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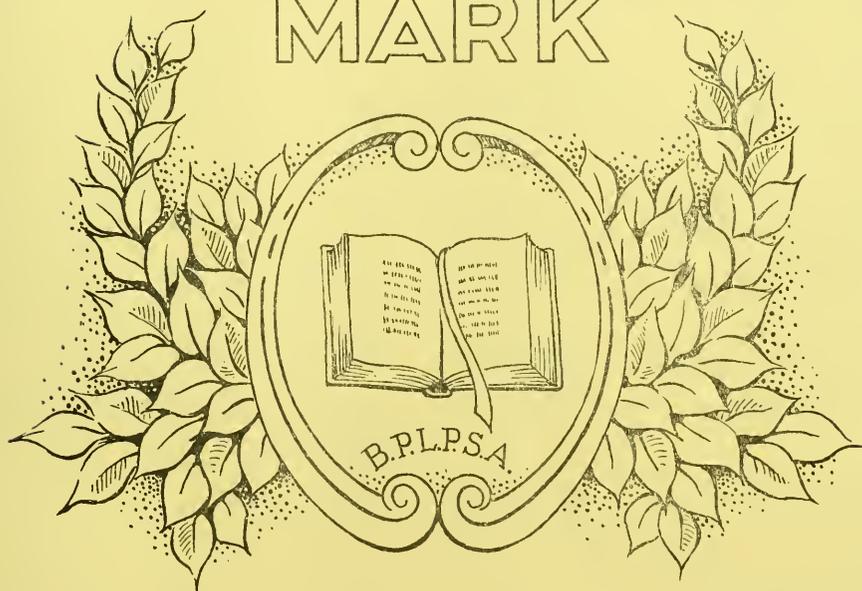








THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



# THE QUESTION MARK

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Publications Committee: Mildred R. Adelson, John M. Carroll, Eleanor DiGiannantonio, M. Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

It was, if memory can be trusted, in connection with an earlier White House Conference -- the one on "Child Health and Protection" -- that Honorable Herbert Hoover, then President of the United States, expressed concisely and simply the sentiments which must be common to parents the world over. In speaking of children, he said: "We put them to bed with a sense of relief and with infinite devotion." As an editorial staff, we share those sentiments concerning the "child" you placed in our care two years ago -- The Question Mark. We relinquish editorship with a very definite and normal sense of relief, and, at the same time, with sincere devotion to and belief in the purposes this staff bulletin is trying to achieve.

We thank each member of the staff who has contributed material which has helped make possible the issuing of twelve numbers in 1950, with a variety of content which we hope has appealed to each person at least sometime during the year.

When the new Publications Committee is appointed it will find waiting for it both our sympathy and a pledge of our support. We assure them that they are entering upon a challenging experience. May they appreciate all phases of it as we have tried to.

To all members of the staff we extend our sincere good wishes for the year 1951.

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## PERSONAL NOTES

### New Staff Members

Mrs Bessie K. Mishara, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Mr Paul F. Mulloney, Science and Technology Department.

Miss Ruth S. Lyons, West Roxbury Branch Library.

Mr Joseph F. Turley, Kirstein Business Branch.

Mrs Flora W. Roussos, West End Branch Library (formerly part-time at West End Branch Library).

Mrs Alison Bishop, Rare Book Department.

### Resignations

Mrs Frances B. Starke, Registration Department.

Mrs Mary C. Quercia, Book Stack Service, to remain at home.

### Transfers

Mr Clarence M. Fuller, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services to Business Office.

Miss Patricia M. Wilson, Allston Branch Library to Book Preparation Department.

Miss Anne L. Moore, Open Shelf Department to Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Miss Marie T. Hastie, School Issue Department to City Point Branch Library.

Miss Naomi R. Michalak, Jamaica Plain Branch Library to School Issue Department.

Miss Gloria H. Shine, Dorchester Branch Library to Connolly Branch Library.

Miss Mary T. Ryan, West End Branch Library to Allston Branch Library.

Miss Mary C. O'Malley, Book Stack Service to Registration Department.

Marriages

Miss Joyce P. Silhavy, Roslindale Branch Library, to Mr Andrew H. Ellis. Mr Ellis is attending Boston University.

Births

Mr and Mrs Walter R. Curley, Science and Technology Department, announce the birth of twin daughters, Maureen and Marilyn, on December 18, 1950.

Mr and Mrs John Horton, Connolly Branch Library, announce the birth of a son, John, Jr on December 17, 1950.

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WE WELCOME BACK  
AFTER LONG ILLNESSES

Mr William B. Gallagher, Printing Department.

Miss M. Therèse Campbell, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY  
to

Miss M. Anne Brennan, Branch Issue Department, 93 Calumet Street, Roxbury Crossing 20.

Mr James Kinsella, Buildings Department, 125 Farragut Road, South Boston 27.

Miss Beatrice C. Maguire, Uphams Corner Branch Library, 31 Winthrop Street, Roxbury 19.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

On Thursday evening, February 15, at 8 o'clock, Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Branch Librarian Emeritus of the Phillips Brooks Branch Library, will speak at that branch library on her summer's experience as a guide at the Fruitlands Museum. Her subject is GUIDING AT FRUITLANDS: FUN OR A JOB? Any interested staff members are most cordially invited to hear Mrs Bailey.

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RECENT VISITORS

Mr D. R. Kalia, Director-Designate, UNESCO Public Library Pilot Project in Delhi, India.

Mr Herman Liebaers, Royal Library, Brussels, Belgium.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Since the last issue of The Question Mark, the library has been under the influence of that subtle something known as "The Christmas spirit". When it is with us, we wish it would never leave; when it has gone, we wonder why we ever let it slip away. Enveloped in its influence we see our neighbor through a rosy glow; petty cares lose their fleeting importance; the real things of life come into the foreground of our consciousness; under its influence we stand at the threshold of a New Year, -- and what of the year that lies ahead? For the free peoples of the world this year of 1951 holds an unmitigated challenge. If we as a nation and as individuals are ready to meet that challenge, this year will be a great proving ground for those ideals of freedom which we have cherished for so many centuries.

A nation, a people, an ideal are only as great or as strong as the individuals making up the whole. Knowing this, the year becomes a time where we as individuals can prove our value to the idea and the ideals of freedom. By bringing our best each day to our minor roles in the drama of life, we can infuse into our homes, our library, our city, state and nation a spirit of confidence and co-operation which will be beneficial far beyond our greatest hope.

And what of our Association during 1951? In the face of the world struggle for freedom we must never lose sight of the fact that freedom within the narrow borders of an Association such as ours, represents in a limited degree, the underlying principles of that great universal freedom which is the goal of all free men everywhere. Whatever success our organization has achieved in the past has been accomplished solely by the spirit of co-operation and willing effort that has dominated the membership. A continuation of this

BPLPSA WORKSHOP

spirit can bring only greater achievements. With this issue of The Question Mark I bid you farewell as your president. I cannot let this opportunity pass without extending to every member of the Association my sincere thanks for their untiring support during these past two years. To the Executive Board, the officers, those who have served on committees, those who have in any way worked for the interests of the Association during my term of office, I say a very heartfelt "thank you". Your loyalty, your devotion to the ideals of the Association, and your willing sacrifice of time and effort to further the growth of our organization, has made these two years as your president a period of real pleasure to me. Again I say "thank you". The new year with a new president, new officers, and a new executive board offers to us all another opportunity for even greater service. As we have met the challenges of the past so shall we meet those of the future.

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One of our first duties in this new year is a pleasant one -- the election of Association officers. This is one of the many times when every member is equally important. The vote of the president of the Association carries no more weight than that of the newest member of the Association, -- providing each casts his vote. Voting instructions have been issued and the voting booth will be open long enough to make it possible for every member to vote at the annual meeting on Friday, January 19. Those who because of essential library duties cannot be present at the meeting may vote by absentee ballot. Thus it is made possible for every member to cast his or her vote. Let's have 100% voting record this year. Remember a vote not cast may be one in favor of the candidates for whom you would not vote. This is one case where you have a real opportunity to shape the future of the Association. Cast your VOTE for the candidates of your choice.

Your next duty for the new year is equally as important. Give to the candidates elected your whole-hearted support. If you do these two things the future of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association is assured.

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Within the last few days there was sent to the membership registration blanks for the forthcoming Association-sponsored workshop series. The first question that naturally arises is -- why a workshop when we are all so busy with routine work? Before you answer that question ask yourself two more. Do I know all there is to know about my own job? Do I know all I need to know about the jobs of my fellow-workers in order to be able to integrate my work with theirs to bring about the maximum efficiency for the staff as a unit and thus to reach the objective of all library work -- a more effective service to our public? If you can conscientiously answer "yes" to these questions, you have no need of a workshop, but most of us have much to learn about our own jobs, about the jobs of others and the ways whereby they can be more effectively co-ordinated. For those who want to broaden their library horizons here is the opportunity. The fee is very small, just enough to cover initial expenses. All you have to give is the time and the willingness to do a bit of extra-curricula work, the same that is required of those who take the regular library in-service training courses. This is a new venture for the Association. Let's give it our full support.

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ARCHIBALD MACLEISH  
TO BE GUEST SPEAKER

Through the courtesy of the Director, it will be possible for the Association meeting on February 23, 1951, at which Mr Archibald Macleish is to be the guest speaker, to be held in the New Open Shelf Department. This will give the Association Members and their friends a double treat. They will hear an outstanding American author discuss his favorite subject -- poetry and how it is made -- and they will also have the opportunity of having a preview of the New Open Shelf Department.

Due to the spaciousness of the new quarters it will be possible to have both the formal meeting and the reception for Mr MacLeish and the new officers within the confines of the one department. Thus the meeting can go forward without any delay

or interruption of schedule due to the fact that the public always must be given preference. There will be no public. The New Open Shelf Department will be solely and exclusively for the use of the Association members and their friends for that one evening. The Association is very grateful to all those who are extending to us this courtesy. Our most sincere appreciation will be shown by our presence at the meeting. Save the date-- February 23, 1951.

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SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Sesquicentennial Anniversary year of the Library of Congress was recently completed with a significant concluding event which was of unusual interest for the staff of the Boston Public Library. On Tuesday evening, December 12, 1950 a distinguished group of approximately 150 individuals made up of the Presidents or other high ranking representatives of the learned and scientific societies and professional associations of the United States met in the East Room of the Hotel Mayflower in Washington to pay tribute to an institution which has come to be regarded as the national library of this country. In addition, the Congress of the United States was represented by the Honorable Carl Albert of the Joint Committee on the Library and the Honorable Clarence Cannon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and the executive branch of the Government by delegates of the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the National Archives, the Office of Education, and the Veterans Administration.

This historic event in the history of American libraries and librarianship had special significance for the Boston Public Library in that its Director, Mr Milton E. Lord, Retiring President of the American Library Association, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the occasion and its former Librarian, Dr Herbert Putnam, addressed the group. As the December 18, 1950 issue of The Library of Congress Information Bulletin expressed it, Mr Lord "began his excellent performance by

paying tribute to the Library: an exercise in which he is almost professionally proficient, having perfected the art (or skill) 1) at the Association's annual conference at Cleveland last summer, and 2) at the meeting of the Association's Executive Board held in Washington a few weeks ago; but such is his virtuosity that never once did he plagiarize himself or pirate his literary property."

The speakers at the dinner were the following:

Mr Lord paid deserved tribute to what the Library of Congress "has been, is, and will be", and the unique place it occupies in American intellectual life. The great contributions made to scholarship and science by the Library of Congress not only as made in the past, but also to be made in the future, were underlined by Dr Robert B. Downs, Director of the University Library at the University of Illinois, speaking for American libraries, and by Dr Charles E. Odegaard, Executive Director of the American Council of Learned Societies, speaking for the learned and scientific societies of the country. Congressman Albert, representing the Joint Committee on the Library, spoke entertainingly on behalf of the Congress of the United States, and the present Librarian of Congress, Dr Luther H. Evans, discussed the Library's "duties and requirements" and "pledged allegiance to the great confraternity of scholars whose presence ... was an inspiration and encouragement and a sense of strength".

As an unannounced concluding event in the program Mr Lord was able to prevail upon the Librarian of Congress Emeritus to speak, and in his characteristically graceful and witty style Dr Putnam reviewed the history of the Library, and particularly the accomplishments of his great predecessor, Ainsworth Rand Spofford, and the unfailing cooperation of the Congress and his colleagues and associates. Dr Putnam supposed that it was more agreeable to "listen to a eulogy than to be the object of an elegy", and in a striking phrase declared, "I am contemporary with my own posterity."

This observance of the Sesquicentennial of our great Library of Congress is an event of great significance for American librarianship. And the Boston Public Library feels a unique sense of kinship with that great institution, for in the celebration of this happy event its present

Director and his distinguished predecessor, the Librarian of Congress Emeritus, played leading roles.

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

Miss Mary V. Doyle, Children's Librarian, Young People's Room, and her competent, cheerful assistants gave tangible proof of the fact that a very successful tea can be arranged on short notice. Following a simple announcement on December 13, the attractive poster, designed and executed by Miss Mildred R. Somes, Book Preparation Department, came out on December 14 (just in time to be included in the December issue of The Question Mark). Congratulations to all concerned!

On Thursday afternoon, December 21, from three to five o'clock, the Women's Lounge was a buzz of excitement as staff members spent their relief periods partaking of dainties attractively arranged and dispensed by genial hostesses whose names appeared on Christmas tree name tags. The addition of a long refectory table make it possible to serve tea and coffee exclusively there while the larger table was laden with sweets on the other side of the room.

The Women's House Committee had done an excellent job of decorating artistically the room and the hall leading to it.

It was pleasant to greet the five retired staff members who returned -- Misses Edith Guerrier and Alice Hanson, and Messrs William J. Mulloney, Morris Rosenberg, Lucien Taylor and John Watson.

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ANNUAL GOOD WILL PARTY

The Proverb, "Great Oaks from little acorns grow" had indisputable confirmation in the get-together at the West End Branch Library on December 14. The idea was originally conceived as a modest, informal recognition of the two holidays -- Hanukah and Christmas, which usually fall near each other. The evening was to teach a lesson in brotherhood and to provide the occasion for the exchanging of small presents among the members of the Staff and their friends. With the years, this idea has grown into a custom and a tradition.

Its main purpose is still to show the underlying unity between Judaism and Christianity and the possibility of actually practicing the idea of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

This year, more than 150 invited guests attended, including representatives of the city government, Library Trustees, clergymen, and representatives from other walks of life, as well as personal friends. The building was beautifully decorated in the spirit of both Hanukah and Christmas. Even the decorations emphasized the theme of one faith embellishing and complementing the other. There was a Menorah and a Christmas tree; a nativity scene and a Hanukah top; books on Christmas and books on Hanukah . . .

The spirit of the entire evening was warm and informal, but there was a planned program before the collation was served. It opened with Miss Goldstein's words of welcome and a few interesting notes on the long and varied history of the building. The Christmas message was delivered by Dean Edwin J. Van Etten, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, long-known for his efforts on behalf of good will among all faiths. Rabbi Benjamin Grossman explained the significance of Hanukah through the ages and especially in modern history, stressing its significance for all well-meaning men.

Although Hanukah was officially over, to acquaint the non-Jewish guests with the beautiful ceremony, Mr Bernard Radin lighted the Hanukah candles and sang the traditional hymn.

Mrs Arthur A. Shurcliff and her group of bell ringers, long associated with Christmas on Beacon Hill, gave much pleasure to the gathering with their playing.

Mrs Flora Roussos, a member of the Staff, showed both her versatility and good will by singing in Hebrew MI Y'MALEL?

Mr Harry H. Fein, well-known Boston poet, translator, and Hebrew scholar, read several selections from his new volume of poems based on the PIRKE AVOTH.

A group of Negro spirituals and carols were sung by a soprano and alto, Mrs Georgie Bailey and Mrs Angelyn De Baughn Holt, under the direction of Dr William A. Rhodes. The particular clear and impassioned quality of the singing always associated with Negro music was a stirring musical experience.

Before she invited the guests to break bread with her, Miss Goldstein asked Rabbi

Sidney Leeder, of Malden, to say grace over the holiday loaf of snow white chale.

In the spirit of friendliness and good cheer the guests ate, drank, renewed old acquaintances and made many new ones.

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COUNTING BLESSINGS - A FORGOTTEN VIRTUE

As the nine o'clockers were trooping out of the Abbey Room one evening shortly before Christmas, an odd-looking little figure wandered in and stood by the railing peering into the obscurity beyond the desks. As I came back from airing out the room, I was hailed by this little woman with a knitted fascinator on her head and a cane in her mittened hands. In a cheery voice she asked if she might go inside the railing to see the decorations better. "I'm trying to see all the Christmas decorations I can this year," she said, "so as to remember them the rest of my life in case this is the last Christmas I'll be able to see." As we talked, I learned that she had been operated on last winter for cataracts and hadn't been able to see at all at Christmastime. Early in January she had tried out the new glasses and then had gone around trying to see the few crèches and other decorations which had not yet been dismantled. To her sorrow all she could see was a blur.

How amazing it was to have this stranger express such delight over observing a lizard not more than an inch long on the roof of the factory-made cardboard manger on the windowsill. She could see at a certain angle only out of the center of her convex lenses, but couldn't quite be sure whether her eyes were deceiving her. How inobservant even one like myself, whose eyes were trained by years of studying painting, becomes in the turmoil of everyday life! My eyes had to really hunt for the lizard.

Surely no one who entered the Central Library this season could have been half so grateful to the staff for its artistic efforts in decorating the building for the holidays as was this visitor. She remarked especially on the gingerbread house in the Young People's Room and on the choir at Bates Hall Centre Desk. It didn't even escape her attention that there were tiny notes on the sheet of music on the paper organ. (Happily she

did not learn that the tune was "Sweet Adeline.")

"It is all right if I can't see by next year," she said in a matter-of-fact way. "I've no right to expect it. After all, I'm sixty-eight years old, and I've had great happiness in seeing so many things all these years and in having been able to read. I'll have a lot of beautiful things to remember, and especially Christmastime." We talked of the spirit of Christmas and of people in general. It warmed my heart to hear her say that everyone had been good to her in her affliction. "You've no idea how kind people really are," she remarked.

As this little woman went about in her cheery way with a heart filled with gratitude for all those things that most people accept as their due, I wondered if the message she unwittingly brought to us was not a far greater Christmas gift than the happiness we gave to her. When so many in this world are seeking this thing or that and are so bitter in their disappointments, there are a few blessed beings like our visitor who appear to have so little and yet find joy in whatever comes their way. I wonder how many of us could be unselfish enough to think, if we were losing our sight, that others suffer greater misfortunes? And how many of us, as we face the New Year, which is certain to be one of sacrifice, are brave enough and philosophical enough to regard life, as the woman with cane does, not as a gift but as a loan?

M.G.B.

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CHRISTMAS 1950

If there is any truth to the statement that "sweets give quick energy", then the Central Library staff should have been the quickest, most energetic possible during the week before Christmas. Not only did they purchase a goodly share of the nearly one ton of candy processed so efficiently by "Sam Green, the Candy Man", they consumed what seemed to be more than a ton of sweets as office after office, and department after department, offered it to all comers with a cheery "Merry Christmas".

There were the traditional parties -- luncheons and refreshments in the building, and many other parties outside the building.

QUARTER CENTURY CLUB NEW YEAR'S PARTY

We wonder if the cleaning women weren't the smartest of all -- they waited and had their holiday breakfast between Christmas and New Years!

However, perhaps the most effective interpretation of the meaning of Christmas was caught in the decorations throughout the building that were shared with the public. The four exhibition cases in the main lobby were given over to four crèches, illustrative of the treatment of the nativity scene as portrayed in folklore usage of four countries -- Sweden, Belgium, Austria, and Germany. The backgrounds in the cases were four Medici prints of Madonnas mounted on embossed gold paper and framed in laurel. These were lent by Miss Edith W. Fisher, whose sister, the late Miss Bessie E. Fisher, was for many years a member of the staff of the Fellowes Athenaeum Branch Library. A handsome Medici print of a Madonna on a dignified rich panel outside the Open Shelf Department was in keeping with the spirit of the displays in this area. The Periodical and Newspaper Rooms were cheerfully decorated with Christmas winter scenes and Medici prints of Madonnas. Every room on the second floor had the benefit of a personalized touch. A miniature tree high above the eye level in Bates Hall was aglitter with lights and tinsel. Each desk in the Hall also had its crib, its festive scene, or its "choir". The fireplace in the Abbey Room glowed with a warm cheery "heat" for the first time. Angels, cherubims, ingenious trees of cardboard and wire gave the third floor a Bonwit Teller's atmosphere.

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THANKS TO MR CROWLEY

Members of the staff who attended the Christmas party for part-time workers wish to publicly thank Mr Joseph Crowley, Assistant-in-Charge of Book Stack Service, for his unselfishness in giving up a free evening to supervise the party.

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On New Year's night the Library was the scene of a gay party sponsored by the Quarter Century Club. The President, Mr George Gallagher, was Master of Ceremonies, and the program was both varied and delightful -- indeed, one heard on every side that it was one of the very best. Mr Bradford Hill opened the evening's entertainment with two beautifully-rendered piano solos, which were followed by two charming vocal selections sung in Mrs Flora Roussos' own inimitable manner.

We of the Quarter Century Club are deeply grateful to the group of young people from the Book Stack Service, who so generously repeated for our pleasure the skit which they had prepared for their own Christmas party. "And the lamp went out" was acted in a most convincing and dramatic way, and the surprise ending brought down the house.

Our magician, Mr Paul Delahanty would be hard to beat. He even looked the part of a magician as he deliberately mystified us again and again with his wide assortment of clever tricks; and were our faces red when, instead of explaining one of his numbers to us, we discovered -- well, after all, we'll keep his secret -- he may want to fool the library folks again.

Mr Pietro Mordelia, the strolling accordion player, was a whole show in himself. He even charmed us into singing with him the new songs as well as the old, and climaxed his performance with a clever one-man comedy act. The refreshments, which were served in the Abbey Room under Mr Joseph Danker's competent supervision, were excellent -- ice-cream, cake, and coffee, and plenty of everything.

When full of good food and pleasant conversation, we strolled back to the Lecture Hall where Mr Frank Myers and his orchestra were ready to go into full swing for the dancing.

Of the invited guests, those present were: Mr and Mrs Francis B. Masterson, Mr and Mrs Milton E. Lord, and Mr and Mrs John J. Connolly.

As the evening progressed, Mr Lord was persuaded to call some square dances, and the program ended in a burst of genuine puffing good cheer.

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LETTER FROM MRS FLANNERY

B.O.Q. A-51, Rm 238  
309 Dillingham St.  
Naval Base, Norfolk, Va.  
29 Dec. 1950

Dear Library Friends:

I finally seem to have a period of free time that I can be sure of calling my own without interruptions so that I am able to write and give you all the news. First I want to thank you for the lovely slip you gave me. It has caused considerable favorable comment around the B.O.Q. (female wing) and everyone thinks it very pretty. I wore it the first day I put on my uniform to report for duty, feeling I needed something to keep up my morale. I also wish to thank everyone who sent me Christmas cards and to apologize for not sending them in return. I hope you will understand though that Christmas week was a busy one around here and full of interruptions. I have the cards and stamps all bought and will probably use them next year.

I thought you all might like a blow by blow account of what has happened since I left the library which is one reason why I delayed writing until I had time to really go into some detail. We left Boston Tuesday about noon, and drove as far as New York where we visited with my sister and saw my sister-in-law. Wednesday noon I left for Washington and Bill stayed in N.Y. for a day or so. The drive as far as Phila was fine, but I hit Phila just as everyone was coming from work, and hit about thirty miles of heavy traffic which really got me down. The road from Phila to Baltimore is pretty foul, the Penna roads have a very high crown which made me feel in imminent danger of going into a ditch, but I survived. Just before I hit Baltimore I noticed snow in all the fields. It was dark and I thought I was seeing things, coming south to see my first snow of the year, but no, it was true, as a matter of fact there was snow on the ground all the way to Richmond.

At Baltimore, I was undecided as to whether to take route 301 which bypasses Washington, or to continue on route 1 and hit the district. I went into a gas station to ask, and, though it was only 8:30, the man seemed horrified at my travelling

alone and warned me against 301 as a bad road for a woman at night. A couple of corners later, I asked a policeman for the correct turn, and he also looked alarmed and warned me to keep all my windows locked. By that time I was ready to find the nearest hotel in Baltimore but, being stubborn, pushed on, needless to say keeping on route 1. I was glad I did, because from Baltimore to D.C. the road is wonderful, and I made the distance in no time flat. I put up for the night in a very nice tourist cabin just outside of Washington, had a good night's sleep, and was off the next morning about 9:30 for the rest of the trip. It was a certainly beautiful day, and the roads were superb. I have nothing but the best to say for Virginia highways. I arrived at the Naval Base about 4:30 and went straight to my quarters.

There are 17 of us here in the B.O.Q. including 2 marines. We live in one wing of the regular B.O.Q. and the men have the rest of the building. The rooms are fairly nice though not enormous. We each have a room and share a bath with one person. I share the bath with Frankie Hall the girl I am relieving. She leaves for Washington the 15th of January, as she has been here three years. Our rooms are on the second floor. On the ground floor we have a kitchen, with two refrigerators, but no stove except a little two burner electric. It seems there had been a stove but it was taken out as the men had none, also the powers that be prefer that we eat at the mess and support it. They left the refrigerators, the girls think because the men prefer us not to go to the club unattended . . . There is also a laundry with a Bendix, and a drying room, so things are not too uncomfortable, although it is a little like a girls boarding school, and I should not like it for a permanent residence.

On Friday morning I reported in for duty to the communication station which is located at district headquarters, about half a mile from B.O.Q., right on the base. So far I haven't done anything in the way of work, but have spent most of the time observing and reading up on publications concerning communications, studying in other words. I spent most of last week in the coderoom brushing up on my cryptography, and tonight I start in at the C.W.O. (Communication Watch Officer) desk, to learn

the routines there. As that is the kind of work I did before, I shan't have too much difficulty I expect. The C.W.O. is responsible for all the messages that go out from the district, their routing distribution, the manner in which they are sent and in general keeps things moving. I think that it is good duty here, as it is a very busy office also there seems to be a pretty good crowd to work with. So much for work. Oh yes - hours. I start at 4 today, work three days 4 to 12, the next three days midnight to 8, then three days 8-4. I then have 2 whole days off, and until 4 P.M. on the third day, which is not a bad watch schedule.

The base here is an amazing place and quite confusing to a newcomer. It covers 3000 acres, and is the largest naval base in the world. It is quite like a small town in itself, and I believe one could live here for some time without any necessity for leaving it. I am certainly glad I have a car though, to get around with. There are three ship's service stores, or since we must call them since the consolidation of the armed forces (which makes people here unhappy) navy exchanges. Each has a movie theatre, quite comparable in size and style to suburban movies around Boston, and the tickets run from 10 to 12¢. In the stores one can buy every conceivable thing except civilian shoes and dresses. There are tailor shops, cobblers, barber shops, a beauty shop and I don't know what all else. There is only one library, but for size it will put our new open shelf department to shame. It's a simply enormous room, sharing honors in the same building with the poolroom and the movies. A sign directs one to poolroom and library. They get all the new books, bought I hear by the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts in carload lots (for all the ships as well as shore station libraries). I gather they operate on a basis of say order ten gross of new fiction or half a ton of history books. At any rate this library is well supplied, and as sailors ashore are not exactly great readers the selection of new books and the not so new ones that would be worn out through use in the B.P.L. is excellent.

There is a golf course almost across the street for us and I understand that at Virginia beach about 1/2 an hour from the base, there is a private reservation

for the Navy. As a matter of fact this place is Navy, navy, navy, you eat it, sleep it, dream it. It is quite a world apart and like nothing I have ever encountered before.

Eating does present somewhat of a problem. There is a mess in the next building at which one can get all ones meals for \$45.00 a month. I have not joined however, for three reasons, one, on communications duty I shall be working just when meal-times arrive, or if not working, sleeping. 2. The cooking is erratic. The stewards seem to run it by themselves, and though some meals are delicious, others are inedible, and third, as soon as Bill gets here I shall live off the base and not want to join the mess.

The officer's club is really too expensive for everyday, also it is not a place where one would go for dinner unescorted. Their breakfasts are marvellous, and lunches at a snack bar are fine, but the snack bar closes at 6:30, besides a steady diet of hamburgers and sandwiches for dinner is not for me. Lunches when I work days I can get at the civilian cafeteria at the office for practically nothing. A hot meal with coffee is 35¢. A good sandwich, salad and coffee will come to 30¢. Breakfasts too are good, but they have nothing but waffles or toast and corn-flakes. But the waffles are only 15¢, except I like an egg occasionally.

The place I really favor for supper is the B.O.Q. at the Air Station. The air station being also on the base. The aviators have a really plush B.O.Q. It's just like a hotel, with two television lounges, a cosy little bar, their regular mess (closed to outsiders) and then this nice snack bar. It is in a very nicely decorated room, grey walls, a rosy red ceiling, and nice Audubon prints on the wall. Small tables, and a few lounges with soft cushions. Here one may buy a T-bone steak with a tomato salad, toast, plenty of butter, the fanciest of jelly, for 90¢. The coffee is free, all you have to do is pour it. French fried potatoes are 10¢ extra with the steak for an enormous order, but twice the boy has refused to take the extra dime for it. It really is a good meal, and is fine for about two nights a week. They also have omelettes, ham and eggs and sandwiches, all on the same price scale.

Last week there seemed to be something

doing every night mostly visiting back and forth between rooms, though one night we had a little party here to decorate our Christmas tree.

I had three days off at Xmas, Sat. Sun. and Monday, and anticipated quite a dismal time, but the contrary proved to be the case. . . .

There is not much else to report for the present, except that I have been househunting, and although I have not yet found exactly what I want, I don't anticipate too much difficulty, as there has been a tremendous amount of new building going on around here since the war.

I hope things are going well at the library, and shall write again, and certainly hope to get some of the news from the B.P.L. from time to time.

With best wishes for a  
Happy New Year to all

(signed) Sally Flannery

\*\*\*\*\*

CARE LIFTS BURDENS

Dr Charles R. Joy  
National Field Representative for CARE

Six months of travel in Europe can be at one and the same time a very disquieting and a very reassuring experience. It is disquieting to find that six years after the termination of hostilities in Europe so many millions of people are still suffering acute distress. It is reassuring to find that so much is being done in Europe itself to relieve this misery and that so much friendly help is still coming from America.

I have been talking with dockhands in the East End of London with aged farmers in England's rural areas. I have been visiting the starving Spanish refugees in southeastern France and the fishermen in the battered towns of the French channel coast. I have been listening to the refugees from the Soviet Zone in Berlin and the mothers of little children living in the horrible bunkers of the west. I have been calling on the cave dwellers of Naples, the aqueduct families of Rome and the people in the wretched little towns in the southeast of Italy, which according

to local legend Christ never visited. I have plodded on horseback for many hours up to the recently repatriated villages on the Greek mountain frontiers, where hunger and cold will take a deadly toll, this winter, and I have walked down the muddy steps of earth dwellings in an Austrian community living entirely underground.

The figures themselves are appalling. More than a quarter of Italy's population involved in unemployment. 1,800 Greek villages suffering on the dangerous frontiers of that land. 450,000 Volksdeutsche in Austria, eking out a wretched existence below the minimal needs of life. More than 500,000 homeless boys and girls in Germany. 250,000 slowly perishing Spanish refugees. 12,000,000 refugees and expellees in Germany who cannot be supported by the shattered economy of that defeated country. Here are figures that give some idea of the frightening needs of men, women and little children.

But this is the story of Europe only. Imagine how the picture darkens when we begin to talk about the Near East and the Far East. All this is disquieting indeed.

But the experience that travelers have is reassuring also. They discover that the heart of America is still tender. The relief organization of CARE knows this full well, for CARE packages are finding their way in large quantities into almost every great area of the world's need. The 100,000th CARE parcel has just been delivered in Japan. That represents \$1,000,000 worth of American generosity. An initial shipment of 7,000 CARE parcels has just been delivered to Korean refugees. More than 6,200,000 packages have gone to Germany. Surplus foods, made available by the Commodity Credit Corporation, are being shipped to Yugoslavia, units of 300 pounds for handling and shipping cost of only \$5.35. Thousands of starving people will be helped by this noble effort. In such ways as these CARE provides limitless opportunities for those who feel impelled to help in some small way to lift the world's terrible burden of distress.

Of special interest to librarians is the extension of the CARE-UNESCO BOOK FUND to the field of children's books. The list of books has been compiled by the International Relations Committee of the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People of the American Library Association. The program has been developed cooperatively by the American Library Association,

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers and The Association for Childhood Education. There is a Shelf A, of picture books for young children and a Shelf B, for older boys and girls who are learning English. Each unit costs \$10, and a whole book shelf costs \$50. If the world's children understand each other today, the nations will understand each other tomorrow.

This is the disquieting and the reassuring side of the world situation today, and a glimpse of CARE'S program in it. The enheartening fact in the midst of war and the preparation for war is the constructive concern of America for the up-building of a happy and friendly world.

\*\*\*\*\*

MR BARNES EXHIBITS

Included in the collection of photographs by members of the Boston Camera Club selected for the current exhibition at Boston Symphony Hall is one by Mr Kenneth C. Barnes, Periodical and Newspaper Department, entitled "A Cottage at Wilton". This is the second successive year in which Mr Barnes' work has been chosen for this particular event.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

A Christmas cookie tree was a happy substitute for the traditional fir or spruce. About one hundred frosted cookies decorated graceful, white branches for an effective case exhibit. Stars, bells, Santa Clauses, wreaths, Christmas trees, snowballs, animals, etc., fastened by red ribbon made a festive sugarplum tree. Before it took its place in the exhibit case, it was on display at the movies on the fifteenth and at the Christmas story hour in front of the fireplace on the sixteenth. At this later event, extra cookies from the base of the tree were distributed to the audience. At the Christmas movies on December twenty-second, the tree was finally dismantled and the cookies which had hung from its branches were eaten with true holiday spirit.

Phillips Brooks

Christmas festivities this year were varied and offered something for every group, from pre-school to adults.

The seasonal activities began with a morning coffee hour on December 8 for mothers and other adult readers when staff members recommended special books for Christmas. Another adult Christmas activity was the December meeting of the FRIENDS OF THE PHILLIPS BROOKS BRANCH LIBRARY, when eighty-five persons gathered for an evening of music and Christmas readings. The program committee of "Friends" furnished particularly attractive holiday refreshments, with table decorations surrounding the punch bowl.

For children, it began on Saturday afternoon, December 16, when a party of some 50 attended the Junior Tributary Theatre production of Dickens' "Christmas Carol".

