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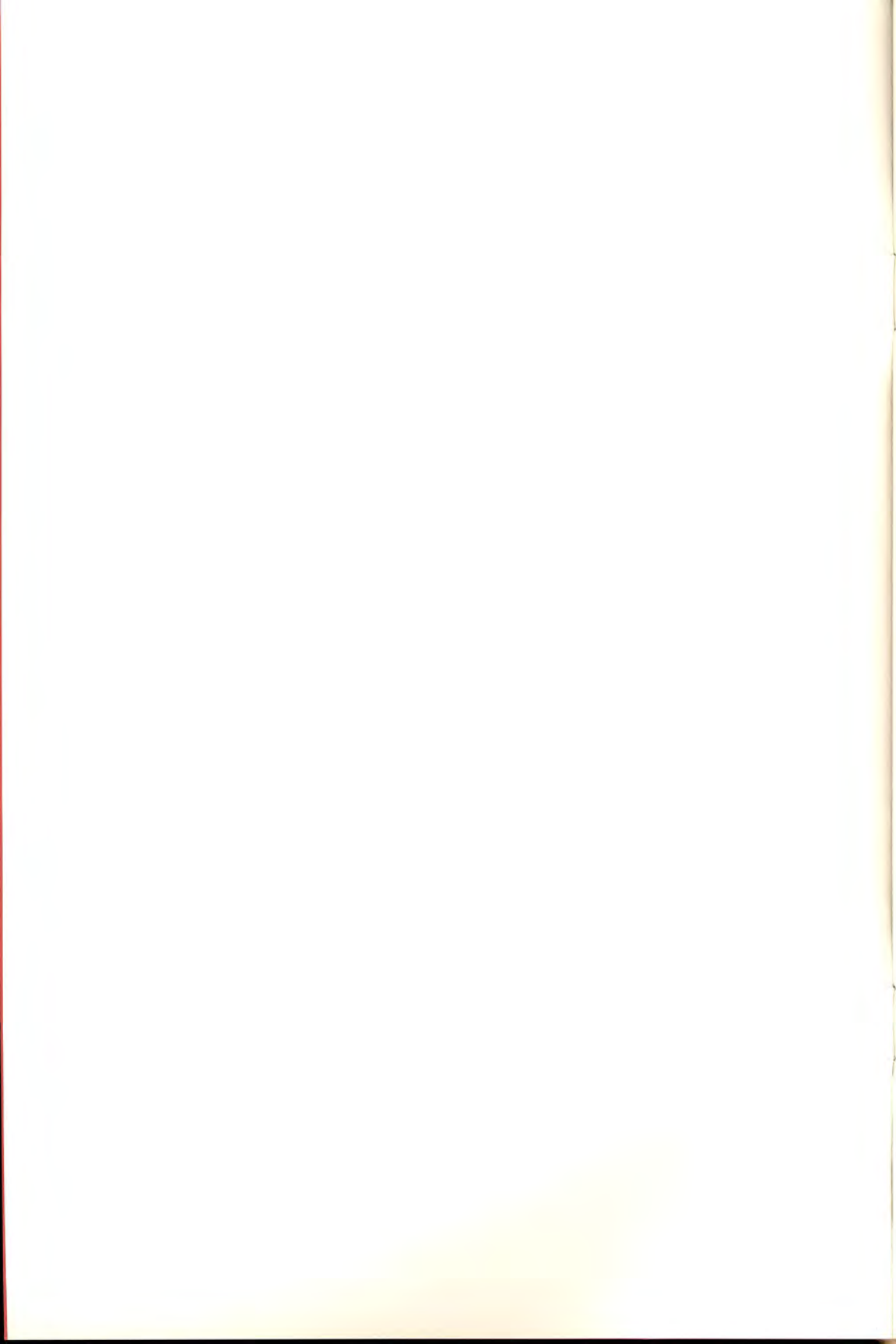
BULLETIN
of the
RHODE ISLAND
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 42 - No. 1

