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Rhode Island Library Association Bulletin

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November/December 1994

Tales of Trinity

BY PATRICIA J. DIBELLA

My dream of visiting Trinity College Library, Dublin, began with a course at URI in international information resources. This course broadened my horizons of libraries and information centers to extend beyond the U.S., and I was encouraged to venture out and see the world of libraries. Then a friend's pictures of Ireland and tales of Dublin captured my imagination for this beautiful land and her culture. Finally, there was the Dynix poster hung on the wall of the GSLIS student lounge showing the Long Room at Trinity College Library, with the caption "Dynix tamed Wilde's Irish rows." That picture of Trinity's magnificent repository caught my eye and my heart.

I made all the arrangements for a marvelous adventure: my trip to Dublin, a dream come true. I made a reservation at Chesterfield House, a bed and breakfast in Dublin. I had an appointment to meet Charles Benson, Keeper of Early Printed Books, at the Berkeley Library at Trinity College on the morning of October 4, 1993.

I took the bus into the heart of Dublin and disembarked at O'Connell Street Bridge. I walked up Westmoreland Street, past the National Bank building on College Street and on to Trinity College, where I saw Regent House, the west entrance into Trinity. I walked through the archway, on cobblestones trod by the likes of Oliver Goldsmith and Oscar Wilde, and onto Parliament Square. The school year had not yet begun, and Parliament Square was filled with tables where returning students hawked extracurricular activities to freshmen.

At the far end of Parliament Square and to the right is Trinity's Old Library. I recognized it immediately by the colonnades along the lower level. I located the Berkeley Library at the far end of Fellows Square, next to the Old Library.

In the lobby of the Berkeley Library were two visiting scholars from the Netherlands, who were also waiting for Charles Benson. When he arrived in the lobby, Mr. Benson suggested that we start with coffee. On the second floor of the Dining Hall were beautifully appointed lounges filled with Trinity professors enjoying conversation and a break from class preparations. The four of us sat in a corner to discuss the visitors' research, which concerned the possible location in Ireland of materials for a bibliography they were preparing on eighteenth-century Catholic writings. They discussed the places and discoveries they had made in the past weeks touring Ireland, and Mr. Benson suggested some other sources.

On the steps of the Dining Hall we said goodbye to the scholars from the Netherlands. We walked through Library Square, passed the Rubrics (the oldest building on campus), and went into the library shop of the Old Library. As we went up the wide staircase in the library shop, I didn't realize

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where we were headed. All of a sudden we entered the Long Room, and it was just as magnificent as I had imagined. I was awed by the dark oak wood, the vaulted ceiling, and the hushed atmosphere of this venerable center of learning where so many scholars before me had been.

We walked through the Long Room to a circular wrought iron staircase which led to a balcony. This was Charles Benson's office. His desk was positioned so that his back was toward the Long Room, and a picture of Oliver Goldsmith was taped to the wall next to his desk. Mr. Benson and I discussed acquisitions, staffing, financing, cataloguing, departmental organization, and research. The Early Printed Books Department operates with only five full-time staff, three professionals and two clerks. The annual budget is 40,000 pounds sterling, and their backlog of unprocessed and uncatalogued material is considerable.

Mr. Benson talked about a class on historical description which he and his assistant Vincent Kinane taught. Mr. Kinane gave instruction on the process of bibliographic description and Mr. Benson taught the theory. In order to provide the students with an understanding of the difficulties experienced by letterpress printers, they assigned printing exercises to be completed in the small printing room housed in the basement of the Microelectronics and Electrical Engineering Building, originally the Printing House. Among the presses the students used was equipment from the Cuala Press. The Cuala Press was originally the Dun Emer Press, started by W.B. Yeats' sisters Elizabeth and Lily in 1903. The equipment had been purchased by Trinity College when the press finally ceased operations in the 1970s.

After lunch I spent the afternoon with Mr. Kinane. A native Dubliner, he had been part of an exchange program with the American Antiquarian Society several years ago and had spent six months working in Worcester, Massachusetts. We discussed



the use of Trinity's materials versus safeguarding those precious pieces. As for all rare book librarians, for Mr. Kinane the issue is a two-sided coin. As he put it, "A good library is a bad library." Trinity tries to make its books available in a safe environment.