Another special event this year was the presentation of an original puppet play by a cast of four boys and eight girls, who are part of a Library group, that has been working on hand puppetry for two years. The play itself, entitled SANTA CLAUS BRINGS CHRISTMAS (To Those Who Live in Books), was written by staff members and Miss Berit Lambertsen. It included ideas given by the young puppeteers who met with the staff to work out the play during the Thanksgiving recess.

The play was presented at the Phillips Brooks Branch Library just before Christmas and was taken, with its folding stage, to the West Roxbury Branch Library during the Christmas holidays. The pre-school Christmas story hour was enlivened by puppets, too, when a series of animated Mother Goose rhymes was presented. Santa Claus with his puppet hands presented a Christmas cookie to each child.

\*

Miss Berit Lambertsen, volunteer student Librarian from Norway, was a special visitor on the evening when the third year Great Books Discussion Group had as its subject the SONG OF THE VOLSUNGS. One of the leaders for the evening was Miss B. Gertrude Wade, Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

West End

On Friday, December 22, the staff gave a luncheon at the Library to Miss Mary Ryan on the occasion of her transfer. She was presented with a gift.

\*

During the month of January, there will be an exhibit of the 100 best photographs of children at play from a nation-wide newspaper contest, locally sponsored by the Grolier Society.

\*\*\*\*\*

IS IT YOURS?

One yellow pottery vase (slightly cracked) lent to the Bridge Party given by the BPLEBA, Inc., in December is still unclaimed. Will the owner please contact the Editor?

\*\*\*\*\*

IN APPRECIATION

In connection with the recent exhibit in the Young People's Room, featuring Ruth Sawyer's new book, we quote from a letter received from her: "I cannot tell you how much it means to have the Boston Library - my library - give The Little Red Horse - such a loving welcome. Thank you one and all,"

\*\*\*\*\*

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS CURRENTLY RECEIVED IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Bound volumes and current unbound issues of the journals listed below are available for circulation in the Staff Library. Members of the staff assigned to units located outside the Central Library building may request these titles on Form Number 746. Such requests should be sent to the Personnel Office. Members of the staff located in the Central Library building may self-charge these titles on blank slips provided for this purpose at the charging tray located next to the catalog of the Staff Library.

American Library Association.  
A.L.A. membership directory.

A.L.A. Washington newsletter.  
Bulletin.  
Handbook.  
American Library Association. Division of Cataloging and Classification.  
Journal of cataloging and classification.  
American Library Association. Division of Public Libraries.  
Public Libraries.  
American Library Association. Staff Organizations Round Table.  
SORT.  
Book review digest.  
Boston. Public Library.  
B.P.L. News.  
The Boston Public Library Quarterly.  
Statistical report.  
College and research libraries.  
Harvard library bulletin.  
Library Association record.  
Library journal.  
Library quarterly.  
Massachusetts Library Association.  
Bulletin.  
New York. Public Library.  
Bulletin.  
New York Times Book review.  
Publishers' weekly.  
Saturday review of literature.  
Special libraries.  
Special Libraries Association. Boston Chapter.  
Boston Chapter. News bulletin.  
Subscription books bulletin.  
Wilson library bulletin.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Aiken, Conrad P.  
Short stories.  
New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950  
Allen, Hervey  
The city in the dawn.  
New York, Rinehart, 1950  
Bacchelli, Riccardo  
The mill on the Po.  
New York, Pantheon, 1950  
Clift, Charmian  
High Valley.  
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1950  
Costain, Thomas B.  
Son of a hundred kings.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Ellinger, Suzette  
The widow.  
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1950

Ertz, Susan  
The prodigal heart.  
New York, Harper, 1950

Fletcher, Inglis  
Bennett's welcome.  
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1950

Foote, Shelby  
Follow me down.  
New York, Dial Press, 1950

Forester, Cecil S.  
Randall and river of time.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Fuller, Timothy  
Keep cool, Mr Jones.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Gheorghiu, Constantin V.  
The twenty-fifth hour.  
New York, Knopf, 1950

Gill, Brendan  
The trouble of one house.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Graham, Winston  
Night without stars.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Green, Henry  
Back.  
New York, Viking Press, 1950

Henri, Florette  
Kings Mountain.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Henry, Will  
No survivors, a novel.  
New York, Random House, 1950

Hinsdale, Harriet  
Be my love.  
New York, Creative Age Press, 1950

Kane, Harnett T.  
Pathway to the stars.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Marquand, John P.  
Haven's end.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Menen, Aubrey  
The backward bride.  
New York, Scribner, 1950

Schulberg, Budd  
The disenchanted.  
New York, Random House, 1950

Steele, Wilbur D.  
Diamond wedding.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Steinbeck, John  
Burning bright.  
New York, Viking Press, 1950

Sykes, Christopher  
Character and situation; six short stories.  
New York, Knopf, 1950

Waugh, Evelyn  
Helena, a novel.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Wickenden, Dan  
The dry season.  
New York, Morrow, 1950

Wiegand, William G.  
At last Mr Tolliver  
New York, Rinehart, 1950

Non-Fiction

Calomiris, Angela  
Red masquerade; undercover for the F.B.I.  
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1950

Clark, Mark W.  
Calculated risk.  
New York, Harper, 1950

Daly, Maureen  
The perfect hostess.  
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1950

Decker, Mary B.  
The world we saw; with Town Hall.  
New York, R.R. Smith, 1950

Dobie, James F.  
The Ben Lilly legend.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Ellis, H. F.  
The vexations of A.J. Wentworth, B.A.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Fay, Adra M.  
Supervising library personnel.  
Chicago, American Library Association, 1950

Fry, Christopher  
The lady's not for burning.  
New York, Oxford University Press, 1950

General Mills, inc., Minneapolis  
Betty Crocker's picture cook book.  
Minneapolis, 1950

Gilbert, Virginia  
Virginia reel.  
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1950

Hokinson, Helen E.  
The ladies, God bless 'em!  
New York, Dutton, 1950

Holbrook, Stewart H.  
The Yankee exodus.  
New York, Macmillan, 1950

Johnson, Byron L.  
The librarian and the teacher in general education.  
Chicago, American Library Association, 1948

Kimbrough, Emily  
The innocents from Indiana.  
New York, Harper, 1950

Knowles, Malcolm S.  
Informal adult education.  
New York, Association Press, 1950

Lariar, Lawrence ed.  
Best cartoons of the year 1950.  
New York, Crown, 1950

McKenney, Ruth  
Here's England.  
New York, Harper, 1950

Maclean, Fitzroy  
Escape to adventure  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Maugham, William Somerset  
The Maugham reader.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Melbo, Irving R.  
Our country's national parks.  
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1950 2v.

Moody, Ralph  
Little britches; Father and I were  
ranchers.  
New York, Norton, 1950

Ogrizek, Dore ed.  
The United States.  
New York, Whittlesey House, 1950

Sitwell, Sir Osbert, bart  
Noble essences; a book of characters.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950

Strand, Paul  
Time in New England.  
New York, Oxford University Press, 1950

Topp, Mildred  
In the pink.  
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1950

Williams, J.H.  
Elephant Bill.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1950

Zacharias, Ellis M.  
Behind closed doors.  
New York, Putnam, 1950

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LATE FLASHES

WE WELCOME BACK  
AFTER LONG ILLNESSES

Miss Marion K. Abbot, Charlestown  
Branch Library.  
Miss Mildred R. Adelson, Jamaica Plain  
Branch Library.

\*

Announcement has been made of the

engagement of Miss Marjorie A. McGee, Mem-  
orial Branch Library, to Mr William  
Commins.

\*\*\*\*\*

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Soap Box:

Might it not be a good idea to circulate, in addition to the List of Vacancies in Titular Positions, a list of openings for assistants below the 4th step level?

Very often there may be a desirable opportunity to work in a special department, an opportunity which is lost to well-qualified individuals employed in other departments or in branches particularly, simply because no publicity has been given to these vacancies.

Possibly this suggestion for publicizing vacancies in the lower levels of the work scale may fall in line with the much discussed rotation system now being experimented within certain quarters of the Library system.

\*

To the Soap Box Editor:

This is just a simple question but one which has been puzzling many staff members.

What happens when one of the top three candidates on the eligible list for promotion to a titular position states that he is not interested in being considered for the position? Provided there are more than three candidates meeting the minimum

requirements, is the fourth person on the list moved up into third place? And, supposing one of the top candidates is selected for appointment to another titular position for which he is also one of the top three candidates by the point system, if there are still names on the eligible list, is the next in line moved up?

Naturally there are many cases in which less than three candidates are qualified for a particular position. But, when there happen to be more than three, we wonder if there is any hope for Miss Four of Miss Five in case one or more of those who originally rated among the three highest fades out of the picture.

\*

THE SIN OF ATHANASIUS SMEED

(With a bow to Oscar O'Flahertie Wilde)

He does not wear his bright bow tie  
For bright bow ties are gay  
And gayety is not his lot.  
His is a somber day.  
For levity at the reference desk  
He does not draw his pay.

He walks amongst the Happy Men  
With a dour and abject mien,  
Solemn his step, downcast his eye  
As any ever seen  
And yet he was a jolly man  
Before his sin had been.

Smeed he is an outcast now  
In utter bibliothetical disgrace.  
It seems he joked aloud at work,  
Brought smiles to every face.  
A thing unheard of heretofore  
And always out of place.

Did I say joked? why he did worse  
He offended dignity.  
His sin it was an unpardonable sin,  
As all can plainly see.  
He guilty was--oh dreaded word--  
Of Sociability.

And so they took his nameplate down,  
Tore off his bow tie gay,  
Locked his pencil sharpener up  
Dropped him from A. I. A.  
I never saw a man who looked  
So wistfully at the day.

I never saw a man who looks  
With such a wistful eye  
At merry students at his desk  
Who merrily pass him by,  
Some of whom can even wear  
A bright and gay bow tie.

Yet, each man sins the sin he loves  
Urged on by force invisible.  
And Smeed he did it with a phrase,  
A phrase jocose and risible.  
-- But laughter at the reference desk  
Is strictly unpermissible.

IN MEMORIAM

MARION A. MCCARTHY

Miss Marion A. McCarthy passed away quietly on January thirteenth, after an illness of seven months. She began her career in the Library in 1895 in the then-called Issue Department, and at the time of her retirement in 1945 was Chief of the Book Preparation Department.

To those who entered the Boston Public Library in the old Branch Department in the last quarter century -- and there are many -- as well as to those in other parts of the System, the name of Marion A. McCarthy has always been synonymous with friendliness, sincerity, tolerance, patience, loyalty, professional pride in her work, and the possession of an understanding, sympathetic heart. To have known her as a friend was a rewarding experience, the memories of which can never be forgotten. At the party held in her honor at the time of her retirement, a tribute written and read by Miss Bessie L. Doherty expressed so admirably what friendship with Miss McCarthy meant that, with permission, we quote it here:

A Tribute to Marion A. McCarthy

A clever poet would no doubt have skill  
To take the tapestry of blended years,  
Woven with myriad threads - some dull some  
gay  
Into the warp and woof of memory;

And trace the motif with his pen until  
 The pattern glowed in written harmony.  
 But, to a humble follower of the Muse,  
 Lacking the art to sketch the broader  
 plan,  
 There falls the joy of holding one bright  
 thread  
 In thoughtful retrospect, for pen to scan  
 And heart to cherish through remembering  
 years.  
 And so, dear friend, on this your own  
 glad day,  
 When we have come together joyously  
 To pay our tribute to your every charm  
 This golden strand of kindly graciousness  
 Is mine to sing - and thus I voice my  
 song:

-----

I never came to you in urgent haste  
 To warm my heart at friendship's glowing  
 fire  
 But found sweet counsel, and my need  
 replaced  
 With the gay courage you so well inspire.

I never came with eager tongue to boast  
 Of some small triumph, but you gave it  
 girth,  
 'Till in your understanding it became  
 A thing of wonder and of lasting worth.

I never came on leaden feet, bowed low  
 With disillusionment, or stabbed by pain -  
 But through your eyes of sympathy I  
 glimpsed  
 The rainbow arching just beyond the rain.

I never came in hushed and quiet mood  
 To contemplate some bit of loveliness -  
 But found my vision stretching to include  
 A deeper wonder I could not express.

I never came with laughter bubbling o'er  
 To share with you some gay and lightsome  
 thing -  
 But with the mirth from out your generous  
 store  
 You made the happiness within me sing.

I never came in morning's quickened way,  
 With hopes like banners reaching for the  
 sky -  
 But met an eagerness for each new day  
 To match my own - your colors flying high.

I never came when day's long march was  
 done,  
 And evening yielding to approaching night -  
 But found in you a restfulness and calm  
 Reaching through shadows to a new dawn's  
 light.

-----

Dear Alchemist, whose magic art can take  
 The seeming unimportant things of life,  
 The minor triumphs - heartaches - little  
 fears -  
 The day's end weariness - and constant  
 strife  
 With endless tasks remaining to be done;  
 And sift and blend the laughter and the  
 tears  
 Until like varied roses their sweet fra-  
 grance make  
 The day full-brimmed with treasure  
 consummate:  
 Can you not tell us, Is there book or rule  
 Which we might ponder - is there class or  
 school  
 Wherein to learn the secret which you hold?

We, too, would change life's common things  
 to gold.

\*

And now today -  
 Our hearts are filled with gratitude to  
 Him  
 Whose love has given us a friend so true;  
 And we rejoice, for somewhere, faring on,  
 That same unerring Love is guiding you.

\*

Miss McCarthy's devotion to her family,  
 her pride in her nephew whose upbringing  
 was early entrusted to the joint care of  
 herself and her sister, her love of travel,  
 her enjoyment of good music and drama, her  
 ability to make and value friendships, and  
 her pride and satisfaction in her work  
 combined to make hers a full, rich life.  
 We shall miss her.

S.M.U.

The B. P. L. P. S. A  
Presents

ARCHIBALD MacLEISH

One of America's leading Poets,  
Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and  
Oratory at Harvard University, and  
former Librarian of Congress

whose subject will be

*A Reading and Discussion of Poetry*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1951 AT 8:30 P.M.

THE NEW OPEN SHELF ROOM

*A Reception to new officers  
and to Mr. Macleish will be  
held following the meeting*

REFRESHMENTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs Geraldine S. Herrick, Chairman

Mrs Dorothy M. Lovett

Mrs Beryl Y. Robinson

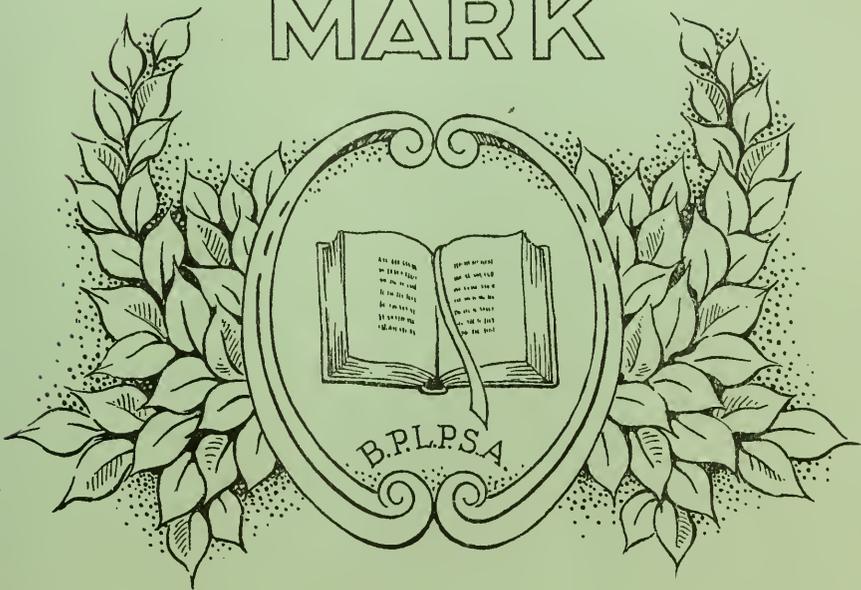
Louis Rains

Gladys R. White

Please Post



THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:

The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:

The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

With two years of outstanding accomplishment and hard work behind it, the retiring Publications Committee may well have relinquished its task with a deep sense of pride and satisfaction in a job well done. If, as members of the Association, we have not individually expressed our thanks to the Committee for its efforts, we are confident that our appreciation has been implicit in the eagerness with which each issue of The Question Mark has been awaited. Certainly no other single factor, in recent years, has contributed so significantly, as has this publication, in raising morale throughout the Library system. Through its columns the Branch Libraries and Central Departments have been brought more closely together, and a keener awareness and sharing of common interests and problems have been fostered. Two letters received recently from former members of the staff testify to this achievement and we are happy to share them with the Association. They are, we believe, richly deserved tributes to the former Publications Committee and reflect the feelings of every member of the Association. To the present untried Publications Committee they offer a challenge to maintain the high standards already set. To every member of the Association, may they also offer a challenge to help achieve this purpose with their continued confidence and cooperation.

January 22, 1951

Dear Chairman &  
Editorial Committee:

I want to congratulate you on having produced one of the best library staff bulletins I have ever read. There has always been in the paper something everyone who has ever worked in a library could

enjoy. The articles have been well written and well chosen.

I also want to thank you for the joy I have had in reading The Question Mark. You have certainly done a good job.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Edith Guerrier  
(Supervisor of Branch  
Libraries, Emeritus)

\*

January 24, 1951

Dear Miss Usher:

For a long time I have been intending to write to you to tell you how much I enjoy reading The Question Mark. It radiates a special quality of cooperation, of sharing good times and sad times which seems to be unique in a staff bulletin. It's unique too in that it gives breadth of meaning to purely local happenings.

I am very glad that it has been made available to other interested parties and I do wish it success in the future...

Sincerely,  
(signed) Adele Sulesky Requena  
(Former member of the  
Director's Office)

\*\*\*\*\*

M. L. A. CONFERENCE

As the mid winter conference of the Massachusetts Library Association coincides with the publication date of The Question Mark the individual meetings will be reported in the next issue.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Shirley V. Anderson, Open Shelf Department (formerly part-time in the same department).

Mr Albert J. Brogna, Open Shelf Department (formerly part-time in the Statistical Department).

Mr John H. Packard, Open Shelf Department (formerly part-time in the same department).

Mr Frederick I. Powers, Kirstein Business Branch.

Miss Mary R. Roberts, Washington Village Branch Library (formerly part-time on the Bookmobile).

Mr Ernest W. Roussos, Book Purchasing Department.

Miss Marie A. Strachan, Book Stack Service (formerly part-time in the same department).

Mr George W. Scully, Exhibits Office.

Resignations

-Mr Robert T. Smart, Kirstein Business Branch, to accept a teaching position at Boston University General College.

Mrs Mary L. Yanovich, South Boston Library, to remain at home.

Transfers

Miss Sarah Richman, Allston Branch Library to the Bookmobile.

Miss Margaret R. Bowers, Dorchester Branch Library to West Roxbury Branch Library.

Miss Mary V. Doyle, Young People's Room to South Boston Branch Library.

Miss Ruth S. Lyons, West Roxbury Branch Library to Young People's Room.

Mrs Evelyn G. Green, Bookmobile to Allston Branch Library.

Marriages

Miss Patricia M. McCarthy, Book Stack Service, to Mr John J. Blythe on January 18, 1951.

Mr Paul Tibbetts, Music Department, to Miss Judith Pittman on January 28, 1951, in the Harvard Memorial Chapel.

Births

Mr and Mrs Paul Vinci announce the birth of a son, Paul Joseph Vinci, Jr., on January 31. Mrs Vinci is a member of the staff of the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

\*\*\*\*\*

WE WELCOME BACK  
AFTER A LONG ILLNESS

Miss Anne L. Moore, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY  
to

Miss Katherine Sullivan, General Reference Department, 13 Hartford Street, Dorchester 25.

Miss Anne Brennan, Branch Issue Department, 19 Boylston Street, Jamaica Plain 30.

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BON VOYAGE

To Mrs Marjorie G. Bouquet, who sailed from New York, February 10, on the M. V. Italia, on a West Indies cruise.

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PARTIES, SHOWERS, WEDDINGS

On January 28, Miss Mary McDonough held a surprise party at her home for Miss Mary V. Doyle, who was recently transferred from the Young People's Room to the South Boston Branch Library. Those present were: the Misses Beatrice Coleman, Flora Ennis, Adelaide Lockhart, Mary McDonough, Anna Manning, Ollie Partridge, and Mrs Evelyn Marden. After a delightful dinner Mary was presented the gift from her many friends at the Library -- Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Handel's Messiah to be played on the record player which they had sent to her home that afternoon.

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A bridal shower was tendered Miss Mary Leydon, Book Stack Service, in the Women's Lounge on Thursday, January 25. A set of Revere ware, towels, and a starter set of dishes were among the many shower gifts presented to the future bride. Mary was also given a lovely corsage of pink camellias, and refreshments were served.

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A surprise wedding shower was given for Mrs John Blythe on Thursday, February 2,

in the Women's Lounge, by her friends in Book Stack Service, at which she received many lovely and useful gifts.

\*

Miss Patricia McCarthy, Book Stack Service, became the bride of Mr John Blythe on Thursday evening, January 18, in a quiet ceremony at St. William's Church, Dorchester. Mrs Blythe was attended by her sister, Maureen, and Mr Arthur McKenna was best man. The couple visited New York on their wedding trip.

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On Thursday, February 1, at 5 P.M. at a simple wedding ceremony at St. Patrick's Church, Roxbury, Miss Mary Louise Leydon became the bride of Mr Theodore Flanagan.

Mary looked lovely in a honeybeige gabardine suit which was perfectly complemented by green accessories. She was attended by her sister as maid of honor.

Following the ceremony there was a family reception held at the Hotel Bradford. The happy couple then left on a honeymoon trip to Maine.

Upon their return Mr Flanagan will resume his studies at M.I.T. and Mary will return to the Library.

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RECENT VISITORS

Miss Lilian Alenius, Helsinki, and Miss Isabel Lafuente, Madrid. Both these visits were arranged by the U. S. Information Educational Exchange Programs of the Department of State.

Mr Kaluacchige Somadasa, Library of the University of Ceylon, Colombo, Ceylon.

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IN MEMORIAM

JAMES W. KINSELLA

Mr James W. Kinsella, Master Electrician and member of the Buildings Department since 1928, died on January 16, 1951, as the result of an accidnet which occurred at his home.

"Jim", as he was better known to us all, lived in South Boston where he could see

from his living room window Boston Harbor and all its points of interest. He was a sea-faring man at heart and served his country as an Electrician in the Sea Bees in World War II. He was an officer in the South Boston Yacht Club and loved to cruise around the harbor in his own little ketch.

He is survived by his wife, who was formerly a Library employee, and by a son serving with the Armed Forces in Alaska who flew home to attend his services which were held at St. Brigid's Church in South Boston. A military funeral was conducted by the Roxbury Post #444 and honorary pall-bearers were chosen from the Library staff. Many of his former co-workers attended the services.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the end of five years of existence the BPLPSA has reached a critical point in its development and to assume the leadership as President of the Association is an honor and a challenge. The Association has initiated numerous undertakings of importance to the Staff, successfully completing many of them, and it will be necessary to plan carefully and work zealously that the future may be as fruitful as the past.

It is my hope that more members will participate in the Association activities, that all will be vocal in its affairs, and that by working together the Association will increasingly become a means of expression and growth for the entire bibliothecal staff. The response in setting up the committees for this year would indicate that the members are aware of the need for cooperative effort and are not only willing but eager to work hard.

The Program Committee of last year, with Mrs Herrick as chairman, has planned an outstanding occasion for February 23rd. To hear so distinguished a speaker as Archibald MacLeish is an unusual opportunity in itself, but there will also be the added interest of viewing the new Open Shelf Department, and the pleasure of a social hour during which there will be a reception to the guest of the evening and the officers of the Association.

With the Workshops starting in March and the Hartzell Lecture arranged for April 6,

the Association is more than fulfilling its objectives this spring, and offering stimulation professionally as well as a chance to increase the efficiency of library service by learning through doing.

P. A. W.

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF WORKSHOP

March 1 - May 25, 1951.

The Planning Committee for the Library Workshop of the BLPSPA announces that plans are near completion for the Workshop on THE EVALUATION OF BOOK MATERIALS IN TERMS OF USE IN THE LIBRARY. As stated in the pre-registration notice of January 15, the Workshop will follow the usual plan wherein participants of the groups will be working "on interests and problems with which they have been confronted in their work". Since we all have a background of experience in the field of librarianship, this plan of considering interests as well as problems will allow a wider choice on the part of individuals in their registration for the various groups. Some may register for a group in which they have had the greatest special experience whereas others may register for a group because of interest rather than experience. It is hoped that this will provide a greater variety within each group and the subsequent enrichment of all who participate.

The Workshop will be divided into a maximum of eleven groups of fifteen persons each, in five subject areas. As shown below, there will be two groups for each subject area if there is a sufficiently large registration: the meeting time of each group is listed with the time of the additional group given in second place. In addition, although each group will set its own goals, a brief outline of suggested problems for study and discussion is listed under each subject area.

- 1. Staff knowledge and evaluation of books for use with the public. Mon. or Tues. 9-11 a.m.

The librarian: background and special subject knowledge, interests and attitudes towards books and people.

Books: techniques for evaluating fiction and non-fiction for

various reading levels, evaluation of review aids, the librarian's personal reading, and techniques of rapid reading.

Public: judging interests and needs, consideration of time factor.

Library responsibility: methods by which administration, department head and branch librarian can aid and encourage staff knowledge of books and people.

- 2. Development of book lists and their use. Fri. or Tues. 9-11 a.m.  
Types: value to reader and library.  
Techniques: knowledge of critical sources and perceptions of book values.  
Annotations: uses, length, and characteristics.
- 3. Book talks for children and/or adults. Mon. or Thur. 9-11 a.m.  
Books: influence of purpose and background of group, librarian's knowledge and evaluation of materials.  
Techniques: of preparation, of organization, of delivery.  
Audience: desired results of talk.
- 4. Reviewing and selection of books for young people (14-20 years) Mon. or Tues. 9-11 a.m.  
 Definition of "Young people"- differences of age, experience, and mental outlook.  
 Influence of environment, education, and habits of group on reading experience.  
 Composition and housing of collection.  
 Young people's librarian; personality, background, reading habits, method of approach to group.
- 5. Evaluation and use of pamphlet material (including government publications) and periodical literature. Fri. or Thur. 9-11 a.m.  
Pamphlets: values, methods of use, care, and shelving; knowledge of by staff, familiarity by public; government publications.  
Periodical literature: values, factors influencing purchase, use of indexes, problems of storage in small unit.

Each group will held weekly meetings and there will be four general meetings in the Lecture Hall on the mornings of Thursday, March 1, Friday, March 30, Friday, April 27,

and Friday, May 25. The March 1 meeting will be an open meeting and will be introductory in nature with Saul B. Bernstein, Professor of Group Work, School of Social Work, Boston University, speaking on the value, purposes, and techniques of the Workshop. At the March 30 meeting, there will be brief preliminary reports from the groups and Mrs Edward Downes, Co-Director, Cambridge Remedial Education Services and Instructor in Reading Skills and Study Techniques, Garland School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will speak. Mildred V. D. Mathews, Superintendent of Adult Services, New York Public Library, will be the speaker at the April 27 meeting. The final meeting on May 25 will be entirely devoted to final reports from the groups.

A partial list of consultants for the Workshop includes the following:

Siri Andrews, Young People's Librarian, Concord Public Library, and reviewer of Books for young people, The Horn Book.

Elizabeth Barry, Chief of Statistical Department, Boston Public Library.

Louise B. Day, Librarian, Lynn Public Library.

Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Children, Boston Public Library.

Winifred Jackson Groos, formerly Head of Young People's Division, Central Library, Brooklyn, N. Y. and formerly Chairman of A. L. A. Young People's Book Selection Committee.

Charles L. Higgins, Chief, General Reference Department, Boston Public Library.

Bradford M. Hill, Chief of Periodical and Newspaper Department and Deputy Supervisor of Reference and Research Services, Boston Public Library.

Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Adults, Boston Public Library.

Jennie D. Lindquist, Editor, The Horn Book.

Dorothy M. Lovett, Business Branch Librarian, Kirstein Business Branch, Boston Public Library.

Louisa S. Metcalf, Readers Adviser, Open Shelf Department, Boston Public Library.

Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, Boston

Public Library.

Rollo G. Silver, Assistant Professor of Library Science, School of Library Science, Simmons College.

Ruth Hill Viguers, Lecturer, School of Library Science, and Special Instructor in Children's Books and periodicals, Simmons College.

Final registration of all who wish to participate in the Workshop either as participants of a group or as observers at the general meetings will take place at the first general meeting. The fee of \$1.00 will be payable at that time. If there are some who will be unable to attend the meeting on March 1, registration prior to that date is possible by sending registration information (names, department or branch library and desired group) and the fee to Paul Moynihan, General Reference Department.

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BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURE

The Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association is sponsoring the establishment of the BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURES as a memorial to the former Supervisor of Training of the Boston Public Library. These lectures are to be given once a year, and the general theme of the annual programs will be planned around professional library subjects of current interest.

The purpose of this Lectureship is to perpetuate the ideals and integrity of a greatly beloved and understanding teacher, who was a constant stimulus and incentive to librarians and assistants, as well as to intellectual and cultural advancement in general.

The Committee for the BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL is very happy to announce that Mr Ralph Munn, the Director of the Carnegie Public Library of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Director of the Carnegie Institute Library School will deliver the first address of the BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURES on April 6, 1951, at 8:30 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library.

Mr Ralph Munn, a former President of the American Library Association, and the Pennsylvania Library Association is an individual of wide spread interests and outstanding achievement in the field of librarianship today, both through his publications of significant professional

literature and his valuable contributions to library practice in the United States.

The Committee considers itself most fortunate in having obtained Mr Munn as its first speaker for the proposed series of BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURES. Members of the staff, their friends, and other interested librarians are cordially invited to attend.

GERALDINE T. BECK, Chairman  
The special committee for the  
Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial.

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"CARE" SCRAPBOOK

One of the many gratifying by-products of BPLPSA committee activities during the past year is the attractive scrapbook prepared by the CARE Committee under the chairmanship of Miss Helen Lambert, Uphams Corner Branch Library. This scrapbook, 15" x 12" in size, has been handsomely engraved by the Boston Public Library Printing Department with the words "CARE - Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association" in gold lettering to match the design on the cover. Miss Mildred Somes of the Book Preparation Department has added to the attractive appearance of the book by a vignette bearing the inscription "cum gratiis". The title page, also the work of Miss Somes, bears the inscription "Letters from recipients of CARE packages sent by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association". A picture graces the first page showing Mr Eamon McDonough former CARE committee chairman, presenting Mr Malcolm Leete, Director of the New England CARE program with a check. This check brought the BPLPSA CARE contribution to the \$1000. mark as of January 9, 1950. Then follow letters from grateful recipients from all parts of the world; Finland, England, France, Germany, Israel, India, Norway, Holland, Korea, Italy, and many other countries. In most instances, the original letter, the translation and the stamped envelope are inclosed. These letters show how great is the need and how grateful those who have received parcels feel toward us. A very small, but very important part is being played by the Association in establishing international understanding, as evidenced by

the letters in this volume.

The Bindery Department of the Boston Public Library has prepared a protective cover for the volume which does not detract from its appearance. Plans are under way to have this volume displayed at the Massachusetts Library Association meeting at the Copley Plaza, and at the open meeting of the BPLPSA on February 23, 1951. At present it may be seen in the Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading Services.

The Association is very proud of the work done by the CARE Committee during the past few years. It is also grateful to Miss Lambert and her committee for this tangible and lasting evidence of a very worthwhile project so ably carried forward.

E. G. Peck

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THE LIBRARY ON TV

Mrs Beryl Robinson, Children's Librarian, East Boston Branch Library, appeared on the WBZ-TV show February 13, 1951, and spoke about Negro History Week, especially about the Exhibition at the South End Branch Library. This is the "Tucker Talks" program known as the Human Interest Story of the Week.

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Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, appeared on the WNAV-TV show February 12, 1951, and spoke about biographies of famous people who were born in February.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

En route to Paris  
Jan. 1, 1951

... We are now on our way back to Paris after a month travelling through Switzerland, Austria, and Italy. Switzerland is lovely - good food, too. I loved Salzburg and Vienna was a grand city even in ruins. We spent Christmas there then drove through the Brenner Pass down to Florence and sunshine. We spent a week on the Island of

Capri, where we saw in the New Year with many parades and fireworks. More parades in Rome on Three Kings Day. Now we have been driving along the sunny, beautiful Riviera. Paris will seem pretty gloomy but in Spring it will be like the Riviera. Give my regards to everyone. Happy New Year.

Paris  
4 February 1951

... Here we do not get much news of life in the U. S. other than a few major headlines, so I've not much idea what furors the papers stir up every day... On the whole, it looks from here as though the U. S. were being subjected to as concentrated a propaganda program as U.S.S.R. Why all the hysteria about aggression, production, taxes, etc? No one here would fight again if they could, which they can't. Paris is really pretty much of a slum inside, though the buildings on the outside are very handsome, with beautiful iron balconies, gates and fences finely wrought in intricate designs. Some of the dumps we looked at for \$50-60 a month make the East Cambridge slums look positively palatial. One woman told us we could have a bath any time we wanted it, why even as often as once a week. Bathtubs and running hot water are almost non-existent. "Tout comfort" means there is running cold water and a toilet somewhere in the building. I think all the heat of the whole apartment house is in our apartment, and we keep supplementing it with a fire. Nothing is ever painted, or thrown away. Every room is filled with a collection of rotting plush chairs, tarnished ornately framed, enormous pictures, frayed rugs, all with ingrained dirt. Switzerland and Austria are very clean and generally well painted. They also have good food. Those cheap, excellent French restaurants are a figment of someone's imagination. Anything under a dollar and a half will poison you, except at the American Embassy Restaurant. Naturally you pay extra for tablecloths, napkins, light, heat, service, etc. Lights are very dim and expensive so I don't do much studying. Haven't really had time to do so, since it takes half the morning just to buy food for breakfast and lunch. Each store sells only one or two things, and in every one there is always a long line. Refrigerators do not exist, so you cook only for one day. Ah, for a

super-market! You tip everyone, including the postman. All of which is merely to indicate that living in Europe is not so glamorous as everyone thinks. In the spring, when the sun finally comes out, Paris will appear much more romantic. Now it is raining, or about to rain, all the time. However, with the car I have seen quite a bit of Paris, though I'm delaying much sightseeing within buildings until it is warmer. They are drafty as tombs right now. Larry has been teaching me to drive in the Bois de Boulogne and I've even driven out to Versailles, Chantilly and Fontainebleau. But Paris traffic I don't dare to try, because, since nearly everyone here is more or less a novice driver, there are frightful jams despite the paucity of cars. Everyone always does the wrong thing. The Renault is an exception to the rule that anything made by the French will automatically fall apart in two weeks. It runs very well and gets 48 miles to the gallon, so we may try to bring it back with us. I am very sceptical about the fabulous French chic you hear so much about. It doesn't exist among the ordinary mortals. Clothes are fantastically expensive, more so than in the U.S., and the fabrics are generally pretty sleazy. There are some shops which display beautiful lingerie, but at prices that make Bonwit Teller look like Filene's basement. Actually, there is much more beautiful lingerie and clothing in Italy, and at much more reasonable prices, though I still did not get a handmade silk blouse--the cheapest are about \$15. The only place I bought anything at all, outside of some souvenir bells in Capri, was in Florence, where they had beautiful silver jewelry and fine tooled leather. At Ferruzzi brothers in Florence prices are about 1/5 what they are in the Boston Shop. Larry bought me a pretty, simple watch in Zurich and I got him a good camera for taking color pictures in Basle. Our first roll came out pretty well--30 good pictures out of 36. ... One thing in which the French do excell the U. S. in fashion is in colors-- they have beautiful subtle colors and designs which I have not been able to find anywhere in the U.S. The only place we went to concerts on our trip was Vienna, where we went to the symphony and two operas. The Magic Flute performance on Christmas night was superb, and certainly excelled by far anything I have seen in Paris. The Parisian ballet is

inferior to that of Vienna and to the American ballet. The other evening we heard a performance of St. Matthew's Passion by a Strasbourg choir--it was not the finished performance you would hear in Symphony Hall, though I enjoyed it nonetheless. I am now beginning to be able to distinguish French words and thus to understand a good bit of spoken French, though I can speak only very limitedly myself. I am taking some lessons at Berlitz this month to build up my confidence and hope to be ready to assail the Bibliotheque Nationale by March. ...