January 1970







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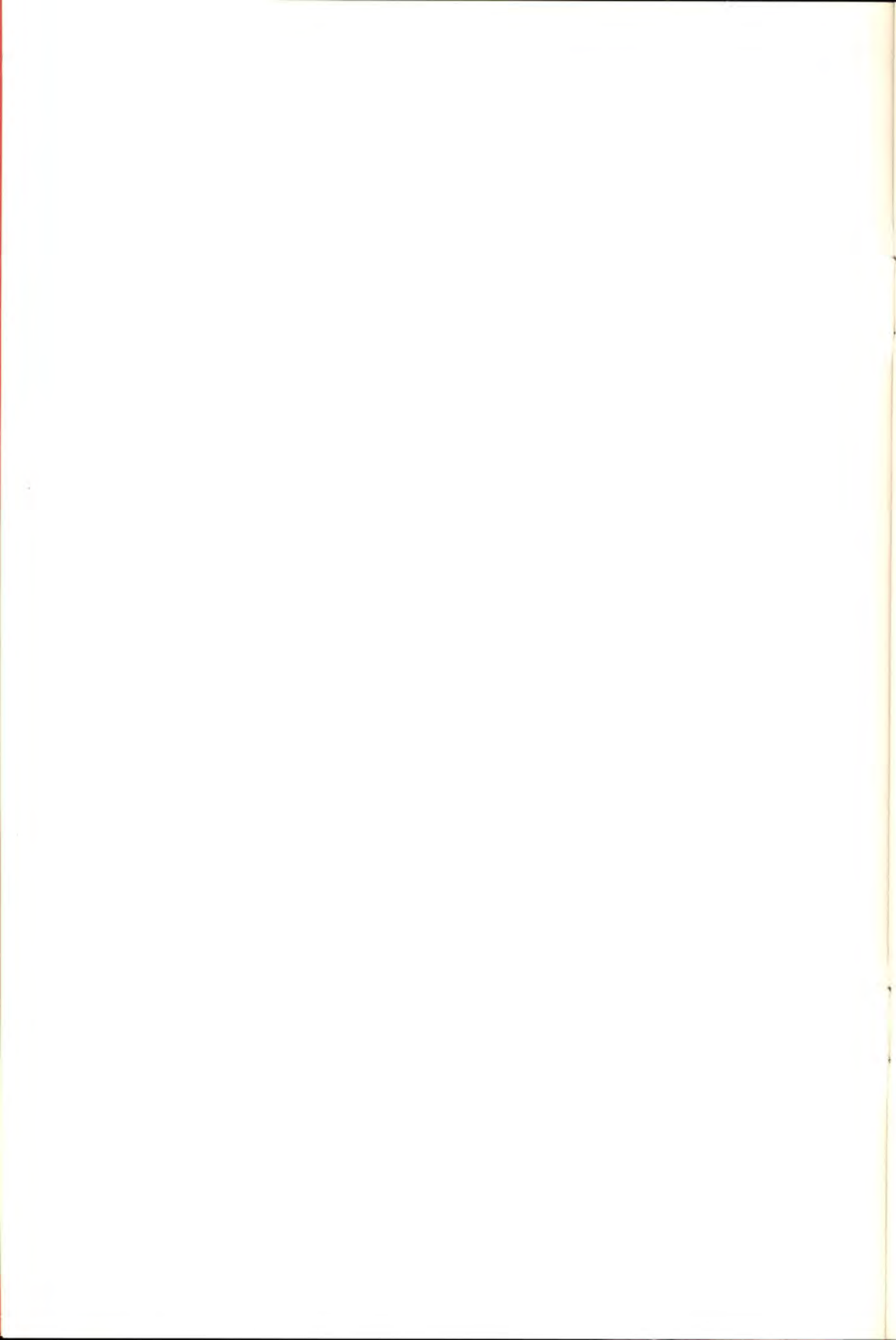


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I should like to use this column to report on a few things which the Rhode Island Library Association Executive Board has been doing recently.

At the last Board meeting the members voted to purchase the film— "There's something about a story"— and add it to the Rhode Island Film Cooperative. It was agreed that, budget permitting, a film related to librarianship as a profession would be given by the Association to the Cooperative each year.