A good portion of the afternoon was spent discussing cataloguing. Most of the materials in Trinity's Early Printed Books Department have been catalogued. The backlog of uncatalogued materials consists primarily of music scores, which are bound and stored separately. Eventually all of their bibliographic records will be entered into an on-line catalog, but currently only five hundred records have been entered.

The Trinity College Library has adapted the AACR2 rules and uses Library of Congress subject headings as much as possible. The process of entering records into their Dynix on-line catalog is laborious, as they strive to maintain the detail of their manual records. Their cataloguing includes detailed descriptions in the notes area/500 fields, expanded again and again to suit their needs. Printers, book-sellers, paper, watermarks, donors, and provenance are recorded in addition to authors and titles. It is extremely important to them to keep these access points, and each of those fields can be searched in the on-line catalog using key words.

The next morning I was to work with Mr. Kinane, and I relished the opportunity to be of some minor assistance. First we checked inquiries received from all over the world about Trinity's entries in the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalog. Inquiries are received daily, but due to lack of staff they are not handled as rush items. The inquiries that we worked through were dated December 1992. The location of each book had already been noted on the request sheets, so I retrieved the volumes and Mr. Kinane answered the questions. Basically the requests were to verify exactly which copy Trinity owns and/or to see if it is a variant of a copy held by another library. In an hour's time we were able to review about twenty-five inquiries.

After tea, again at the Dining Hall Lounge, we stopped at the Printing House where I saw both the university's letterpress equipment and the equipment from the Cuala Press. The rest of the morning and early afternoon were spent cataloguing. It took one hour to do the original cataloguing on-line of a late-eighteenth-century grammar textbook.

I spent the afternoon with Mr. Benson. We discussed his morning's work on an exhibit for the library which was scheduled to begin in February of

1994. Trinity College employs a designer to assist in their major exhibitions, and Mr. Benson had met with the designer and the curator at the Royal Museum that morning. The exhibition was to be on arms and armaments, and realia is often used in displays in addition to books and manuscripts. The Royal Museum had agreed to lend some of their armor and weapons from the 1760s, and Mr. Benson had selected appropriate pieces. The budget for the exhibit was 40,000 pounds sterling, and the library would be able to redecorate completely the exhibition hall located next to the library shop. An earlier exhibit marking the 400th anniversary of Trinity College cost over 100,000 pounds!

Later Mr. Benson took me on a tour of the attic space and stacks created in 1891 in the area of the colonnades. The "attic" space was a cramped room filled with exquisite treasures. He took great pride in showing me the thirty-five volume elephant folio *Atlas of 1698* and botanical works with gold letterpress and illuminated plates. We then traveled through the maze of stairs and corridors to the stacks within the colonnades. Here I spied a book by J.P. Donlevy and inquired why that book was located among the early printed books. Mr. Benson replied that this was the only "lock-up" available at Trinity and therefore any book of value in any of the libraries on campus which might be stolen or harmed was stored here. I also saw boxes of books labeled "summer salvage." During the summers Mr. Benson goes to estate sales and such to obtain new materials for the library. Those boxes had not been touched since their deposit in storage.

On my last day at Trinity I had a tour through the Conservation Laboratory with Anthony Cains, director of the laboratory. Mr. Cains took me through the entire laboratory and explained the reasoning behind the set-up for every item. Each work space was arranged in a particular manner so as to afford the best use of space as well as the most efficient and convenient arrangement of equipment. Much of the laboratory was designed based on the work Mr. Cains had done in Florence, Italy, after the 1966 flooding of the Arno River.

The second floor storage area of the laboratory has all types and colors of paper, vellum, and leather. Any material that the conservator might need to replicate the original is kept here. Chemicals are kept in a separate area. Mr. Cains showed me the book shoe (used to protect items in the Long Room), the phased box, and the drop-back box. All materials from the original volume

which cannot be used in restoration are placed in a plastic bag and maintained with the book. All work done is described in a brief note which is then pasted into the end page and signed by the conservator working on the project.

