an overall review when all the points have been considered. It is anticipated that sometime in the near future public hearings will be held so that interested librarians, trustees, and citizens can express their opinions and make suggestions for improved library legislation before the Commission completes its study.

The Commission endorsed the Interstate Compact for Libraries, which legislation has been passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor, thus providing Rhode Island with another means of obtaining better library service by cooperation with its neighbors in New England. The Commission also has gone on record as opposing the proposed change in library trustee organization and responsibilities in East Providence, as an attempt to write library legislation when the Commission was studying the whole library situation in the state.

One change in membership of the Commission has taken place. Senator Charles J. Link (R., Charlestown) did not run for re-election. His position on the Commission was filled by his replacement in the Senate, Mr. Rufus K. Prosser, who had moved from the House to the Senate. Senator Prosser's place was then filled by Donald R. Bonner, the Republican Representative from Westerly.

THE FUTURE OF THE NELA

Very soon every librarian, library trustee, or friend of libraries in New England will have to make a decision which may have a lasting effect on the profession and the libraries in the six-state region. In addition to deciding whether to become a dues paying member of the New England Library Association, he will want to

answer the question: "What can this new NELA do for these librarians and libraries?"

For several years a feeling has grown among those who attended the conferences that the NELA was not fulfilling its potential. Here was an organization, attracting librarians of every interest, library trustees, and friends of libraries, with a base strong enough and wide enough to assume responsibilities and to undertake programs impossible to individual state associations and cooperating groups. If the Association should undertake to fulfill its stated purpose: ". . . to encourage the exchange of ideas, and to advance the welfare of New England libraries," it must undergo major changes in organizational structure.

The Board, therefore, set out upon a thorough revision of the Association's Articles of Agreement. Uppermost in the planning was the need for unity. Although the six-state area forms a geographic whole, its library needs and problems are varied. We have tended to think of particular aspects of the library field. Now we have gradually come to realize that national library service is an indivisible whole.

An adequate secretariat seemed mandatory which raised immediately the necessity of financing. The Committee thereupon decided upon a direct dues paying association with both individual and institutional membership.

The Committee thought that in the future the Association and its Sections might, for example, develop concerns within these areas:

1. Evaluation of education for librarians and library recruitment on the regional level.
2. Regional symposia in acquisitions, cataloging and bibliographic control.

3. Defining the function of a New England regional library system or systems.
4. Exploring the needs for a regional storage-service center, and a study of problems of information storage.
5. Study of the problems of communications between library systems and other information agencies.
6. The publishing of a high quality professional journal.
7. The seeking of grants from government, foundations, and industry for library surveys, projects and studies within the regional complex.

Machinery has been set up to change the old pattern of having the Association run by half a dozen overburdened officers. In addition to the officers and directors, a new Advisory

Council will participate in the decision making of the Association. This Council will be made up of elected representatives from each of the six state library associations, and a representative from each of the newly established "Sections." These Sections will be composed of "members of the Association who are engaged in the same general field of activity or have special interests in common."

In addition the by-laws call for seven committees to assist in carrying on the Association's program.

On the basis of suggested plans and the provisions of the new constitution and by-laws, some accomplishments have been achieved since the October, 1962 meeting:

1. The 1963 annual conference has been scheduled for September 25-28, at Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

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2. An Executive Secretary has been employed and is already at work. She is Mrs. Margaret Materazza of Winthrop, a graduate of Boston University and the Simmons College School of Library Science.
3. Addressograph equipment has been acquired.
4. Preliminary plans have been made to become a charitable corporation in January. This will give the organization perpetual existence; it will provide for limited liability to the officers; and status with the Internal Revenue Department which will allow tax deductions for donations to it. This should also be very helpful in seeking grants.
5. Work is progressing on the formation of new committees.

We now have the proper machinery for an effective six-state association. What is needed now is enthusiasm, a firm belief that a new NELA is needed, and the willing participation of many librarians, library trustees, and friends of libraries if we are to be successful. This can only be done if the states membership become dues-paying members of NELA, take any assignment which is offered them, and become an ardent salesman of NELA to friends and associates.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF NEW GROWTH

From various parts of the state we have been hearing encouraging sounds of renovation and new building. All cannot be lost if there is strengthening at the foundations of our library system. We wondered if others were aware of how much was going on, of how a little here and a bigger bit there, was adding up to continuing life in our communications system, so we approached Miss

Elizabeth G. Myer who is magnetic to news about her rural libraries and got some tips as to where to look.

Here are some of the returns from our questionnaire on what's doing or what is thought of being done.