An action committee, specially and temporarily created by the Board and Chaired by Paul Crane, Director of the Champlin Library in West Warwick, will work on making information and material in special areas available to Rhode Island librarians. The committee got off to a fine start with a Young Adult Workshop in November which Dolores McKeough of West Warwick organized. Other areas to be covered are social responsibility, audio-visual, children's work and adult education.

In January the Board made application to the Rhode Island Foundation for a grant to finance the rental of a small office, occasional clerical help, and an addressograph machine. If the application is not approved this time, the Board will re-apply at a later date. It has become imperative for the Association to have a headquarters with the records, machines, telephone, archives, etc. in the same place to

which mail is sent. Much time is now lost in trying to coordinate information.

It has been the practice for the Rhode Island Library Association to sponsor a state wide activity for the National Library Week. Last year's highly successful Community Festival in Providence under the direction of Mrs. Sylvia Moubayed will long be remembered for the impact it had on the public. This year's event began at the same time with the purchase of library public relation tapes for use on radio and television throughout Rhode Island which have been used since April, 1969. In effect, the 1970 celebration has been a National Library "52 Weeks", and the Association will not attempt additional activity. Local libraries are encouraged to celebrate individually or in cooperation with their regional systems.

The Trustee Committee of RILA has been reactivated under the chairmanship of Ernest Denomme of Portsmouth. The Department of State Library Services has been very helpful to the Association by compiling an up to date list of Trustees in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Library Association Spring Conference will be held in Tiverton on May 12. The theme of the meeting is "The Librarian as a Person— His Place in Society". Complete information will be given in the April Bulletin.

— Jean L. Nash

FROM THE EDITOR—

Since this is the first issue of our quarterly bulletin, I feel it is the time to invite you all to contribute. Many people have the feeling that their contributions are trivial or not worth publishing. This is a falacy. We in Rhode Island have a unique situation. As residents of the smallest state in the United States, we have easy access to all the libraries from one end of Rhode Island to the other. The projects, problems and ideas of librarians in Westerly or Newport are of interest to librarians in Pawtucket or Woonsocket.

We are all interested in your ideas or criticisms, so please express them. You don't have to write a 6 page article on data processing to have your opinions known.

We would like to start many new sections of the bulletin; letters to the editor, current news items, and a section for short articles of one page or less. We cannot, however, do this without material from you.

It is really very simple. Type your letter or article on 8½ x 11 paper, Double Spaced. Send it to the current editor of the bulletin. At present— Mrs. Sally Evans, Pawtucket Public Library, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 02860. Deadline dates are as follows;

April Bulletin (Conference Issue)	March 13
July	June 12
October (Conference Issue)	September 4

The April Conference Issue is following the theme of Librarians in Society. However, it is not necessary to follow this if you do not wish to. Whether it's seven lines, or seven pages, we would like to hear from you.

— Sally Evans



CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Concerning the last Fall meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association, one finds a sampling of comments on the semi-annual assembly of Rhode Island librarians ranges from "enlightening" to "too much time spent on trivia." High among the favorable comments was the idea of having several activities taking place simultaneously, including meetings, displays, and film showings. The advantage of this format was that everyone had a chance to visit virtually every event without the annoyance of having to sit-in on something not especially appealing to one's interest, or having to rush through an interesting display as was sometimes the case in the past. Moreover, the all-day affair afforded time for many more people to visit the conference while their colleagues took turns watching the store.

Particularly good comments were accredited to the panel discussion of newspaper and radio personnel on the matter of publicity. In addition to being informative, the panel was widely represented and spoke for the most part with a practical point of view.

The library techniques workshop was generally well received, but some felt it could have been more stimulating. The part about telephone courtesy was trivial and offered only common sense. Also, some members felt that the business meeting went over the scheduled time and, as a result, the entire time schedule from that point seemed to deteriorate.

Everyone agreed the displays were good. In fact, some were quite different from anything seen before. The number of displays, most people felt, could have been increased, especially since the beautiful facilities provided were spacious enough for more exhibits.