Lois (Shoemaker Markus)

Editor's note: The above Post card and letter were sent to Miss Barbara Gilson, History Reference Department, from a former member of that Department who resigned from the service in October 1950 to be married.

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CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM IN THE LIBRARY

On January 17, 1951, the Boston Public Library announced that its Civil Defense Program is to be under the general direction of Mr John J. Connolly. Assisting him in various capacities are: Mr John W. Tuley, Coordinator; Mr Charles J. Gillis, Deputy Coordinator (for activities pertaining to bibliothecal staff and to members of the public); Mr Patrick A. Kennedy, Deputy Coordinator (for activities pertaining to the clerical and mechanical staff and for the physical unit); Mr Albert A. Carpenter, Deputy Coordinator, Branch Libraries; and Mrs Edna M. Wollent, R. N., in charge of First Aid.

In addition there has been created a Civil Defense Planning Committee, as distinguished from an operating committee, whose duties are to advise, comment, and make suggestions for the development of a Civil Defense Program in the Library. Serving on this committee are: Miss Sarah M. Usher, Chairman, Mr Gerald L. Ball, Mrs Marjorie G. Bouquet, Miss Ruth S. Cannell, Mrs Mary G. Langton, Mrs Grace B. Loughlin, Mr Eamon E. McDonough, Mr Robert J. Roper, Miss Pauline Winnick, and Mr John W. Tuley, Ex Officio.

Both committees have held several meetings and have also been in consultation

with officials from the Department of Civil Defense of the City of Boston.

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In spite of the zero weather, on Thursday evening, February 8 in the Central Library and eleven Branch Libraries, over five hundred people attended the film showings of YOU CAN BEAT THE A-BOMB. Everything worked out according to schedule with twelve very fine speakers supplied by the Civil Defense Department of the City of Boston, and with prints of the film lent by the State Civil Defense Agency.

Comments from the Branch Librarians have been most enthusiastic, and there have been several requests for a similar program in the Spring. Although these programs were planned primarily for adults, there were a few high school students in some of the audiences. According to reports, the questions asked by these young people were among the most intelligent questions of the evening. Which suggests the thought -- should we perhaps have special previews of YOU CAN BEAT THE A-BOMB for high school boys?

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FILM FACTS

On Wednesday morning, January 24, in the Central Library there was a special film showing for the members of the Greater Boston Girls' Activities Conference. The following films were introduced by Mrs Javelin:

- INVITATION TO MUSIC
- THE BABY SITTER
- BIRDS IN WINTER
- SKI THRILLS

Mrs Javelin gave a brief talk on the Library's film service and invited the members of the group to register for film cards. Several of them did so.

This meeting was made possible through the co-operation of Miss Blanche C. McGowan, Secretary, the Girls' Activities Conference.

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NOTES ON THE ALA MIDWINTER MEETING

The ALA Midwinter Meeting was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago from Tuesday, January 30 to Saturday, February 3, 1951 and the attendance was in the vicinity

of 1514. The Midwinter Meeting is to a great extent a working conference of Divisions, Boards and Committees.

Probably the most surprising news item of the conference was the announcement at the Council Meeting on Wednesday by Mr John Mackenzie Cory of his resignation as Executive Secretary of the ALA, effective as of September 1, 1951 in order to accept another position.

Perhaps the main event was the Anniversary Dinner, scheduled in celebration of the ALA Seventy-Fifth Anniversary in 1951, at which Mr Ralph E. Ellsworth, Director of the University of Iowa Libraries, Chairman of the ALA 75th Anniversary Committee, spoke. The theme of the anniversary year was announced as The Heritage of the U.S.A. in Times of Crisis. In a large measure, the promotion of the celebration is possible due to a contribution of \$10,000 by Gardner M. Cowles, president of Cowles Publications, Inc. and editor of Look Magazine. The publication of two books and the ALA Anniversary Contest and other details concerning the anniversary year are described in the ALA Bulletin, January 1951, pages 11-14.

The report of the Membership Dues and Perquisites Committee aroused considerable discussion at the Council Meeting on Wednesday. It was proposed that an overall increase in dues in the amount of \$1. be put into effect, and with the funds thus acquired to re-establish an ALA placement service and to distribute free of charge to members the ALA Membership Directory. Opposition to the recommendations was expressed as follows: (1) the earmarking of funds for a special purpose and (2) the raising of dues. The recommendations of the Committee were voted down resoundingly by the Council.

Many libraries still lack pension systems as the following story heard testifies. Because no pensions are available to employees of one large public library in the United States, when retirement becomes compulsory at 70 years of age, arrangements are made for the staff member to work on a half-time basis for which he receives half-pay. At the present time this library has some twenty-five individuals working on this basis, the oldest of whom is 92 years of age.

Mrs Margie S. Malmberg, Director, ALA Washington office, met with the Federal Relations Committee and the state coordinators to discuss federal library

legislation. There are at this time two bills before the Congress, H 1272 and S 349 which are concerned with housing and community facilities for war impacted areas. Action on these two bills will be awaited prior to introducing the Library Service Bill. It may be that this bill will be slanted toward war impacted areas if it seems the best procedure. In addition, since timing is of great importance the introduction of the bill will be dependent upon the war situation to a great extent. For further details see the ALA Washington Newsletter on file in the Staff Library.

The Board of Education for Librarianship, an agency of the ALA Council, to which is delegated the responsibility for the accreditation of library schools, reported progress toward the development of recommendations for the revision of minimum standards for library schools. Proposals for Accrediting Professional Programs, A Statement of Policy by the ALA Board of Education for Librarianship is the lead article in the ALA Bulletin, January 1951, pages 7-10. The four Subcommittees on Curriculum and Degrees; Faculty and Non-instructional Staff; Resources including Finances; and Appraisal of Results; appointed to study and make recommendations in these major areas of concern in evaluating programs of professional education, reported at a joint meeting and luncheon sponsored by the Association of American Library Schools, the Library Education Division and the Board of Education for Librarianship, which appointed these Subcommittees. These reports will be available for distribution the latter part of February and may be obtained from Miss Anita M. Hostetter, Secretary to the Board at ALA Headquarters. The Chairman of the Board reported that a conference of the Board and the chairmen of the Subcommittees is scheduled for early April to work on consolidating Subcommittee recommendations into a statement of minimum standards for five-year programs and a manual for the guidance of inspecting teams. A progress report was made by the Board to the Council on Saturday.

The personnel officers of six large public libraries, Detroit Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library; Enoch Pratt Free Library; St. Louis Public Library; Indianapolis Public Library; and Boston Public Library; met for lunch on Thursday to meet Miss Adra M. Fay, Assistant Librarian of

the Minneapolis Public Library, whose booklet entitled Supervising Library Personnel has been published by ALA in recent months. Miss Fay indicated that the material had been found useful in the development of supervisors at the Minneapolis Public Library and that she had been asked to make it available in printed form. (Three copies are in the collections of the Staff Library.)

Alumni of the Library seen at the Mid-winter Meeting were Mr Roger P. Bristol, formerly a member of the staff of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, now head cataloger at Peabody Institute in Baltimore and Miss Pauline O'Melia, formerly a Children's Librarian, now assistant professor of Library training and Service, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Elizabeth L. Wright

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GLEANINGS FROM THE B.P.L. QUARTERLY

The Boston Public Library Quarterly provides in its January issue a gracious reminder of the wealth and variety of the Library's special collections. Two articles, one by M. A. DeWolfe Howe and one by Walter Muir Whitehill, on the current Ruzicka exhibition, and Arthur Heintzelman's appreciation of the work of Gustav Wolf, as represented in the Library's recent acquisition of important examples of his art, commemorate the achievements of two transplanted nationals, one a Czech and the other a German, whose lives and work have enriched the country of their adoption. Of the latter Mr Heintzelman writes, "his receptive nature assimilated the culture of many lands and ages ... and his art made of him a world-citizen, free from prejudice and self-interest. His concern was to create about him a world for all men and for all the arts." A perusal of Mr Howe's and Mr Whitehill's articles on the Czech artist, now living in Concord, will send the art lover to the Library's Treasure Room, where a representative exhibition of Mr Ruzicka's work is on view until the end of February. Of particular local interest are the Boston prints of which Mr Whitehill says, "the many aspects of

Boston have never been more felicitously expressed than in the series of wood engravings of Rudolph Ruzicka."

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Lovers of Saint Francis will read with interest Ellen Oldham's notes on the Library's recent addition of an early manuscript of the Legenda Maior to its great collection of Franciscan literature assembled by the late Paul Sabatier. Although this work of Saint Bonaventure is the official biography of St. Francis, Miss Oldham explains the dissension within the Franciscan order, and the consequent suppression of other contemporary accounts, which make it difficult for the modern scholar to reconstruct the life of the great Saint.

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Pay, Pension and Power, by Sidney Kaplan, is the first of two articles on the economic grievances of the Massachusetts officers of the Revolution. To the modern reader, for whom veteran's benefits are an accepted fact, the present article is a grim reminder that for Washington's officers the Revolution must often have loomed as a struggle on two fronts: "on the first, political security for their country ... and on the second, economic security for their families, to be won by petition and the threat of arms - from Congress and the State." Although Washington consistently supported his officers' demands for financial security, too many members of Congress looked upon their grievances as a nuisance rather than a problem, until these grievances produced cabal in Philadelphia, and the first steps toward an army coup. In the long fight for higher pay, liberal pensions, and political power, the Bay State officers, comprising a fifth of the army's commissioned personnel, played a leading part.

L. S. M.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

Monday, January 22nd saw the opening of the first hobby show to be sponsored by

the East Boston Branch Library as exhibitors met to view the show, talk over their hobbies, meet other exhibitors, and enjoy some of the punch and home-made cookies for which this staff is becoming justly famous.

A very creditable display revealed a wide variety of skills, with hobbies of many kinds displayed on both the Adult and the Children's Room floors. Whenever possible, a natural arrangement added to the interest. An arm chair was used as a prop to display crocheted antimacassars and a vivid afghan, while beside it stood a table bearing in true tea-party fashion the pottery cups and saucers of one hobbyist and the linens of another. A desk set of hammered copper, with delicately traced design in acorn pattern, was set up on a desk, with the metal blotter corners holding a gay blotter, the book ends holding craft books, and the inkwell and pen tray looking ready for use. Baskets were filled with ivy and flowers. Two handsome model airplanes that will fly at fifty-five miles an hour, according to their designer, were perched as high as possible on top of the shelves. Other hobbies exhibited included silver jewelry, lamps, needlework of many kinds, arresting photographic displays, block printing, braided rugs, clay models, wood and metal crafts, puppets, a hooked rug set up on its frame to indicate the process of making, and taxidermy. The taxidermy exhibit attracted a great deal of attention. The young exhibitor, a high school senior, had developed her skill via correspondence course, and she displayed not only the results of her intensive study -- a handsomely mounted crow, a quail, a small nature scene showing a horned toad in its true setting -- but also the material used in stuffing and mounting birds and animals. Collections of coins, stamps, sea shells and chess men all added interest to the show.

There was a heartening response to this hobby show. Community-wide interest was stimulated in both the hobbies and in the library. Careful organization on the part of the staff and enthusiastic cooperation from old and young East Boston residents made this first experience in setting up a hobby show in the library a satisfying and rewarding one with all concerned looking forward to the second.

Jamaica Plain

Miss Mildred R. Adelson is back after a long absence. The public and staff are as happy as she is about her return.

Memorial

This year the Negro History Week exhibit was built around the Nobel Peace Award winner, Ralph Johnson Bunche. In addition to books and clippings on display pertinent to Negro History, books on the United Nations and Israel were also shown.

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The Valentine exhibit was also enjoyed by all patrons both young and old. The bulletin board which was designed to look like one large valentine was especially popular with all our young visitors.

\*

Miss Marjorie McGee has returned from a trip to Washington D. C. where she visited a friend at Catholic University. Miss McGee and her party went on to Virginia and returned via New York.

West End

A combination Valentine and Snowman Party was given on Saturday morning, February 10, for the children who attend the regular Saturday morning story hours. Although the number of children present was small, because of the extremely cold weather, still, enthusiasm ran high, especially for the paper snowman favors and the lacy valentines given to each child. A Valentine story highlighted the program, and the children themselves took part by telling about their own valentines.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Open Shelf

On Friday, February 2, a farewell party was given for George Vazakas, who was leaving for military service. There was punch, cake, and ice cream, and George was given some film for his camera, presented to him on an earlier occasion by the Department.

Mrs Muriel Javelin and Misses Anne Moore and Mary McDonough joined the members of Open Shelf in wishing George the best of luck.

### Young People's

On Saturday, February 3, 1951, Miss Mary Doyle was the guest of honor at a dinner party at the home of Miss Mary Toy, Chief of the Young People's Room. Guests were fellow members of the staff of the Young People's Department. A pair of opera glasses was presented to Miss Doyle, who recently left the Central Library to work with young people at South Boston Branch Library.

\*

The "Dickens Village", a model of London, including buildings and characters made famous by Charles Dickens, is once again on display. We are happy to know that this exhibit, and the Alice in Wonderland, which was also made by Miss Louisa Stimson, have been acquired as permanent possessions of the Boston Public Library.

### Kirstein Business Branch

When a letter addressed to "Mr. Kirstein B. Bramer" was received recently, we did not know whether to open it or to return it to the post office. But since it went on "Boston Public Library, City Hall Avenue", we decided it was probably meant for us, and, how would we know if we didn't read it! The letter turned out to contain a simple reference question from another state. We shall probably never know how the patron evolved the address.

Sometimes the mystery is reversed. The letter definitely belongs to us, but we wonder what services we have given to cause the heartwarming thanks expressed, as in the following: "We call frequently for help in various matters and not only is the information we need given us, but there is such willingness and cooperation on the part of your staff to assist us that all of us here want to express our grateful thanks to you and every member of your organization".

\*\*\*\*\*

### SELECTED LIST OF BOOKS IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of listings of professional literature in specific subject fields, compiled by Mrs Elizabeth Wright, Supervisor of

### Personnel.

American Library Association. Board on Personnel Administration.

Descriptive list of professional and nonprofessional duties in libraries. Chicago, American Library Association, 1948. Z682.A4.972

Baldwin, Emma V.

Library costs and budgets. New York, R. R. Bowker Company, 1941. Z683.B2

Chicago. University. Graduate library school. Library institute.

Current issues in library administration. Chicago, The University of Chicago press, 1939. Z678.C5

Chicago. University. Graduate library school. Library institute.

Personnel administration in libraries. Chicago, University of Chicago press, 1946. Z678.C55

Fay, Adra M.

Supervising library personnel. Chicago, American Library Association, 1950. Z670.F3

Garceau, Oliver

The public library in the political process.

New York, Columbia University Press, 1949. Z678.G3

Herbert, Clara W.

Personnel administration in public libraries.

Chicago, American Library Association, 1939. Z678.H53

Institute of government, University of Washington, Section on public library administration.

Proceedings.

Seattle, Published by the Bureau of Public Administration, University of Washington in cooperation with the Washington State Library, Olympia, 1946.

Z732.W32 15

Los Angeles. Bureau of Budgets and Efficiency.

Organization, administration, and the management of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Los Angeles, 1948-50.

Volume 8 - Business administration.

Financial administration.

Volume 9 - Personnel administration.

Z733.L87 O 7

McDiarmid, Errett W.

The administration of the American public library.

Chicago, American Library Association  
and the University of Illinois press,  
1943. Z678.M25  
Pierce, Watson O'D.  
Work measurement in public libraries.  
New York, Social Science Research Council,  
1949. Z678.P5  
Wight, Edward A.  
Public library finance and accounting.  
Chicago, American Library Association,  
1943. Z683.W5

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Arnold, Elliott  
Blood brother.  
New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950  
The Best American short stories and the  
Yearbook of the American short story, 1950  
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1950  
Brick, John  
Troubled spring.  
New York, Farrar, Straus, 1950  
Carroll, Gladys H.  
Christmas with Johnny.  
New York, Macmillan, 1950  
Coker, Elizabeth B.  
Daughter of strangers.  
New York, Dutton, 1950  
Coles, Manning, pseud.  
Dangerous by nature.  
Garden City, N. Y. Doubleday, 1950  
Conklin, Groff, ed.  
Big book of science fiction.  
New York, Crown Publishers, 1950  
De Liso, Oscar  
Wheat of night.  
New York, Scribner, 1950  
Hall, James N.  
The far lands.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950  
Harris, Cyril  
Street of Knives.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1950  
Heyer, Georgette  
The grand Sophy.  
New York, Putnam, 1950  
Klingman, Lawrence  
His Majesty O'Keefe.  
New York, Scribner, 1950  
Norway, Nevil Shute  
The legacy.  
New York, Morrow, 1950

Nowinson, Marie L.  
The legacy of Gabriel Martel.  
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1950  
Sarton, May  
Shadow of a man.  
New York, Rinehart, 1950  
Shaw, Irwin  
Mixed company; collected short stories.  
New York, Random House, 1950  
Stinetorf, Louise A.  
White witch doctor.  
Philadelphia, Westminster Press, 1950  
Stover, Herbert E.  
Men in buckskin.  
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1950  
Tilsley, Frank  
Champion Road.  
New York, Messner, 1950  
Walz, Jay  
The Bizarre sisters.  
New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1950

Non-Fiction

Broadfield, A.  
A philosophy of librarianship.  
London, Grafton, 1949  
Hinkley, Laura L.  
The Stevensons: Louis and Fanny.  
New York, Hastings House, 1950  
Kerlan, Irvin  
Newbery and Caldecott awards; a bibliography  
of first editions.  
Minneapolis, University of Minnesota  
Press, 1949  
Kraus, Richard G.  
Square dances of today.  
New York, A. S. Barnes, 1950  
Lin, Yu-t'ang  
On the wisdom of America.  
New York, J. Day Co., 1950  
Lines, Kathleen  
Four to fourteen, a library of books for  
children.  
Cambridge, Cambridge University Press,  
1950  
Logan, Joshua  
The wisteria trees.  
New York, Random House, 1950  
MacDonald, Betty  
Anybody can do anything.  
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1950  
Mangione, Jerre  
Reunion in Sicily.  
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1950  
Moss, William Stanley  
Ill met by moonlight  
New York, Macmillan, 1950

- Myerson, Abraham  
Speaking of man.  
New York, Knopf, 1950
- Reynolds, Quentin J.  
Courtroom, the story of Samuel S. Leibowitz.  
New York, Farrar, Straus, 1950
- Sheen, Fulton J.  
Lift up your heart.  
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1950
- Special Libraries Association. New York Chapter.  
Special libraries directory of greater New York.  
New York, 1950
- Wilson, Edmund  
Classics and commercials; a literary chronicle of the forties.  
New York, Farrar, Straus, 1950
- Wulff, Louis L. V.  
Her Majesty Queen Mary.  
London, S. Low, Marston, 1949

\*\*\*\*\*

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Mitchell, Sydney B. The pioneer library school in middle age in The Library Quarterly, vol. XX, no. 4; October, 1950.

Every librarian will enjoy this excerpt from a forth-coming book. It is based upon the author's recollections of his days at the New York State Library School at Albany at the beginning of the century. What he has to say about the school's quarters, the curriculum of that day, the field trips and the "first job" makes all the more interesting and significant the reading of such modern professional literature as the article that appeared in the January, 1951 ALA Bulletin, entitled Proposals for accrediting professional programs, a statement of policy by the ALA Board of Education for Librarianship. However what the author has to say about the library immortals such as Dewey, Cutler, Briscoe and so on, is the best part of the article. His quotation from Melvil Dewey, "We didn't have self starters then; you had to have a crank;" could become a library classic.

Library Science Abstracts.

The third issue of this abstracting service, published by the Library Association in London, arrived here early

in December. It covers articles appearing in some 100 magazines, culling articles of interest to librarians from literary, historical, and trade periodicals, as well as from library journals. It covers all philosophies, problems, and techniques of the book and the library. It is international and polylingual in its inclusiveness. In the March-April, 1950 issue, it abstracts two articles from Bibliotekorz, published in Poland. One concerns an apparently magnificent building that had been completed and staffed. The second concerns the philosophy of recruiting for librarianship and library service itself. It is illuminating reading. A file of Library Science Abstracts is to be found in the Periodical and Newspaper Department of the Division of Reference and Research Services. It is an admirable complement to the presentation of professional sources of information previously available through the H. W. Wilson publication Library Literature.

J. M. C.

\*\*\*\*\*

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Editor,

Can anyone answer this query? If a First Assistant is granted the pay of a chief for doing a chief's work for an extended period, why is this not done down the line, especially if the general

assistant or Second Assistant has qualified for the position above his grade, which he is also filling for an extended period?

Puzzled

\*

To the Editor:

Only those whose memories catch and hold dates and events which have nothing specific to do with them will have been conscious of the fact that when the exhibits were placed in the front hall cases for February 1951, the beginning of a second year for that project had begun. The first exhibits, according to that memory, were those for Abraham Lincoln's and George Washington's birthdays in 1950.

Because the exhibits shown in the last twelve months have demonstrated what can be done by way of introducing members of the public to what the Library offers, as soon as they enter the front lobby; that they have been well chosen and are deserving of commendation -- these facts prompt a pause long enough to express appreciation for the past year and to extend best wishes for the success of the work in its second year. This, of course, is only one person's opinion -- but, somehow, the general impression is that it is shared by many.

S. M. U.

\*

SOFA SITUATION  
(In Women's Lounge)

I've had my fill of the Window Sill  
Though the view, I grant, is good.  
But a seat of stone, couldn't hold its  
own  
If compared to that SOLID WOOD!

In vain I search for a softer perch,  
Where the breeze won't freeze the spine  
But a vacant chair is a thing so rare  
I would sigh to call one mine.

I cry defeat-but I want a seat  
Can I honestly be blamed?  
With my back against a pane of glass,  
I feel like I've been framed.

I've had my fill of the window sill  
For I'm one of the calloused crew.

Who wonder why it's called the lounge  
When alas, we never do.

\*

Dear Editor:

The recent appeal from the Red Cross Blood Bank sent to the Departments and Branches of the Library cause us to wonder what tangible results this appeal has brought. As many well intentioned persons require only the prodding of a concerted effort, might it not be possible for the Association to recruit staff members for this purpose, as has been done by other local organizations? The fine response to Care and other charitable appeals on the part of the staff would suggest an equally generous response to the present appeal for blood donors.

\*

TO BREATHE OR NOT TO BREATHE

Athanasius Smeed, a brother had  
Whose name was Thanatasius Cad  
Who for his living 'twas his lot  
To work down where the books are bought.

Alas poor Cad, an outcast too  
For what he had the gall to do,  
Is shunned and placed in solitaire  
When all he wanted was fresh air.

And now alone Cad sits and works.  
Is laughed at for his strange, odd quirks.  
To think that anyone would dare  
To ever want to breathe fresh air.

\*

CONVERSION

In college days he quaffed the cup,  
Sang louder than the rest.  
His dress was bold, his tie was loud,  
His jokes considered the best.

I saw him today in a sombre suit,  
His voice was meek, not merry.  
I understood when he confessed  
He worked in a library.

R. P. C.

\*

COMMENT MADE AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR

It takes a heap o' filin'  
To change from old to new.  
It takes a heap o' stampin'  
To change from "Lent" to "Due".

The public is delighted  
For now the house rules say  
That they can have as many books  
As they can lug away.

They're taking all our volumes  
From Freud to Ethan Frome  
And it takes a heap o' workin'  
Before they all go home.

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BILL AUTHORIZING MDC TO OPERATE BPL SYSTEM

A hearing was held January 24 on House Bill No. 880  
a copy of which appears below.

HOUSE . . . . . No. 880

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By Mr. Tracy of Boston, petition of Philip A. Tracy  
that the Metropolitan District Commission be author-  
ized to operate the Boston Public Library system.  
Metropolitan Affairs.

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OPERATION AND DIRECTION OF  
THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM BY THE METROPOL-  
ITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives  
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the  
same, as follows:

1. The metropolitan district commission is hereby
- 2 authorized and directed to assume the operation and
- 3 direction of the Boston Public Library system, and
- 4 the members of said commission shall replace the
- 5 present board of trustees and librarian. Said com-
- 6 mission may expend for said purposes such sums as
- 7 may hereafter be appropriated therefor.

---

Local #1314, Library Maintenance Employees, is on  
record as opposed to this bill.

Officers and Standing Committees, 1951

President	Pauline A. Walker
Vice President	George E. Earley
Corresponding Secretary	Edith M. Sliney
Recording Secretary	Doris N. French
Treasurer	Charles J. Gillis

The Executive Board

Mary M. McDonough	Margaret A. Morgan
Paul V. Moynihan	Theodora B. Scoff

Standing Committees

Constitution

Louis Polishook, Chairman  
Elizabeth G. Barry

Science and Technology Department  
(Patent Room)  
Statistical Department

Entertainment

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Gracemarie V. Alfe  
Helen E. Colgan  
Fern K. Ingersoll  
Vera J. Lavorgna  
Mary E. Lyons  
Rhoda M. O'Donnell  
  
Alice R. Riley  
Sarah M. Usher  
  
Eileen T. Wilson

East Boston Branch Library  
North End Branch Library  
West End Branch Library  
Brighton Branch Library  
Fine Arts Department  
Information Office  
Office of Division of Home Reading  
and Community Services  
Charlestown Branch Library  
Office of Records, Files,  
Statistics  
Book Purchasing Department

Membership and Hospitality

Beverly G. Lambert, Chairman  
  
Dorothy E. Bavicchi  
Beatrice P. Frederick  
Marie Hewes  
Marion F. Martin  
Sheila Pierce  
Patricia A. Tuley

Cataloging and Classification for  
Reference and Research Services  
Hyde Park Branch Library  
Dorchester Branch Library  
Book Purchasing Department  
Orient Heights Branch Library  
Book Stack Service  
Book Preparation Department

Men's House

Arthur W. Mulloney, Chairman  
Paul W. Smith  
William DiRosario

Statistical Department  
Business Office  
Fine Arts Department

Program

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Edward X. Casey  
  
Margaret W. Haverty  
Ruth M. Hayes  
Pearl Smart  
Lorraine Sullivan  
Pauline Winnick

Office of the Division of Home  
Reading and Community Services  
Cataloging and Classification for  
Reference and Research Services  
Jamaica Plain Branch Library  
Neponset Branch Library  
Personnel Office  
Science and Technology Department  
Codman Square Branch Library

Publications

Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman  
Geraldine M. Altman  
Ruth S. Cannell

Mary F. Daly  
Thomas J. Manning  
Beryl Y. Robinson  
Martin F. Waters

Open Shelf Department  
Jamaica Plain Branch Library  
Office of Division of Home Reading  
and Community Services  
Statistical Department  
Exhibits Office  
East Boston Branch Library  
History Department

Staff Library

Gladys R. White, Chairman  
G. Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Gertrude S. McCabe  
B. Gertrude Wade

F. Laurelle West

Mt. Pleasant Branch Library  
Cataloging and Classification for  
Reference and Research Services  
Book Purchasing Department  
Book Selection Department, Home  
Reading Services  
Phillips Brooks Branch Library

Women's House

Barbara Gilson, Chairman  
Florence Connolly  
Mildred Francis  
Laura Nitchie  
Sigrid R. Reddy

History Department  
Fine Arts Department  
Business Office  
General Reference Department  
Open Shelf Department

Special Committees

CARE

May C. McDonald, Chairman  
Emilia Lange  
Veronica Lehane  
Bette B. Preer  
Sarah Richman

School Issue Department  
General Reference Department  
Memorial Branch Library  
Mt. Pleasant Branch Library  
Bookmobile

In-Service Training

Bradford M. Hill, Chairman  
Geraldine T. Beck  
Evelyn Levy  
M. Catherine Robbins

Periodical and Newspaper Department  
Connolly Branch Library  
Jeffries Point Branch Library  
Director's Office

Personnel Service Ratings

Alice E. Hackett, Chairman  
  
Barbara F. Cotter  
  
Marie T. Cronin  
Dorothy P. Shaw  
Gladys R. White

Cataloging and Classification for  
Reference and Research Services  
Office of Division of Reference  
and Research Services  
West Roxbury Branch Library  
Periodical and Newspaper Department  
Mt. Pleasant Branch Library

Pensions

Louis Polishook, Chairman  
  
Elizabeth G. Barry  
Albert L. Carpenter  
  
Catherine M. MacDonald

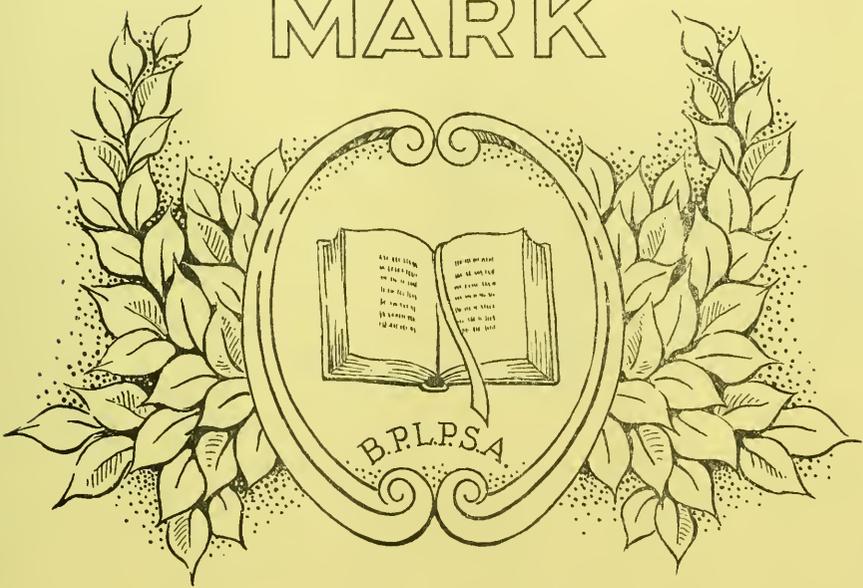
Science and Technology Department  
(Patent Room)  
Statistical Department  
Office of Division of Home Reading  
and Community Services  
Personnel Office

Publicity

Anne L. Moore, Chairman  
  
Eleanor F. Halligan  
Mildred R. Somes

Office of Division of Home Reading  
and Community Services  
Statistical Department  
Book Preparation Department

THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

To those with lingering doubts that the Association has come of age, ample proof to the contrary is provided by three Association sponsored activities during the past month which demonstrate its continued vigor and growth. These were the successful opening of the workshops, the splendid evening program at which Mr Archibald MacLeish spoke, and the symposium on the Public Library Inquiry arranged by a committee of the Association at the Director's request. The latter program took the place of the regularly scheduled staff meetings, which would normally have been conducted by the Director, and because it represented an innovation for both the staff and the Administration it was viewed with special interest. Apart from its success, per se, as a carefully planned and ably executed program, the symposium had added significance as an example of creative staff-management relations. It demonstrated a healthy sign of staff and Administration meeting together on equal terms, with the Director acting as consultant, in a discussion of problems of mutual concern. Obviously all meetings could not be conducted in this fashion, nor would it be desirable, but the enthusiastic response evident on this occasion testified to the success of the experiment which was originally suggested in the report of the 1950 Special Committee on In-service Training. So long as the Association remains on the alert to areas in which it can make positive contributions such as this, and welcomes opportunities as they arise to participate with the Administration in policy making, it will continue to be a dynamic force in library affairs. To shrug off suggestions from either staff or Administration for increased participation with the attitude that certain problems are the responsibility of management alone

would be to shirk our responsibility to bring about closer cooperation between the staff and the Administration in improving library service to the public.

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### CALENDAR OF MARCH EVENTS

On Monday, March 19, there will be presented to the BPLPSA the tape recording of the talk A Reading and Discussion of Poetry given by Mr Archibald MacLeish on Friday, February 23 in the New Open Shelf Department. An informal gathering is planned in the Staff Library from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., to hear this program. All members of the staff are invited to be present. The recording will last one hour, but staff members may "drop in" for a few minutes if they cannot stay for the complete recording.

\*

The film, "You Can Beat the A-Bomb" will be shown five times daily, except Thursday, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library during the week of March 12-16. Fliers advertising the film showings have been sent to local schools, churches, banks, business firms and other organizations.

\*

"Contemporary Typography Abroad" is the subject of an exhibition of recent book production currently on view at the Book-builders Workshop, 90 Beacon Street, through March 16. It includes books from France, England, Russia, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Mexico, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, China, and South America. Of particular interest is the extensive display of German books, book jackets, catalogs, magazines, calendars,

and calligraphy. As prices are quoted for most items in the exhibit interesting comparisons may be drawn with price and format of American publications. The exhibit is open free to the public.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Mr William J. Scannell, Statistical Department.

Miss Pearl G. Lewis, General Reference Department.

Miss Dorothy F. Chabot, Book Stack Service (formerly worked in this department).

Miss Catherine H. Evans, Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services (formerly part-time assistant in same department).

Mrs Veronica M. Tibets, Book Stack Service (formerly worked in same department).

Transferred

Miss Lorraine C. Faille, Mattapan Branch Library to the Open Shelf Department.

Mrs Augusta G. Rubenstein, Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to Mattapan Branch Library.

Engagements

Miss Margaret A. Calnan, Connoly Branch Library, to Mr Harold R. Donaghue of Dorchester.