North Kingstown under Gladys S. Hellewell has a new wing which was completed in the summer of 1962.

The sum of \$42,000, raised through private subscription and a substantial contribution from the Town of North Kingstown, made possible a handsome addition to the North Kingstown Free Library and a complete renovation of the original structure which was built in 1898.

The new quarters doubled the book capacity of the library, provided a beautiful reading room with a deck porch overlooking Wickford's harbour, created an auditorium already in use by the townspeople, and provided functional work areas.

Enlarged space made it possible to provide a music alcove where a record player and a well-chosen record library provide listening pleasure to a growing number, both young and old.

Book circulation continues its steady gain although not necessarily because of the new library. Last year's was 17% higher than that of a year ago. We do notice, though, a marked

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increase in the use of the library by high school students.

The building project was completed without closing the library a day!

Middletown has a happy story to tell too. Helen Anthony reports that a new wing has been added to the Middletown Free Library which was completed in April 1961 at a cost of \$8,600. The addition was made possible by a \$5,780 town appropriation, a \$2,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation and the rest from civic groups, individuals, rummage and food sales.

The addition has more than doubled shelf space for books. Before the addition, the books were stacked on shelves that reached the ceiling, but now they have all been brought down so that they can be reached from the floor without use of a ladder.

The addition has a brightly-lighted alcove for reading and reference work.

The addition has provided us with a large work room where all book repairing and cataloging is done. Before the addition, all cataloging was done at the charging desk and this certainly caused crowding and confusion. The book repairing was done in a corner of the lavatory in a space about 4 feet by 3 feet.

The new wing as well as the old was painted a pleasing green and a new tile floor was installed.

I think the addition has had a definite effect on circulation. The total circulation for the year ending November 1961 was 25,797 an increase of 4,566 over the previous year, and it is steadily increasing.

The Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library has had troubles with personnel who are here today and gone tomorrow, but their work goes on.

Mrs. Lawrence, president of the Library Association, reports for this new library. Except for the space of a couple of months they have operated with two desk assistants, competent as secretaries, but not knowledgeable about libraries. To offset this lack, Mrs. Lawrence and an associate have been taking the University of Rhode Island extension courses in library science.

The library has been open 16 months. We are really not outgrowing our library as we have a lower floor with shelves for over 5,000 books but we don't feel we can operate two floors at this time.

Union Free Library in Centredale has found that they have a striking increase in circulation since they have moved to their new building. Mrs. Veronica Hurley reports for her library that a new 7-member Board of Trustees has been announced for the Union Free Library, and the following has been reported to them on the rapid growth at the new George Street structure. Of 983 membership cards recorded in the 1962 calendar year, 745 were registered at the new building. Comparatively, the number of new borrowers listed for the three preceding years ranged from 310 to 395.

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Barrington is the throes; and, as Miss Sue Demery says, "They keep changing things on me, so I don't know what I'll have when the building is done." She will have at least a new children's room, a small—very small—reference room, a new entrance and a charging area. She will gain room for 20,000 books and lose room for about 10,000. Well, space for 10,000 books is an improvement. Miss Demery hopes that her new addition will be finished by fall so that she can settle in before the school crowd begins to cause the walls to bulge again.

Arnolds Mills dedicated their new wing on September 25, 1960, and those of us who attended the Spring Meeting in 1961 were privileged to see Miss Florence Alden show it in operation. The wing was given by Miss Margaret Stearns to provide room for books and patrons and to keep up with the library's growth. The circulation in 1961-62 was about ten times the circulation of the first year of the library, 1941-42. They are now open 12 hours a week and hope to increase service to 15 hours in the Fall of 1962. Originally the Library was open only four or five hours a week.

North Smithfield has been working under heroic circumstances, but with the advent of the Humphry report, their Board President, Mr. Herbert Cheek hopes that definite plans can get under way in the immediate future for financing both a building and its maintenance adequate for meeting their present and future requirements.

Mrs. Hamlett reports that at present they have a Main Library and three branches located in four schools. The hours for the public are two a week in Slatersville and four hours per week in the Main Library in Union Village. Within this time, they provide service, with two workers for two school days: Monday and Tuesday in two schools, Wednesday morning is given to the children in the Union Village School and on Thursday to the fourth school.

The Main Library is equal in floor space to two cloak rooms—of the older school variety. The ceiling is high and, with the stacks and the librarian's small desk, there is very little room to move any direction but up. Copying must be done in a school corridor.