It was commented by two people interviewed that the film showings were a fine addition to the conference and that a continuance of their display is highly desirable.

Dr. Shera's speech was received with mixed emotions. More

people expressed delight than not. They were delighted with its information, its humor and the many questions the speaker brought to light which left one thinking. Still others felt that the talk was too library oriented, making it hard to understand for some trustees and other non-librarian members of the audience. Some expressed the opinion that perhaps the speaker should have been scheduled for the luncheon or for an afternoon slot at which time the conference attendees would not have been so tired and could have appreciated the speaker more. One person expressed the opinion that the speech was both entertaining and informative and that it was exactly what an after-dinner speech should have been.

Among other suggestions given were (1) R.I.L.A. should strive to provide transportation for those members who do not drive but would like to attend future meetings, (2) a panel discussion should be offered on the handling and checking in of periodicals, (3) R.I.L.A. should invite speakers other than librarians and authors, such as a lawyer to speak on the topic of intellectual freedom, (4) the traffic flow could be improved at future meetings perhaps by enlisting guides to point out the way to various meeting locations, and (5) a suggestion was made to have a program concerning the recent Library of Congress move to automation and how it affects your technical services.

YOUNG ADULTS WORKSHOP

by

Maria Shilling

Reference Librarian

Dept. of State Library Services

The Young Adults Workshop held last November 19th at Champ-
lin Memorial Library in West Warwick, featuring Miss Jane Manthorne
as speaker, can best be described as an experience in motivation. Miss
Manthorne, who is Coordinator of Young Adult Services for the Boston
Public Library, spoke before an audience of school and public librari-
ans about the wide range of programs being used in working with
youth (particularly the disadvantaged) in the Boston area. Judging
from the questions and comments that followed her most impressive
talk, it was clear that some librarians in Rhode Island were genuinely
interested in getting together to promote better services to the young
adults they serve. The interested ones were asked to sign their name to
a list, and they did.

The question now is, what are they doing about it? Did this
workshop make a difference and if so, what are the new developments?

Mr. William Alexander, Librarian at Westerly, believes the work-
shop has made a positive difference in libraries in Rhode Island and
mentioned specifically his plan of gathering together films more suit-
able for young adults. Mrs. Carolyn Hearn, Coordinator for the
Western System and Helen Giles, of the Acquisitions Department at
Westerly, are buying paperback books jointly to be placed in an area of
new shelving being set aside for young adults in the reading room of the
Westerly Public Library. Some teachers in Westerly have been meeting
with Helen Giles and others to arrange for purchasing of books to
supplement the reading material owned by the Westerly schools. And
Mrs. Hearn has said that libraries in the Western System are generally
interested in upgrading services for this age group.

On January 16, 1970, the original committee responsible for organizing the Young Adult Workshop last November, met at Weaver Memorial Library in East Providence. Present at this meeting were Miss Dolores McKeough, Assistant Librarian at Champlin Memorial Library; Mrs. Carolyn Hearn, Coordinator for the Western Interrelated Library System; Mrs. Shirley Waters, Assistant Librarian at Newport Public Library; and Mrs. Ann Bedrosian, Librarian at Sayles Library. The topic of discussion at this meeting was the Action Committee, established by the Rhode Island Library Association— Paul Crane, Librarian at Champlin Library has been appointed chairman of this committee. It will be the business of the Action Committee, under the direction of Mr. Crane, to explore what kind of package programs are available for use in a library situation. The committee is to locate these materials and then transmit this information to individuals interested in using it. At this point, the Action Committee has three divisions: Children's Interests, Young Adults, and Reader Interest. Miss McKeough is in charge of the division for Young Adults, and this was the particular phase being discussed at the January 16th meeting.

First of all, Mrs. Hearn expressed interest in locating good, available films that are not yet part of the Warwick Film Cooperative and adding them to this collection. She mentioned one film called "The Creative Process" saying that it had won several awards and would cause a great deal of stimulating discussion. Dolores McKeough suggested that two or three people be appointed to locate films suitable for addition to the collection at Warwick, to recommend them for preview, and to notify interested people when these film previews would occur.