Miss Mary F. Maguire, Information Office, to Mr William Scanlan of Roxbury.

Miss D. Elaine Parsons, Kirstein Business Branch, to Mr Thomas Marzilli of West Roxbury.

Marriages

Miss Janet Rabinovitz, Open Shelf Department, to Mr Sidney Quint on February 20, 1951.

Resignations

Miss Joan Donlon, Director's Office.

Mr Lloyd W. Griffin, Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services, to accept a position at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore.

Mr Joseph G. Sakey, Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services, to accept a position with the U. S. Air Force Geo-Physical Research Laboratories in Cambridge.

Miss Estella R. Henderson, Jeffries Point Branch Library, to be married and to live in Chicago.

Miss Jane M. Moyer, Kirstein Business Branch, to accept a position with an investment firm.

\*\*\*\*\*

WE WELCOME BACK

Mrs Frances W. Kelley, Book Selection for Home Reading Services, who has been on leave of absence.

Miss Mary F. Maguire, Information Office, after an illness.

\*\*\*\*\*

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Miss Ruth M. Hayes, Neponset Branch Library, 132 Elmer Road, Dorchester.

Miss Beatrice Flanagan, Chief, School Issue Department, who is recuperating from a fractured shoulder at her home, 430 Adams Street, Dorchester 22.

Mrs Margaret Filburn, Cataloging and Classification Department for Reference and Research Services, recuperating from influenza at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Miss Ellen C. Peterson, North End Branch Library, 7 Linwood Street, Hyde Park 36.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEDDINGS

Miss Janet Rabinovitz, Open Shelf Department, was married on February 20 to Mr Sidney F. Quint of Dorchester, in an impressive orthodox ceremony. Wearing a white satin gown, the bride was attended by the groom's sister, Miss Shirley Quint, and her brother was Mr Quint's best man. A reception for the couple's immediate family and close friends followed the ceremony. After a wedding trip to New York and Washington, Mr Quint, who was on furlough from the Army, returned to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he is stationed. His bride plans to join him there following her graduation from Simmons College Library School in June.

\*\*\*\*\*

PARTIES

On Wednesday, March the eighth, Miss Elizabeth McShane, Branch Librarian, Washington Village Branch Library, who is retiring from the service on April 30, was guest at a luncheon given in her honor at the Toll House. On this occasion she was presented with a purse of money, a gift, from her many library associates. The quiet celebration was in recognition of her years as a member of the staff of the Boston Public Library.

The beautiful setting, of a colorful dining-room, in an inn famous for fine food, made a delightful atmosphere for the guest to talk of her future plans.

Her many friends wish her much health and happiness during her years of leisure ahead.

\*

On February 19, a tea was given at the Kirstein Business Branch in honor of Miss Jane Moyer. The staff presented her with a gift and their best wishes for success in her new position as a security analyst with a Boston brokerage.

\*\*\*\*\*

RECENT VISITORS

Mr Taira Takeda, Librarian, Yokosuka Municipal Library, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

Mr Masai Watanabe, Librarian, Niigata Prefectural Library, Niigata, Japan.

Mr Hiroshi Yamanaka, Librarian, Hiroshima University.

These visits were under the sponsorship of the U. S. Office of Education.

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IN MEMORIAM

ANNE M. DONOVAN

Miss Anne M. Donovan, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, passed away, after a brief illness, on Friday, February 16. She retired a few years ago after long and faithful service in the Boston Public Library. More than half of her years were spent at the Charlestown Branch Library. It was there that some of us worked with her and

and best remember her. She was always a happy person, eager to see the best side of those who were learning the library routine and generous in her desire to help them. Her love of music, of dancing, and laughter we shall remember. On social occasions when she entertained us, we realized how much she loved these things. If, and when, we meet and talk over EPL colleagues, we will miss her fine spirit.

Her assistants at the Roslindale Branch Library where she worked at the time of her retirement, the Branch Librarians as a group, and all the others whose lives touched hers have glad memories of her joyous disposition and are saddened at her passing.

Margaret McGovern

\*\*\*\*\*

THE STAFF IN PRINT

What does the Catholic Library Association offer the Catholic Librarians in the Public Library Service? Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing Department, in The Catholic Library World. January, 1951. pp. 108-111.

\*\*\*\*\*

ALUMNAE NOTES

Appearing as one of the actors in A Touch of the Times, the full-length feature movie produced by Harvard students and photographed in Boston, Cambridge, Newton, and Wellesley, is Louis Edward Sissman, formerly of the Office of Records, Files, Statistics. See: Rotogravure Section, Boston Sunday Herald, March 4, 1951, page 7.

\*

Mr and Mrs Allan Angoff, the latter, the former Florence Adelson, are the parents of a son, Jay Bernard, born February 19. Both Mr and Mrs Angoff are Library alumnae.

\*

Mr and Mrs Wilfred M. Sherman announce the birth of a son on March 5, 1951. Mrs Annette Sherman was a member of the staff of the Personnel Office.

\*

Mr Abraham Kalish, formerly of the Office of the Chief Librarian of the Circulation Division, now with the State Department, was a recent visitor to the Library.

\*

Dr Miriam T. Rooney, a member of the Cataloging Department, Reference Division, from 1924-1928, was recently appointed dean of the newly founded Seton Hall University Law School, Jersey City, New Jersey. Dr Rooney is the only woman in the country now serving in such a capacity, and comes to her new position from one as assistant to the legal adviser of the Department of State.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The new year for the Association had an auspicious beginning with the well-attended meeting on February 23rd which was greatly enjoyed. By fortuitous circumstances it was possible to have a tape recording made of Mr MacLeish's talk and readings. One tape recording was made and given to the Library and one to Mr MacLeish.

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As there are times when there is a considerable amount of money in the treasury because special funds such as CARE and the Hartzell funds are included, it seemed desirable to have the Treasurer bonded. This has been done in the amount of \$500.

Speaking of this matter brings up the subject of the condition of the treasury about which there may be a misapprehension. The total sum reported at the January business meeting included CARE money and there were outstanding bills for paper and postage, which when paid, considerably depleted the figure given. The membership should deliberate the fact that the dues collected for last year amounted to \$116 and the expense for mimeograph paper alone amounted to \$138.

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The City of Boston Employee's Association is a newly established organization offering group life insurance and a medical and hospitalization plan. The

Executive Board has turned over the material now available concerning this to Mr Louis Polishook, Chairman of the Special Committee on Pensions, to investigate the matter further. When a satisfactory amount of information has been gathered a statement regarding this new organization will be sent to the membership.

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The initial general meeting of the Workshop series has been held and the separate group meetings are now in progress. The allowance of time to staff members for attendance at the four general sessions is appreciated, and those unable to actively participate in the Workshop will find much of value in the comments of the visiting speakers, and the final reports to be presented at these four general programs.

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The Bertha V. Hartzell Lecture being presented on April 6th will be considered the regular professional meeting of the Association and there will be no other meeting during the month.

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The Program Committee is planning a trip to the new Charles Hayden Memorial Library at MIT in May about which notices will be sent later.

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If we sometimes wonder about the value of the Association to the individuals on the staff, an incident of this kind is heartening. One of the younger members of the staff (in the Sub-Professional Service) studying nights at Boston College In-Town, had the following question asked in a recent examination, "Do you find opportunity to practice Social Justice in your surroundings?" For her answer she chose the BPLPSA and her contribution to its activities as an example. Surely this is a demonstration of what the Association has accomplished in creating concern in the individual for the profession and for democratic cooperation.

P. A. W.

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THE BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURE

"A Librarian's Reaffirmation of Faith" is the title which Mr Ralph Munn has chosen for the first lecture in the Bertha V. Hartzell series, on Friday evening, April 6. It is Mr Munn's hope to demonstrate that despite the adverse findings of the Public Library Inquiry, our basic faith in the value of library service remains unchallenged.

The Committee for the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial is particularly pleased with this choice of subject, since the symposium on the Public Library Inquiry, held at the Staff Meetings during the month of February, 1951, aroused considerable interest in this subject. We feel that this address will be of pronounced professional significance.

Geraldine T. Beck, Chairman  
Special Committee for the  
Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial.

Editor's Note: See back cover for further details.

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION MEETING

Boston Chapter, Special Libraries Association met on Monday evening, March 5, at the new Charles Hayden Memorial Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, following dinner at the Walker Memorial Building. Dr Vernon Tate, Director of Libraries, extended cordial greetings to chapter members, and invited them to use the library and its facilities often.

Mrs Elizabeth Owens, national president of the Special Libraries Association, was guest and principal speaker, bringing greetings from headquarters, and telling of her trip to the West Coast chapters, "where many good special library jobs are waiting to be filled". She reported that Special Libraries Association is in good financial condition, its membership is growing, being now over five thousand, and it has many projects and policies underway, not the least of which is a proposed increase in dues. Also under consideration is a change in the magazine "Special Libraries" to a more professional quarterly, supplemented by a monthly newsletter.

Mrs Owens most surprising news, however, was that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, after extensive study, and the sounding out of chapter opinion (which was found most adverse) decided to drop all proposed changes in membership qualifications and other basic reorganization, and to remain as now constituted.

Mr Robert Booth, Associate Librarian of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, described the beautiful new building as a "library plus" with its specially designed functional, interchangeable and adjustable furniture, its "Gold-fish bowl" processing space, its unusual reference and charging areas, and its open stacks requiring a minimum of supervision, all aimed at portability, flexibility and informality.

The Charles Hayden Memorial Library is the central unit of a branch library system, and houses within its new quarters the Humanities faculty, the Technology Press, the Dard Hunter Paper Museum, an exhibition gallery, and a student music lounge. The library itself has special departments in its Scientific Aids to Learning Laboratory, devoted to microfilm, microcards and readers, its fine map room presented by the Boston Stein Club, and its English and History reference libraries.

Following the meeting, group tours of the building were conducted by members of the library staff, and other staff members were on duty in each section to greet chapter members and answer questions.

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CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK CHILDREN'S DAY PROGRAM

On Tuesday, February 20, 330 children gathered in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library to celebrate Children's Day of Catholic Book Week. The program was arranged by Mrs Mary Harris, Charlestown Branch Library.

The principal speaker was Father Joseph Monahan, who told of some of his experiences in New Guinea and amused the children by talking and praying in "Pigeon English", as spoken by the natives. Father Monahan, a well known ventriloquist, further entertained his audience by carrying on an animated conversation with a doll who talked to the children. This was followed by the showing of three moving pictures.

A highlight of the occasion was the presentation of awards to contest winners. Ten boys and girls received awards for essays on their favorite book or book character, ranging from Don Fendler and Mr Popper's penguins to Rose Hawthorne and Damien, the leper. Miss Alice Buckley, formerly of the Boston Public Library, conducted the contest throughout the diocese and assisted in the presentation of the awards.

A. M.

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CARE

The newly appointed committee on CARE has aimed its sight on \$2000 for '51. With the presentation on February 23rd of \$200 to Mr Edward Joyce, Director of the New England CARE office, the \$1600 mark has been reached. The praise and sincere appreciation of CARE officials plus a realization of the worthwhileness of the program should make us proud of our past and future accomplishment.

May McDonald, Chairman  
Special Committee on CARE

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SIMMONS COLLEGE - SUMMER INSTITUTE

Preliminary announcement is made of an institute to be held June 18-22, at Simmons College on THE LIBRARY'S FUNCTION IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP.

The School of Library Science is presenting this program for librarians interested in improving the effectiveness of the public library as an agency in adult education, with particular emphasis on its responsibility for aiding people to think about and discuss problems of significance in today's living. The program will provide the opportunity to learn more about the principles of group leadership and the materials and methods of group discussion. It will be conducted as a workshop where everyone will participate and where the specific problems discussed will be those which seem important to the group. An opportunity will also be provided for individual conferences with the Institute leaders.

The final program will be available later, but it will deal with the following topics:

- Psychology of groups
- Group discussion in the democratic process
- Principles and methods of discussion; demonstrations of different discussion techniques, and the use of various media - books, films, etc.

There will be two sessions each day, morning and afternoon. Registration will take place Monday morning, June 18. First general session, Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. Last session, Friday morning, June 22.

LEADERS

Dr E. C. Lindeman Formerly professor of social philosophy at the New York School of Social Work, and dynamic leader in the field of community relations.

Mr Saul Bernstein Professor of group work at Boston University, School of Social Work.

Miss Margaret Monroe In charge of group discussion leadership in the New York Public Library, Office of Adult Services.

COSTS

Registration fee - \$15.00  
Registration for the entire period is required since continuity is a basic factor in the success of the program.

Dormitory fee - \$20.00  
This covers room for four nights and all meals.

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BOOK AWARDS

Newbery-Caldecott Medals

Elizabeth Yates and Katherine Milhous were named as the recipients of the awards given annually by the American Library Association for the best contributions to children's literature. Miss Yates received the 30th annual medal for her book Amos Fortune, Free Man and the 14th annual Caldecott Medal was presented to Miss Milhous for The Egg Tree cited as the most distinguished picture for children.

National Book Awards

(given by New York publishers to outstanding nature writers)  
Poetry award to Wallace Stevens for his

Auroras of Autumn.

Fiction award to William Faulkner for his book of Collected Stories.

Biography award to Newton Arvin for his Herman Melville.

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MLA MID-WINTER MEETING

Administration and Adult Services Group

A symposium on "Some New Concepts for the Library of Today and Tomorrow" was presented at the morning session at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Thursday, February 15. Mr Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library served as Chairman, and five subject specialists presented to the members of the association and guests an evaluation of current trends in Administration and Adult Services.

The Participants of this Symposium were:

Mr Robert E. Booth, Associate Librarian of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr Edward J. W. Cooper, Head of the Art and Music Department of the Brookline Public Library.

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, in the Boston Public Library.

Miss Harriet Kemp, Supervisor for the Western Massachusetts Library Federation.

Mr Kenneth Shaffer, Director of the School of Library Science, Simmons College.

Mr Booth presented some challenging ideas on the planning of new libraries for the future. "Libraries", he said, "should be planned for library work. The interior arrangement should be considered first, then the exterior. Simplicity, for economical administration, instead of plans for architectural effect, should be sought. We are at the beginning of a new era in library planning, and the future holds much that is surprising in the way of new devices. We must remember, in this new phase of library planning to (1) retain an experimental attitude (2) keep our plans flexible to accommodate the revolutionary changes which may come and (3) bear in mind that informality is needed. The "no smoking" signs and old type library furniture are out-moded, while custom-made furniture, new color concepts and the reduction of supervision have invaded libraries

today. We may see more air-conditioning, fewer windows, and many more mechanical aids."

Mr Cooper gave a very interesting and inspiring resumé of his experiences with the Art Association in connection with the Brookline Public Library. Some time ago, a group of artists who use the Brookline Public Library, and a number of individuals who have turned to creative arts, wished to form an Art Association in connection with the Library. This was done. For many of these individuals who had not kept abreast of the developments of modern art, the Library supplied books, films, silk screening, etc. For those whose active participation required models, model posing was arranged. Today the Art Association boasts of one hundred and sixty members, of whom sixty individuals are artists. A number of their art works have been exhibited from time to time at the Brookline Public Library, with excellent results. This Art Association has done much to stimulate artistic appreciation and art activity in the community. It has brought art close to home in the Brookline community.

The subject of Mrs Javelin's talk was "The Never Too Late Group" of the Boston Public Library, one of the interesting and progressive programs which the BPL has been sponsoring since 1949, and which has shown amazing growth in this short period. Today this group, whose youngest member is seventy years old, has a mailing list of over two hundred persons. The group meets every week, for discussions on the changing conditions of the modern world, and problems of particular interest to mentally alert older people. Film programs, lectures, and panel discussions have been most successful and have helped greatly to stimulate and guide these mentally alert, but some times forgotten, elderly men and women, who like to express themselves and hear about other older people and their problems and joys.

Miss Kemp spoke briefly concerning regional library cooperation in Western Massachusetts, explaining the origin of this library cooperation project which dates back to 1949. At that time, under the guidance of Mr Archibald MacLeish, former Librarian of Congress, and aided by a gift of money by Marshall Field's grandson, the project was born. A citizen's committee was arranged to make reports on whatever the smaller libraries in Western

Massachusetts needed to improve the service in their respective communities. Miss Kemp made clear that the Western Massachusetts Library Federation was not a Regional Library. Each library functions on its own and its services are supplemented by the Federation, as they are needed--there is no decentralization. Much more help and money is needed to meet the requests from all the towns. Many successful projects have been carried on with young people, but so far very little has been done with adults. The Federation is anxiously looking forward to continued and increased services to these libraries in the smaller towns in Western Massachusetts and at present is making plans for a Film Festival for both Adults and Young People.

Mr Shaffer spoke on:

(I) The new Certification Law in the state of New York, which raises the standards of Library personnel. The new requirements are: (a) Four years of academic work, (b) One year of professional training, (c) Three years of successful application, (d) Examination, in addition, to determine how much learning the individual has retained.

(II) The new activities of the Board of Education for Librarianship of the ALA. In a series of studies it has been determined that the standards for certified Library Schools have been substantially raised. The minimum requirement will be five years instead of four. The results of this will be: 1) Higher cost of personnel. 2) More than lip-service must be given to the problem of what is the work of the professional and non-professional library worker. 3) It will stimulate smaller library grouping into regional activities.

(III) Library salaries for recruits. Library salaries are rising and will be higher. Recruits will be better each year and the Library training will be better each year. The recruits of the future will have much higher professional qualities, with specialized academic qualities.

Mr Shaffer brought his talk to a close with the statement that state aid will be needed to help all regional organizations which will need equal standards all over the state, for the best regional developments.

There was a brief period of questioning between members of the panel, and a few questions were put to the panel from the

audience on each of the above-mentioned special subjects.

Geraldine Beck

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College Group

Three prominent college librarians, Miss Flora Ludington of Mt. Holyoke, Mr Keyes Metcalf of Harvard and Mr Willis Wright of Williams, engaged in a panel discussion of The Future of the College Library in a Period of National Stringency. Because there is little likelihood that any library would consider new building plans in the immediate future, stress was laid on the need for careful scrutiny of the college library book stock. Cooperation among neighboring colleges in making their resources available has already resulted in making room for more essential materials. Smaller registration of students will undoubtedly affect the college library budget. One of the speakers advanced the thought that this might make the librarian effect economies that should have been made under any circumstances. Approval of the simplification of descriptive cataloging was expressed with the hope that the Library of Congress would assign even fewer subject headings. Pertinent economies accomplished at Williams and Mt. Holyoke interested the members and induced the panel members to enlarge on such themes as weeding, out-of-print books, and cooperative plans in maintaining one file of little used periodicals.

Edward X. Casey

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Sectional Meeting of Institutional Librarians

"Modern Aspects of Therapy"

Therapy has two major divisions, occupational and physical. To help institutional librarians in the task of bringing their book collections up-to-date, the speakers: Miss Margaret Blodgett, Head Occupational Therapist at the United States Marine Hospital in Brighton and Dr J. L. Rudd, Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service at the United States

Veterans Hospital in West Roxbury, each reported on the latest methods and materials being used in his division of therapy.

According to Miss Blodgett, occupational therapists are now asked to take a very full, five year course which includes actual ward and operating room training designed to give practical meaning to study of anatomy, psychology, physiology and other sciences. Another major advance in this field is a shift from the "woolly dog and potholder" emphasis to more practical craft media. Except for bed patients who, of course, need minor craft work, the emphasis in Miss Blodgett's workshop is now upon the new power machinery for woodwork, the printing presses, and the sports equipment which have recently been installed.

Because the most serious problem facing most of the patients is economic support, Miss Blodgett is training herself and her staff to think in terms of the future jobs these men will hold, as in most cases, these men return immediately to their ships upon discharge from the seamen's hospital. Miss Blodgett initiated a work survey aboard the ships, in the course of which she was amazed to discover the immense amount of strength required by such activities as climbing rope ladders, securing boats, splicing ropes, and firing torpedoes. Realizing from her observations that the exercises prescribed by the old-type therapy were too mild to serve the needs of her men, Miss Blodgett introduced rope ladders, fifty and hundred pound weights, thick ropes, and fishing nets into her therapy room. As she says, "A man's occupation is more important than his injury." As a result of this treatment about 75% of her patients are able to take up their former occupations again.

Turning to physio-therapy or physical medicine, Dr J. L. Rudd attempted to define the scope and limitations of his field. Until recently, as he pointed out, physical medicine has been regarded by the medical profession as something akin to quackery; but, today, thanks to the efforts of the Polio Foundation and other organizations, the American Medical Association recognizes it as the science concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and cure of muscle and other deformities by the use of heat, hydrotherapy, electricity, and massage. Contrary to a still current belief the term physical medicine is not synonymous with osteopathy, chiropracty,

or naturology.

As an interesting finale of the session, Dr Rudd illustrated and explained, by means of lantern slides, much of the equipment - including infra-red and ultra-violet lamps, baking machines, whirlpool and contrast baths - being used by physio-therapists.

Gertrude Wade

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Round Table of Children's Librarians

Standards for Good Reading, Good Writing, and Good Listening for Children was the subject of the panel discussion at the meeting of the Round Table of Children's Librarians presided over by Miss Pauline Winnick, Children's Librarian, Goldman Square Branch Library, as moderator.

Mrs Sylvia K. Burack of Plays, Inc., presented her views on writing and editing plays for children. She stressed the need for maintaining high standards in view of the stiff competition from radio and television. Plays, in her opinion, sometimes have an advantage over other types of literature because of the dialogue, and from experience she has discovered that non-readers can sometimes be persuaded to read plays if they have action, and suspense.

Miss Frances C. Darling of the Bay Colony Bookshop talked about the qualities in children's books which make them delightful. Speaking of the work of famous illustrators, she pointed out that a knowledge of their work is an aid in appraising the work of later illustrators. In a bookshop one considers a new title with the following questions in mind: "Does it duplicate an old title? Who is the publisher? Does the book appear to have been instigated?" Referring to the consideration of "series" books, Miss Darling said "yes", when each can stand on its own merits.

Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Children, Boston Public Library, described the method of selecting books for the Boston Public Library system. She told of the careful evaluation of each book chosen by the Book Review Committee, saying that some books are read by two, three or even four reviewers so that a consensus of opinion may be obtained. Miss Gordon stressed the fact that by giving children the best books we

help to develop high standards in their own choices. All books selected must be wholesome, and well written and the characters must have strength and vigor. The children's book collection is selected with a view to helping boys and girls to grow up to be purposeful adults and good citizens.

Mr Gene King, Program Director, Radio Station WCOP, referred to radio as a highly competitive medium, and emphasized the fact that radio strives for clean entertainment for children. In capturing a child's interest it is important to provide programs with a hero with whom the child can associate himself. He said that radio is more concerned with having the child rather than the parent, like the program, adding that programs which have parental approval do not always appeal to the child. One type of program that is nationwide and very successful is done with records of cowboy, train and musical stories. Mentioning SUPERMAN Mr King challenged his audience to listen in to this program and find out what SUPERMAN is trying to do.

Miss Marjorie Medary, author of several books for young people, remarked that perhaps no two writers would have the same set of standards and that the best she has seen in print are in Mabel Robinson's book "Writing for young people". According to Miss Medary, some people have a mistaken idea that less knowledge is needed to write for children, but that unless an author can look to the child's future, he is not ready to write for children. She regards as fundamental the quality of sincerity and observed that children are quicker than adults at detecting sham.

Mrs Jean Poindexter Colby, Children's Editor, Houghton Mifflin Company talked of the special features she considers necessary in a manuscript being selected for publication. A book must be worthwhile, but it must also be enjoyable. Not only should it be convincing, - it must also be well written and punctuated. It should have lasting value and should, of course, have an appeal for children. Books which she publishes are reviewed by several children, including her own. Their opinion, however, is not always accepted. Rejected for publication are those which are dull, those "written down" and the type which may have good pictures but is lacking in a good story.

Mary Doyle

Business Meeting

President Louise B. Day opened the Business Meeting by calling for the Secretary's Report. This was followed by reports from the Treasurer, and the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The slate of officers for 1951-1952 was read as follows:

- Vice President (President Elect) - Philip J. McNiff, Lamont Library, Harvard
- Treasurer - Lucille Wickersham, City Library Association, Springfield
- Secretary - Elizabeth Johnson, Public Library, Lynn
- Archivist - Galen W. Hill, Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy

Mr Hiller C. Wellman was elected unanimously to a life membership in the Association.

It was voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Planning Committee to send the name of Mrs George R. Wallace of Fitchburg as a candidate for the annual Trustee citation.

The President reported that as a result of a meeting of the firm of Griffenhagen and Associates with a committee from the Executive Board of MLA, - The Massachusetts Board of Public Libraries and the Massachusetts Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, this firm had agreed to use the facilities offered by these organizations in making future surveys which concerned the classifying of library services.

The Executive Board has also asked the ALA and the Association of Library Schools for their cooperation in setting up library standards. Statements concerning standards will be sent to any Massachusetts libraries on request to the MLA.

Miss Virginia Haviland invited members to participate in a series of workshop programs sponsored by the BPLPSA to be held at the Library during March and April. Members were also invited to attend the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture, another activity of the BPLPSA, on April 6 in the Boston Public Library Lecture Hall. Mr Ralph Munn to be the guest speaker.

Mr Kenneth Shaffer read a message from Miss Sigrid Edge concerning a workshop to be held at Simmons College, June 18-22, 1951. Fee \$15.00. Subject and more information to come later.

The BPLPSA's Care Scrapbook containing all the letters, pictures, etc. received from recipients of "Care" packages sent by the Association was placed on exhibition

for the day.

The President closed the meeting with a request that as many members as possible attend the MLA luncheons. The Association has to guarantee so many luncheons in order to have the use of the hotel's several meeting rooms.

Grace Loughlin

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Round Table of Librarians for  
Young Adults

In discussing the purpose of a young adults department in the library, Miss Siri Andrews, Young People's Librarian, Concord, New Hampshire, stressed the importance of keeping in mind that it is a transition department and all its services should be keyed to preparing youth for adult reading as soon as possible. A separate department for young adults actually belongs to the adult department and is an extension of it, rather than an extension of the children's department. Young adults should have free access to light reading that adults enjoy, and should learn to select for themselves. As they learn how to discriminate largely by trial and error--they should not be restricted to books for children simply because they have not yet reached the age of 16.

In its organization, the department may include Grades 7 to 10 (because some 11th grades and most of the 12th graders will use the adult department exclusively); or senior high school to age 20. The person organizing the department should plan, of course, in terms of the community served.

The arrangement of the collection should be flexible. Miss Andrews believes that subject arrangement, not rigid, traditional library arrangement, is preferable in terms of possible use. In her own library, she has two sections in the young adults department, adult books and children's books. In addition, there are separate special collections on designated shelves so that such simple requests as: "Got a horse story?" can be quickly and easily answered by the young people themselves. If popular types of books are shelved together, children know where to find them easily, and the librarian is free to answer more complicated requests.

Instruction in the use of the library is

all important. Though it is introduced in the children's department, a more intensive approach is covered by the young adults department. In her library, Miss Andrews invites 7th graders to come to the library 4 times during the Fall for instruction. Young people should be introduced to a wide variety of reading and provision should be made for browsing. Reading lists are important and should be compiled for youth in accordance with their interests. Miss Andrews finds that her subject file of fiction is of particular value.

One special project tried in Miss Andrews's library has proven to be of great value: After talking with groups of 7th graders, she asked them to indicate: (a) the name of a particularly good book read recently; (b) the author and title of a book wanted but not found in the library; (c) a subject on which no material could be found in the library. The information was useful not only in book selection but in guidance of individuals and groups, and in compiling lists.

Reading Clubs are important if their purpose is real to the members. In reorganizing the reading club in her library, Miss Andrews set in motion a Youth Library Advisory Committee, in which junior high and high school youngsters, meeting every other week, read and evaluate, newly published books, and books from the adult collection, in terms of the possibility of adding these to the collection in the Young Adults Department.

Miss Andrews questions the over-all good of radio programs to persons other than those actually participating in the program. Is there sufficient wide-spread interest in books, stimulation to read a wider variety of books, etc. to offset the difficulties of broadcasting a program?

She urged that persons who work with youth should add to their list of reading "musts" the book entitled "AN AMPLE FIELD" by Munson (ALA 1950). It concerns book selection for youth, deals mainly with books in the adult field and is written from the author's own experience. Concerning book selection, Miss Andrews brought up the subject of the librarian's dilemma when such books as Felsen's HOT ROD and Pease's DARK ADVENTURE are published, are in great demand but are of questionable moral value. Miss Andrews does not feel it is wise to stock the

shelves with books showing crime and the underworld or problems of married life for youth even though such books point out a solution on the last two pages. Librarians should set their own standards and inform authors and publishers of the needs of young people.

Bette Preer

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General Session

Mr Erwin D. Canham, Editor, Christian Science Monitor, was the guest speaker at the afternoon session. His subject was These great times. He drew attention to the fact that we are now "privileged to live in one of the crises of history." Great "moments of decision" are here and we are being called upon "to create a situation of strength by building a spiritual background" for peace. We in the Western World have a brief "margin of time" for three reasons only (1) Stalin and the Russians have a great respect for industrial potential - and the Western World, especially America, has that potential. (2) The Russians need a greater stock pile of atomic weapons before they can risk an atomic war. (3) They are doing too well without war as the satellite nations carry forward the banner of Communism. Mr Canham analyzed the nature of the crisis as nothing new but simply a modern version of the age-old conflict between the concepts of the importance of man and the importance of the state. In the last analysis this conflict resolves itself into one within the individual and his place in modern society. He cited the fact that the democratic world had two great sources of power (a) fundamental power - the power of free men in a free society (b) derivative power - the physical striking power of the atom bomb. Mr Canham reminded his listeners that democracy, not Communism, is the revolutionary process. Communism under which men are bound physically and spiritually is not a new concept. It is as old as time. Democracy under which individual man is free, physically and spiritually, is the new idea. We in the democracies are carrying the torch for freedom and we must carry it high and with confidence. In his final remarks Mr Canham outlined a platform of constructive

action which must be followed on two levels, the moral and the physical, if we are to accept the challenge presented to us by the age in which we live. (1) We can awaken to the fact that the democratic system is the revolutionary process and we can "throw off the blanket of confusion" with which the Soviet has tried to smother us and outline for ourselves a positive, constructive program of action. (2) We and western Europe must recapture our joint morale. (3) We must be prepared to fight, and thus minimize the possibilities of war by our awareness of its probability. (4) We must realize the true significance of our freedom, and reestablish the values of free government and thus "weld together the forces of freedom." This positive program must be carried out by a threefold process (1) awakening (2) communication (3) implementation. Thus we may be able to "turn today's darkness into tomorrow's light."

Edna Peck

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ERRATA IN ARTICLE ENTITLED  
NOTES ON THE ALA MID-WINTER MEETING  
IN THE QUESTION MARK  
FEBRUARY, 1951, PAGE 9

In reporting the report of the Membership Dues and Perquisites Committee as made at the ALA Mid-winter Meeting, an error is to be found in the statement of proposed increase in dues. A correct and detailed statement is to be found in the ALA Bulletin, December 1950 p. 452-54 in an article entitled Report of the Committee on Membership Dues and Perquisites.

Elizabeth Wright

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\$500,000 WILKS BEQUEST

One of the interesting aspects of the recent \$500,000 gift to the Library, from the estate of the late Mrs Hetty Sylvia Green Wilks, was that it came as a complete surprise to the Director and Trustees of the Library. The fund, which is unrestricted, is the sixth largest single bequest received by the Library since its incorporation in 1878. Mrs Wilks, who was the last

direct descendant of Hetty Green, left the fund in memory of Dr Samuel A. Green, (a cousin by marriage to Hetty Green) who was himself a benefactor of the Library. A brilliant physician who had inherited a substantial fortune, he preferred to live simply with the poor of the South End among whom he practiced. Dr Green continued to live there after he became mayor of Boston in 1882. When friends protested at his style of living at that time he remarked that he lived as he pleased, and he liked the poor for their simplicity and sincerity. From 1868-1878 he was a trustee of the Boston Public Library, and when Justin Winsor resigned as Librarian, Dr Green became Acting Librarian until a successor was named. Deeply interested in history, he was an active member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. One of his particular hobbies was his collection of Benjamin Franklin material which he bequeathed to the Library at his death, together with a fund to increase it.

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THE FRANKLIN COLLECTION

The recent bequest to the Library of \$500,000 in honor of Dr Samuel A. Green recalls his generous gift made in 1880. His own collection of 135 volumes and 87 portraits became the nucleus around which the present Franklin Collection, numbering nearly one thousand volumes, has grown. Using a trust fund established by Dr Green in 1878 for the purchase of books on American history, the Library has added many notable items. Later additions by transfer and gift have increased the reference and bibliographical value of the collection.

There are about fifty different editions of Franklin's works, partial or complete; sixty editions of his autobiography, one hundred and thirty books printed by him, nine autograph letters, eighty-seven portraits, and a large amount of material relating to him. Some of the outstanding items are his pamphlets on electricity, the Plain Truth in which he attempted to incite his fellow-citizens to civil defense against an attack by the French, his New invented Pennsylvanian fire-places, his Proposals relating to the education of youth in Pennsylvania, Poor Richard's Almanac (1737-1766), A Pocket Almanac

(1751-1769), Advice to a young tradesman, and his General Magazine, 1741.

Among the books printed by Franklin in the collection are the Vorspiel der Neuen-Welt, 1732; Articles of agreement made and concluded between...Maryland...and Pennsylvania, 1733; Bechteln's Kurzer Catechismus, 1742; four works by Zinsendorf, printed in 1742, the finely printed Cicero's Cato Major; an Indian treaty; sermons by George Whitefield; and the Pennsylvania Gazette. One volume of particular interest is Evans's Geographical, Historical, Political, Philosophical and Mechanical essays printed in 1755. It contains an important map of the middle British colonies and formerly belonged to Thomas Jefferson.

There are three books from Franklin's library in the collection. One of them is his own collection of pamphlets relating to electricity, including a presentation copy from William Stukeley. Another volume is a presentation copy of Crevecoeur's Lettres d'un Cultivateur Americain, 1787. The third is a copy of the History of the British Dominions in North America, 1763, with marginal notes in red ink, possibly made by Franklin himself.

Not all of the Library's Franklin material is in the Franklin Collection. In the Treasure Room are two oil portraits of Benjamin Franklin, one by Duplessis and the other supposedly by Greuze. A recent accession to the Benton Collection is a copy of Franklin's version of the Book of Common Prayer, printed while he was in England. This is an extremely rare book which reveals Franklin's religious belief through its differences from the established Book.

The circulating collections of the Library are also large and important. Together with the Franklin Collection in the Rare Book Department they offer an unusual opportunity to study a man who influenced opinion in the early days of the United States.

