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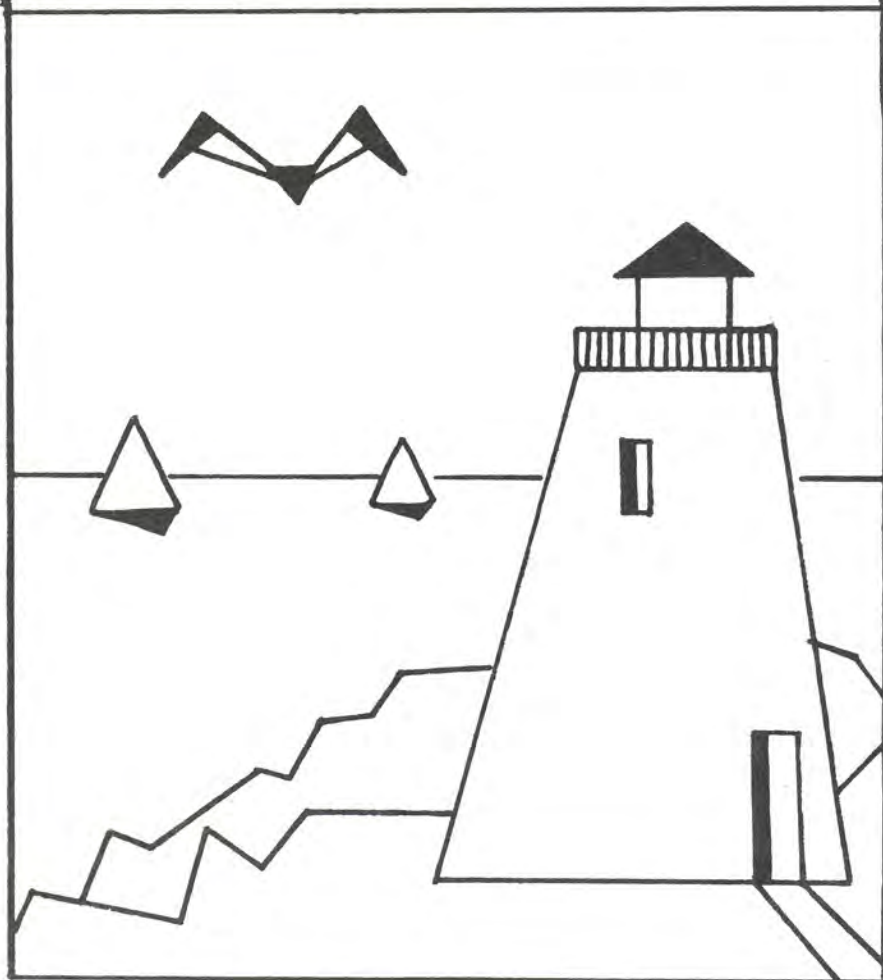
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Bulletin
of
THE RHODE ISLAND
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 45, NO. 3

DECEMBER, 1972



the Bulletin staff....

Janet C. Hampton, Editor
Helen DeJong
Dorothy A. Brown
Earleen P. McCarthy

ELEANOR J. FINK...In Memoriam

Rhode Island librarians mourn the death of Ellie Fink, the former Assistant Chief Order Librarian at the Brown University Library. She received her library degree from Rosary College in Illinois in 1968 and started her career as an Order Librarian at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library in October of that year. She was promoted to Acting Assistant Chief Order Librarian in July 1969 and was made Assistant Chief Order Librarian in July 1970 and held this position until her death.

In January 1971 she took a leave of absence to accompany her husband to Kenya where he had accepted a Peace Corp assignment. This trip to Africa would have fulfilled a life-long wish, but it was not to be realized. In February, Ellie underwent surgery on her spine and was still recuperating when she died on July 30, 1972.

Those who knew Ellie remember her for her enthusiasm for her work, her real concern for the library staff with whom she worked, and her great capacity for friendship.

FALL CONFERENCE POST SCRIPT

The Sheraton-Islander Inn in Newport was the site of the RILA Fall Conference on November 2nd and 3rd. This was the first time the Association scheduled a two-day conference. Favorable reactions from many of the people who attended indicated that the conference was a success.

