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SPRING MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, May 22, 1945
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN LIBRARY, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Morning Session

9:30 A.M. ADDRESS OF WELCOME
Royal B. Farnum

BUSINESS MEETING

10:00 A.M. CHOOSING BOOKS FOR THE SMALL LIBRARY
Miss Susan E. Demery

10:45 A.M. MICROFILMING
Mr. Clarence E. Sherman

11:15 A.M. CENSORSHIP: WHOSE FUNCTION IS IT?
Mr. Bradford F. Swan

12:30 P.M. LUNCHEON

Afternoon Session

2:00 P.M. DUMBARTON OAKS
Mrs. John H. Wells

3:00 P.M. TREASURY OF ART IN PROVIDENCE
Mr. Gordon B. Washburn

4:00 P.M. TEA WILL BE SERVED IN THE LIBRARY.

Luncheon will be served at the Gallery Canteen.
The Rhode Island School of Design

The Library of the Rhode Island School of Design houses within its pleasant eighteenth century reading room and its adjoining modern stacks and slide room, a small but carefully chosen collection of books, periodicals, slides, and reproductions relating to all fields of fine and applied art. Its beginning dates back to 1878, the year of the opening of the school, when the entire collection occupied a single bookcase. Since that time it has grown steadily until today it ranks high among art school libraries.

The bulk of the collection is necessarily made up of books and visual material relating to art, intended to serve the professional needs of the faculty and students of the School and the exhibition and lecture program of the Museum. A small part of the budget has been allocated to books on related subjects. The Browsing Corner houses our fiction and popular non-fiction as well as the current periodicals which include scholarly and popular art journals and some magazines of a more general nature. The collection is particularly strong in the fields of painting, drawing, textiles, and Colonial architecture and furnishing. The Library is indebted to its many friends, especially to Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf whose unfailing interest and generous annual fund have made possible the purchase of many rare and distinguished publications. Many of these are folios of loose plates which are particularly useful to the students as individual plates, except those from the more valuable books, are allowed to circulate.

To display these to advantage one of the tables in the reading room is covered with glass, making a rather novel exhibit case for flat material. This past year we have experimented with other forms of publicity, including posters with frequently changing book jackets on the School bulletin boards, and a small display table in the Library near the new book shelf. Two exhibit cases in the Benefit Street lobby have featured a wide variety of material. Most popular among the shows were an exhibition of publications of our faculty; an exhibit of books with decorated end papers of the marbled, paste, and printed types, supplemented by examples from the Museum collection; a display of North American Indian material lent by the Museum Education Department.

From May 15th to June 9th there will be on display a loan exhibit of books by W. A. Dwiggins of Hingham, one of the leading American book designers and calligraphers. Mr. Dwiggins has to his credit a long list of distinguished limited editions, including the charming Wells’ "Time Machine," published by Random House; the delightful Overbrook Press edition of Robert Nathan’s "One More Spring"; and the Limited Editions Club "Plutarch’s Lives." Mr. Dwiggins has had a wide influence on American book design of the past two decades. Two of his type faces, Electra and Caledonia, outranked in popularity all other types by living designers used in the books exhibited by the American Institute of Graphic Arts during a certain period last year.

Speaker’s Who’s Who

Miss Susan E. Demery, Librarian of the Barrington Public Library, is a graduate of Pembroke College and was a former member of the Yale University Library.

Mrs. John H. Wells, former President of the Providence Plantations Club, taught at Robert College in Con-
stantinople and is an active member of the R. I. League of Women Voters.

Mr. Royal B. Farnum, Executive Vice-President of the R. I. School of Design, is the host of the meeting.

Mr. Bradford F. Swan is the Movie and Drama Critic on the staff of the Providence Journal.

Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian of the Providence Public Library, is on the Committee of 12 to pick out the 200 new books to be added to the White House Library as the “Once-in-four-years” gift from the American Booksellers Association.

Mr. Gordon B. Washburn, Director, Museum of Art, R. I. School of Design, was formerly connected with the Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, N. Y. and directed one of the outstanding art shows of the season “Old and New England.”

Elmwood Public Library

The Elmwood Public Library has received a gift of $100,000.00 through the will of Mrs. Sophie Knight Rousmaniere, daughter and last surviving member of the family of Robert and Josephine Knight, in whose memory the Knight Memorial Library building was erected.