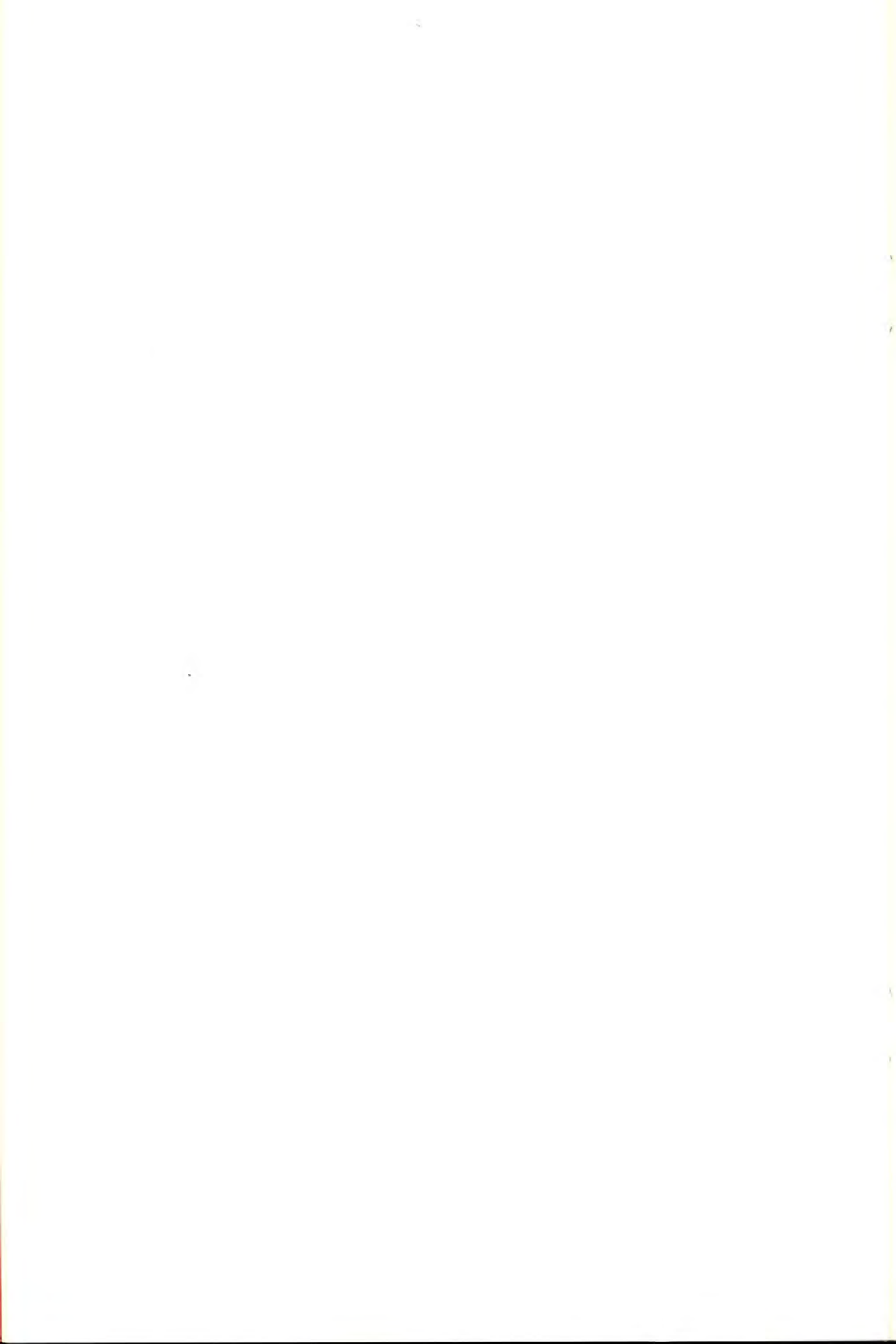
Someone commented that Mr. Rady, a recent addition to the faculty of the Graduate Library School at University of Rhode Island, has been involved in some work with a young adult group, and that if contacted he might have valuable ideas to share with the Young Adult committee. This possibility is to be further explored.