Recognition should be given to the people who organized the conference. Roberta Cairns, Chairman of the Administrative Committee had the overall responsibility for conference planning. She chose highly capable people to serve on the conference committee. Ron Heroux was chairman of program planning. He made arrangements for the speakers, produced an attractive program brochure, and spent many hours solving a variety of problems associated with the conference. Hanna Agonis handled all the arrangements for exhibitors. Joe Fitzpatrick planned and coordinated the Thursday evening program. Eugene Henry provided able assistance in planning

Fall Conference - Post script ...con't.

arrangements along with Marion Holt, Ruth Rounds, and Barbara Nute. Many others devoted much time and energy to achieve what appeared to be a successful conference.

Richard A. Olsen, President
RILA

LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEET AT NEWPORT



A group of library trustees met during the conference with the aim of forming an Organization of Rhode Island Trustees. Donald Miller of Barrington is the chairman and Mrs. Charles Anderson of Coventry, the Secretary of a steering committee set up to initiate goals and plan the organization of the new group. The steering committee met for the first time on November 2nd to establish goals and will meet again to discuss the organizational structure and to plan the first meeting of all Rhode Island library trustees tentatively set for February.

THE FALL CONFERENCE - - - A WEATHER REPORT

There is a song which alleges that you can get all the news you need from the weather report. This is not true of the RILA Fall Conference, but in a curious way the weather did reflect the quality variance between the two days, if not the mood of the conference. The conference opened with torrential rain and closed in bright sunshine. No doubt the rain hindered attendance on Thursday. Anyone who was undecided probably opted out when faced with an unpleasant journey. The reverse may have been true on Friday, although the good weather then may have sped the conferees home for the weekend and had some additional adverse impact on the latter day events such as the tours. In any event, the Rhode Island Library Association cannot be blamed for the weather, and even the radical librarians of the sixties never suggested that God is opposed to the freedom to read, speak and assemble. This is not to imply that there was anything approaching a radical, or even vigorous, expression of opinion or even interest by the conferees. This is not attributable to local weather, but rather seemed to reflect a national mood of almost suspended animation.

It may be that the expectations of the sixties has given way to ennui. The seemingly ever-expanding source of radical energy and government money that sparked the progressiveness as well as the disruption of the sixties has dissipated. For librarians, the present situation cannot be discerned as threatening enough for action or solidarity, nor is it promising enough for exuberant planning. The mood is **not relaxed**; it is rather one of watchful waiting. This mood is hard to meet in any corporate, constructive way; it should surprise no one that the leadership of the association had no means to affect a change in mood in a brief two day period. What can be praised is the decision to go to

a two day format. There is unanimous support by all contacted for the two day convention. The most often stated reason for support of this scheme is that it permits everyone to attend the convention from any staff in the state without closing down library operations or service.

If the weather and the general mood is outside criticism, perhaps the choice of time, i. e. in the late Fall and just before a major election, can be faulted. It is only fair that all should know that an earlier time was desired and attempted. The problem is that RILA could not generate sufficient numbers to attract a major facility such as the Sheraton Islander to give it priority consideration; November 2nd and 3rd were available, not chosen. The lesson for us all is that, if we want priority treatment, we will have to support future conferences in sufficient numbers to give our representatives bargaining power. Only about sixty persons stayed overnight this time, and a class C football team can match that number during the Fall season. There is further consideration that there are a limited number of hostelries in Rhode Island with adequate facilities to support a convention and these facilities are also open to the general public. So prime time in the Spring or Fall in the four hotels adequate to the demand is hard to come by under the best circumstances

The program is always fair game for the conferees and these criticisms are reported without knowledge of the difficulties of the committee lest they be tempered to distortion. Some common consensus on the total program arrangement was reflected in the view that the program started with a subject of narrow use ("Handling and public dissemination of Dept. of Defense technical information") and therefore failed to generate any kind of involvement, controversy or even commonality that might have got the juices flowing. It might have been expected that money might have saved the day at lunch, but the rather bland presentation of a bleak picture along with a feeling of powerlessness to affect the situation left little hope and less inspiration to flow from

John Humphry Speaks at
the Fall Colloquium of the
U.R.I. Graduate Library School

John A. Humphry, well known in Rhode Island as the co-author of Library Cooperation; the Brown University Study of University-School-Community Library Coordination in the State of Rhode Island, and currently serving as the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries at the State Education Department in Albany, New York, presented the second in the Fall Series of Colloquia at the U.R.I. Graduate Library School.