Hope Library Association's plans for their new building is still in the dream stage—where all buildings and additions start. Mrs. Fuller reports "Our hopes seem big to us though the plans only call for a small two-story building. The land—one of the choicest spots in Hope—is opposite the Post Office on Main Street, at the junction of Route 116. This will be a gift of

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the Hope Methodist Church, whose building we have shared for over seventy-five years. The upper level will give us a street entrance, something we have never had. It will be a simple structure of brick, styled in keeping with all around it.

Mrs. Wegemont, Librarian of the Sherman Leclerc Free Public Library in Cumberland Hill at Manville is in the process of "selling the idea." Though they have nothing concrete as yet to offer, they are cheered by the discovery that most people seem to favor the idea. What better start can any of us have than that: the people favor the idea?

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER AWARD

The *Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award* for 1963 was won by the Barrington Public Library. Presentation of the check for \$1,000, for the purchase of books, was made on Sunday, April 21—the first day of National Library Week. The award is given by the *Book-of-the-Month Club*, in memory of Dorothy Canfield Fisher to the small library of a state showing the most advancement in library work during the year.

The ceremony was held in the large room of the library and about 100 people attended. Among this number were many librarians, the President of the Town Council, the Town Manager and many of the towns-people.

Elliott E. Andrews, the State Librarian, was master of ceremonies and introduced Mr. Winfred K. Priestley, the President of the Town Council, Miss Elizabeth G. Myer, Supervisor,

Public Library Services in Rural Areas and President of the Rhode Island Library Association made the formal presentation to Russell W. Field, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the library. Miss Myer said "The Barrington Public Library demonstrated to the rest of the country that Rhode Island is moving ahead, is capable of attaining standards of excellence, and can provide the quality of educational enrichment that only good library resources can supply." She also said that "The library's growth and aspirations attest to a productive application of professional skills, trustee responsibility, and mutual cooperation."

Tea and coffee were served after the ceremonies at a table decorated by the Barrington Garden Club. Mrs. Field, Mrs. Priestley, Mrs. Henry S. Chafee and Mrs. Robert W. Meyer-sahm poured.

GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

The University of Rhode Island Graduate Library School will open officially in September of 1964. However, courses for graduate credit will be offered in Providence during the academic year beginning in September 1963. Dean Ashton will likely offer two courses from the group listed on the sheet distributed at the April 22nd meeting at Rhode Island College. It is very likely that the two courses he will offer will be *Book Selection* and *Library Procedures*. These will be offered for graduate credit. It is also anticipated that two additional courses from the list: Reference and Bibliography,

Children's and Young People's Literature, Cataloging and Classification may be offered for graduate credit.

The Library Science Certificate Program is to be continued under the University of Rhode Island Extension Division.

Dr. Ashton will have an office in the University of Rhode Island Extension Building and may be contacted there by phone, Union 1-5500, after July 1. He will also have an office in the Mathematics Building, Tyler Hall, at the University of Rhode Island where he may be reached at STerling 9-9311.

We hope to have a complete announcement of all courses required for the Master's degree in Library Science sometime early in 1964. There is a possibility that some work may be offered in the summer session of 1964.

ANY DAY

HELEN E. DEJONG, *Librarian*

R. I. Medical Society Library

It would be ideal if, when the library doors close, each day could be packaged neatly, tied with a proper library knot (for ready reference), dated, catalogued and placed on the shelves of Time, complete. But Any Day is an untidy wench, festooned with bits and pieces from yesterday, the present helter-skelter around her, and making frantic notes for the future. No package can hold her and she is never complete.

But she's exciting. She entertains the whole wide world through print. *The Alexandria Medical Journal*,

Bulletin de la Societe Medical d'Afrique Noire, Revista de Medicina del Estudio General de Navarra, Antioquia Medica, Turkish Journal of Pediatrics, Minerva Dermatologica and many others bring foreign medical research to Rhode Island while the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, through exchange, sends articles abroad.

As a library is of little use without people, Any Day welcomes physicians, students, lawyers, veterinarians, nurses, teachers, persons with problems and those who just want to read about medicine. The telephone rings and rings with requests for information and the directories and dictionaries become more and more dog-eared from constant use.

This is not just a library but is, also, the headquarters of the Rhode Island Medical Society so Any Day has committee meetings and takes part in campaigns like the End-Polio Campaign for the betterment of community health.

There is reference work, cataloguing, journals to be readied for binding, proof to be read for the *Journal* book reviews and abstracts, collating, reports to be made, letters to be written, exhibits to be prepared, and the physical labor of reshelving, repairing and storing away. There is the pleasant duty of helping smaller libraries.

So, it's small wonder that Any Day doesn't have her seams straight and her hands clean. But she has a delight in her work and a feeling of being needed in a challenging, fascinating world.

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