Miss McKeough brought up the idea of a booth to be set up at the spring Rhode Island Library Association meeting, displaying materials

of interest to young adults. Mrs. Bedrosian volunteered to be the "Paperback and Poster Committee" and will gather paperback lists and posters suitable for display for this booth. Mrs. Hearn and Helen Giles will take care of records and films, and Miss McKeough will decide on a place for the booth as well as making sure each of these volunteers follows through.

At this point most of the progress is still in the discussion stage, and action is only beginning to emerge. Little has been said about possible activities that these young people can actually take part in themselves, except for one proposal of a panel discussion of young adults who would talk about what they did and did not like about the library. But the general attitude of most librarians throughout the state is definitely positive, and news of progress is probably forthcoming.

And for those of you who may be interested in reading of further developments for Young Adults in R. I. libraries, the Rhode Island Library Association may decide to publish a Young Adults Newsletter in addition to their regular bulletin.

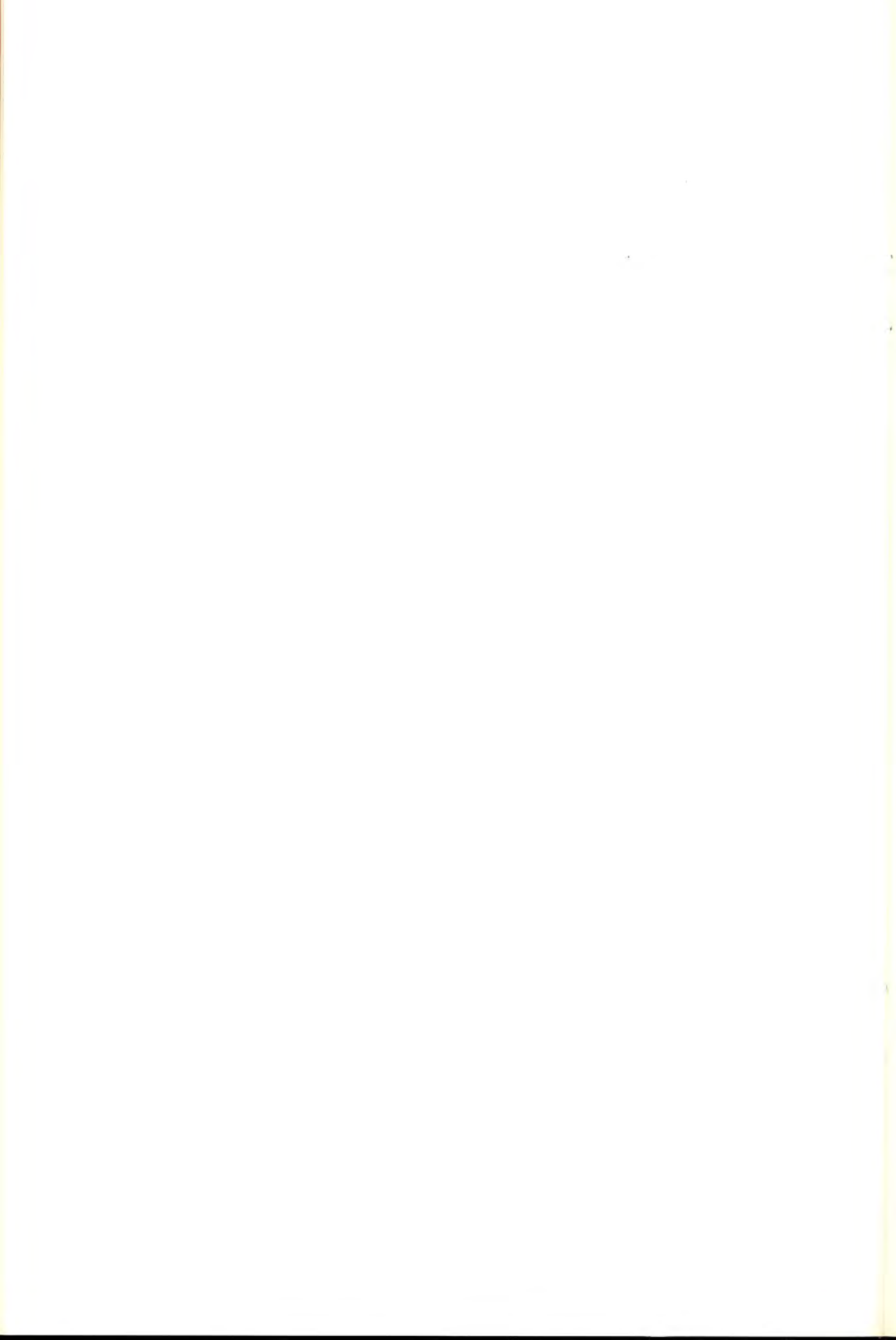


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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN IRAN

by

Elizabeth Russell

Librarian

Rogers High School

In Rhode Island, we have easy access to the book collections of the university libraries in the area. The desired item can be located and obtained through the use of the public card catalog. In Iran, however, it is not at the present time the usual experience to locate a book easily or to take the book outside the walls of the library building.

Generally, the library collections in Iranian universities are unclassified and uncataloged. In fact the knowledge of the collection often exists only in the mind of the presiding librarian. Until 1965, the Universal Dewey Classification had been the scheme used, if any. Starting in 1967, the Library of Congress Classification scheme as well was being taught by the professors at the Faculty of Education at the University of Tehran.

The Central Library of the University of Tehran (12,000 students) has a staff of approximately twenty people and is housed in a group of rooms in the cellar of the Administration Building. Planned in 1966, as a center for processing and cataloging for all the Tehran University libraries, it is now the place where most new books arrive to be added to dead storage. These non-circulating books are loaned only with difficulty to the other twenty-eight autonomous libraries at the University. All books are registered (accessioned), and all serials are recorded at the Library, which was in operation five days a week most of the year and three mornings a week in the summer.