Miss Helen T. Geer, Associate Professor Emeritas of the University of Rhode Island Graduate Library School, summarizes this lecture for the R.I.L.A. Bulletin.

"John Humphry, speaking at the University of Rhode Island Graduate Library School on November 30th, took as his subject the Role of the State Library in Library Services. Mr. Humphry pointed out that libraries do not stand alone, but are interdependent in giving good library service. He reminded us that in Rhode Island, service is sponsored and conducted by the Department of State Library Services.

Mr. Humphry emphasized that the role of the State Library is three-fold: planning programs, leading libraries, and funding projects. In these three areas he said that Rhode Island has a good record. He added that there were two major areas for State Library Agencies to cover - the providing of information service for the State Government officials and developing a cooperative and coordinated system of libraries within the state. State Library Agencies can exert a great influence on trustees and library administrators as well. Mr. Humphry stated that the

development of a planned coordinated system or network of libraries has grown out of a need for a State Library System.

Among the fifty state libraries in the United States, there are almost as many organizational patterns. For instance, in New York, the State Library is not only a large research library, but has a collection of maps, films, and recordings as well, with one hundred and fifty people on the staff. Of the twenty-two library systems in New York State, all but six of the seven hundred libraries have joined a system. There is interlibrary cooperation in New York State, in in Rhode Island, thus making available materials to all types of users from pre-schoolers to the researchers and scholars.

Mr. Humphry pointed out that in order to maintain cooperative programs, one must build first on strength and reimburse the library giving the service. It is the state's responsibility to see that equal service is given to all. Secondly, the device of a contract between libraries, whereby libraries in a sense buy and sell service and programs to each other, can be used. However, Mr. Humphry declared that one needs to recognize the fact that the ability to pay for such service between libraries is essential. Finally, there is the problem of urban centers in terms of big libraries, such as those in New York, Brooklyn, and Queens.

Mr. Humphry outlined the program now being established in New York City (covering Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens). With \$36,000,000 per year from the State and from private funds, a library cooperative is being launched, starting first in the public library systems, and then expanding to all types of libraries. This program will link the libraries together. New York State fosters and encourages this type of program. In the State there are twenty-two library systems, which are vital for the survival of the American public library in terms of the needs of the popu-

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WELCOME TO RHODE ISLAND...

Mr. James E. Bobick...appointed Bio-Medical Reference Librarian at the Sciences Library, Brown University on July 1, 1972. Mr. Bobick received his M.S.L.S. from the University of Illinois in August and has a B.S. degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a M.S. from Duquesne University. He comes to Brown from the College of Mount St Joseph in Cincinnati where he served as a biology instructor.

Mr. James A. Damico...appointed Sciences Librarian, Brown University Library, on September 1, 1972. Mr. Damico holds a B.S. from the C.W. Post College of Long Island and a M.L.S. from Rutgers. Before joining Brown, he was Library Systems Specialist and Head of the Reference Department at the University of Dayton Library.

Mrs. Marianne I. Gaunt....Serials Librarian, Brown University. Mrs. Gaunt's most recent position was that of Reference Librarian at the Lavoisier Library, E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Delaware. She has a B.A. degree from Montclair State College and an M.L.S. degree from Drexel University.

Miss Barbara Moriarty....Assistant Director of the Pawtucket Public Library comes to Rhode Island from the Framingham Public Library. Miss Moriarty has a B.A. in history from the College of William and Mary and earned her masters at Simmons College.

Mrs. Asta Saask ...welcome again from Sweden. Mrs. Saask was recently appointed Reference Librarian for a one-year term at Brown University, having served this institution from 1961 to 1965 as Pembroke College Librarian. She has degrees from the University of Tartu in Estonia, the Stockholm Town Library School, and an M.L.S. from the University of Rhode Island.

Miss Gay Teborek....Head of Circulation at the University of Rhode Island Library. Miss Teborek comes to Rhode Island from the University of Oklahoma where she served as the Assistant Acquisitions Librarian at North Western, by way of an M.A. from the University of Denver.