H. S.

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WORKSHOP OPENS WITH GENERAL MEETING

To initiate the current Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association Workshop, which will extend from March 1

to May 25, a general meeting for workshop groups, and other professional library workers, was held in the Lecture Hall on Thursday morning, March 1. At this meeting, the President of the Association, Miss Pauline Walker, stated the general purpose of the workshop. Miss Walker then introduced Mr Lord who paid high tribute to the outstanding achievements of the Professional Staff Association during recent years. Before introducing the speaker of the morning, Miss Evelyn Levy, Co-ordinator of the Workshop, outlined the over-all plan of the workshop. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a provocative lecture by Mr Saul B. Bernstein, Professor of Group Work at the Boston University School of Social Work, on the topic: "Creative Approaches to Group Discussion: the Values, Purposes and Techniques of the Workshop."

All too often, as Mr Bernstein pointed out, group leaders in planning meetings think that important ideas can be presented only - or most easily - through the medium of a speaker. Although a lecture can possess the advantages of clarity, well-ordered thinking and logical presentation, many people, on the other hand, fail to understand lecture material thoroughly or soon forget facts mentioned only briefly. A pre-lecture talk with the speaker, in which group leaders explain what is expected of him or a post-lecture question period carefully guided by the speaker may help to give added significance to any lecture. However Mr Bernstein suggests more utilization of informal discussion and/or workshops for group work.

As Mr Bernstein defined it, a workshop is an informal discussion group with the solution of problems common to all as a definite goal. Group members should reach some integration of ideas, and each individual should leave the workshop with a sense of personal achievement either in the way of broader thinking or in concrete materials for future use.

In planning a workshop the first thought should be, "What kind of a group are we dealing with?" Mr Bernstein cautioned against mixing together people on different levels of education or experience. If different races or religions are represented, disparity of cultural or economic attainments should not be added as a source of conflicts. Mature, stable people should be present to draw attention-demanders back to the point under discussion.

A workshop leader or chairman should have all needed equipment and a plan for stimulating group action ready in advance. To "break the ice", cordial greetings or a few jokes are standard devices. Circular seating is an effective arrangement.

Every member of a workshop should share the leader's responsibility for keeping discussions moving along vital lines. Gradually the shy individual can be drawn into the work, while the aggressor may be persuaded to channel his energies into giving formal reports on important topics. Above all, conclusions should be summarized when they are once reached.

Mr Bernstein mentioned several possible aids to discussion including films, pamphlets, recordings, and the group observer: one individual who sits apart from the group and at stated intervals criticizes the discussion itself as such. To most of the socio-drama: informal dramatization of some problem was a new device for encouraging discussion. Working with Mr Bernstein several staff members put on a socio-drama evaluating personnel rating sheets, as an illustration of this technique. Participating were: Mrs Geraldine Beck, Mrs Margaret Butler, Miss Martha Engler, Mrs Helen Hirson, Mr Eamon McDonough, Mr Louis Polishook, and Miss Sona Semerjian.

Summarizing, Mr Bernstein listed several standards for evaluating a workshop.

1. Discussions should be clear and meaningful, leading to some conclusion.
2. Ideas discussed must be important to all and useful in their applications.
3. A sense of fellowship should be developed through full participation by all.
4. Facts should be used fully and interpreted wisely.

Thanks to Mr Bernstein's intelligent and humorous presentation of this practical material, workshop members left the general meeting with many new and valuable ideas for group work.

The second general meeting of the workshop will be held on Friday, March 30. Mildred G. Downes, Co-Director of Cambridge Remedial Education Services, and Instructor in Reading Skills and Study Techniques, Garland School and MIT., will speak on The Nature and Causes of Reading Problems.

Margaret Wade

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A SELECTED READING LIST OF BOOKS  
IN THE STAFF LIBRARY  
RELATED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE  
BPLPSA WORKSHOP

American Library Association. Committee on Post-war Planning.  
The public library plans for the teen age.  
Chicago, 1948. Z718.5.A6

Bascom, Elva L.  
Book selection.  
Chicago, American Library Association, 1930. Z689.B28

Berelson, Bernard  
The library's public; a report of the Public Library Inquiry.  
New York, Columbia University Press, 1949. Z731.B4 1949

Boyd, Anne M.  
United States government publications. Sources of information for libraries.  
New York, H. W. Wilson Company, 1941. Z1223.Z7B7

Chicago. University. Graduate library school. Library Institute.  
Youth, communication and libraries.  
Chicago, American Library Association, 1949. Z718.1.C5

Columbia University. School of Library Service.  
Syllabus for the study of reading interests and habits of adults.  
New York, School of Library Service, Columbia University, 1947. Z1003.C765

Drury, Francis K. W.  
Book selection.  
Chicago, American Library Association, 1930. Z689.D79

Graham, Bessie  
Bookman's manual; a guide to literature.  
New York, R. R. Bowker Company, 1948. Z1035.G73 1948

Hackett, Francis  
On judging books in general and particular.  
New York, The John Day Company, 1947. PN511.H22

Haines, Helen E.  
Living with books.  
New York, Columbia University Press, 1950. Z1003.H15 1950

McCamy, James L.  
Government publications for the citizen; a report of the Public Library Inquiry.  
New York, Columbia University Press, 1949. Z1223.Z7M2

Merritt, LeRoy  
The United States government as publisher.  
Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1943. Z1223.Z7M35

Power, Effie L.  
Work with children in public libraries.  
Chicago, American Library Association, 1943. Z718.1.P9

Savage, Ernest A.  
A librarian looks at readers.  
London, Library Association, 1947. Z1003.S28

Schutt, Warren E.  
Reading for self-education.  
New York, Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1946. PN83.S4

Wellard, James H.  
Book selection.  
London, Grafton & Company, 1937. Z689.W44

Wilson, Louis R., ed.  
The practice of book selection.  
Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1940. Z689.C5

This is the third of a series of lists of books of subject interest compiled by Mrs Elizabeth Wright.

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NOTES ON THE BPL QUARTERLY

The April issue of The Boston Public Library Quarterly contains the second and concluding portion of Pay, Pension and Power, by Sidney Kaplan, a moving recital of the struggle for an "honorable and just recompense" by the Massachusetts officers of the Revolution. Those were not happy days for the embryonic Republic, plagued as it was by rumors of an officers' strike, a "crisis" that forced General Washington to cancel a proposed holiday at Mount Vernon, the murmuring of citizens at the "greatness of their taxes." Yet it was a fortunate nation in one respect. It had the benefit of Washington's guidance and his "adroit handling" of its affairs.

Of similar historical interest are the marginal notes made by John Adams in his books that now comprise the Adams Library, one of our special collections, which the Editor of the Boston Public Library Quarterly describes in an article, More Books from the Adams Library. It refers to the copious and enlightening comments made by

John Adams in his own handwriting in the pages of his books, a practice which, though frowned upon generally by public libraries, has, in the case of the distinguished original owner, greatly enhanced the value and interest of the Adams Collection. Always terse and to the point, the running commentary of such expressions as "God forbid," "utterly unpracticable," "This is a very dangerous truth," gives a lively turn to the contents of many of the solid volumes in the collection which bears witness to the literary taste of an eighteenth-century American statesman.

No less American, but of another day, are the reactions of Henry James to the city of Rome which he knew as a young man of twenty-six, and which are described by Edward Stone in his article, Henry James and Rome. The enchantment of the Italian capital, a sensation of mingled pleasure and pain for the young American, he was never to outgrow. It has formed the theme of his story, The Last of the Valerii.

The recent gift of Mr Albert H. Wiggin to be added to the collection of prints in the Library, a set of the etchings, drawings and lithographs of the artist, Childe Hassam, is the subject of a biographical appraisal by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints. He describes the career of the Dorchester-born, Boston-bred artist of New England ancestry, whose place in the field of art was already established before he turned to the medium of etching, and tells how his work as a painter, his handling of color and light, have contributed to his skill with the steel point. A number of the recordings of historic landmarks of New England and New York are mentioned by name, work which has placed their creator among the foremost of nineteenth-century American etchers.

The Book of Kells is with us once again, this time in a colorful reproduction by Urs Graf-Verlag in Berne, Switzerland. In Notes on Rare Books and Manuscripts Ellen M. Oldham gives a detailed description of the first two volumes of this recently-acquired facsimile which is now in the Rare Book Department.

C. H.

Editor's Note: A reminder that the Quarterly is available to staff members at the reduced rate of \$1.25 per year.

COMMITTEES

These committees supplement the list which appeared in the February issue of the Question Mark.

BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

- Geraldine T. Beck, Chairman, Connolly Branch Library
- Anne Coleman, East Boston Branch Library
- Elinor E. Day, West End Branch Library
- Charles J. Gillis, Cataloging and Classification for Home Reading and Community Services
- Bertha S. Keswick, Branch Issue Department
- Evelyn Levy, Jeffries Point Branch Library
- Dorothy P. Shaw, Periodical and Newspaper Department

CONCESSION COMMITTEE

- Aaron A. Starr, Chairman, Business Office
- Rita M. Doherty, Book Stack Service
- Charles J. Gillis, Cataloging and Classification for Home Reading and Community Services
- Barbara Gilson, History Department
- Joseph A. Lynch, Book Preparation Department

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CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Whether it was due to the bon voyage wishes extended to me through the February issue of the The Question Mark, no one will ever know, but it was a wonderful voyage.

First of all, the ship was shining white, looking like the tropics even as we cut through the ice in New York harbor. The public rooms were beautifully decorated and air-conditioned. Despite the name "Italia" I was amazed to find myself on an Italian ship. The whole staff and crew were Italian, friendly, gay, and utterly charming. From the moment they found I could speak Italian and had studied in Perugia, I was greeted everywhere I went, and there was the wide-eyed Italian nurse, Tea, who embraced me when we made the happy discovery that we had attended the same school in Belgium. As always, congenial fellow-passengers were found and friendships made. Docking at St. Thomas we found the town fairly attractive, but the countryside was delightful. There are fertile farms and pastures all over the hills, and the views from the high places

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of mountains descending into the brilliant sea with white waves outlining sandy shores are breathtaking. The new modernistic, de-luxe hotel with its outdoor swimming pool overlooking the harbor is all that the advertisements claim.

Our sole disappointment was at Venezuela where the worst storm in thirty years washed out the road to Caracas, flooded the streets of the port of La Guaira, took the lives of nine people, -- and as a minor consequence, prevented the passengers of the "Italia" and the "DeGrasse" from exploring a bit of South America.

Curaçao is unbelievably picturesque with its yellow, pink, blue, and green tropical buildings done in Dutch style. Most of the people are black or are blends of Negro, Spanish, and other races or nationalities, but when we sat down for morning coffee we did see blond, blue-eyed Dutchmen apparently from nearby offices wearing white shirts and shorts. The shopping is a tremendous temptation - French perfume, English and Danish china, Georg Jensen silver, antique Dutch silver miniatures, Swiss watches, and diamonds, all at a fantastic saving because Curaçao is a nearly free port.

The Havana harbor with its lovely arched buildings lining the Malecon Drive has a beauty that never fades. The homes and apartment houses on the way out to the Vedado are modern and most attractive in white or pastels with tropical foliage creating a striking contrast. Even the office of a Cuban sugar planter friend on a cool inside court with palms and shutters had its quiet charm.

And always there was our world of the ship with its swimming on deck in the sunlight and dancing on deck later under moonlight skies, and the late evening buffets after the dancing or entertainment.

Marjorie G. Bouquet

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Bookmobile

A dinner party was held for Miss Mary R. Roberts at the home of Mrs John Marcoux Saturday night February 3, 1951 on the occasion of her transfer from the Bookmobile to Washington Village Branch Library.

Miss Roberts was presented with a Parker

pen and a delightful evening was enjoyed by all.

Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services

Mr Lloyd Griffin, who is now Reference Librarian at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, joins Mr Roger Bristol, an alumnus of our department.

\*

Elsa Shore had gay tales to tell of her recent trip to Virginia Beach. En route she spent time in historic Williamsburg, Virginia.

Open Shelf

Moving day for the Open Shelf Department seems less remote since "ground has been broken" in the present quarters preparatory to installing a central return desk at which all books returned to the Central Library will be accepted. A chute has already been installed which will connect with a conveyor belt, which will in turn carry the books to a sorting table in the basement where they will be sorted and distributed to the proper departments.

Records, Files, Statistics

THANKS TO THE U. S. ARMY

All those interested individuals who were holding their breath on the morning of March 9, awaiting the decision of the local draft board, may relax. By consent of the U. S. Army, the most popular Red Sox rooter that ever graced the smoking room, Donald L. Newman, by name, will be on hand to deliver the baseball scores with the daily mail for a few more seasons. The Army has done its part to make Donald happy, will the Red Sox?

Young People's

On February 20th, during School Vacation Week, Miss Becker, Children's Librarian, Connolly Branch Library, brought thirty children in to see the Central Library. They received a bird's-eye view of the treasures in the library and the beauty of the building. They seemed especially interested in the diorama of ALICE IN WONDERLAND and THE LONDON OF DICKENS which the Library has recently purchased. The story tellers were on hand to entertain them,

Mrs Cronan telling them a part of Elizabeth Coatsworth's new book, THE FIRST ADVENTURE which was on exhibition in the display case. Because Miss Becker has been doing puppetry with these girls and boys it seemed very appropriate that Mr Cronan should tell the Punch and Judy part of Rachel Field's LITTLE DOG TOBY.

People travel long distances to see our library but there are many growing up in Boston who have never been inside the building. How pleasant and rewarding it would be if more groups from branch libraries could make similar trips.

\*

A woman librarian, just returned from abroad having worked in the League of Nations Library in Geneva and also in France, expressed her pleasure to us at being back in the U. S. A. She said she had asked at the Information Desk how much the pamphlets and lists distributed there cost. When informed that they were all free, she said, "Now I know I am back home."

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BRANCH NOTES

Connolly

Mrs Alice (Bulman) Galvin has been granted maternity leave of absence for six months.

\*

The week of the February school vacation was a very busy and active one for the Reading Clubs at Connolly. On Tuesday, February 20, 30 members of the Betweeners Club visited Central Library, viewed the "Alice in Wonderland" exhibit, enjoyed a special story hour by Mr and Mrs Cronan. The Keen Teens were invited to visit the North End Branch Library on Wednesday, February 21. They toured the district to see the historic sites, the Old North Church and Paul Revere's home; were entertained by a puppet show given by the North End Puppet Club. Before leaving the North End the group sampled some of the Italian delicacies, especially spumoni and gelati. To climax this week of social activities twenty-four of the Keen Teens enjoyed a performance of the Ice Follies on Saturday, February 23.

East Boston

For the sixth consecutive year, the East Boston Branch Library was host to the community at an Open House on Monday, March 5. On the same evening, in the adult room of the library, the second exhibit of East Boston artists opened for a month. Eighteen artists have thirty-five works of art on display in a variety of media such as watercolors, oils, pastels, lithographs, and sculpture in wood, bronze and terra cotta. The exhibit is a distinguished and talented show representative of the district.

The program of dancing and vocal and instrumental music by thirteen East Bostonians was typical of other local art. The President of the Friends of the East Boston Branch Library, Mr Albert West, presented a V-M phonograph with a three speed record changer to the library. He gave a warm tribute to the community and complimented it on its interest in the library so concretely expressed. More than two hundred guests enjoyed the punch and homemade cookies served in the children's room at the close of the program. Open House, once again, showed the splendid cooperation and friendship which exists between the library and its public.

Jamaica Plain

Jamaica Plain Branch Library is holding a pre-school story hour at ten o'clock on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Mattapan

The Mattapan Branch Library is inaugurating a series of programs to be called "Film Forum for Teen-Agers", the first of which will take place on Thursday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m. The films to be shown are ARE YOU POPULAR? and YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. A panel discussion comprised of four students from the Solomon Lewenberg Junior High School will follow the film program. The participating students are "Chuck" Shuman, who will discuss "Family and Friendly Courtesy", Sidney Davis, whose topic will be "Staying Out Late", Myrna Edesess, who will speak on "Personal Appearance", and Helen Steinberg, who will state her views on "Boys". Following the panel discussion there will be ample opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the panel members and general discussion will be invited. Mrs Gertrude Bergen, Second Assistant, will introduce the speakers and act as moderator. The public has

been cordially invited to attend, and from the spirited enthusiasm with which the young people have prepared their talks it is expected that the program will be very successful.

\*

In addition to the regular Saturday morning story-hour for school children, the Mattapan Branch Library is now presenting a story-hour for pre-school children on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. The stories for the youngsters are told by Miss Patience-Anne C. Williams, Assistant in the Children's Room.

Neponset

The Young Readers Club of Neponset Branch Library entertained the "young fry" as guests at their February meeting. Games and refreshments were enjoyed and each youngster received a favor in the form of a George Washington hat filled with candy. As the children were leaving they asked "when may we come again?"

North End

This month the North End Children's Room, with its bright and gay decorations, has caught all the excitement and glamour of a fair or carnival. The whole room is an invitation to "Come, come, come, to the fair and see the treasures displayed there". There are balloons on the ceiling (real ones, too!); Bambino, the clown, and his companion, the seal, grace the wall in the easy book corner; candy-striped paper lines the shelves; and book jackets and books are displayed everywhere.

In keeping with the decorations around the room, little booklists in the shape of wigwags, treasure chests, baseballs, circus tents, and rocket ships, and bookmarks heralding spring were given to the children. The schools received attractive invitations, decorated with gaily mounted book jackets.

Twelve classes from neighboring schools responded to our invitation and visited the library during the last two weeks. The children enjoyed the book talks, which highlighted the new books. One class responded enthusiastically to the telling of "Ebenezer-never-could-sneezer." The services offered by the branch libraries and the Central library and the use of the card catalog were introduced to the

children through talks and games. Our visitors also had an opportunity to browse among the shelves.

Individual children have responded to the festive atmosphere of the library, too, and have commented, "How pretty!" or "What is the library celebrating?"

\*

Miss Dorothy Becker, Children's Librarian, and the Teen-age Reading Club from Connolly Branch Library were our guests during the school vacation. Before coming to the Library they visited the Paul Revere House and the Old North Church with the North End Teen-age Reading Club. Later they enjoyed a puppet show, Jack and the Beanstalk, and were served punch and cookies.

South Boston

Miss Marilyn Quinn, part-time assistant, won third prize in an essay contest at the Archbishop Cushing Central High on the theme "What benefits would the United States derive from our recognition of Franco Spain." She is also one of five young girls who are going to sing Irish songs in costume at our next film program, to be held at the Branch on March 15, 1951.

West End

Mrs Flora Roussos, probationary assistant, sang the Shubert Mass in G-Major at Symphony Hall on March 3 and 4 as a member of the Arthur Fiedler chorus with Mr Charles Munch conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

\*

In connection with the 1950 Newbery and Caldecott awards for distinguished children's books, the children at the branch had a wonderful time making their own choices in advance of the announcements. Although their votes did not coincide with those of the official committee, a good cross-section of children's likes and dislikes was shown. Incidentally, the winners, according to West End voters, were "Mystery at Boulder Point", "Emily of Deep Valley", and Arthur Rackham's "Fairy Book" (a reprint).

It is interesting to note that with almost prophetic awareness, the West End Branch Library chose Amos Fortune by Elizabeth Yates, recently awarded the

Newbery Medal, as the subject of an exhibit during Brotherhood and Negro History Weeks, and this display of original illustrations from the book will continue to be shown at the Branch Library for the next few weeks.

by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

- Arnold, Elliott  
Walk with the Devil.  
New York, Knopf, 1950
- Payne, Pierre S. R.  
The Young emperor.  
New York, Macmillan, 1950

Non-Fiction

- Chicago. University. Graduate Library School. Library Conference.  
A forum on the Public Library Inquiry.  
New York, Columbia University Press, 1950.
- Kerr, Chester  
A report on American university presses.  
Washington, Association of American University Presses, 1949?
- Payne, Pierre S. R.  
Mao Tse-tung; ruler of Red China.  
New York, Schuman, 1950
- Rich, Louise  
My neck of the woods.  
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1950
- Smith, Harry A.  
People named Smith.  
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1950

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed

Apropos questionnaires asking for information of a personal nature, wouldn't it be better policy to have them returned in a sealed envelope? I fail to see the necessity of a department chief viewing replies which have nothing to do with department business.

\*

'Tis a little thing  
To give a cup of water; yet its draught  
Of cool refreshment, drain 'd by  
feverish lips,  
May give a thrill of pleasure to the  
frame  
More exquisite than when nectarian juice  
Renews the life of joy in happiest hours.

Thos. Noon Talfourd

With the warm weather approaching, would it not be possible to have a drinking fountain installed on the second floor for public use? It seems unfair to send the public downstairs. A suggested location is opposite the post card counter where piping connections could be kept to a minimum.

\*

A hearty well-done to the Exhibits Office for creating a most eye-appealing, and interest-absorbing exhibit on Audubon. May we look forward to more of the same?

\*

Two ladies were lunching in a neighboring restaurant. Looking across at the Library one remarked to the other, "That is a fine building, but what are all those names chiselled on it?" "Oh", exclaimed her friend, "those are the names of all the people who died waiting for their books".

\*

Paging Miss Peck: What does PS 35 mean on the menu board in the Concession?

\*

A word of thanks to Mrs Wollent, our "hospital" for her kindness to all of those who have been her patients during the recent epidemic of colds and flu.

T. J. M.

### LATE FLASHES

#### Engagement

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Mildred E. Francis, Business Office, to Paul E. Conlon, of Roxbury. A fall wedding is planned.

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#### The Staff in Print

Good fellowship night. Fanny Goldstein, Wilson Bulletin, March, 1951. p. 540

Six and twenty artists. Dorothy F. Nourse, Wilson Bulletin, March, 1951. p. 537

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#### Out of the Mouths of Babes

Overheard on the Bookmobile:

Registration Clerk: "So, you live on La Grange Street, is that in West Roxbury?"

Second Grade Miss: "NO! I live in Massachusetts".

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### NEW HOME FOR BOOK PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bids were opened on Tuesday, March 13, for the installation of a new floor above the Branch Issue Department, thereby providing space to house the Book Purchasing Department.

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### ALA NOTABLE BOOKS OF 1950

The following list, which has just been received, was prepared by a committee of the Division of Public Libraries of the ALA, and represents titles submitted by libraries throughout the country. Selection is limited to books published in the United States during 1950 considered to be genuinely meritorious in terms of literary excellence, factual correctness, sincerity and honesty of presentation, and in promoting enlightened citizenship and enriching personal life.

Appleton, Le Roy H.  
Indian Art of the Americas  
Bainton, Roland H.  
Here I Stand  
Barzun, Jacques M.  
Berlioz and the Romantic Century  
Boswell, James  
London Journal  
Bowen, Catherine D.  
John Adams and the American Revolution  
Brinton, Clarence C.  
Ideas and Men  
Christensen, Erwin O.  
Index of American Design  
Churchill, Winston S.  
Grand Alliance  
Hinge of Fate  
Chute, Marchette G.  
Shakespeare of London  
Coit, Margaret L.  
John C. Calhoun  
Commager, Henry S.  
American Mind  
Douglas, William O.  
Of Men and Mountains  
Durant, William J.  
Age of Faith  
Faulkner, William  
Collected Stories  
Fischer, Louis  
Life of Mahatma Gandhi  
Fry, Christopher  
Lady's Not for Burning  
Gebler, Ernest  
Plymouth Adventure  
Goodspeed, Edgar J.  
Life of Jesus  
Hart, James D.  
Popular Book  
Hersey, John R.  
The Wall  
Heyerdahl, Thor  
Kon-Tiki

PRINT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, is one of the chairmen of the Organizing Committee for the New England Celebration of the 2000 Anniversary of Paris under the sponsorship of Mr Albert Chambon, Consul-General of France in New England. He has arranged with curators in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Fogg Museum to show French Paintings and Prints from their collections during Art Week for the Celebration (June 1 - 10). In addition he has prepared special exhibitions of prints by French artists represented in the Print Department to be shown in the Albert H. Wiggin Gallery from March through June.

\*

Muriel C. Figenbaum, First Assistant, recently spoke to the Needham Junior New Century Club on her experiences in Europe, supplemented by her kodachrome slides.

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PARTY FOR MISS USHER

The members of the retiring Publications Committee, Miss Mildred Adelson, Mr John Carroll, Miss Eleanor DiGiannantonio, and Mrs Dorothy Brackett Ekstrom, gave a surprise luncheon for the former chairman of the Committee, Miss Sarah Usher, at the Town Room of the Copley Plaza Hotel, on Wednesday, March 14. In recognition of Miss Usher's able and inspiring chairmanship the group presented her with a handsome silver pin.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Miss Phyllis Hoffman, Director's Office, 79 Spring Street, Everett.  
Mr George H. Earley, Printing Department, 109 Appleton Street, Boston 16.

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- Hight, Gilbert
- Art of Teaching
- Jefferson, Thomas
- Papers
- Johnson, Gerald W.
- Incredible Tale
- Kelly, Amy R.
- Eleanor of Aquitaine
- Lewis, Lloyd
- Captain Sam Grant
- McCune, George M.
- Korea Today
- Menaboni, Athos and Sara
- Menaboni's Birds
- Millikan, Robert A.
- Autobiography
- Nevins, Allan
- Emergence of Lincoln
- Payne, Robert
- Mao Tse-Tung
- Perkins, Maxwell E.
- Editor to Author
- Sandburg, Carl
- Complete Poems
- Schulberg, Budd W.
- The Disenchanted
- Seldes, Gilbert V.
- Great Audience
- Tharp, Louise H.
- Peabody Sisters of Salem
- Trilling, Lionel
- Liberal Imagination
- Van Doren, Carl C.
- Jane Mecom
- Wiener, Norbert
- Human Use of Human Beings

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NEW SCIENCE MUSEUM OPENED

The Boston Public Library was represented at the formal opening of the new Science Museum, on the Esplanade, by Mr Milton E. Lord, Director, and Mr John J. Connolly, Assistant to the Director and Chief Executive Officer.

It is interesting to note that Ames, Child, and Graves, consulting architects for the Library, are the architects for the Museum of Science.

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PRESENTS

THE FIRST LECTURE

IN THE SERIES OF

BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURES

*A Librarian's Reaffirmation of Faith*

by

RALPH MUNN

DIRECTOR OF THE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, AND DIRECTOR OF  
THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE LIBRARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY · APRIL 6, 1951 · AT 8:30 P.M.

THE LECTURE HALL OF  
THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ALL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF, AND  
INTERESTED FRIENDS, ARE CORDIALLY  
INVITED TO ATTEND THIS LECTURE.

*Refreshments will be served after the lecture*

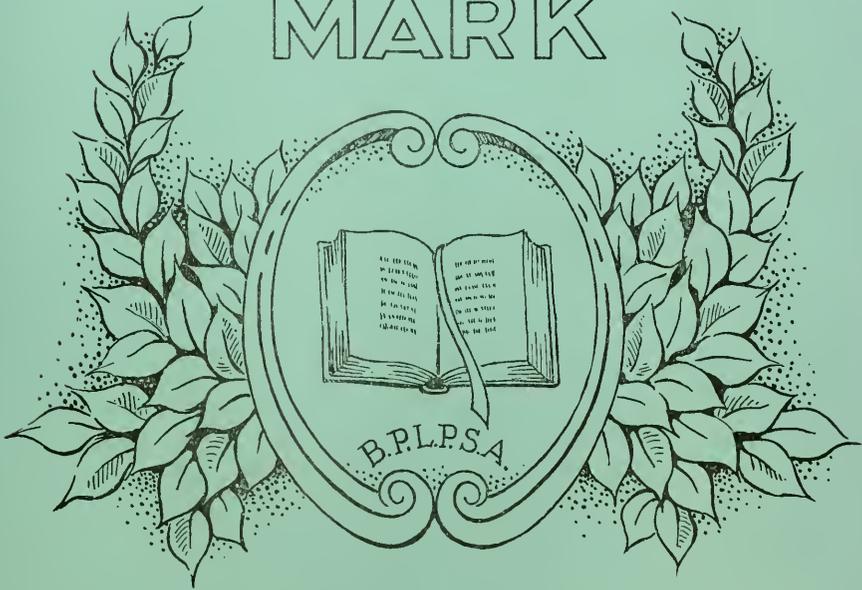
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL

Geraldine T. Peck, Chairman  
Anne Coleman, Secretary  
Bertha Keswick, Treasurer

Elinor Day  
Charles Gillis  
Dorothy Shaw  
Evelyn Levy  
Kathleen M. Woodworth



THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

Apart from faithfully paying annual dues and attending conferences the average ALA member has little opportunity to participate actively in the affairs of the Association. In recognition of this fact, and to stimulate increased participation during this 75th anniversary year, the Anniversary Committee of ALA has conceived the happy idea of a contest, open to all present and potential members of the organization, related to the general anniversary theme, a restatement of the American heritage in terms of present day crises. In addition to the not inconsiderable inducement of monetary prizes amounting to \$1,000, made possible through the generosity of Gardner Cowles, Editor of Look Magazine, is the added incentive of justifying ourselves and our jobs as librarians through the simple mental stock taking required to take part in the contest. For any librarian who has known the satisfaction of finding the right book for the right borrower at the right time, the topics suggested for the two essays are provocative. If a non-librarian and businessman has sufficient faith in us as librarians to underwrite this venture, let us be articulate and justify Mr. Cowle's confidence and interest in the profession by entering the contest. A glance through the files of The Question Mark alone provides ample evidence that the B.P.L. staff is veritably bristling with likely contestants, so let us sharpen our wits and our pencils and remember the deadline for submitting entries is May 31, 1951. In an adjoining column are printed the general rules of the contest. For further details see the January 1951 issue of the A.L.A. Bulletin.

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ALA ANNIVERSARY CONTEST\$1,000 in Prizes

- I. For the best statements in 2,000 words or less that illustrate the power of books to influence the lives of men and women--young and old,

Six Prizes as follows:

- \$200 each for the two best statements from librarians who are 1951 ALA members.  
 \$100 each for the two best statements from librarians who are not ALA members now, but who join the ALA when submitting their contest statements.  
 \$100 each for the two best statements from non-librarian citizens who join the ALA when submitting their contest statements.

(We're looking for frank, personal accounts, full of human experience. What are the books that have most frequently worked magic in the lives of readers you have known? Were they books of fact or fiction? Who were the people influenced? Did this result in influence that extended to the community? How do you know?)

- II. For the best statements in 2,000 words or less on the topic: What are the problems that worry the citizen enough to make him come to the library for help?

Two Prizes as follows:

- \$100 each for the best statements from librarians who are members of the ALA or who join the ALA when submitting their contest statements.

(Here, we're seeking to know what's on the citizen's mind. How close is the librarian to the thinking citizen?)

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CALENDAR OF APRIL EVENTS

The Quarter Century Club will hold its annual banquet in the Dome Room of the Hotel Lenox, Thursday evening, April 24. The Trustees of the Library, the Director, Mr Milton E. Lord, and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr John J. Connolly, will be the guests of honor.

The officers of the Quarter Century Club are: Mr George W. Gallagher, president; Mr Patrick A. Kennedy, vice president; Mr Robert F. Dixon, treasurer; and Miss Bessie L. Doherty, secretary. There are at present 93 members of the organization, with a total of over 3,000 years of service in the Library.

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The second general meeting of the Workshop will take place on Friday morning, April 27, at 9:30 o'clock in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library building. Mrs Mildred V. D. Mathews, Superintendent of Adult Services, New York Public Library, will speak on A Dynamic Use of Book Materials in Public Libraries.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Patricia M. Auvil, Branch Issue Department (formerly part-time at the South End Branch Library).

Miss Shirley B. Borden, History Department.

Miss Gladys L. Murphy, Connolly Branch Library.

Mrs Lorraine B. Patrick, East Boston Branch Library.

Transferred

Miss Rhoda Blacker, Uphams Corner Branch Library to Jeffries Point Branch Library.

Miss Helen A. Brennan, City Point Branch Library to Mt Bowdoin Branch Library.

Miss Marguerite A. Connelly, Branch Issue Department to the Director's Office.

Mrs Margaret M. Donovan, Jeffries Point Branch Library to Orient Heights Branch Library.

Mrs Evelyn Green, Allston Branch Library to City Point Branch Library.

Mrs Fern S. Ingersoll, Brighton Branch Library to Jeffries Point Branch Library.

Mrs Marion F. Martin, Orient Heights Branch Library to Uphams Corner Branch Library.

Mrs Julia L. Miller, Mt Bowdoin Branch Library to Bookmobile.

Miss Marie E. Murphy, East Boston Branch Library to Codman Square Branch Library.

Marriages

Miss Estelle R. Henderson, Jeffries Point Branch Library, to Mr Harlas J. Boyd.

Miss Joyce C. Rylander, Office of Division of Reference and Research Services, to Mr Harold M. Kelley.

Miss Mary T. Ryan, Allston Branch Library, to Mr Robert E. Delano.

Resignations

Miss Doris M. Cornelius - Codman Square Branch Library.

Mrs Eleanora V. Goolkasian - Book Purchasing Department, to remain at home.

Mr Robert J. Roper - Science and Technology Department, to accept a position with the Naval Research Laboratories in Boston.

Births

A daughter, Janet, to Mr and Mrs Robert Oxley, on March 14. Mrs Oxley, the former Ursula Von Zarsk, is on maternity leave from the East Boston Branch Library.

A daughter, Maria, to Mr and Mrs Mario Giella. Mrs Giella is the former Rose DiPasquale of North End Branch Library.

A daughter, Ann Patrice, to Mr and Mrs Gerald Goolkasian, on March 17. Ann Patrice had the distinction of being the first baby born in Boston on Saint Patrick's Day, arriving at 12:04 A. M. Mrs Goolkasian was formerly a member of the Book Purchasing Department.

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WEDDINGS

Miss Estelle R. Henderson, Jeffries Point Branch Library, was married to Mr Harlas J. Boyd of Chicago, on Easter Sunday, March 25. The bride wore a traditional white satin

gown with yoke of illusion, embroidered in seed pearls and carried a prayer book and orchid. A reception followed immediately after the ceremony. Among the guests were many members of the Library staff. After a wedding trip to New York, Montreal and Detroit, Mr and Mrs Boyd will live in Chicago.

\*

Miss Mary T. Ryan, Allston Branch Library, was married on April 6 to Mr Robert E. Delano of Dorchester in a simple afternoon ceremony in Saint Catherine's Church, Charlestown. The bride was attended by Mrs Francis Yanovich of South Boston, the former Mary L. Duran of Charlestown and South Boston Branch Libraries, and the bridegroom's brother was his best man. After a honeymoon trip through the White Mountains, the couple will live in Dorchester. Mr Delano is employed by the City of Boston as a Junior Building Custodian.