After leaving the library, I went to the library shop and then I ventured into the exhibition hall. The current exhibition was on "Birds and Beasts," and I had heard the exhibition all during my stay at the library. To lure people into the exhibition, a loudspeaker played animal growls and bird calls continuously. The exhibition contained curious realia, from tribal masks portraying animals to a stuffed rhinoceros, and books and manuscripts with beautiful hand-painted plates showing strange creatures. The price of admission was two and one-half pounds.

From the exhibition hall, I filed into a darkened room where the *Book of Kells* and the *Book of Durrow* are maintained under glass. A trip up the stairs from this room leads into the Long Room. I took one last long look around this magnificent expanse, trying to capture every image forever in my mind.

Pat DiBella is Reference Librarian at the Loutitt Memorial Library in West Greenwich.

NEW!

Column on Preservation!

Starting with the January/February issue, the *RILA Bulletin* will feature a column highlighting preservation issues. This column will be written by Ann Morgan Dodge, Conservator of Library Materials at the John Hay Library of Brown University. Ms. Dodge has worked at Brown for seven years and has been active in state-wide preservation planning, especially in writing *Disaster: Readiness, Response and Recovery*.

The new column will appear in each issue. It is hoped that the column will function as a clearinghouse for information concerning the preservation of library materials. The column will feature preservation tips, announce workshops and alert the reader to publications and articles. If you have any preservation related questions, please send them to Ann Dodge, John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912, or e-mail AP201078@brownvm.brown.edu or call (401) 863-1502.

Rhode Island Library Association

Membership Application and Renewal Form – January – December 1995

Please Print or Type

1. Name _____
 2. Work Information: Position _____
 3. Name of Library or Organization _____
 4. Address _____
 5. City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 6. Home Address _____
 7. City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 8. Preferred mailing address: _____ Work _____ Home _____
 9. Preferred Phone (to be printed in directory): _____ Work _____ Home _____
 10. Check here if there is a change from last year's directory information _____
- Association Membership:
11. ALA _____
 12. NELA _____
 13. RIEMA _____
 14. COLA _____
 15. Other _____
16. Current RILA committees on which you serve:
- _____

17. Please check areas of interest so we can call upon you for help on one of our committees.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Freedom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee Affairs |

Dues Schedule (Check category that applies)

Student \$12 _____	Retired \$15 _____	Salaried Library Personnel:
Trustee \$15 _____	Affiliate \$15 _____	Under \$15,000 \$15 _____
		\$15,000 – \$19,999 \$25 _____
		\$20,000 – \$29,000 \$30 _____
		\$30,000 and Above \$35 _____

\$ _____ Dues Paid

\$ _____ Contribution to ALA Washington Office

\$ _____ Contribution to Right to Read Foundation

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make check payable to RILA
and mail to:

Myra F. Blank, Chair
11 Peepoad Road
Warwick, RI 02888

Work: RIC/Adams Library 456-8190

Home: 463-7144

Notes from the Membership Committee

Now is the perfect time to renew your RILA membership. Membership runs from January to December. If members renew earlier in 1995, we will be able to publish the 1995 Directory at an earlier date. Please reproduce and fill in the membership form (found on page 4 of this *RILA Bulletin*) and send to: Myra F. Blank, 11 Peepoad Road, Warwick, RI 02888.

The following businesses are offering a 10% discount to RILA members: *College Hill Bookstore*, 252 Thayer Street, Providence; *Little Professor Book Center*, University Heights Shopping Center, North Main Street, Providence; *National Car Rental* (all six locations!), *Aardvark Picture Frame Company*, 5792 Post Road, E. Greenwich.

Good news! We have added two new and exciting businesses to the 10% discount list. They are:

Twice Told Tales
2210 Broad Street
Cranston, RI

This is a wonderful place for unique cards, tee-shirts, jewelry and used books, etc. Great for Christmas shopping!

Apple Eyewear
Koch Eye Building
566 Tollgate Road
Warwick, RI

Richard Crute, optician, features an excellent display of quality frames. He excels at helping people pick out the best frame for them.

To take advantage of any of these special discounts, just JOIN RILA and show your membership card!

Salary Recommendation Adopted

At RILA's November business meeting, the Personnel Committee presented its annual salary recommendation for membership approval.