Those whose names we did not receive in time to include in the Bulletin.... ? Please send the names, backgrounds, and present positions of librarians new to Rhode Island to Janet Hampton, Box A, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The BULLETIN staff welcomes
your suggestions

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"conference" con't. from pg. 4

Ms. Hope, the luncheon speaker.

In fairness to Ms. Hope it can be observed that what she presented could have been considered alarming, if she had not given such an evenhanded evaluation, -- and the audience seemed too sophisticated about bureaucracy's arcane activities to be visibly affected by the fact that federal aid for library programs is also in a suspended state.

Ms. Conroy's presentation on "Project Outreach" was aided by her attractive personality and credentials. It was hindered by three mistakes, only one of which was hers. She adopted a format suitable for a round table discussion, but this resulted in people in the rear of a rectangular lecture room failing to hear much of what she said. This was compounded by audience reluctance to ask her to talk louder. The other group mistake was to take the most general of three approaches offered and, since Ms Conroy then stuck to generalities, the sum of her hour for those who heard it was, "outreach is something you haven't done before, and you must have a good attitude toward it."

If the business meeting was to be anything other than perfunctory, it would have required conferee initiated items or ideas. None was forthcoming, and a group of professionals who are facing serious difficulties, most of which have political connotations, if not roots, adjourned and passed their only opportunity to discuss the situation and the forthcoming election in partisan terms. This is not the fault of the RILA leadership nor the convention planners. There is no good reason adults have to be entertained by a program, if the content or the subject is significant. All of us as members ought to come to business meetings prepared to air our problems and share our concerns. If this forum is not used, we are all indicted.

For the some forty persons who attended the Thursday evening seminar the experience was worthwhile. The subject matter was sufficiently powerful

to have attracted a much bigger audience. Drugs and venereal diseases are very much "in" subjects at all levels of society; the "do-gooders" as well as the bads abuse the material, and here was an opportunity to get hard information and straight talk. However, the lack of a dinner meeting to hold the convention together failed to provide the best chance for maximum benefit. This is a flaw in scheduling that got many adverse criticisms, including the disappointment of many that there was no cocktail gathering which does offer the opportunity for friendly exchanges, mutual complaints, general commiseration, etc. - perhaps mainly just etc.

The sun shone Friday on a bright Newport at its best and had Mr. Panaggio's delightful talk on "Newport and Her Points of Interest" been delivered on Thursday as the featured speech of a dinner meeting, and had Friday not been Friday with everyone eager to get home to start the weekend, the bus tour of Newport might have had a chance. As it was the conferees will have to see Newport on their own, because the bus tour had to be cancelled. There were, however, about ten persons who visited the Newport Public Library.

The inside environment at the convention also improved on Friday. Ms. Beckman's discourse on "the approachability of librarians and library staff" generated considerable discussion with some commentators muttering words such as "self-glorification", "self-serving", etc., but all in agreement that the topic and time spent added up to stimulation - a good thing. The same sort of ambivalence spiced the comments regarding Ms. King's "Intellectual freedom: a point of view" ---even more so. Comments ranged from that of a young librarian who dismissed the discourse as "the same kind of radical B-S I got in my (recent) undergrad days", to the statement by a solidly-documented liberal, progressive librarian approaching the middle year time that in his view

Ms. King's talk was "the best, the most vital, the most honest and the most practical approach to the problem ever articulated by an ALA spokesman".

There was complete agreement by the conferees who attended the panel discussion, "Employment situation in various libraries", that this was a solid, professional performance and that it gave insights as well as answered vital questions in an area of primary concern.

The conference is over; the Monday morning quarterbacking will be lost along with political second-guessing after the election; all that will remain is a general impression. The general impression is that the two day convention is a good thing and should be continued. It might be also a good thing for librarians to include a budget item of sufficient size to send every staff member to future conventions and fight it through well in advance of the next meeting. Once trustees or other decision makers are conditioned to this kind of expenditure, financial support for future conventions and maximum participation should be the twin benefits expected.

Perhaps the days selected for future conventions should take into account the mystique of the weekend. Anything ending on Friday invites early departure. If, however, the conventions of the future are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, undue haste to leave might be alleviated - who is in a hurry to return to Wednesday?