The library has conducted a lecture course throughout the winter season which has been successful and well attended. Miss Marguerite Appleton started the season with a delightful discussion of “Outstanding Books for Winter Reading”. The World Affairs Council of Rhode Island loaned a most interesting motion picture in technicolor called “South of the Border With Walt Disney”. Rev. Lewis L. Gilbert of the Central Congregational Church gave an inspiring talk about his “Experiences in Wartorn China”. On the same evening that remarkable film “Here Is China” narrated by Clifton Fadiman was shown. Mrs. George E. Downing gave an illustrated talk about “Old Houses and Other Historic Buildings of Rhode Island”; Dr. Olin S. Pettingill nationally known ornithologist of Carleton College, Minnesota, gave a lecture about “Bird-Life in New England.” This was illustrated by his own artistic and beautiful motion pictures in technicolor.

More than two hundred children were entertained in the Elmwood Public Library Auditorium, Friday afternoon, Feb. 23rd, by Robert E. Hargreaves of 9 Norwich Avenue, who has earned a substantial reputation as an amateur magician. Spellbound children, watched with bated breath, while yards of gaily colored silk were taken from a supposedly empty box and from the depths, mysteriously appeared four bowls of sparkling water. Magic with cards also delighted the audience, but the crowning event of the afternoon was when the young Houdini created a live white rabbit from thin air, which he presented with his compliments to one of the children of the audience.

William H. Hall Free Library

The William H. Hall Library of Edgewood has added two new activities for the young people this year.

A Noontime Club has grown out of a large lunch hour crowd of commuting pupils from St. Paul’s School. As the attendance averages 60 each day Mrs. Muriel Wyman was faced with a discipline problem and organized the group. The older children assist the little ones to find picture books as well as take turns at checking each child in thus helping with the discipline. Every non-resident pupil in an Edgewood school is entitled to a free card.

The other new feature is the Library Science course for the seventh and eighth grades from the Norwood Ave. Grammar School. Each of the six divisions comes for one period a week. Mrs. Alice McPeek, Children’s Librarian gives the instruction assisted by Mrs. Wyman.

Westerly Public Library

Miss Helen L. Whiton, formerly Branch Librarian at Passaic, N. J., has joined the Staff of the Westerly Public Library as Head of Circulation.
The Westerly Public Library is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its organization this year. Instead of observing merely the anniversary of the opening day, the celebration is continuing throughout the year in a series of events offered to the public as extra dividends in addition to the usual services of the Library.

A birthday celebration was held on August 15 with a flower show, an exhibit in the Museum portraying the history of the library movement in Westerly since 1797 and open house throughout the Library. Marion Gill MacNeil spoke at a meeting in recognition of the publication of her latest book "Between earth and sky": Nelson W. Thorp recently returned from U.S.O. service in the Canal Zone told of his work there and on March 20, Professor George L. Church of Brown University gave an illustrated lecture on the subject "A botanist's trail from the Desert to the Higher Sierras."

The Westerly Public Library helps to bridge the gap between the men and women temporarily located in Westerly due to war activities and the more permanent residents by drawing them into the social and cultural activities of the various groups meeting there. Men in uniform are prominent now in the Community Orchestra which meets each week in the auditorium, The Waves are well represented in a Know Your Community discussion group and a larger group each week joins the Y.M.C.A. square and folk dancers as they meet in the Gymnasium of the Library.

Join the R.I.L.A.

The Rhode Island Library Association extends an invitation to every employee and Trustee in Rhode Island to join the Association. Dues $1.00, payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. Lawrence M. Shaw, Oaklawn, R. I. will help assure good programs at the meetings, will provide each member with a copy of the State Bulletin and a copy of the Handbook and revisions as they are issued.

The A.L.A. Needs You: And You—

need the A.L.A. Facing a task greater than that which has challenged the united efforts of librarians since the organization of the American Library Association in 1876, the Association has only a membership of 16,000, less than half the number of professional librarians in the country. If you believe that there is important work which can be done by united effort, and if you believe that the association which safeguards our professional interests holds promise of being able to accomplish that work, will you join? For information, write to Miss Sallie E. Coy, Librarian, Westerly Public Library who is serving as Rhode Island representative of the A.L.A. Membership Committee.