This year the Committee recommended a minimum annual salary of \$29,400 which was amended to \$28,900. This salary recommendation was then passed.

Also, the results of the Survey on Internship Possibilities was sent to the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Science in June. The committee, with the special assistance of Ed Bailey and Kathy Blessing, surveyed public and academic library directors about internship possibilities for library school students. According to Professor Donna Gilton, the Internship Survey is located in the Placement Notebook for students to consult. She thought the survey information would be very useful and encouraged the committee to continue with the project.

BULLETIN BOARD

Common Cause of Rhode Island presented the Department of State Library Services and its Network Team a Public Service Achievement Award at its annual meeting on October 25. The award recognized the efforts of Barbara Weaver, Dorothy Frechette, Howard Boksenbaum, Sheila Carlson, Andrew Egan, Jeffrey Vale, and Angela Taylor for their leadership in establishing the Ocean State Free-Net.

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The Rhode Island State Archives is now providing electronic reference service through its Internet address. Users are welcome to send electronic mail to the State Archives requesting any type of information. The e-mail address for the Electronic Reference Desk is: reference@archives.state.ri.us. Requests are handled on a first come, first served basis. In the event that a request might require some photocopying to be done, please be sure to include your US mailing address in your request. There is a fifteen cent (.15) per page cost for photocopies.

The State Archives also has a gopher available at archives.state.ri.us which includes useful information about its holdings. (If you don't have access to a gopher, you can telnet to their address and log in as archives.) Please send any questions or comments to Tim Slavin (tslavin@archives.state.ri.us).

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Through the efforts and diligence of Councilwoman Evelyn Fagnoli, Providence Public Library's Mt. Pleasant Branch new neighbor, Walgreens Drug Store, has generously made a 3-year pledge of \$11,000 to help the Branch offer to the community one of the most comprehensive consumer health information tools available today on CD-ROM

— the HEALTH REFERENCE CENTER. This new system allows patrons to search for medical information in a broad spectrum of up-to-date magazines, newsletters and reference books. This highly sophisticated, yet *user-friendly computer*, will help Mt. Pleasant residents with their questions about diseases, alternative forms of treatment, fitness, nutrition, ailments, pregnancy, drugs and other health issues. "This system will help our residents understand their medical conditions and we think this will be a popular reference tool for patients and their family members," stated Mary McKenna, Mt. Pleasant Branch Librarian.



Four nationally known speakers will address the 7th National Conference of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) scheduled for March 29–April 1, 1995, in Pittsburgh.

National Public Radio's (NPR) John McChesney, cultural anthropologist Jennifer James, Columbia University urban planning professor Saskia Sassen and University of California, Berkeley, ethnic studies professor Ronald Takaki will each address one of the conference's four themes.

McChesney will review "Technology and the Service-Centered Library." James will address "Knowledge Workers and Their Organizations." Takaki will discuss the theme "Multiculturalism and Internationalism." Sassen will examine "Society, Economics and Politics."

Approximately 2,500 academic librarians are expected to participate in ACRL's conference that will feature more than 100 contributed papers, panel sessions and poster sessions, and more than 200 exhibits. Special library and local tours are also planned. The renowned Carnegie Museum will be the site of the all-conference reception.

Registration materials were mailed to ACRL members in mid-November.



The American Library Association will hold its 1996 Annual Conference in New York City instead of Orlando in an effort to make the conference accessible to as many members as possible. The action to move the Annual Conference was taken by the ALA Executive Board during its fall meeting, October 25-27.

"We want to ensure that the highest number of members as possible have an opportunity to attend the more than 2,000 meetings and visit the approximately 1,300 exhibitors," said ALA President Arthur

Curley. "History shows that the Annual Conference consistently draws well in New York City."

The 1986 ALA Annual Conference in New York drew nearly 17,000 in total attendance.

"We're excited about the potential for a greater number of members, publishers, friends and others to take advantage of the broad range of programs and exhibits featuring the latest in books, videos, computers and other materials," said Elizabeth Martinez, ALA Executive Director.

The new dates for the 1996 Annual Conference in New York are July 4-10. Exhibits will open on July 6 and close on July 9.

Lastly, it should be noted that the change of venues did not entail any loss of money for ALA, since no contracts had been signed with the Orlando Convention Bureau.