\*

On Saturday, April 7, 1951 at 4 o'clock in Saint Agatha's Church, Milton, Miss Joyce C. Rylander, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, was married to Mr Harold M. Kelley, of Milton. The bride's gown was of white lace and net and her finger-tip veil of illusion fell from a coronet of lilies of the valley. She carried an old-fashioned bouquet of gardenias and lilies of the valley. The maid of honor and three bridesmaids were gowned alike in orchid marquisette and lace gowns with green satin sashes and matching picture hats. They carried old-fashioned bouquets of orchid sweet peas. After a reception at the South Shore Country Club in Hingham the couple left on a wedding trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. They will live on Myrtle Street, Boston on their return.

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PARTIES

Miss Emilia Lange, General Reference Department, was guest at a surprise Bon Voyage party given in her honor at the Hotel Bellevue on March 31. The party was arranged by Miss Julia Manning and Mrs William Butler and many of Emilia's

friends were present to wish her well when she sails for Europe on April 18.

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BON VOYAGE

Miss Columba Bartalini, Branch Issue Department, sails from Commonwealth Pier on Sunday, April 22, on the M. V. Italia. She and her parents will spend three months visiting relatives and friends in Italy, and hope for some sightseeing in France on the way home.

\*

Miss Emilia Lange, General Reference Department, sails from New York on the Ile de France on April 18, for an eight weeks' tour of Europe.

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WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Anne Brennan, Branch Issue Department, after a long illness.

Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, School Issue Department, who has recovered from a fractured shoulder.

Miss Ellen C. Peterson, North End Branch Library, after a month's absence.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Miss Taimi E. Lilja who is convalescing at home, 125 Park Drive, Boston 15, after an operation.

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RECENT VISITORS

Miss Enrica Epifania, U. S. Information Library, Naples. During her visit at the Library the week of April 9, members of the staff conducted Miss Epifania on a tour of Boston landmarks, and took her to a performance of the play, Gramercy Ghost.

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THE STAFF EXHIBITS

As one of the students of Polly Nordell, Miss Mildred R. Somes, Book Preparation Department (and, incidentally, the artist

who designed the cover for THE QUESTION MARK), has three watercolors on exhibition in the Copley Society Gallery, 561 Boylston Street, from April 9-20. Those friends who attended the opening were delighted to discover that within the first hour of the exhibit, which is made up of over forty entries, one of Miss Somes' pictures had been sold.

For any who may wish to stop at the Gallery during a lunch hour, the watercolors exhibited by Miss Somes are: 16 Still life (sold); 28 Spring; 32 Arrangement.

S. M. U.

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Prints by Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman and Miss Muriel Figenbaum were included in a recent exhibition of the Boston Print-makers at Symphony Hall. Mr Heintzelman was represented by his fine etching of Albert Schweitzer, and Miss Figenbaum by a charming drypoint, "Yvonne".

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THE STAFF IN PRINT

The March-April issue of the Horn Book Magazine contains a delightful account of the Welsh Eisteddfod drawn from letters by Ann Griffiths, a fifteen year-old newly elected bard who has been corresponding since summer with Miss A. Virginia Haviland, Phillips Brooks Branch Library. This musical and literary festival, which was attended last summer by Miss Edna G. Peck, Miss Margaret A. Morgan, and Miss Haviland, is also briefly described in the same issue of the Horn Book by Miss Haviland as an introduction to the letters. Further comments by Ann Griffiths in letters about Welsh people and their musical activities have been of unusual interest to librarians and young people reading them.

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"AT LONG LAST ..."

You all have heard of the Book of Kells, And the length of time to compose it no one tells. Today there has appeared the Book of Mary Farrell's In honor of which let there be peans of praise and carols.

We know she has raised two fine sons, But, in truth and fact, t'was but a lark Compared to the never ending revisions That this her latest offspring sparked.

Now the deed is done, no looking back, Sharpen you knives and axes, brethren, and hack. (No relation to Alice) She shall know what it is to be bitten By her colleagues who are naught but kittens.

Watch out ALA Cataloging and Classification Division!

ANON.

Editor's Note: Mrs Farrell has just completed the long awaited Manual for the Cataloging and Classification Department of the Division of Reference and Research Services.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Miss Eva J. Anttonen, former Children's Librarian of the East Boston Branch Library, was recently transferred by the U. S. State Department from the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin in Mexico City to the Biblioteca Lincoln in Buenos Aires.

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Former members of the staff attending the BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE on April 6 were Miss M. Florence Cufflin, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, Miss Elizabeth Hodges, now Librarian at Leominster Public Library, Mrs Mary W. Dietrickson, Business Branch Librarian, Emeritus, and Mr Louis Felix Ranlett, formerly Chief of the Book Selection Department and now Librarian of the Bangor Public Library.

\*

Word has been received recently of the death of Miss Emily Frimdsorff, a member of the staff of the Boston Public Library from 1894-1925. At the time of her retirement Miss Frimdsorff was first assistant in the Ordering Department.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the Executive Board meeting held on April 4, the report of the Special Committee on In-Service Training, of which Mr Bradford M. Hill is chairman, was submitted to the Board. This is the report on the last project of this particular committee which was the presentation of the Public Library Inquiry at the general staff meetings in February. The report was accepted without change by the Board and will be read at the May business meeting of the Association.

In preparing the presentation of the Public Library Inquiry for the general meetings of the staff in February, the Special Committee on In-Service Training sent a letter to Mr Lord in which the question was asked whether or not the Boston Public Library had a written statement of its objectives, and if not whether one could be submitted for purposes of comparison. In Mr Lord's reply in which he indicated that there was no such statement (just as most public libraries have not had) he said, "It may be that before we get through, however, there can be brought into being by joint action of the members of the library staff a desirable and adequate statement for the future. This would please us very much." With this in view the Executive Board has been considering ways in which the Association might be able to make a constructive contribution in such an undertaking. The matter will be brought up for comment at the May business meeting.

The new Entertainment Committee functioned for the first time on the evening of April 6 when the initial BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE was delivered by Mr Ralph Munn. Miss Dorothy F. Nourse and her Committee are to be congratulated on the attractive arrangements and delicious refreshments which were served on that special occasion. Once again the Association is grateful for having the bright and colorful quarters of the new Open Shelf Department made available for the evening which added distinction and interest to the program.

P. A. W.

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M. L. A. Annual Meeting, May 17-18, 1951  
Hotel Sheraton, Springfield  
Save the dates!

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PENSIONS

Does the following apply to you?

1. Are you a member of the State-Boston Retirement System (5%)?
2. Have you worked as a part-time employee or as a temporary or probationary employee?
3. Was this service prior to 1946?
4. Are you interested in procuring credit for this service toward retirement benefits?

If your answers are "yes" to the above questions, you should do the following:

1. Request from the Personnel Office a record of such employment and of the salaries received by you.
2. Send this record to the State-Boston Retirement Board, Room 65, City Hall, Boston 8, with a request that you be given credit for this service. The State-Boston Retirement Board will notify you whether or not they will allow you to do this and what the cost of buying back your service will be.

You should give this your immediate attention as all of the many details must be accomplished and payment made prior to January 1, 1952. (This date applies to those members of the staff who joined the State-Boston Retirement System on January 1, 1947. For all others the date would be 5 years after the date of joining the State-Boston Retirement System.)

Pensions Committee  
Louis Polishook, Chairman  
Elizabeth G. Barry  
Albert L. Carpenter  
Catherine M. MacDonald

THE BERTHA V. HARTZELL LECTURE

For the first time librarians from surrounding towns, cities, and colleges joined the Boston Public Library staff, on Friday evening, April 6, 1951, in a preview of the New Open Shelf Department quarters, not yet completed for public use. The occasion was the first Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture, held in honor of the former Supervisor of Training in the Boston Public Library.

Mrs Geraldine T. Beck, Chairman of the Committee for the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial, a special committee of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Asso-

ciation, presided and welcomed the guests, explaining to them the background and purpose of the lectureship. Mrs Beck introduced Miss Pauline A. Walker, Branch Librarian, West Roxbury Branch Library, who, as one of Mrs Hartzell's pupils, paid tribute to Mrs Hartzell in recalling the high ideals of librarianship and the fine standards of scholarship maintained by her during her years as Supervisor of Training.

Mrs Beck then presented the guest speaker of the evening, Mr Ralph Munn, Director, Carnegie Library, Pittsburg. Mr Munn's subject, A Librarian's Reaffirmation of Faith, was rooted in the recent PUBLIC LIBRARY INQUIRY, as found in Dr Leigh's summary of the findings of that inquiry. Mr Munn reminded his audience that as librarians they probably knew, subconsciously if not consciously, all the fact that Dr Leigh and his board has "discovered" in their study. The real stimulation and challenge came to librarians when they actually saw the findings in print. This gave impetus to an objective scrutiny of librarianship heretofore unknown. Mr Munn reminded his listeners that librarianship is now "up against" its greatest testing time. Librarians, he remarked, are like the wagon-makers of a few decades ago. When the automobile arrived to stay, the wagon-maker had only two choices, to change his equipment and technique or to go out of business. Librarians of today, face to face with movies, radio, and television, must either face the threat of these media of entertainment and formulate a new policy of procedure or cease to serve the public adequately. Libraries are not prepared to compete with these nationally publicized entertainments, so there is in reality only one course left and that is to cease competing in the entertainment world and turn the library's facilities to the informational and educational fields. To do this successfully, however, one major handicap must be removed. Circulation must cease to be the yardstick of library service. A new means of measuring the library's service to the community must be found, and that without delay if the library is to find its proper place in a world of fluctuating ideals.

Mr Munn paid high tribute to children's librarians and the fine service they have rendered to the profession as a whole. His suggestion that children's librarians should be given equal status with librarians working with adults, and that they

should be given charge of library units with first assistants designated to carry on the adult work, was received with mixed feelings.

In the course of his remarks, Mr Munn recalled the fine groundwork laid by librarians such as Mrs Hartzell, whose unswerving loyalty to the profession will long serve as a stimulus and a challenge to those who remember her, and others like her in the profession, who gave their all without thought of decreased work weeks, and increased pay checks.

In closing his remarks, Mr Munn drew attention to the fact that the library inquiry while disturbing in certain aspects, offered to the profession a great challenge and helped to point the way to unlimited fields of new endeavor.

Following Mr Munn's address, the guests were served refreshments prepared by Miss Dorothy F. Nourse, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, and her efficient committee members. During this social hour the guests also had an opportunity to inspect the entire quarters of the new Open Shelf Department.

Guests of honor were the Director of the Library, Mr Milton E. Lord, Mr Francis B. Masterson, Trustees of the Library, and Mrs Masterson, and Mr and Mrs Karl Hartzell of Fayville, Long Island, New York.

Edna G. Peck

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#### THE CATALOGUER SPEAKS

Some folks believe our work is dry as dust,  
With pity not far distant from contempt  
Imagining we do because we must  
These boring tasks from which they are  
exempt.

We count the leaves and copy title-pages,  
Minutely crossing t-s and dotting i-s,  
And hunt for dates in dust-heaps of the  
ages,  
But - so they think! - what in the volume  
lies

Concerns not us who cleave unto the letter.  
Good folks, you err: ours is the thrill  
of chasing  
Elusive thought as we set out to fetter  
Dynamic spirit in a patterned tracing.

Some day, you'll see, a little card will  
show  
The path to what you most desire to know.

M.Mc

SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF WORKSHOP

The second General Meeting of the Workshop was held in the Lecture Hall of the Library on Friday morning, March 30. The chairman for the meeting was Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for the Division of Home Reading and Community services. The program was in two parts, the first hour was devoted to preliminary reports from the six Workshop Groups, and the second hour to a talk by Mrs Mildred G. Downes, Co-Director of Cambridge Remedial Education Services, and Instructor in Reading Skills and Study Techniques, Garland School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on The Nature and Causes of Reading Problems.

With the Workshop entering its second month, it was most interesting and exciting to listen to the accomplishments and plans of the various groups. Although none had met more than three times and some only twice, it was apparent from the reports that a clear pattern of goals and aims had been formulated by all the groups after preliminary surveys of the problems in their fields. The reports reflected the individual ways in which the groups had approached their fields, and the brief glimpses of the work already done, as well as the plans for bibliographies, lists, and recommendations which they offered could not help but increase the anticipation with which all the members of the workshop are awaiting the last general meeting in May when the final reports will be presented. Each report was limited to five to ten minutes and was presented by the following members of the groups: Miss Ollie Partridge of the Open Shelf Room who is chairman of one group working on Staff Knowledge and Evaluation of Books for Use with the Public; Mr Paul Moynihan of General Reference who is chairman of a second group working in the same subject area; Mrs Mary Obear, of the Uphams Corner Branch who is Chairman of the group working on the Development of Book Lists and Their Use; Miss Duilia Capobianco of the East Boston Branch who is the recorder of the group on Book Talks for Children and/or Adults; Mrs Veronica Lehane of the Memorial Branch, who is recorder of the group on Reviewing and Selection of Books for Young People; and Miss Lorraine Tolman of the Boston University School of Education Library who is a member of the group on the Evaluation of the Use of Pamphlet Material and Periodical Literature. Miss

-7-

Evelyn Levy, Coordinator of the Workshop, introduced this part of the program.

The interest which all librarians have in the problems of reading and readability made the second part of the program a most engrossing hour. It began with a six minute reading test in which everyone participated so that the air was electric with the concentration of about 100 librarians being "readers with motivation." Mrs Downes then, in a most informal manner and with the aid of Miss Peck as her copyist at the blackboard, demonstrated the various kinds of reading disabilities, their causes, their visible signs, and some of the methods used in working toward their solution. From her vast fund of knowledge and experience, Mrs Downes talked about concrete examples of these disabilities as manifested by both adults and children. Most of the individuals of which she spoke were extreme cases of reading disabilities and personal maladjustments such as librarians are not likely to encounter, but the insights she gave us into the field were exciting and provocative to further thought. At the end of her talk there was a brief question period during which she gave a "rapid reading quickie guide" which aroused a great deal of interest but which may play havoc with Miss Peck's and Miss Gordon's book reviewers.

Evelyn Levy

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PRACTICE STUDENTS FROM SIMMONS COLLEGE

The following students from the School of Library Science, Simmons College, were assigned to departments of the Division of Reference and Research Services for their practice work during the period from April 2-13:

Robert S. Calese, General Reference Department.

Richard Harrington, General Reference Department.

Arthur E. Pethybridge, Cataloging and Classification Department, and General Reference Department.

Mary E. Walsh, General Reference Department and Cataloging and Classification Department.

Irving H. Wiseman, Kirstein Business Branch and Cataloging and Classification Department.

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RECORDING OF ARCHIBALD MACLEISH LECTURE  
PRESENTED TO THE LIBRARY

On Friday evening, February 23, 1951, members of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association and their friends had the unusual privilege of hearing Archibald MacLeish, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard University, read and discuss poetry in the beautiful new Open Shelf Department of the Central Library.

Mr MacLeish, a former Librarian of Congress, prefaced his talk by reminding his audience of the unique position of the librarian - working with books, in which medium he sees the only vestige of real freedom of expression surviving in the United States, and warned his listeners against letting their work degenerate into monotony or be bogged down by detail. Coming to the central theme of the evening he defined his conception of poetry, quoting also that of Ivor Armstrong Richards, and reading from Arthur Waley's translations of Chinese poetry to illustrate his theory. He further demonstrated his belief that poetry can express emotion more perfectly than any other medium by reading from his own earlier and later poems, interpreting various references - e. g., to his life in Paris from 1920-30, when Joyce and Hemingway were among his close friends; to the death of his brother, an aviator in World War I; and to his years in Washington with the Library of Congress, and later as Assistant Secretary of State.

A tape recording of this talk was made for the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association by Mr N. B. Tulin, of the Nation Sound Corporation, and was presented to the Association by Mr Tulin on Monday, March 19, 1951 in the Staff Library. G. S. H.

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AN ALUMNA IN FRANCE

The metro, bus, taxi, gas, electricity and railroad strike here has complicated life not a little, but at least we can still get food trucked in. Such partial general strikes are not uncommon in France. I've been walking around Paris with one eye on the guidebook for some weeks now and feel as though I were M. Nagel himself. The 6th of March the sun shone brightly early in the afternoon, so Larry and I

dashed about madly snapping color shots of the most famous landmarks - luckily - there hasn't been such a good opportunity since. They all came out well except the slides of the transept Rose windows of Notre Dame, in which the colors are faded - too much sun, apparently. ... I'm crazy about the beautiful stained glass in the Gothic churches. The effect when the sunlight streams in jewelled patterns through the gloom of the shadowy nave is breathtaking. Last week I visited Ste. Chapelle, constructed by S. Louis in the 13th century. It is a Gothic chapel whose sides from head height clear up to the very high arched vaults are of magnificent stained glass. The four walls are completely glass, though the engineering skill required for such a feat makes this seem unbelievable. Why this chapel isn't considered the first sight of Paris, I don't know - you really cannot imagine how beautiful it is. During Holy Week I visited a number of churches - St. Germain de Pres, St. Severin, St. Eustache, St. Etienne du Mont, for there are many excellent concerts of 14th-17th century music given at this time. The Tenbrae service Good Friday at Notre Dame was very interesting but the chanting inferior to what I expected from a church relatively close to the Abbey of Solesmes. The Italians seem to handle Gregorian chant much better. There are a number of good concerts on the radio - right now I'm listening to a performance of Bach's Magnificat by the Chorale of the University of Paris. Last evening we heard a performance of the Passion sections of the B minor Mass from St. Thomas Church, Leipzig - I'm surprised the Russians allowed the performance. The American Episcopal Cathedral is not a bad modern Gothic, though rather too flamboyant. A disturbing note is the notice posted on every pew to watch purses, etc., carefully. Apparently the wealthy communicants are fair game for impoverished Frenchmen. The American Protestant Church is simple - we went to Easter service there though I was rather sad to forego hearing Marcel Dupre play at St. Sulpice.

Well, I've not by a long shot spent all my time in churches, as the above might imply. The Bibliotheque Nationale has been the scene of some study, though between no light or ventilation, I always acquire within a short time a fearful headache and have to refresh myself in the gardens of the Palais Royal or the Tuileries. Gradually the leaves are appearing but the much

## CIVIL DEFENSE

### FIRST AID in need of First Aid

The FIRST AID class is itself in need of First Aid; it needs more members!

The American Red Cross is furnishing an instructor in First Aid two nights a week, Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning April 9. Instead of the 25 persons it was hoped would attend, there were only 12 enrolled the first night. If there are others who can join the class on Monday, April 16, they would be most welcome in the Temporary Conference Room at 7 p.m. The charge is 90¢ -- 70¢ for books and 20¢ for bandages.

### Volunteers Needed

In accordance with a request from the Director of Civil Defense for the City of Boston to the effect that librarians and other key personnel of the City of Boston encourage citizens in their neighborhoods to volunteer their services in the Civil Defense Division of their respective localities, the Library has undertaken to make available enrollment cards. Each branch library has been given a supply for distribution, and in the Central Library cards may be obtained at the Information Desk. Volunteers are needed as Air Raid Wardens, Auxiliary Firemen, Auxiliary Police, First Aiders, Fire Guards, Canteen Workers. All the individual who wishes to enroll has to do is fill in the card and drop it into the nearest mail box.

### MANUAL

The Civil Defense Manual for use of the Library staff has been in preparation during these past few weeks and it is expected that within the next fortnight it will be ready for distribution throughout the Library system. The Manual will set forth what individuals should do in case of air raid disasters and also gives specific instructions for wardens, first aid units, fire squads, etc.

### BLOOD DONORS WANTED

Blood donors are urgently needed by the American Red Cross. To date donors from the B.P.L. have been disappointingly few. Possibly this has been due to the wave of

vaunted flowers have yet to show any signs. My concierge has been telling me how magnificent they are! Oh, what a time I have with her - I can understand Southern, Alsatian, and Normandy French accents, but our concierge speaks a Breton dialect of which you can catch only the barest outline of the words. ... The post office is put in a flutter by our arrival, because we always want to forward strange heavy letters to Lawrence's father in Majorca or Rome - this involves great consultations on procedure and depending on the clerk of the moment forwarding the same letter may cost nothing, 15 francs, 31 francs, or 45 francs. Same trouble in sending U. S. mail - if it is over 5 grams, we have the greatest difficulty in convincing the clerks we want to pay for par avion - more than once the clerks have simply crossed off par avion and have looked at us with consternation at the idea of paying 15 extra francs for the air mail. But then the average French worker only gets 17,000 francs a month, or about \$48 a month and although rents are low for those holding leases, other prices are as high as in the U. S., clothing even more - you can see why the worker is living in very hard circumstances here, and why every American is a millionaire. The French Line's porters will gouge like nothing seen elsewhere. A very customary "gyp" in France is to add up the bill wrong, and add on the percentage charge of the incorrect larger amount. When you point out the error, they fix the bill total but the service charge remains the higher amount - so the tip is actually 15 or 20 per cent rather than 10 or 12 per cent. ... Tomorrow we are driving down to Chartres with another Fulbright couple, and perhaps will see some of the chateaux of the Loire on our way back. ... Oh well, it's a lot of fun, and I'm enjoying it all despite some minor inconveniences.

Please say hello to everyone for me... I'll be glad to hear all the B.P.L. news.

Lois (Shoemaker Markus)

Editor's Note: Mrs Markus is a former member of the History Department who resigned in October 1950 to be married. Her husband is studying under a Fulbright Fellowship.

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sickness during the winter months. If so, it is hoped now that more members of the staff will be able to contribute. Remember the Library time is 2:30 p.m. on Fridays at Red Cross Headquarters, 314 Dartmouth Street.

### THE LIBRARY ON TV

On April 16, at 12:30 p.m., on WNAC-TV, Bill Hahn will interview Miss Ruth S. Cannell, Assistant to the Chief Librarian, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, regarding the Civil Defense activities of the E.P.L. Special stress will be given to the exhibition which is now in progress in the Central Library.

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### SPECIAL LIBRARIES MEETING

Many of us have seen the remarkable work that the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR has been doing in newspaper color reproduction, and have wondered how such color was possible on newsprint and how it could be produced at the speed necessary for a daily newspaper. Those who attended the March twenty-sixth meeting of the Boston Chapter of the Special Libraries Association which was held in the Christian Science Publishing House, were given an insight into these production problems by Mr Herbert Stanger of their staff, after a very pleasant welcome from Mr John H. Hoagland, Manager of the Christian Science Publishing Society.

For those who were not familiar with newspaper processes Mr Stanger explained the primary procedures and techniques before going into the problems of color. In regard to color two surprising facts were brought out, one that the Monitor had tried color in advertising some years ago and found that its readers were not ready for it, secondly, the middle west and the west are far ahead of the east in the use of color in newspapers, and in most cities there all newspapers carry color advertising.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR uses two color techniques, spot color and process color. Spot color is the simple use of one or possibly more flat colors, not superimposed, and used to accent an illustration. Process color is the use of several colors one printed on another - in other words the production of an illus-

tration such as we are accustomed to seeing in the glossy pages of a magazine which has been printed some time before we actually hold it in our hands. Several stumbling blocks have been overcome during the years of research on the part of the staff of the Monitor. One of the first post-war presses is now in use in their printing establishment, a finer screen is used for the making of color cuts, and a finer quality of newsprint is used when color is to be printed. Because of the speed needed in a daily newspaper there is no opportunity for color inks to dry in between colors, and special fast drying inks and dryers must be used to overcome this. Colors must not be blurred, the register must be perfect and there must be no color coming off on the opposite page. Pages that were used as covers for the Monitor's magazine section could be printed in advance more slowly, but pages interspersed with news and editorials cannot be done in this way.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR is the first paper on the east coast that has really conquered the problems of color printing in a daily newspaper, using it in advertising and in illustrations for its own news and editorials.

Before and after the meeting Miss Blanche Davenport, Librarian of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, explained the apparatus which was open for inspection, and her staff answered questions and conducted visitors through the Library.

Muriel Figenbaum

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### NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

#### Fiction

Godden, Jon

The peacock,  
New York, Rinehart, 1950

Paul, Louis

A husband for mama.  
New York, Crown Publishers, 1950

Van Doren, Mark

Short stories.  
New York, Abelard Press, 1950

#### Non-Fiction

Asquith, Lady Cynthia M. E.  
Haply I may remember.  
London, J. Barrie, 1950

Bowen, Elizabeth  
Collected impressions.  
New York, Knopf, 1950

Brinton, Clarence C.  
Ideas and men: the story of Western  
thought.  
New York, Prentice-Hall, 1950

Bühler, Curt F.  
Standards of bibliographical description  
Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania  
Press, 1949

Clark, Walter V.  
The watchful gods and other stories.  
New York, Random House, 1950

Cuppy, William J.  
Decline and fall of practically everybody  
New York, Holt, 1950

Hauser, Benjamin G.  
Look younger, live longer.  
New York, Farrar, Straus, 1950

Hessel, Alfred  
A history of libraries.  
Washington, Scarecrow Press, 1950

Hollowell, Lillian ed.  
A book of children's literature 2d ed.  
New York, Rinehart, 1950

Los Angeles. Bureau of Budget and Efficiency  
Organization, administration and manage-  
ment of the Los Angeles Public Library  
Los Angeles, 1948-50  
v.10 Library relationship in the  
Los Angeles metropolitan area.  
v.11 General administration.  
v.12 Recapitulation of recommendations

Naude, Gabriel  
Advice on establishing a library.  
Berkeley, University of California Press,  
1950

U. S. Library of Congress  
Departmental & divisional manuals.  
Washington, 1950  
no. 2 Copyright Cataloging Division.  
no. 5 Binding Division.

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RECENT MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

"Book drying in Michigan" in Life, March,  
19, 1951.

This brief article in a non-library peri-  
odical is of interest not alone because it  
high-lights the calamity that can befall a  
library (Michigan State Library) from the  
most unpredictable source. It is also in-  
teresting that the library's problem was  
the symbol used by the journalist to convey  
the measure of the disaster associated with  
the \$5,000,000 State Office Building Fire.

Asheim, Lester, ed., A Forum in the "Public  
Library Inquiry". N.Y., 1950. Columbia U.

This is the result of a conference spon-  
sored by the University of Chicago Graduate  
Library School devoted to the discussion of  
seven individual volumes issued by the  
Public Library Survey. The techniques em-  
ployed was to have each report discussed by  
a professional librarian, by a non-library  
expert, and finally by the author himself  
in response to comments that had gone be-  
fore. These three points of view on each  
topic plus three generalizing papers on the  
Survey as a whole make up a meaty book.

"Critical Bottleneck" in Newsweek, March 19,  
1951, p. 100.

"Scholars' Presses" in Newsweek, March 12,  
1951, p. 92.

These two timely discussions of topics  
are germane to the book selection and pur-  
chasing problems of any library. They are  
written perhaps with less formality than the  
same topic would receive in a professional  
or book trade periodical.

In "Critical Bottlenecks" a thumbnail but  
clear picture is given of the dynamics and  
principles that have made at least three  
review sources outstanding. The fact that  
The New York Herald Tribune was singled out  
as the winner of the contest conducted by  
the Publishers' Ad Club for papers with cir-  
culation in excess of 500,000 may be rather  
interesting to note.

"The scholars' press" gives some indica-  
tion that the promise of vigorous growth in  
university presses continues for 1951.

Ring, Alma Gilbert. "The Library and Public  
relations" in Wilson Library Bulletin,  
Vol. 25, No. 7, p. 503, March, 1951.

This is an article written by a Branch  
Librarian in charge of adult work,  
Schenectady Public Library, while doing  
graduate work in public relations at Boston  
University. It touches on library person-  
nel problems, importance of training and  
morale, library users, etc. It is an in-  
teresting gathering of information from  
secondary sources.

PRACTICE STUDENT IN NEW YORK

The major purpose of my recent visit to New York was to observe procedures and techniques of library work in the world-famous New York Public Library in conjunction with my studies at Simmons College School of Library Science. However, I also found time to enjoy other pleasures of the Big City.

Miss Margaret Wehler, Supervisor of Branches, planned my itinerary which proved to be a varied and interesting one.

During this week Miss Elizabeth Kaufman of the Print Department was with me (so when I use "us" you will know to whom I am referring). Betty is now continuing her trip to libraries and museums owning print collections throughout the East and she probably will give full particulars of it in a later issue of The Question Mark.

We arrived in New York on Good Friday evening. After a week end of sightseeing, a gala performance of Dic Fledermaus, and the Easter Parade on Sunday, we were ready to get down to business Monday morning.

Following an interview with Miss Wehler and the Personnel Officer, I was assigned to the Central Circulation Department for the morning. This department is really a branch library in the Central Library, with a separate entrance on 42nd Street. Here I was initiated into the mysteries of photo-charging. Then, for a while, I assisted at the Information Desk, helping people find the books they wanted in the department. (For a time, the term Information Desk had me a little confused. What we call the Information Desk in the B.P.L. is the Inquiry Desk in the N.Y.P.L. and the "Reference" is "Information" there.)

Monday afternoon I was a guest in the Public Relations Office. Here the close integration of work with the administration and the various departments and branches made a great impression on me. The degree of cooperation is almost unbelievable.

All day Tuesday was spent at the Muhlenberg Branch on West 23rd Street in the heart of the fur and needle trades section. Here I was introduced to the daily routines of a busy branch whose clientele ranged from authors and artists to businessmen and women who hurried in on their lunch hour to check on the latest fur styles or dress designs.

My next professional assignment was to the Reader's Advisor's Office on Wednesday morning. In this Office are located also

the person in charge of Vocational Guidance, Work with Labor Unions, and Adult Discussion Groups, including Great Books. Several interesting requests came in while I was there and the file of past queries made fascinating reading.

That afternoon there was a special tea in honor of a presentation by Horace R. Cayton, a Negro author, to the Schomburg Collection at the 135th Street Branch in Harlem. Mr Cayton presented a scrap-book which had been kept by his grandfather, Hiram Reeves, the first Negro to become a U. S. Senator. At the tea I was introduced to Langston Hughes, the Negro poet, and Frances Warfield of the New Yorker magazine. This day was the highlight of my trip and was climaxed in the evening when we saw Carol Channing in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.

On Thursday morning I arrived at the Hudson Park Branch in Greenwich Village. Again I was assigned to assist in the duties of the Branch and since these varied so from the type of work which I was used to doing, I found it all very interesting.

A tour of the Reference Department (the Central Library) was planned for us both on Friday morning. We spent about 15 minutes in each department. Everyone was very friendly to us and went out of their way to answer all our questions.

For the final afternoon I visited the Nathan Strauss Branch which is unique for the fact that its patrons are all young people under the age of 21. Since I have had little or nothing to do with work with children or young people, I was especially interested in hearing about the techniques which are tried out in this branch before they become permanent procedures in other units of the library system.

HELEN G. PAPPAS

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BOON FOR STAFF ENTERTAINMENT

In recognition of a long-felt need, twin punch bowls, with matching ladles have been purchased for use at social gatherings of the staff. The bowls and ladles are of a beautiful crystal clear glass and the bowls are in the graceful shape of a brandy glass. For use of these bowls application may be made by a responsible person to the Personnel Office. The set was "christened" at the reception following the BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE on April 6.

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BRANCH NOTES

Codman Square

Members of the staff are wearing souvenir pins from Curacao, brought back by Miss Etta Lasker. She had an enjoyable trip to the West Indies and South America, sailing on the French liner De Grasse from New York.

Connolly

The Keen Teeners surprised Miss Dorothy K. Becker, Children's Librarian, with a party on March 29, in honor of her birthday. Several members of the club practicing in secret, had prepared an entertainment program of song and dance numbers. The center of attraction on the refreshment table was a three-layer birthday cake decorated with the words, "Happy Birthday, Miss Becker, from the Keen Teeners". Opening the many birthday cards Miss Becker received, and then dancing and Virginia Reel completed the evening's festivities.

East Boston

Miss Eva J. Anttonen, former Children's Librarian, who has recently been transferred by the U. S. Department of State from the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin in Mexico City to the Biblioteca Lincoln in Buenos Aires, has send us the following impressions of her new assignment. These impressions first appeared in "Embassy News", a staff organ for personnel of the embassy of the United States in Buenos Aires.

"Having just made the sudden jump by plane from my exciting and challenging post in the Children's Library in Mexico City, I found myself taking a very deep breath and saying to myself (and to Argentina) 'Here we go! New children, new books and new adventures together!'

"Immediately my director and I went on a book-buying spree—for Spanish translations of American children's books. And there are many! The books purchased are still arriving—but already, due to fast work upstairs (the cataloging department) 289 books are now on the shelves in the Children's Room and the children are discovering them with delight..."

Jamaica Plain

The following is a copy of a message received on St Patrick's Day card:

"Gracious ladies,

With great pleasure we have frequently observed your patience

with the younger, and your consideration and thoughtfulness for the older patron of the Library. So this being the Natal Day of the Patron Saint of Ireland, sure we would request him to bestow on you all the Luck of the Irish. And it does: What matters the material wealth of the earth? You will all eventually have loving husbands, happy homes, and the faculty of extracting the maximum of pleasure from every hour of your long life. And may the Queen of Heaven wrap her blue mantle about you and give you 'Grace Abounding'."

Signed: ONE OF THE PATRONS.

Jeffries Point

On Monday evening, March 19, Mrs Margaret A. Donovan was hostess for a shower and farewell party, in honor of Miss Estelle R. Henderson. Estelle was presented with a gift of silver to match her chosen pattern. Together with this, she received many useful household gadgets. All had a pleasant evening but there was a note of sadness to the affair, because after Estelle's marriage, she will make her home in Chicago.

North End

On April 17, a student from Boston University's School of Practical Arts and Letters will speak to the "Nerts" on Opportunities for college women in the business world. The "Nerts" are planning a roller skating party on Friday, April 27.

\*

The Puppeteers are planning to attend the performance of "Toby Tyler and his circus" on Saturday afternoon, April 21, at the Boston Tributary Theater for Children, New England Mutual Hall.

Phillips Brooks

Spring festivities began on March 21, in spite of an occasional snowflake, with an Easter egg hunt, which followed Easter stories told to twenty members of the regular pre-school story hour group. Mothers of the group furnished the Easter eggs and rabbit cookies.

On April 6, a group of children presented a new puppet play, "The Sleeping Beauty", for which they had been trained by Mrs Anna Lou Shanor. The audience was delighted with the puppets' changed appearances when they appeared in glittering new court costumes made by Miss F. Laurelle West.

\*

Women of the community were guests on Friday morning, April 13, when they discussed the film Children's Emotions and enjoyed coffee served by a committee of women belonging to the Friends of the Library.

\*

Circus time came early for Readville girls and boys. On April 14 fifty of them climbed into the bus chartered by the Friends of the Library and traveled to the Children's Tributary Theater to see Toby Tyler; or Ten Weeks with the Circus.

Washington Village

On Saturday afternoon, March 31, Miss Elizabeth H. McShane was honored at a dinner at Novak's Towne Terrace, Brookline. This dinner was occasioned by Miss McShane's retirement from the library service due to illness, and it was attended by the entire staff and some former staff members.