A new building is being built on the campus to house the central Library and its approximately one and one-half million volumes. By U.S. mid-twentieth century standards, the architectural plans are inadequate, since they prohibit easy access to books. But the Iranians

are happy with them; they fit into their tradition for the locked storage of books and the non-circulation of books. The University of Tehran does own many manuscripts which should not circulate and which should, of course, be housed in a department for rare manuscripts.

There was not a uniform classification for the university libraries. In a number of libraries, books were classified by size, accession number or a symbols system. While the Library of the Faculty of Education University of Tehran was using the Library of Congress Classification, the Library of the School of Public and Business Administration of the University of Tehran was using the Dewey Classification. Both libraries had on the shelves new books which had been cataloged and classified. The other libraries, such as the Medical School Library and the Library of the Public Health Institute, had few new books. The Medical Library had almost no journals.

In 1966, a Central Treaty Organization/U.S. Agency for International Development (CENTO/USAID) grant for twenty thousand U.S. dollars was made to the Central Library for scientific and technical books. During the following year, books were selected by Miss Alice Lohrer, Fulbright professor; by Mrs. Margaret Hopkins, Fulbright lecturer; and by me, a United States Peace Corps volunteer.¹

Library of Congress cards were ordered for the CENTO/USAID books, which could be only those printed in the United States and approved by the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. In the order was almost every available pertinent Library of Congress and American Library Association publication in print, including *The Library of Congress Author Catalog* and the *National Union Catalog*.

The CENTO/USAID library science books were loaned to the circulating library of the Department of Library Science of the Faculty of Education, where they were quickly cataloged and classified by the professional staff employed under Mrs. Farangas Omid, a graduate of the University of Michigan's library school.² The other CENTO/USAID books, covering many aspects of science including medicine and agriculture, were selected from the ALA publication *Books for College Libraries*. They were to be processed by the staff of the Central

Library.