D A T E S

February 3-9: ALA Mid-Winter Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

P E O P L E

Matthew Bennett has been appointed Young Adult/Reference Librarian at Pawtucket Public Library.

Rowena Burke, Children's Librarian at the Peace Dale Public Library, has been elected Secretary of the New England Round Table of Children's Librarians (NERTCL).

Patricia DiBella has been appointed Reference Librarian at the Loutitt Memorial Library in West Greenwich.

Leslie Page, Children's Librarian at Woonsocket Harris Public Library, recently was elected Chairperson of the New England Round Table of Children's Librarians (NERTCL).

Kristen Riendeau recently was named Librarian of the Pascoag Public Library.

Michael Silvia is now Reference Librarian at Woonsocket Harris Public Library.

Karen Taylor, Director of the East Greenwich Free Library, completed the Ocean State Marathon, her first 26.2 miler, on October 30th.

Esther Wolk-Cohen is the new Assistant to the Children's Librarian at Newport Public Library.

Professor Jonathan Tryon of the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies is the author of *The Librarian's Legal Companion*, a book recently published by G.K. Hall.

WHCLIST Awards

The State of Rhode Island was singularly honored at the annual conference of WHCLIST (White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services Task Force) in Santa Clara, California this year. Congressman Jack Reed (D-RI) and Joan Ress Reeves were both given major awards, Congressman Reed as Legislator of the Year and Ms. Reeves as Citizen of the Year.

Congressman Reed was instrumental in assuring that language relating to school library media centers was included in the recent re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Reed had earlier introduced legislation proposing that specific appropriations be made for school library materials. Although his bill did not survive the legislative process, his language was included in the final approved version of ESEA. School library media centers and school librarians are eligible for funding under the technology portion of ESEA as well as for purchase of school library materials.

Joan Ress Reeves, currently Chair of the Library Board of Rhode Island, has been a tireless worker for library causes. For several years, she chaired WHCLIST, leading it through its early years following the first White House Conference on Libraries in 1979. She also was founding chairperson of the Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA), a grass-roots citizen advocacy group for library service. She is also co-chair of a national task force that has developed a consensus document currently being translated into draft legislative language for a proposed re-authorization of the Library Services and Construction Act.



Congressman Jack Reed (D-RI) being presented WHCLIST 1994 award as Legislator of the Year. In photo, L-R: Rose Ellen Reynolds, Cranston, WHCLIST Lay Delegate; Joan Ress Reeves, Providence, former WHCLIST Chair, and WHCLIST 1994 Citizen of the Year; Congressman Jack Reed; Barbara Weaver, Director, RI Department of State Library Services, Providence; Robert Schnare, Providence, WHCLIST Professional Delegate. PHOTO BY JOSEPH J. MCGOVERN, JR., RI DEPARTMENT OF STATE LIBRARY SERVICES

Florence Doksansky, past president, turns over gavel and "reins of power" to Jim Giles, new president of RILA.



*The Rhode Island Department of State Library Services
is pleased to introduce
LORI's Preservation and Disaster SIG*

For questions, recommendations, and comments
about preservation and disaster planning
for all types of libraries and library-related agencies

Karen Motylewski, Beth Patkus, and other staff of the Northeast Document Conservation Center will be on tap electronically to respond to your requests for advice on

- All aspects of planning for preservation of library materials
- All aspects of planning to avert and respond to disasters that impact your library collections
- Your questions about policies, practice, procedures and products for preservation and disaster management.

Plan to participate in this Forum for discussion essential to the future of your library and its collections. Share your experience, your thoughts, and your needs with others striving to preserve their collections, and to keep their preservation and disaster plans practical and current. This service is made possible by special agreement between Rhode Island DSLS and the Northeast Document Conservation Center's field service program, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For access:

- Log onto LORI
- Choose SIGs (#6) from the main menu
- Select Preservation and Disasters and tune in to what's going on ...

For help accessing LORI, call the DSLS Network Team.

No emergency requests, please. In an emergency threatening collections, call the Rhode Island Department of State Library Services at (401) 277-2726 or Northeast Document Conservation Center at (508) 470-1010.

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