In the course of the dinner, Miss McShane was presented with a beautiful corsage of red roses and sweet peas, and was thrilled with the parting gift from her staff, a sterling silver spray pin, with matching earrings, both set with moonstones.

The party was fittingly climaxed, when the waitress brought in a large and beautifully decorated cake, complete with lighted candles, and served on a musical tray. The cake had been baked by the mother of one of our extras, Dianne Hayward, and in honor of the occasion, she had decorated it with a book, made of icing, and inscribed with the words, "Good Luck."

We, at Washington Village, join with all Miss McShane's other friends in the library system, in echoing the same phrase, "Good Luck", and may her retirement bring with it many happy years in which to enjoy all those things she has always wanted to do.

West End

On Saturday afternoon, March 31, Mrs Margaret Lewis, part-time assistant in the children's room, took a group of twelve children to see "Toby Tyler", a production of the Boston Tributary Theatre at the New England Mutual Hall. All were enthusiastic about the performance, and the occasion was enjoyed by everyone, including Mrs Lewis.

\*

Miss Lois (Sandee) Lydon, part-time assistant, besides being chosen 1951 Queen at Suffolk University a few weeks ago, was recently honored when a rose was named after her, the "Sandee Lydon Rose", at the Flower Show in Mechanics Hall.

EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF A CHILDREN'S ASSISTANT, 1950

- Jan. 4 Happy New Year! It started off happily for us...many children and much interest in reading. Two humorous requests today, one for "Winnie-the-Pooch," and another for the "Count of Monte Crisco."
- Feb. 11 The children loved their Valentine treat at Story Hour.
- Feb. 17 Our regular avalanche of sixth grade boys were in today. They're a rather noisy bunch, but really seem to be enjoying their books and discussions in school. Each boy reads a page from his book, and then the class votes for the best story.
- Mar. 11 Prizes were awarded for the Catholic Book Week essay contest this afternoon. Quite a crowd gathered to hear the essays and see the winners receive their book prizes. Of course, eyes widened, and smiles multiplied when we served dixie cups afterwards.
- April 5 I love these days...days when eager second graders proudly present their cards for the first time. Second to them, I love the well-behaved nursery children and their frequent visits to the library.
- Apr. 7 One boy told me that he was all set for Easter. He excitedly described his suit which was \$15, but his hat cost only 25¢. A real bargain! Our children's room is all ready for Easter, too. Bird pictures and springtime posters make pretty decorations.
- Apr. 29 Twenty-two children and mothers watched several girls give the play "The Humble Aunt". These girls are thrilled to put on a play, and it's good experience for them as well as entertaining to the others.
- May 15 The trip to the Mapparium was a success. The children seemed thrilled by it. It is unusual.

June 27 The Summer Reading Club is booming this year. 157 children signed up. I think Miss P's school visiting was greatly responsible. Guess the children are glad school's over! One young lad expressed his main dislike for school. He said, "The only thing I don't like about school, is that you can't do what you want to."

Dec. 23 Circulation is always slow in December, but the children are happy. The familiar first Christmas story was told again at our Christmas party today. We were surprised to see the children give rapt attention as if it were a new story. It's true though, the story of the Christ Child will never grow old.

(Mrs) Arlene Mullin

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Information Office

Patricia L. Keegan, a former member of the staff, was married to Mr George Brugger of Waltham on March 25, at St Patrick's Church in Roxbury. The bride wore the traditional white satin gown with finger-tip veil. The matron-of-honor was her sister, Mrs Mary Lentini, formerly of the Stock Purchasing Department. The reception was held in the Brunswick Room, Intercolonial Hall, Roxbury.

\*

Miss Mary F. Maguire was tendered a luncheon at the Darbury Room in honor of her engagement.

\*

Mrs Paul Windham (Isabelle Pennampede), was a recent visitor to the Library.

\*

Helen Rones, Chief of the Fine Arts Department of Endicott College, also visited her B.P.L. friends. Both Mrs Windham and Miss Rones formerly worked in the Information Office.

\*

Mr Manuel Pablo of the Philippine Embassy in New York City visited the Library on April 9, "Bataan Day". Mr Pablo was one of the speakers at the Mayor's formal observance on Boston Common at noon.

\*

The program of the Member of the Wedding carried the following announcement: The Boston Public Library and its thirty branch libraries have Member of the Wedding and books to suit every reading taste.

\*

Music Department

Miss Marianne Morse, Student at Simmons School of Library Science, is doing practice work the week of April 8th in the Music Library of Yale University.

\*

Mr George Pahud played bassoon part in Samuel Adler's "Concertina", scored for flute, bassoon and strings, which was broadcast over Station WMEX on Wednesday, April 11, at 9 P. M. (It is an interesting fact that the "Concertina" was originally written by Samuel Adler as a wedding present for George and his wife Peggy Pahud.)

\*

Mr Paul Tibbetts sang as bass soloist in Bach's B Minor Mass on March 20th in Carnegie Hall, New York, with the New York Oratorio Society. He will also sing leading soloist's part of Mendelssohn's "Elijah" for the New York Oratorio Society in St. Thomas Church, New York City on May 17th.

\*

Visitors

Mr Arthur Jacob, music critic of the London Daily Express, Guest Critic on the periodical "Musical America" - April 6.

Mr Vernon Loggins, Associate Professor of English at Columbia University, doing research on Music in New Orleans.

Mr Willy Frey, noted European violinist who will make his Boston debut on April 29 at Jordan Hall.

Mr Leo Litwin, Boston pianist and conductor.

\*

The Music Department cites Mr Maurice Rahilly of the Periodical and Newspaper Department for calling its attention to a review of a series of Departmental and Divisional Manuals issued by the Library of Congress, one of which is concerned with the Music Division. A nice example of interdepartmental cooperation!

Open Shelf Department

Congratulations to Mrs Dorothy Kelson on her recent election to the Boston University Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

\*

Mrs Sidney Quint who is studying in the School of Library Science at Simmons is doing her practice work in the El Paso Public Library. This is giving her an opportunity to see her husband who is stationed in an army camp nearby.

\*

Mr Albert Fossett who is also studying in the Library School is doing his practice work in the New Public Library and the Columbia University Library.

\*

The staff and public alike are watching with interest the installation of the future Central Library Return Desk outside the present Open Shelf Department. The desk will be similar in appearance to the Information Desk on the opposite side of the hall.

\*

School Issue Department

We welcome back Miss Beatrice Flanagan, Chief of the School Issue Department, who has recovered from a shoulder fracture. Miss Flanagan wishes to thank her friends for the many cards and remembrances sent to her during her convalescence.

\*

Young People's Room

Among the visitors to the Story Hour held at Central Library recently, was a Mrs Schumann of South Africa, who with her husband, an educator, is studying schools and libraries in the United States.

\*

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the

views expressed.

Help Needed

Do you have as much trouble finding notices and other memoranda from your official file as I do? I wish that the administration would help us out by compiling a list of subject headings to be universally used throughout the library system. Some notices are issued with subject headings but most are not, and it would help maintain an efficient and serviceable file to have all notices from all offices, divisions, departments, associations, etc. sent out with headings according to a prescribed scheme. All departments could then set up their files uniformly, with a copy of the subject headings kept at the beginning of the file for consultation when looking for an old notice, or sending out a new one. Perhaps there are others who have suggestions on this. If so send them along to the Publications Committee.

\*

As the new Open Shelf Department takes on rainbow hues, and rumors of a definite opening date begin to circulate, several queries also seem to be going the rounds. As the staff set-up for the new Open Shelf Department is being decided, the suggestion has come up, via the rumor method, that a book selector for children's books, affiliated with the present Book Selection Department, might "give a break" to the intermediate group known as the "young adults". Books for this group seem to fall between the two categories of adult and juvenile, and thus are often overlooked. If the two book selection procedures were carried on together in the same office a plan might be evolved whereby this "forgotten category" could receive its just due. Have often wondered why all the book selection processes were not amalgamated at least as far as space and equipment, if not personnel are concerned.

Just a wonderer.

\*

During its regular monthly meeting, the Publications Committee became so engrossed in a discussion of some of the points raised by Mr Ralph Munn in the recent HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE, that its agenda was sadly affected. As similar discussions have been heard in other quarters the Com-

mittee hopes that some of this discussion will be channelled to the next issue of The Question Mark. As the primary purpose of the Soap Box is to provide a medium through which to air one's views let us have some discussion pro and con on some of Mr Munn's proposals, such as those relative to book selection, children's librarians, etc.

Editor

\*

I wonder if the individual who raised the question at the recent staff meetings of having more than a skeleton force on Sundays is forgetful of how close the B.P.L. employees came last fall to finding themselves in the position of foregoing time and one half pay for Sunday work and having to work on that day as part of the regular work week. As it is generally known that in most - but not all - Central departments no extra work is performed on Sunday beyond the minimum required, instead of asking for the moon let us be grateful for the benefits we have and not kill the goose that laid the golden egg. Incidentally how about giving time and one half work for time and one half pay since no individual is yet compelled to work on Sundays and does so at his own choice.

For giving the tax payers a break.

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NEW QUARTERS FOR  
BOOK PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

As the first step in the process of moving the Book Purchasing Department from its present quarters to the area over that occupied by the Branch Issue Department, the latter department has temporarily vacated the section it has been occupying. The space thus vacated will leave room for the contractor, the Tassinari Corporation, to conduct its operations which will begin at once.

\*

JUSTICE AT LAST!

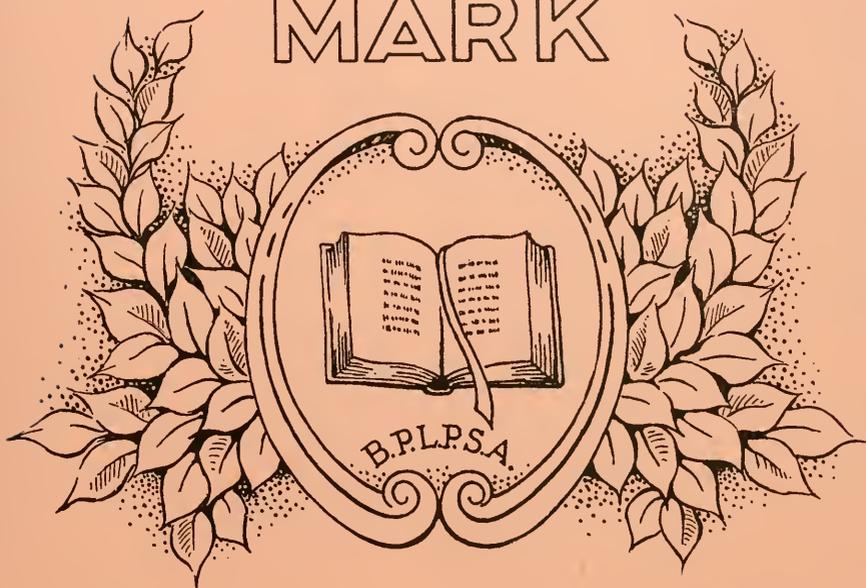
Read Today's Librarian leads a lively  
life in Glamour, November 1950.

\*

LATE FLASH

Congratulations to Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, for knowing without hesitation that Captain Isaac Hull was in command of the CONSTITUTION when it fought the GUERRIER. For her answer to this Tello-Test question on Saturday morning, April 14, she won \$60!

THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

At the recent staff meetings an attitude, indicated by sporadic comment for some time, that staff meetings were considered by some to be a waste of time, was brought to the attention of all. Such meetings are admittedly time consuming, and under certain circumstances the benefits derived may not always outweigh the time and effort expended. In the instance in question, the yearly meeting devoted to a consideration of employee problems, this objection should not be valid. Ideally, these gatherings should serve as a valuable medium for at least two important phases of staff relationships. Primarily, through the dissemination of relevant information, they should further mutual respect and understanding between the individual members of the staff as they become aware of one another's responsibilities and concerns. Secondly, they should result in dissolving tensions, antagonisms, and misunderstandings whenever such exist. Many times the difference between a valid grievance and an unjustified complaint is simply a matter of wrong information or lack of factual background.

An examination of the apparent lack of enthusiasm exhibited at some staff meetings discloses that as a group we do not approach staff meetings as participants. Many seem to attend as spectators about to endure, or enjoy, as the case may be, the questions and comments of a few members of the staff. In fact, it is not an uncommon occurrence to hear one member of the staff express to another the hope that "they" will bring certain matters up at the meeting. This attitude would seem to indicate that by and large we are inarticulate and need spokesmen. Another thought suggested by post-meeting comment, is that our perspective in relation to individuals and

groups other than our own may sometimes be one-sided. In this respect we recognize that one of the fundamental human desires, the desire to improve one's status, is often successfully accomplished by believing ourselves, and convincing others, of the paramount importance of our fields of endeavor. This in itself is a good thing. However, we should guard against unconsciously accomplishing this through comparisons which may minimize the qualifications of others, or the importance of their fields of work. When this is done it does not tend to establish a favorable climate for discussion. There are times of course when a comparison is necessary to the solving of a particular problem. In general, questions which are objective and comments which are impersonal and pertinent are more constructive.

As discussion that is planned is more likely to promote interest and be informed, the possibility of announcing in advance topics to be discussed assumes an added value. As has been pointed out at the staff meetings this would not be possible at the present time because questions are submitted too late for such a practice to be followed. Possibly consideration could be given to a procedure whereby questions and comments suggested by the staff would be given a deadline well in advance of the meetings and those of general interest to the staff be announced in the form of an agenda.

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### CALENDAR OF MAY EVENTS

Annual meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association, at the Hotel Sheraton, Springfield, May 17-18.

Boston Printmakers exhibition, at Paine Furniture Company, May 10-26.

\*

Business meeting of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association in the Lecture Hall, Friday, May 18.

\*

Public Library Week, May 20-26, proclaimed officially by Governor Dever on May 8.

\*

Annual meeting of Round Table of Children's Librarians at the Fitchburg Youth Library, Thursday, May 24.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Margaret J. Murphy, Mattapan Branch Library.

Miss Marjorie A. Brown, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Esther E. Jalonen, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Mrs Jeanne C. Foret, who worked at the Mattapan Branch Library from July 1948 to September 1949, has re-entered the service of the library.

Resignations

Mrs Ursula V. Oxley, East Boston Branch Library, to remain at home.

Transferred

Miss Patience-Anne C. Williams, Mattapan Branch Library to Brighton Branch Library.

Marriages

Miss Patricia A. Bean, Book Stack Service, to Mr Thomas J. Clougher on April 15, 1951.

Mr Russell E. Fossett, Open Shelf Department, to Miss Ardella Knight Bramwell on April 27, 1951.

Births

A son, John Matthew, Jr., to Mr and Mrs John M. Carroll on April 20. Mr Carroll

is Supervisor of Reference and Research Services, and Mrs Carroll, the former Evelyn Caswell, was at one time on the staff of the Science and Technology Department.

Retirements

Miss Elizabeth H. McShane, Branch Librarian, Washington Village Branch Library, on April 30, 1951.

Miss A. Frances Rogers, Chief, Registration Department, on April 30, 1951.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Mr and Mrs Joseph H. Lyons announce the birth of a daughter, Christine Marie, on April 11. Mrs Lyons is the former Irene Bixler of the Information Office staff.

\*

Mr and Mrs John S. Ross announce the birth of a daughter, Melissa, on April 18. Mrs Ross is a former member of the Reference Division Office.

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WE WELCOME BACK  
AFTER LONG ILLNESSES

Miss Katherine Sullivan, General Reference Department.

Miss Taimi E. Lilja, Codman Square Branch Library.

\*\*\*\*\*

RECENT VISITORS

Mr J. D. A. Collier, State Librarian, State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia.

Mrs Lilia Castro de Morales, Director, The National Library, Havana, Cuba, accompanied by Mr Morales; Dr A. M. Eligio de la Puente, Secretary, Board of Trustees, and Mrs de la Puente; Mr Evelio Govantes and Mr Felix Cabarrocas, Architects.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The new Vice President, Mr Gerald L. Ball, met with the Executive Board for the first time at the May meeting. It is very fortunate for the Association that Mr Ball

was able to accept the appointment to fill the vacancy occurring from Mr George Earley's resignation. It is regretted that Mr Earley was unable to continue because of lack of time to devote to Association activities.

\*

The Executive Board has prepared a statement for Committee chairmen as a result of a discussion concerning the amount of time being used for the activities of the Association and other factors involved in committee work. This will be given to chairmen at the beginning of the term, or in the case of special committees, at the time a special project is undertaken. It is the hope of the Executive Board that this will increase the efficiency of the organization and be helpful to the chairmen who may be new in this type of work. The statement reads:

Committee chairmen are asked in making their selection of committee members to consider not only the qualifications of individuals for the work to be done, but to also have in mind the desirability of including those who may not have had an opportunity in the past to participate in the Association's activities, and to make a choice from a variety of units of the Library and levels of assistants so that as many interests as possible will be represented. Committee meetings should be planned in advance that the business at hand may be despatched readily and dates of future meetings set to enable a committee member to arrange for his absence with the person in charge of his unit. It is often helpful to appoint a secretary for the committee to keep the whole committee informed in case all members are not present at each meeting. The funds of the Association are extremely limited and since one of the heaviest expenses is that of mimeograph paper, Chairmen are urged to consider this item carefully in preparing notices or other materials for distribution.

\*

As a member of SORT (Staff Organizations Round Table of the American Library Association) we have again participated in the

setting up of the SORT Steering Committee by selecting three people for nomination including Mr Bradford M. Hill of our own Association as a nominee for re-election to the Steering Committee upon which he has served the last two years. Mr Hill was also re-nominated by the Staff Association of the Cleveland Public Library.

\*

The May business meeting which will be held Friday morning, May 18, at 9 A. M., is of importance to every member of the Association. The agenda for the meeting which is appended contains items of concern to all, and if the Association is to flourish the membership must attend in so far as it is possible to do so. Business meetings may be less appealing than other activities but it is at this point that decisions are made that effect all aspects of the life of the Association.

AGENDA

1. Reports of the activities of standing committees and special committees with final reports from the In-Service Training Committee, Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Committee and the Personnel Ratings Committee.
2. Consideration of re-apportionment of CARE funds to increase the amount of books for UNESCO Children's Book Fund. At present by a poll of the Association in 1949 the amount of 75% for food and 25% for books was established.
3. Discussion of possible contribution by the staff towards a written statement of objectives for the Boston Public Library.
4. The Executive Board will present the names of those who are to serve on the Nominating Committee for 1951.
5. The question of the need for raising dues will be presented.
6. Miscellaneous items.

P. A. W.

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NEW TRUSTEE

Mr Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Macco Steel Company, South Boston, has been appointed a Trustee of the Library for a five-year term beginning April 30, 1951. Mr McDonald has been a member for the past several years of the Sinking Funds Commission of the City of Boston. He succeeds Mr Francis B. Masterson whose term of office has expired.

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RETIRING STAFF MEMBERS

Miss Rogers

On Tuesday, March 27, 1951, Miss A. Frances Rogers, Chief of the Registration Department, left her desk to join those former members of the staff who, after years of unstinted devotion to duty are now enjoying the leisure and freedom of retirement. Her plans had been made quietly, as was characteristic of her. However, this in no degree lessened the deep feeling of regret her retirement caused those whose work had brought them in contact with her. They knew well that they would miss her not only as a person, but also as a most skilled administrator of her complex department, with its constant revision of records and flow of information back and forth between every charging unit in the system. Her own departmental staff knew that in her they had lost a "boss" who didn't depend on bossing to run her department, but who kept their well-being constantly in mind, who concerned herself with their problems, and shared their work load with them.

Miss Rogers entered the service of the Library on November 27, 1903. She worked briefly in the Book Stack Service, then known as the Issue Department, and was soon transferred to the Registration Department, where she became First Assistant in 1911. In 1920 she was appointed Chief of the Department.

As Assistant-in-Charge of the Registration Department in 1919, Miss Rogers handled the details of the last complete re-registration of card-holders. When she joined the Department it had a staff of five. In 1951, it has grown to eleven. Her knowledge of Boston geography, her phenomenal ability to decipher handwriting,

and her patient unscrambling of complicated name changes, charging errors, and duplicate registration records were but a few of the talents she had developed over the years that made it possible for her to perform wonders in the eyes of the staff and the public.

On her last day at her desk, the staff of her department presented her with a handbag and a gift of money. On Thursday, April 5, 1951 at the Pioneer, Miss Rogers was presented with a purse from her many other Library friends with the suggestion that she use it for the purchase of furniture for her new home.

M. E. M.

\*

Miss McShane

During her career in the Boston Public Library, Miss Elizabeth H. McShane had worked in a number of branch libraries, including Neponset, Mt. Bowdoin, Warren Street, Codman Square, Andrew Square and Washington Village, as well as in the Young People's Room of the Central Library. In her early days she was particularly interested in work with children. She received training for this specialized field of library work at Simmons College and by completing a Boston Public Library course in Work with Children under the guidance of Miss Alice M. Jordan.

In 1920 Miss McShane was transferred from the Young People's Room to the Codman Square Branch Library where she remained until her appointment as Branch Librarian in 1923 of what was then known as the Andrew Square Branch Library in South Boston. Nine years ago, when the Washington Village Housing Project was completed, this Branch Library was moved to its present quarters and became known as the Washington Village Branch Library.

For over a quarter of a century Miss McShane worked with and for the people of South Boston. She was interested in their problems and strove to develop the resources of the library to meet the needs of the community. The large groups of foreign-born Polish and Lithuanian borrowers found her understanding of their needs. The collection of books in their languages were increased. This, together with the advertising in their foreign language

newspapers, no doubt, were responsible for the large numbers of these people who were regular users of the Branch.

"The right book to the right person at the right time", was the motto of Miss McShane. The tired mother who desired something light to read, the elderly man who read western stories, the teacher who needed educational material, or the borrower who was interested in books of a cultural nature, all received the same courteous attention. Through the years she was conscious of the importance of the library in the field of adult education. With this idea in mind the collection was developed to meet the needs of the individuals who desired material for the furtherance of their education. The non-fiction collection was regarded by some patrons, who borrowed books from other departments, as one of the finest in the Library.

To be able to look back on a job which was performed sincerely, conscientiously, and successfully must bring a feeling of deep satisfaction to our former associate. With her love of travel and her interest in many social groups we know that the future has much happiness in store for her.

M. A. C.

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THE STAFF IN PRINT

The following poem is reprinted from the May 1, 1951 issue of THE CHURCHMAN.

WINTER WHEAT

(Tune of "Come Back to Erin")

Send wheat to India,  
The teeming, the dreaming,  
Send her our prairies' golden increase  
Do not despise her,  
She may be wiser:  
Age has more wisdom, age longs for  
peace.

Send wheat to India,  
Refuse not, and choose not  
Pride for your guide, but mercy in  
need.  
Christians we claim we are,  
Only in name we are,  
Christians without the beneficent  
deed.

Sent wheat to India,  
Delay not and stay not,  
Send its abundance to all her  
depressed.

India could teach us.  
Her prayers reach us:  
Give and the giver is more richly  
blessed!

Margaret Munsterberg

\*

Miss Muriel Figenbaum, Print Department, has a print entitled Marianne, on display at the exhibition of the Boston Print-makers at Paine Furniture Company, May 8-26.

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THE STAFF AFIELD

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, Boston Public Library, and Miss Miriam Putnam, Librarian, Memorial Hall Library, Andover, Massachusetts, presented the morning program at the New Hampshire Library Association meeting on Thursday, May 10. Their subject was, The Librarian Serves Community Groups with Books, Recordings, and Films.

\*\*\*\*\*

ADULT EDUCATION COUNCIL MEETING  
AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

The Adult Education Council of Greater Boston were guests of Brandeis University at their spring meeting on May 8th. About forty members and guests, including members of the BPL staff, met at the Administration Building in the late afternoon for a tour of the three-year old University under the expert guidance of Mr Emmanuel Gilbert, Director of Public Affairs. The group first visited the library converted from a cobblestone barn into a twentieth century library of about forty thousand volumes. The next stop was the common room of a women's dormitory cleverly remodeled from two government PXs. The group next saw the former Middlesex Medical College buildings built in the feudal castle tradition which form

the original core of the University. The round common room with its many windows, huge fireplace and striking furnishings, and the modern cafeteria were fine examples of intelligent adaptation of old world architecture to the needs of present day students.

After a delicious dinner in the cafeteria, the meeting moved to the Science Building for a glimpse of the Little Theater and a typical classroom. Mr Gilbert spoke informally about the adult education program at Brandeis. Just as the University aims to be a small quality institution with a student body of high calibre, an up-to-date plant, and an outstanding faculty, so the adult education program is geared to a high level. The five institutes of the past years have featured courses of lectures on present day problems and cultural needs given by outstanding scholars for the adult desiring to supplement his college education and keep abreast of the new developments of the atomic age. The University plans to keep its adult education program fluid and adaptable to the changes of the present day.

Spring sunshine, trees bursting into green, robins' songs, gay tulips, friendly students and a charming guide made this meeting delightful and memorable.

D. F. N.

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MRS MATHEWS SPEAKS AT WORKSHOP MEETING

Mrs Mildred V. D. Mathews, Superintendent of Adult Services in the New York Public Library, was the speaker at the third General Meeting of the Workshop, which was held in the Lecture Hall on Friday, April 27th. Mrs Mathews spoke on "The Dynamic Use of Book Materials in Public Libraries," a subject closely related to the interests and purposes of the Workshop groups.

She stressed the need for greater initiative, on the part of librarians, in participating in community activities and approaching community problems. Since librarians are so aware of book materials relevant to most group projects, they should recognize and take advantage of the opportunities to share their knowledge. Rather than waiting until called upon for assistance, they should make the approach,

and offer to speak about a few books pertinent to a specific meeting or occasion. There really can be a good deal of enjoyment in building a book talk around a central idea, searching for an unusual combination of books, and avoiding the obvious choices. As a case in point, Mrs Mathews cited the selection, for a parents' meeting, of "Morning Faces" by John Mason Brown, "They Came Like Swallows" by William Maxwell, Cornelia Otis Skinner's "Nuts in May" and Ogden Nash's "Family Reunion". The inclusion of only four books, in this instance, also pointed up Mrs Mathews' advice to avoid the use of a long list, and rather to concentrate on a few memorable books, repeating titles and authors clearly and often. In New York City, twelve-minute talks of this kind are given on a morning radio program, "Speaking Volumes", and book choices are made with a view to the women's audience which can be expected at that time of the day.

Perhaps the most common form of reading suggestion and advice is the book list, which is available and familiar in so many varieties. A library may find it expedient to make a special list for a community group, to serve as a guide in program planning or to give direction to a proposed activity. Such lists are often a pleasure to prepare, but, because they are costly in time and work, they should be made only if there is assurance that they will be used.

In this connection, Mrs Mathews corrected the popular misconception of the readers adviser's function as largely that of compiling lists for individual readers. Experience has shown that her most valuable service is the judicious selection of books from the shelf-collection. The special list is made only if the material on shelves is unsatisfactory.

A more serviceable sort of list is an annotated subject card catalog, for the use of library assistants, showing how a book may be used, and listing material in the way in which people ask for it, rather than under the conventional subject headings.

Even a small library may offer a discussion program, on the model of New York's Book Center Discussion Groups. This project is organized to meet the particular interests of the community, and is planned to appeal to a middle reading group, whose readers are neither scholars nor

illiterates. It can function in addition to, or in place of, a Great Books program, since the latter is not the answer for everyone who wants to participate in a book program. The attention in this sort of group is centered on a field of common interest, such as, The American Tradition, a subject which can include the consideration of a stimulating variety of fiction and non-fiction material.

In conclusion Mrs Mathews discussed a workshop program which the New York Public Library has conducted for the past few years. The Workshop is a function of the Circulation Division, and is open to assistant branch librarians, reference librarians and readers advisers. The subject chosen for the first year was The Psychology of Human Relations. The program was, as is usual in the initial stages of workshops, an over-ambitious one, which necessitated unforeseen changes in aims and approaches. The results were, however, sufficiently satisfactory to justify the continuation of the program for a second year, with the addition of a workshop on Industrial Relations, and one on Man in the World Today. The groups were smaller the second year, so that members worked together more simply and effectively. The branches also arranged for staff meetings, where Workshop participants shared their findings with their colleagues.

It had been planned to devote the third year to a re-evaluation of objectives and accomplishments, but there was a popular demand for another Workshop. The topic selected, Readable Books, is currently under consideration, with the Workshop divided into six subject groups:

1. Readable books for foreigners - those who have been educated in their own language only.
2. Material for illiterates.
3. Books for Spanish-speaking people- (a large Porto Rican group in New York) not studying for citizenship but looking for simple reading matter.
4. American-born readers with reading needs in definite directions, but with limited ability and interest.
5. Informational and readable materials to use with these groups.
6. A testing group considering certain formulas for testing reading results, including mechanical tests

plus an evaluation of the intangible results.

Staff members will prepare a reading list to be offered to the public. Annotations on the list will be presented from the point of view of the person who is to use the books rather than that of the librarian.

There are four general meetings in a year, and a period for self-evaluation by the Workshop participants. Next year's plan is for the Workshop members to visit other types of libraries, to consider their functions and services, and their relation to the work of the public library.

Mrs Mathews left her audience with the impression that the real dynamic force behind these suggested uses of book materials is the librarian herself.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, who introduced Mrs Mathews.

Veronica Lehane

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QUARTER CENTURY CLUB DINNER

The Dome Room of the Hotel Lenox was the scene of the annual dinner of the "Quarter Century Club" on Tuesday evening, April 24th.

There were some eighty members and their friends present, and the evening was pleasantly gay and informal. The guests of honor were Mr Milton E. Lord, Mr and Mrs Frank B. Masterson, and Mr John J. Connolly. Background music was furnished throughout the excellent dinner by Francis Myers' orchestra, and the group especially appreciated the leader's invitation to join with the musicians in singing some of the old familiar songs. Mr Freddie Deveraux, a member of the orchestra sang beautifully, and with deep feeling, "Old Man River," and Tona Rosa played a violin solo "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes."

After the dinner, Mr George W. Gallagher, the President of the club, was presented by Miss Bessie L. Doherty, as master of ceremonies for the brief program which preceded the dancing.

In his speech of welcome Mr Gallagher expressed sincere appreciation for Mr Lord's interest in the Quarter Century Club, and of his cooperation with the

group at all times. The Director replied briefly, not only expressing his pleasure in the reorganization of the club, but reminding the guests that it would not be very long before he himself would become eligible for membership.

Mr Gallagher then introduced Mr Francis B. Masterson, who responded in his own inimitable way with reminiscences of his early days in the library, and of his later experiences as a member of the Board of Trustees. As his talk progressed those present were a bit saddened by the realization that this speech might prove to be somewhat in the nature of a farewell address from a man whom so many of them had come to know and appreciate as a wise and understanding friend. When the official program was concluded there followed an impromptu reception for Mr and Mrs Masterson, for it seemed that everyone wanted to greet them, shake Mr Masterson's hand, and thank him for his very special and unflinching interest in the problems of the members of the entire library staff. Whether in an official capacity or not, Mr Masterson's place will always be secure in the hearts of the many friends he has made in the library.

The evening was rounded out most pleasantly with chatting and dancing.

Bessie L. Doherty

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ANNUAL BANQUET OF BPL BOWLING LEAGUE

Our annual Bowling Banquet beckoned  
And all were present on May the Second  
The bowlers gathered, a merry throng  
And took The Frolics Club by storm.

We dined on turkey, steak and chicken  
Then gave the plates a final lickin'  
Lights were dimmed--the mood precise  
Behold the chorus--oh, how nice!

Lovely damsels dressed in satin  
Following the maestro's pattern  
Then pantomimes of this and that  
Our favorite portrayed at bat.

Then the prizes awarded to those  
Whose skill had kept them on their toes.  
Gold, scribed pencils to one and all  
For a happy season to recall.

Now, hear this, a speech or two  
Such gaiety, the evening flew  
And just as sure as Murphy's green  
No happier bowlers could be seen.

Alas, although the season ends  
We'll still remain true bowling friends  
For we'll return next year--and why?  
You know "old bowlers never die".

Anon.

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WORKSHOP REPORTS

The final reports of the Workshop will be available by the end of June and copies may be obtained at that time by sending ten cents with name and address to Miss Evelyn Levy, Jeffries Point Branch Library.

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ARNAVETS

Roster 1951-52

Commander	Russell A. Scully
Vice Commander	Patrick O. Murtagh
Adjutant and	
Quartermaster	Francis G. Myers
Chaplain	Charles J. Gillis
Officer of the Day	Louis N. Rains
Trustees	Samuel (NMI) Green
	Henry F. Barry
	Charles L. Higgins
Historian	Thomas J. Daly
Sargeant Major	William DiRosario
Patriotic Instructor	Martin F. Waters
Bugler	Louis (NMI) Polishook
Guards	John T. Kyle
	Charles F. Weider
	William A. Reynolds
Sentinel	Stephen L. Baxter
Color Bearers	Francis H. Boudreau
	George E. Earley
	Bernard F. Doherty
	Joseph Fallon
Color Guards	Edward F. Maynard
	Louis R. O'Halloran
	Arthur Burke
	John W. Tuley
Guard Commander	James M. Barry

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SIMMONS PRACTICE STUDENT VISITS  
PRINT COLLECTIONS

From March 24 thru April 16 I took a field trip in connection with my final year of studies at Simmons College, School of Library Science, and my work in the Print Department. As my particular interest is in the graphic arts I visited the principal museums and print departments in the cities on an itinerary arranged by Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, including New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, and Cleveland.

In the short time spent in each place I tried to familiarize myself insofar as possible, with the scope of collections, the type of print activities in which the departments engage during the year, the physical arrangements of the departments, the housing of the prints, the print card catalogs, seeing many of the rare items themselves, and whenever feasible, meeting the curators of the collections.

In addition to this schedule I also managed to visit the following libraries, Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, Library of Congress, Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh, Chicago Public Library, the Cleveland Public Library, and A.L.A. headquarters (where I met the Executive Secretary, Mr John Corey). Throughout my trip I was cordially received and made to feel very welcome.

Mr Heintzelman provided me with several introductions to curators and private print collectors. These, in addition to working with the notable Albert H. Wiggin Collection of the Boston Public Library were contributing factors in seeing the "inner sanctums" of the collections visited, and not just looking from the outside in as any other visitor would have to do.

The most impressive experience I had, was my visit to the print collection of Mr Lessing J. Rosenwald, in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. I had heard enthusiastic descriptions of the setting of the estate and the collection itself, but no description can quite do it justice. The imposing Rosenwald mansion is set at the end of a long winding driveway, and visitors are admitted to the study room by appointment only. The wing of the estate in which the collection is housed is very sumptuous. The

print cabinets are beautifully panelled, and there are small alcoves and book shelves in the study room at which the visitor may sit at leisure and read or just smoke. At the end of the study room is the library where rugs and soft leather furnishings make the visitor comfortable and provide a very relaxing atmosphere.