The library at Pahlavi University at Shiraz in Central Iran was established by H. Vail Deale of Beloit College, Wisconsin, in 1965, with a grant from the Iranian Oil Consortium. Since 1960, the staff from the University of Pennsylvania have assisted in the development of the University (12,000 students). For the past three years, 1966-1969, the library has been directed by United States Fulbright Librarians under whom approximately twenty-five workers are employed in professional and non-professional jobs.³ On the ground floor in a three million dollar building, the library has its old catalog and new catalog containing the cards for the books cataloged and classified according to Library of Congress Classification since 1965. The books on open shelves in a large reference-reading room are allowed to circulate, a new practice in Iran. Since Pahlavi University was considered for the first Iranian Library Science Department, multiple copies of library science books are bought. Now that the Department of Library Science in the Faculty of Education of the University of Tehran is well established, Pahlavi University is being considered for the establishment of an undergraduate library degree program whose courses could prepare students for small public and school libraries for the southern Provinces of Fars, Kerman, Khurasan.

The good library of the Faculty of Medicine at Shiraz is operated by a competent professional American librarian, Miss Lorraine Murphy, who talks every year of returning to the United States but stays "just one more year" in Shiraz, the city of roses and poets.

The university libraries at Gondishahpoor (500 students), Tabriz (2,000 students), and Meshed (1,000 students) are undeveloped. At various times in the last three years (1966-1969), officials at these institutions have requested professional help and supervision from the United States Fulbright Commission and the United States Peace Corps. The U.S. personnel suggested that the Iranians also request librarians from UNESCO, since the Fulbright Commission has only four grants for library science and since the U.S. Peace Corps volunteers may vary in professional skills from year to year.

In the past four years the United States Peace Corps volunteers who were English language teachers organized books in broad categories based on the Dewey classification on the shelves of the libraries at Mollesani Agricultural (40 km. outside Ahwaz) and at Gondishahpoor University Medical College (Ahwaz). At the latter the books are kept in a locked room, while at the former there are closed stacks. The faculty of Farah University (Ahwaz) teaches home economics and plans at a future date to teach library science. The library there has only a few books but is well housed. Gondishahpoor University in Western Iran encompasses Farah University (women's college), Mollesani Agricultural College and the Medical College. At the present time, Peace Corps volunteer librarians are assigned to the college libraries in the Ahwaz area, to the Faculty of Letters Library at Isfahan University (2,000 students), and to the library of the Agricultural College at Rezaieh in Azerbaijan.⁴ Since this writer did not have occasion to visit the libraries of the universities of Meshed, Isfahan, and Tabriz, she can give no details about them.

As can be seen, there is still much work to be done at the libraries of Tehran, Shiraz, and Gondishahpoor. With the cooperation of Iranian and foreign governmental agencies and the encouragement of the Crown, much will be accomplished in the next few years to make access to the university book collections easier.

NOTES

1. *Kayhan* (Tehran), July 8, p.2.
2. During the academic year 1967-1968, a Norwegian Peace Corps volunteer, Mrs. Finnen, nee Jensen, worked with Mrs. Omid.
3. "Pahlavi University in Iran opens undergraduate library," *Library Journal*, June 1, 1966, p. 2792.
4. Richard Binder and Timothy Salony are at Ahwaz. Mary MacRae is at Isfahan. David Leonard is at Rezaieh.

A
LIBRARIAN
LOOKS AT IRAN



Two boys, one a Turkoman and the other of Russian ancestry, on their way to school in Gonbad-e-Kavoos.



Women wearing "chadors" (Arabic for "tent") in Shiraz.



Ruins of Persepolis, an ancient city near Shiraz said to have been burned by Alexander the Great.



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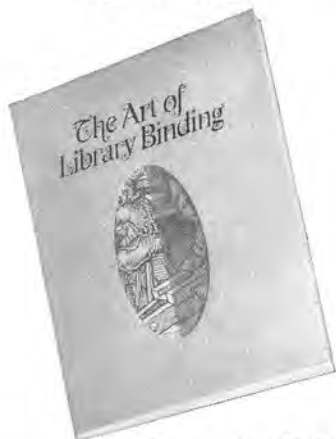
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