William F. Long Jr
Colonel U. S. Army (retired)
and candidate for the MLS
degree from U. R. I.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Executive Board of RILA has established a new committee, to be known as the Long-Range Planning Committee. The charge to this committee is as follows: "Through an ongoing assessment of the needs of all types of libraries and library agencies in the state, and their respective client groups, the Long-Range Planning Committee shall report to the Executive Board of the Rhode Island Library Association recommendations on future service patterns within the state."

Dr. Daniel P. Bergen, Associate Professor of Library Science at the University of Rhode Island has been appointed chairman of the committee. Members have been selected to provide a wide range of library related backgrounds. Essentially, the committee will consider suggestions for innovative programs and new approaches to library service. Proposals developed by the committee will be offered to the appropriate libraries and library agencies for possible implementation. As part of this endeavor, the committee may request various kinds of data from libraries and librarians in the state. Ideas, suggestions, and comments from librarians, trustees, and library users are most welcome.

THE BEST TO YOU ALL

IN 1973

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the bulletin staff

Con't from pg. 6

lation.

He emphasized that academic, public and special libraries must cooperate with each other. How is this to be done? Such a plan must be based on the various needs and facilities of each library. In New York State, the Inter-Library Loan Department of the Library contracts with the public, school, college and special libraries on a fee basis. Since greater demands will come from the accumulation of materials which have to be organized, cooperation must be given, not only by libraries, but by the federal government as well. Mr. Humphry said that there should be a sustained plan of funding such a project, perhaps through revenue sharing.

What of the future? There is need for position papers on library services development and the funding necessary for it. A few of these have already been issued. There should be new techniques and communication devices developed. We have only scratched the surface in the area. We need to have bibliographic control so that we will know what is being published, where it is, and how we can obtain it. He said that there are new methods and means of gaining this bibliographic control being developed all the time.

In conclusion, Mr. Humphry felt that there was a tremendous challenge ahead for all libraries and librarians in the organizing of groups of libraries into systems, and in the coordination of networks of libraries. He ended this stimulating talk by saying that only through a planned cooperative effort of organizing the available resources can we as librarians meet the demands of the public."

Helen T. Geer
Associate Professor Emerita
Graduate Library School
University of Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Historical Society, with the support of the National Historical Publications Commission and the co-sponsorship of the Clements Library at the University of Michigan, is engaged in collecting photocopies of all extant papers of the Revolutionary General, Nathanael Greene (1742-1786). The assembling of photocopies of original manuscripts is preliminary to a letterpress edition of selected papers to be published in several volumes during the next five years and an eventual microfilm edition of all manuscript material that will be excluded from the printed volumes.

It would be appreciated if anyone possessing letters to or from Greene or having knowledge of such letters in private hands (or in public repositories whose holdings are not listed in the National Union Catalog) would notify the Rhode Island Historical Society. Please address communications to: Richard K. Showman, Editor, Nathanael Greene Papers, 52 Power Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906.

NELA MEMBERS MAY FLY TO LAS VEGAS

If you hurry and if you're a member of NELA there may still be time to make arrangements to fly to the ALA Conference by charter flight.

Proposed flight schedule:

Departure from Logan Airport, Boston:
Sunday, June 24, 1973.

Return from Las Vegas: Saturday, June 30.

Cost, based on full capacity, only \$150. per person.

Reservations accompanied by a \$25. deposit should be made immediately. Contact New England Library Association, P. O. Box 413, Mattapoisett, Mass. 02739.

NOTICES

Old RILA Bulletins.... we need your old file of Bulletins - please send to Ms. Dorothy Brown, Reference Librarian, Dept. of State Library Services, 95 Davis St., Providence, RI 02908. If convenient, use the Interrelated Library Network transportation system.



Address changes.... please send any change in address to Mr. Paul Bazin, Phillips Library, Providence College, Providence, RI 02908.

ALA Mid-Winter Conference.... anyone planning to attend the ALA Conference in Washington should contact Richard A. Olsen immediately. ALA is planning a Congressional Luncheon to be held on February 1, 1973 at the Shoreham Hotel. Arrangements for attendance at the luncheon are being handled by RILA for conference attendees from Rhode Island.

HELP!!

Volunteer typists needed....if you can type and have access to an IBM Selectric or Executive model typewriter the Bulletin staff would appreciate your help. Call or write Janet Hampton at 863-2173, Brown University, Box A, Providence, R. I. 02912

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