Children's librarians will be interested to know that they may join the A.L.A. by writing to Miss Esther Bangs at the Rochambeau Branch of the Providence Public Library. She is our Rhode Island Chairman of the membership committee, Children's Library Association of the A.L.A.

Providence Public Library

A generous gift of $1000 from an anonymous library friend was recently given to the Library. The disposition of this gift will go for equipment of new and appropriate furniture in the Boys' and Girls' Library.

Among the recent exhibits of interest to the public was a notable display composed of patents seized from enemy aliens and models of early Rhode Island patents.

Returning war veterans are receiving special attention through letters signed by the Librarian reminding them of some of the Library's facilities to them. A "Welcome Home" poster has been placed at strategic points. A pamphlet is being distributed not only in the Library system, but at the U.S.E.S. offices and at the Guidance Center. At this center, the Library has placed a small collection of books for ex-service men awaiting their turn for consultation.

A generous gift of $1000 from an anonymous library friend was recently given to the Library. The disposition of this gift will go for equipment of new and appropriate furniture in the Boys' and Girls' Library.
Personnel changes on the staff include the following appointments: Miss Helen E. Stikeman, formerly of the Westerly and Newark Public Libraries, is assistant at the Business Branch; Mrs. Carolyn Penley, formerly with the Rhode Island State College and Cornell University Libraries, is at Central Library; Miss Dorothy M. Brown left the N. Y. Public Library to become Branch Librarian at Washington Park; Miss Edith Herrman, formerly of the N. Y. Public Library fills a vacancy in the Catalog Department; Mrs. Ruth A. Oller is the new Children's Librarian at Tockwotten; Miss West DeRocco, a former member of the Westerly Public Library, is Children's Librarian at the Boys' and Girls' Department. Resignations include Miss Ruth B. Browne of Wansuk Branch; Miss Margaret Gibbs, Tockwotten Branch; Mrs. Anthony Tamason, formerly Miss Louise Conway of Tockwotten Branch, and Mr. Scott Adams, Order-Catalog Head, who assumes new duties with the Army Medical Library, Washington, D. C.

Pfc. John A. Norton, Assistant Librarian on leave, is now stationed at Camp Monmouth, N. J., while waiting to leave for overseas duties.

A.L.A. Library Development Fund

The American Library Association launched a campaign for the Library Development Fund in January at a meeting in Chicago. The campaign has the following main objectives:

1. To maintain a representative of Libraries in Washington under the direction of the A.L.A.:
   a. To help secure Army camp library books and equipment primarily for rural library service, when this property is no longer needed by the army.
   b. To help make other federally owned surplus property, including books, available to college and university libraries, public libraries, state library extension agencies and other publicly supported or tax exempt libraries.
2. To provide federal agencies with information concerning the nation's needs for improved and extended library service.
3. To help interpret to federal agencies the needs and functions of libraries of all kinds.
4. To enable the American Library Association to carry on a national public relations program directly and indirectly in support of these and related objectives.

Mr. Allen, President of the R. I. Library Association, suggests that we strive for contributions from Libraries rather than from Librarians, and that and that head librarians ask their Boards of Trustees for small library contributions. Rhode Island's quota is approximately $100 a year for four years. All contributions should be sent to Mrs. Muriel Wyman of the William H. Hall, Edgewood, who is chairman of the Library Development Fund for this state.

Rhode Island State Library

A new division has been added to the roster of the State Library, namely the World War II Records Division. Mr. Henry G. Jackson is the Secretary. This was formerly one of the subdivisions of the State Council of Defense and was transferred to the State Library by His Excellency, the Governor.

The General Assembly at the 1945 Session made a $5000 appropriation for the R. I. State Library's Book Pool for the Fighting Services. Appropriations have also been made by several towns and all the cities. Four libraries have been established in Italy, one in France, one in Belgium, two in England, three in the Philippines, two in the Burma-China Theater and at other locations overseas, as well as with local installations.

An amount of $5000 has been transferred from the Contingency Fund to the R.I. State Library to Purchase microfilm for back years of the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin for deposit in the R.I. Historical Society.
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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