Mr Rosenwald and Miss Elizabeth Mongan, the curator, were both away when I arrived, so I had free reign and felt like a queen amidst this luxury. The secretary opened all the cabinets for me so that I could pull out boxes and study prints as I wished.

In 1943 the collection was given to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., in the hope that its selection would initiate a greater interest in the graphic arts, and result ultimately in the Print Department taking its proper place in the many fields so magnificently included in the National Gallery. Until adequate space is provided in Washington the major part of the collection remains at the estate. Exhibitions are sent from Jenkintown periodically to the National Gallery and shown there. In addition there is a very active policy of lending examples from the collection to form important exhibitions throughout the United States.

The prints and drawings number approximately 10,000 including impressions of the fifteenth century as well as superb examples of all the great masters in the graphic arts. Though not intended to be a cross-section of the development of the graphic arts from the earliest times to the present day, nevertheless, there are specimens from the earliest attempts down to some of the best work of our own time. The major techniques are all represented-- woodcuts, engravings, etchings, mezzotints and lithographs, as well as drawings of all schools. The aim of the collection from the beginning was to secure quality rather than quantity, and each item is a gem in its own right.

During 1948-49 a number of unusual prints of the highest quality were added; several drawings secured from the famous collection of the Prince Liechtenstein, magnificent examples of the great Cranach Passion from the well-known collection of Count Harrach of Vienna, rare etchings by Hirschvogel, and a complete set of ten charming landscapes by Buytewech. In addition splendid examples of artists

already well represented such as Mary Cassatt and the French Impressionists have been added.

Particularly choice were the magnificent fourteenth century German, Italian, English and French miniatures in sparkling rich blues, rose, gold, green--each a tiny painting in its own right.

My stimulating visit concluded with a tour of the rest of the house to see the paintings, before leaving for Philadelphia.

Elizabeth M. Kaufmann

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CARE

CARE-UNESCO Children's Book Program was launched in Boston at a special meeting at the Parker House on April 10. By means of this fund the favorite books of American children will be sent to the young people of Europe and Asia to promote friendship and understanding between the children of the world.

The list of titles, compiled by the American Library Association cooperating committee, includes nursery rhymes, histories and geographies of the United States, stories of American children and stories of children of other lands. Each volume has a special book plate contributed by the Children's Book Council and designed by Valenti Angelo.

At the meeting, which was attended by Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor In Charge of Work with Children, and Miss May McDonald, representatives from other libraries, from club and school groups heard Mr Milton Smith, National Executive Director of CARE's Education Division outline plans for the program.

May C. McDonald, Chairman  
Special Committee on CARE

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Dewey, Melvil  
Decimal classification. Standard  
(15th) ed.  
New York, Forest Press, 1951

Sawyer, Ruth  
The way of the storyteller.  
New York, Viking Press, 1951

Wilson, H. W., firm, publishers.  
Standard catalog for public libraries.  
1949 ed.  
New York, 1950

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SENATE #33

The Committee on Cities of the Legislature has been authorized to sit during the recess of the General Court to investigate the subject matter of establishing in the City of Boston the Office of Budget Personnel Director (Senate #33).

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ECHOS FROM THE WOMEN'S LOUNGE?

I PASS!

Come, learn Bridge, my friends all said  
There's really nothing to it  
Just learn the bids, a rule or two  
You'll soon be breezing through it.

I memorized their "rule or two"  
Read books to modify it  
Then bravely venturing forth, declared  
I'm ready now to try it.

An icy fear was in my heart  
Three pairs of eyes were on me.  
With shaking hands, I grasped my cards  
The moment was upon me.

Thirteen cards were in my hand  
Thirteen cards to choose from  
Thirteen cards to win a trick  
Thirteen cards to lose from.

Finally, I made my choice  
(The pause had been a long one)  
But as my partner turned quite blue  
I knew I'd made the wrong one.

Come, learn Bridge, my friends all said  
But if they only knew it  
The grass will grow a pretty pink  
When I'll be "breezing through it".

Anon.

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## BRANCH NOTES

### Dorchester

A gay, May-time bridal shower was tendered Miss Peggy Gallagher of Dorchester Branch on Friday, May 4, at the home of Miss Margaret A. Morgan in Wollaston, in honor of Miss Gallagher's approaching marriage, June 17. The theme of spring and nuptials was heralded with gay pink streamers and white bells, and an umbrella that showered rose petals on the surprised bride-to-be. Silver and pink table ornaments enhanced the refreshments of dainty sandwiches and frosted cakes and pastries.

The surprise package of the evening was a wastebasket overflowing with numerous cryptic gifts. Miss Rosemarie DeSimone disguised kitchen utensils in the shapes of wedding characters and symbols - salad spoons and forks were wrapped as bride, groom, and parson; a napkin holder took on the shape of a church. The whole ceremony was produced imaginatively with ribbon, paper, and pantry utensils. Miss DeSimone also made the favors for the table - miniature wheelbarrows.

Assisting Miss Gallagher in opening the delightful miscellany of gifts was her fiancé, Mr Robert Sagar of Wollaston.

The staff of Dorchester Branch and relatives of the bride- and groom-to-be were guests. Miss Morgan's sister, Mrs Joseph MacDonald, assisted the hostess.

### East Boston

A new procedure initiating second-grade children into library membership was tried successfully at the East Boston Branch Library this spring with the young registrants invited to attend as special "Story Party" for new borrowers.

In a setting that was made as inviting as possible with a huge "WELCOME" sign supported by gay dancing figures and an array of lovely fresh new books that had been reserved for this purpose, four of these affairs were held with enthusiastic response from the children.

The parties consisted of stories, a game or two, a careful explanation of library membership, issuance of the new cards, an opportunity to choose from the books on display, and of course, a small "treat". In a little socio-drama of the type demonstrated recently in the Workshop of the Professional Staff Association,

Mrs Helen Popp, Assistant in the Children's Room, with the shy but willing cooperation of a new borrower showed the delighted audience what to do and what not to do in the library. From a gaily decorated basket, each child chose a bright spring bookmark in the shape of an egg, a kite, a bunny, or an umbrella and found inscribed thereon a book especially recommended for good reading. From another attractive basket he took his treat. All of these little touches required extra effort and thought, but it is hoped that from the warmth, the welcome, and the cordiality thus extended to these children in their first contact with the Public Library there has been established a happy association which will be but the beginning of a long series of such associations and of growing satisfactions in the world of books.

### West End

On Saturday, May 12, a large and enthusiastic group of children attended a May Party at the West End Branch in celebration of the Spring Book Festival. Gloomy weather outside served only to heighten the gaiety inside, and the lecture hall, trimmed with flowers and crepe paper streamers, looked very spring-like. The main part of the program consisted of a "talent show" in which 14 children of the West End neighborhood took part. Among the talents represented were tap-dancing, ballet, piano-playing, singing, and accordion-playing. Next a group of children from the Elizabeth Peabody House danced a Spring ballet in costume. Mrs Flora Roussos, a member of the staff at West End, sang several delightful children's songs. Finally came the crowning of the May Queen, whose part was taken by 3-year-old Cynthia Diorio of Lynnie St., West End. Cynthia wore a pastel-colored gown with a crown of pink and blue flowers. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the entire program, but perhaps most of all they appreciated the surprise at the end of the party when lollipops were given to each one.

### West Roxbury

On Monday evening, March 23, the residents of West Roxbury had the fine opportunity of hearing Miss Jennie Lindquist, editor of the Horn Book, repeat the Caroline Hewins lecture which she presented

at the Massachusetts Library Association meeting at Swampscott last fall.

The name Hewins is a familiar one in West Roxbury where the family lived for many years and it was here that Caroline grew up. Unlike the first time Miss Lindquist presented her paper, she was on this occasion addressing an audience composed of many who had known Miss Hewins personally, and on whom no reference was lost.

Although the old Hewins' home in its lovely setting of trees, flowering shrubs and gardens, which Miss Hewins has described in her "Mid-century child and her books," is well known to many in West Roxbury, the audience enjoyed the Kodachrome slides of this residence as well as other places of interest which were shown at the end of the lecture.

Books written by Caroline Hewins, photographs, and material about her were on exhibition in the library. Of especial interest was a letter written by Herbert Putnam, then Librarian of the Boston Public Library, notifying Miss Hewins officially of the change of the library in West Roxbury from a "Reading Room" to a "Branch Library" of the Boston Public Library.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Open Shelf Department

CONGRATULATIONS

to Mr Russell E. Fossett, part-time assistant, on his marriage to Miss Ardella Knight Bramwell on April 27. Mrs Fossett is employed as an administrative assistant to the Librarian of the School of Education Library, Boston University.

to Mr John F. Usher, Jr., part-time assistant who has been elected to Fantasia, honor society at B. U. College of Music, and is president of the senior class and treasurer of Student Government for the year 1951-52.

Periodical and Newspaper Department

Members of the staff are urged to be on the lookout for the forthcoming exhibition of photographs by Mr Kenneth Barnes, taken during a recent vacation in Mexico. The

exhibition, including related books, will be on view during the month of June in the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery. Mr Barnes' reputation for exceptional work is well known, and his work has been exhibited in salons in the United States, Canada, and England in competition with the works of photographers throughout the world.

\*

PERIODICALLY SPEAKING

The April, 1951, issue of the Bulletin of the New York Public Library notes the advent of a new periodical of interest to librarians, The Critic, a monthly magazine devoted to art, music, drama, dance, books, opera, film, and radio, published in Toronto, Canada.

\*

For the first time in the history of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the work of cartoonists will be on exhibition. The show, under the Joint sponsorship of the Museum and the National Cartoonists Society, will open to the public May 11 and run through the summer. ...It will tell the story of American cartooning today and will show the progress, influence and importance of cartooning as an art. Comic strips, editorial and animation cartoons, sport panels and syndicated gag panels will be featured.

Judges from the National Cartoonists Society are Otto Soglow, creator of "The Little King," Alex Raymond, of "Rip Kirby" fame, and the well-known Rube Goldberg. (Abstract from Writer's Digest, Apr 1951, p 72)

Young People's Room

At a memorable story-hour, Mr and Mrs Cronan's last for the season, the children made up a very special surprise for May Day. They eagerly chose Miss Mary C. Toy as Queen of the May, and picked out a special May Day verse in her honor. One of the little boys presented her with a china figurine filled with May violets, and thanked her for all the story hours they had listened to during the year. It was a good treat for everyone, and a happy ending to a happy season.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

The Manual

It is hoped that The Civil Defense Manual for Central Library Building will be distributed to all staff members within the next week.

Disaster Service

At the Civil Defense meeting held on May 10, 1951, for those who had indicated a willingness to volunteer for Disaster Service, a plan was outlined for the operation of INFORMATIONAL AND REFERRAL CENTERS following atomic attack.

The Civil Defense authorities hope that there will be 300 teams of at least 5 persons each who will serve at these centers where information will be given to uninjured survivors of atomic attack. Each of these 300 teams will have a chief and a deputy chief, whose responsibility it will be to keep the teams informed of any new instructions, etc. Volunteers who live and work in two separate areas will be assigned to two teams so that they may serve in the immediate district in which they find themselves following an attack. After the assignments have been made, meetings of teams will be held so that members will be acquainted with each other before they are called upon to work together.

A manual is being prepared and will probably be in the form of a loose-leaf notebook to which additional sheets may be added without difficulty.

Registration cards were given out at the meeting. If there are others who may wish to volunteer for Disaster Service, cards are available in the Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

First Aid

May 16 is the final meeting night for the first group taking the First Aid Course. It is hoped that a sufficient number of persons will be interested so that a second course can start on Thursday, May 24.

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the

Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Soap Box:

In connection with the proposal made at the last series of staff meetings that Children's Librarians be given further recognition in their speciality beyond their present status, thus opening up for them an additional possibility of advancement, would it not be more uplifting for the morale of the staff in general if a greater number of people at the lower levels could hope for recognition of their speciality and for advancement, too.

At the present time in the system, in addition to all the First and Second Assistants in the Division of Home Reading Services, there are 22 Children's Librarians and 1 Children's Assistant. This indicates that a total of 23 persons who took Promotional Examinations in the Children's field have been recognized.

In the Division of Reference and Research Services at the present time, there are only one Cataloger and Classifier, 3 Catalogers and 1 Reference Assistant, in addition to the First and Second Assistants. In other words only 5 persons have been recognized from a specialist's point of view at the fourth and fifth step level. Reference Librarian, a title which would be comparable to Children's Librarian in the other Division, has not been used at all. Yet within this same Division there are a number of persons who have passed the special Promotional Examinations required for their Department. They are applying and using that knowledge in their everyday work just as those in Children's work are. Within the framework of the present promotional system in effect in the Division, they have only a faint ray of hope of ever advancing beyond the

general assistant status. A survey shows that all titular positions within the Division are filled with comparatively young persons who have many years of service yet to offer the Library. Cannot some consideration be given by the Administration to the opening up of the positions of Reference Librarian and Reference Assistant within the Departments of the Division of Reference and Research Services first, so that persons who are now at the general assistant level and who have demonstrated their interest in the Library and also a knowledge of a special subject field by taking and passing the required Promotional Examinations could hope for some recognition of their accomplishment and of the fact that they too are interested in the future of the Library and the service it renders at the adult level.

Children's Librarians have received such a degree of recognition, professionally and financially.

These same general assistants, in some cases, are the ones who are placed at a further disadvantage under the new point system for promotion. They entered the service of the Library during the period 1935-1943 approximately when higher education was not a minimum requirement for entrance into the professional service. Their points for years of service will never offset the twenty points a college graduate automatically receives on entrance into the service of the Library, all other factors being equal.

Concerned

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Dear Editor:

As a member of the staff of the Boston Public Library, I wish to protest against the wording of a few of the questions submitted to Mr Lord for reading and discussion at the staff meetings. It is all right to ask the purpose of the staff meetings, if a member of the staff cannot figure it out for him or herself. However, there should be a courteous way of presenting the question and not in the flip way it was worded. Much may be gained by questions and answers, if good manners are displayed towards fellow members of the staff, towards new members, towards chiefs of departments and towards the Director.

\*

Dear Editor:

I am one of the Quarter Century Oldsters who blushed with shame at the questions that Mr Lord read at the opening of the recent meeting. Why should anyone who is employed under such a leadership, one who sees and plans farther than we realize for the good of all of us, vent their caustic and unjust criticisms in such a rude and undignified manner? We are "People of good will" as intimated in his comments, and engaged in helping people find books and information in many parts of our large city. Can the Staff Association find some means of combating and eradicating the persons who are so disloyal to our Chief? In national circles such criticism is investigated by F.B.I. ? What can we do to stop it?

\*

To the Soap Box:

As a member of the professional staff of the Boston Public Library, I would like to publicly make a personal protest concerning the tone of some of the anonymous queries which were presented to the Director, and by him to the staff for consideration, at our last series of staff meetings. We are supposedly mature, educated adults spending the major portion of our working hours together. It seems inexcusable that any staff member should feel called upon to address any other staff member with the disrespect and discourtesy displayed in some of the questions read at those meetings. Although many of the ideas expressed were perfectly logical and suitable for discussion, the manner and tone in which they were couched reflected discredit on the entire staff. Those of us who sat quietly by and let such letters be read without protest should share with the persons who wrote them a sense of shame, to be forced to admit that any member of our staff would address another staff member, irrespective of who that member is, with such a lack of good breeding. I am in no way "championing Mr Lord's cause;" - in this case, Mr Lord does not have a "cause," nor does he need "championing." He is quite able to take card of himself, as evidenced by the manner in which he handled the questions which were so impudently worded. Had the questions been signed, the writers alone would bear the blame, being anonymous the whole staff,

in a sense, shares the shame and the blame. Let us have staff meetings! Let us have questions; even anonymous ones! Let us even "blow off steam!" But let us not lose our sense of dignity and throw to the winds our professional and personal courtesy without which our dwelling together in peace and harmony would be farther from attainment than it is at present.

E. G. P.

\*

Dear Soap Box Editor:

An anonymous writer raised questions in the Soap Box last month which had been satisfactorily answered for the branch system in the Office of the Supervisor of Branches long years ago when there was such an office and such a title.

When the filing system was installed in the Office of the Supervisor of Branches, at the time that office was reorganized by Miss Edith Guerrier in the early twenties, it was a subject file with a copy of the subject headings kept in the front of the first file drawer. A copy of the subject headings was on file at each branch library so that files throughout the branch system could be uniform. Each notice sent out by the Supervisor of Branches had in the upper right-hand corner the subject under which the notice was to be filed at the branch library, as well as a number. These numbers ran consecutively during each calendar year, the first notice sent out each January being given number 1. A card index, by subjects, was kept of these notices. At the end of each year a typewritten copy of the index for that year was made and put into a volume with the notices, so that they could be referred to readily. The cards were then interfiled with those for previous years to make a cumulative card index of notices.

Following the same subject file index which was in use for the regular correspondence files, a card index of all so-called "official" notices was brought into being for all notices from the Director on file up to that time. Then each notice as it was received, while it was filed chronologically in a separate folder for each calendar year, was entered by subject on the proper card. When I was transferred to the Office of Records, Files, Statistics, a copy of this file was made, with

permission. Since that time it has been kept-up-to-date here as, I assume, the original one has been. The index to official notices may be inspected in this office at any time.

SARAH M. USHER, Chief,  
Office of Records, Files, Statistics

LATE FLASHES

Last month we flashed the news that Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, had received \$60 for correctly answering a Tello-test question.

This month we are happy to pass on the information that Miss Jordan shared her good fortune with us by making a substantial contribution to CARE through the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. Our sincere thanks to Miss Jordan!

\*

An exhibit of books and plates on "Gardens in the Spring", arranged by the Exhibits Office of the Boston Public Library, was a feature of the Book Fair held at Boston University School of Education, Saturday, May 12.

Books lent from the Young People's Room formed part of the exhibit in connection with new book lists prepared by various departments.

Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Children, was one of the hostesses pouring during coffee hour which preceded the program.

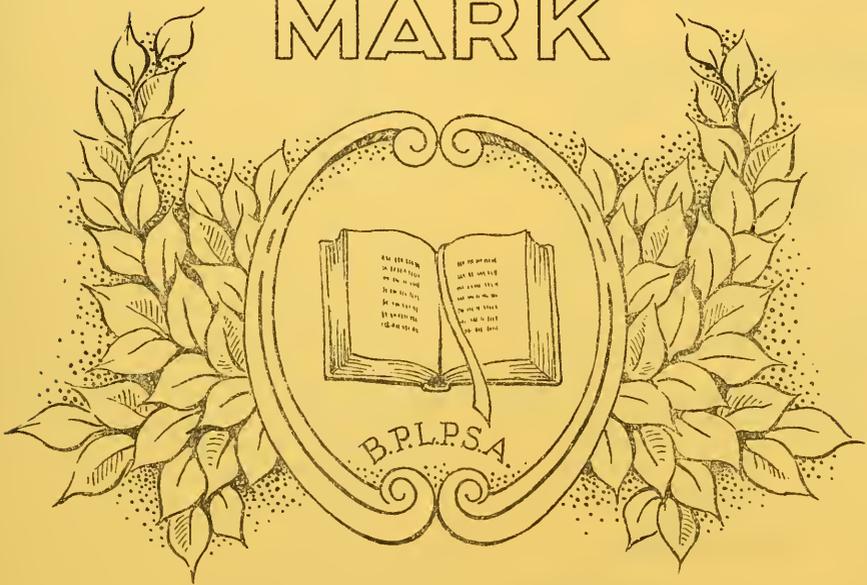
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On May 14, 1951, Dr Harald Bohm, Librarian at the Royal Library, Stockholm, Sweden, visited Central Library.

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THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

The successful Staff Association sponsored workshops just ended, and the approaching Summer Institute at Simmons College, offer to librarians of this area an unusual opportunity for professional stimulus, designed as they have been to meet specific needs of the participants. Because of the formidable amount of time, planning, and thought which go into such undertakings these initial ventures require our wholehearted support to justify the undertaking of similar activities in the future. As the findings of the Public Library Inquiry emphasized the need for trained, professionally alert personnel, if the library is to be recognized as a vital force in adult education, the need for such training programs is apparent, whereby members of the profession may keep abreast of new developments and techniques in their fields. The need is further suggested by the highly significant report on the recent Conference on Reading Development of the American Book Publishers Council, in which ten of the country's leading specialists in communications and mass media discussed with book publishers, and members of the Committee on Reading Development, the critical plight of book publishing today, and considered the role of the serious book in the social process. Among the major recommendations made by the members of the Conference were studies of national and regional reading habits, including an inquiry into reasons behind the aversion in which book reading is held by a sizeable proportion of the American public. Implicit in this report is the role the informed librarian can play in assisting the book industry in the proposed survey with his guidance and advice, and in promoting and improving reading generally.

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CALENDAR OF JUNE--JULY EVENTS

- June 14 BPLPSA dinner meeting at the Charles Hayden Memorial Library, MIT.
- June 18-21 Special Libraries Association Annual Convention, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- June 18-22 Simmons College School of Library Science Summer Institute, Simmons College. Theme: The Public Library as an Agency in Adult Education.
- June 25-28 American Association of Law Libraries, Annual Conference, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston.
- July 8-14 American Library Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

- Miss Veronica T. Yotts, Charlestown Branch Library (formerly part-time at South Boston Branch Library).
- Miss Isabella C. Elder, Kirstein Business Branch.
- Mr Donald M. Koslow, Kirstein Business Branch.
- Miss Ruth E. Winn, Uphams Corner Branch Library.

Transfers

- Miss Joan J. Pollard, Lower Mills Branch Library to the Bookmobile.
- Mrs Dorothy Rosen, Charlestown Branch Library to Lower Mills Branch Library.

Resignations

Mrs Fern S. Ingersoll, Jeffries Point Branch Library, to travel in Europe with her husband.

Mrs Jane B. Lacy, Rare Book Department, to travel in Europe with her husband.

Mrs Arlene W. Mullin, West End Branch Library, to live in North Middleboro, Massachusetts, where her husband has been assigned to a church.

Mrs Virginia B. Reusch, General Reference Department, to live in Cleveland, Ohio, where her husband will be on the house staff of the University Hospitals.

Mrs Mary L. Sands, Fine Arts Department, to remain at home.

Engagements

Miss Mary Jo Bradley, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, to Mr John Dowd of Charlestown. Mr Dowd is, at present, serving with the U. S. Marine Corps.

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WEDDINGS AND PARTIES

On Sunday afternoon, May 20, Miss Josephine DeLuca, Registration Department, became the bride of Mr Clyde G. Carter, in St. Mary's Church, Boston.

The bride wore an ivory taffeta-faille gown, embroidered with silver threads, and a finger-tip illusion veil. She carried a prayer-book, covered with glamellias, and trailing stephanotis and lilies-of-the-valley.

Her matron of honor was gowned in American Beauty rose, and carried Japanese Iris, and snapdragons in varying shades of blue.

Following a reception at Nino Biagi's, the newlyweds left for a motor tour of the Catskills.

\*

A shower was given for Miss Helen Maguire, Book Stack Service, by her friends, in the Women's Lounge, on Thursday evening, May 24. She was presented with a spring corsage and an array of beautiful gifts.

\*

On Tuesday evening, May 9, Miss Mary

McDonough, Book Preparation Department, and Mrs Santa Koster, Book Stack Service, were guests at a dinner party given by a group of their friends at the home of Miss Anna Manning, Teachers Department. The occasion was in honor of their extended vacations, Miss McDonough to tour Europe for twelve weeks--Mrs Koster to take an automobile trip to the West Coast. Mrs Koster was presented with a travelling clock and colored films, and Miss McDonough a shoulder bag.

\*

Members of the staff of the Book Preparation Department gave a bon voyage luncheon in honor of their chief, Miss Mary McDonough, on Thursday, June 9, at Novack's in Brookline. Miss McDonough was presented with a travelling clock as a farewell gift.

\*

On Thursday noon, June 7, Mrs Janet Quint was the guest of honor at a farewell luncheon given for her at the Town Room, Copley Plaza, by the staff of the Open Shelf Department, and Mrs Muriel C. Javelin and Miss Anne L. Moore, former members of the department. Mrs Quint graduated from Simmons College in June and will join her husband in El Paso, Texas, where he is stationed at Fort Bliss. She has accepted a position in the El Paso Public Library.

\*

The Toll House, Whitman, was the scene of a gay party on Saturday, June 9, when forty friends and library associates gathered to pay honor to Miss Margaret Calnan, Branch Librarian, Connolly Branch Library, whose marriage to Mr Harold Donahue is to take place July 7, 1951. One of the pleasant features of the occasion was the opportunity to welcome several retired members of the group, the Misses Edith Guerrier, M. Florence Cufflin, Katherine S. Rogan, Rebecca E. Willis, and Mary M. Sullivan. The Branch Librarians, active and retired, were joined by other members of the staff whose work brings them in contact with work in branch libraries. At the conclusion of the luncheon, Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor of Home Reading and Community Services,

presented Miss Calnan with a small token of appreciation, on behalf of the group.

E. G. P.

\*

Mrs Fern S. Ingersoll was given a farewell party by the staff of the Jeffries Point Branch Library on Wednesday evening, June 6. Mrs Ingersoll has resigned from the Library to travel in Europe for an indefinite period. She and her husband are sailing on the Samaria from Quebec on June 27.

\*

The staff of the Personnel Office entertained Miss Berit Lambertsen at the Meadows in Framingham on Friday evening, May 25, 1951. Miss Lambertsen who has been observing in the Boston Public Library since September 1950 completed her work and observation in the Library on June 1, 1951. She is sailing for her home in Bergen, Norway on July 10, 1951.

\*

On Friday evening, June 1, 1951, library friends of Miss Anne Moore, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, gathered at the home of Mrs Margaret M. Morrissey, Book Purchasing Department, for a surprise shower for Anne who is being married on July 2, 1951 to Mr Paul J. Dolan. Anne received many lovely and useful gifts and the hostesses, Mrs Morrissey, Mrs Mary D. Farrell, and Mrs Edna M. Wollent, served refreshments.

\*

On Monday, June 11, Mrs Mary F. Nagle, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, was guest of honor at a luncheon at the Town Room, Copley Plaza. Mrs Nagle, whose leave of absence begins on June 19, takes with her the best wishes of all her many friends in the Library. She will be particularly missed by the Publications Committee because of her excellent work in cutting stencils for The Question Mark.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Congratulations to Mr Leo J. Hines, formerly of the Open Shelf Department, on being awarded third prize in the National Catholic Theatre Conference Contest for his play Marie Antoinette. Mr Hines resigned from the service May 15.

\*

Mr and Mrs Francis Cronin announce the birth of a daughter, Patricia Ann, on May 31, 1951. Mrs Cronin was the former Victoria Venezia and was on the staff of the Book Purchasing Department.

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VISITORS

Mr R. H. Blackburn, Assistant Librarian, University of Toronto.

Dr Fritz Moser, Dezernat Lituatur, Der Senator für Volksbildung, Berlin.

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BON VOYAGE

Miss Rosalie Lang, History Department, sailed from New York on the Veendam, June 8, for a motor and bicycle tour of England, Scotland and Ireland.

\*

Miss Mary M. McDonough, Book Preparation Department, sailed from New York on the Britannic, June 13, for a twelve weeks trip to Europe. While abroad she will visit relatives in Ireland.

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WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Emilia Lange, General Reference Department, after an eight weeks tour of Europe.

Mrs Pauline F. Vinci, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, after a six months maternity leave.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The May business meeting held on Friday, May 18th, was well attended considering the full calendar of meetings during the month of May. It was unfortunate that it coincided with the MLA meetings in Springfield but it was unavoidable since to comply with the constitution there were only two choices of dates, the 18th and the 25th, and the general meeting of the Workshop was already scheduled for the 25th. The final reports of three special committees were read and accepted: the In-service Training Committee, Mr Bradford Hill, chairman; The Personnel Service Ratings Committee, Miss Alice Hackett, chairman; and the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Committee, Mrs Geraldine Beck, chairman. All these reports are representative of a great deal of work on the part of these chairmen and their committees, and we are grateful for the effort expended in behalf of all our interests.

The question of increasing the amount of CARE money to be spent for books to include the UNESCO Children's Book Fund, was thoroughly debated. It was decided that the amount established by the 1949 poll--75% for food and 25% for books--should be continued and that the CARE Committee should make a separate project of sending children's books to which contributions could be made by members particularly concerned with this activity.

There was little discussion regarding the possible contribution by the staff towards a written statement of objectives for the Boston Public Library but it is hoped that comments will be forwarded to the Executive Board by those interested in seeing such a statement become a reality.

The need for increased dues was clearly evident from the figures quoted by Mr Gillis, the treasurer. It is an item which the Constitution Committee will have to consider in preparation for the required action by the membership. Careful thinking as to just what the development of the Association is to be should precede any action in this matter.

\*

A small but appreciative group of Association members enjoyed a night at Pops

on Tuesday, June 5th, when an unusually good program was presented. Sixty-one tickets were sold which brought a welcome if modest profit to the treasury.

\*

With the final general meeting of the Workshop groups and coffee hour held on Friday, May 25th, the in-service training project for this year was brought to a pleasant and successful conclusion. The excellent reports given so ably by the group chairmen indicated the diligence and enthusiasm of the participants. Miss Evelyn Levy as coordinator and Mrs Irene Tuttle as chairman, as well as their committees are to be congratulated on the fine program offered from which not only our own staff members benefited but other librarians in the greater Boston area.

\*

Those who joined the First Nighters Club which the Association sponsored last year have received notices regarding renewals. We have been informed that individuals are to send in their own renewals this year. Each member may invite a friend to join at this time which will be the only opportunity for new subscriptions. Please let your representative know if you would like to share your subscription with someone who may be interested.

\*

The Association will be represented by five delegates at the SORT annual business meeting at the ALA conference in Chicago. These delegates will be empowered to vote and will help man the SORT Exhibit Booth. The CARE scrap book will be on display and sample copies of the Question Mark will be made available for distribution.

\*

The members of the Nominating Committee for 1951 are:

Mr Thomas Manning, Chairman, Exhibits Office.

Mrs Geraldine Altman, Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss Mary Cahill, Book Purchasing Department.

Miss Mildred Kaufman, Mattapan Branch Library.

Miss Patricia Tuley, Book Preparation Department.

P. A. W.

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OBITUARY

Albert H. Wiggin  
February 21, 1868 - May 21, 1951

On May 21, 1951, Mr Albert H. Wiggin, donor of the Albert H. Wiggin Collection of Prints, Drawings and Books in the Boston Public Library, passed away, within a few weeks of the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Collection to the public, on June 14, 1941. He has given immeasurable aid to artists, connoisseurs and laymen through this remarkable collection, and his loss will be keenly felt by his many friends in international print circles.

It was in 1935 that the Trustees of the Boston Public Library voted to express their interest in the possibility of accepting the Albert H. Wiggin Collection, although it was not until 1941 that it was formally inaugurated. The Albert H. Wiggin Gallery at this time instituted its important work of exhibiting especially chosen items from the Collection, and the Study Room was opened to students and interested persons who need specific information concerning the graphic arts.

The many exhibitions lent to museums and colleges from coast to coast, the Print Department's lecture program, and the service rendered to visitors from both here and abroad, have given proof that this is a working Collection. It has served the print world in the organization of travelling exhibitions and the completion of various catalogues. The Department has also advised collectors and instituted an educational program for professional artists and students. All this has been made possible by the foresight of Mr Wiggin in collecting so wisely with the educational values of his collection ever in mind.

Mr and Mrs Wiggin visited the department on several occasions in spite of Mr Wiggin's poor health. His interest in the collection was unflinching throughout

the ten years that it has been in the Boston Public Library, and he has added greatly to its wealth through his innumerable gifts.

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THE LIBRARY ON TV

Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, N.A., Keeper of Prints, was interviewed by Bill Hahn, on WMAC-TV, Friday, June 8, at 12.30 p.m. On this telecast the current exhibition on the bimillennium of Paris and the tenth anniversary of the Wiggin Print collection were stressed. Mr Heintzelman showed ten prints of the City of Paris from the current exhibition at the Library.

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THE STAFF AFIELD

Mr Bradford M. Hill, Chief of the Periodical and Newspaper Department, spoke to the North Shore Library Club, at its meeting at the Winthrop Public Library, June 7, on "Periodicals for a Public Library." His talk stressed 12 points on which the selection of periodicals should be based and at the request of one of the members a basic list of periodicals was included.

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ROUND TABLE OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS  
MEET AT FITCHBURG

The Spring meeting was held on May 24, 1951 at the Fitchburg Youth Library, Fitchburg. Despite a driving rain, 75 members were present.

Guests of honor at the luncheon were Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, Boston Public Library and Miss Bertha Mahony Miller of the Horn Book.

Members had an opportunity to explore the facilities which this beautiful new contemporary library offers its young patrons, including a record listening room, garden area for warm weather reading, and a sizeable modern lecture hall--movie theatre which also provides mid-day television programs for adults.

The following officers were elected to serve for a period of two years:

Chairman, Miss Pauline Winnick, Children's Librarian, Codman Square Branch, Boston Public Library; Secretary, Miss Hester L. Mitchell, Children's Librarian, Parlin Memorial Library, Everett; Treasurer, Miss Charlotte S. Nye, Children's Supervisor, New Bedford Free Library.

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CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

A meeting of the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association was held at Providence College, Saturday, May 19, 1951.

Following an address of welcome by the President, Very Reverend Robert J. Slavin, O.P., the Librarian of Providence College, Rev. Francis J. Fanning, O.P. introduced Mr Albert Daub of Stechert-Hafner, Inc., who described methods and processes of ordering foreign books and periodicals. Sr. Joan Patricia, Librarian of Regis College, followed with an interesting tal, on A Treasury for the college student. The "Treasury" consists of Mother Goose rhymes, myths, legends, and fairy tales which most children read in their first years of library membership, and the relation of this reading to history, poetry, and general and classical literature in later college reading.

After luncheon, Mr Clarence Sherman, Librarian of the Providence Public Library talked on Library trends in theory and practice. He touched on the current question of the effect of TV on reading, and pointed out that in 1924, librarians were asking, What will be the effect of radio on reading? Mr. Sherman spoke of the new library which is in progress, of overcrowded conditions and the problems of book storage, all subjects of particular interest to the members of the staff of the Boston Public Library present.

Mr Paul Van K. Thomson, Instructor at Providence College chose as his topic, The Library as a classroom. A former navy chaplain, and recreational officer, Mr Thomson told some entertaining stories of reading among service men. He emphasized that the teacher may stimulate students to read, but it is the responsibility of the librarian to satisfy their desire for further reading.

At the Business meeting which followed,

Mr John O'Loughlin, of Boston College, the Chairman resigned, in order to devote all of his time to the Catholic Library Association to which he has recently been elected National President. Rev. John A. Broderick of Creagh Research Library of St. John's Seminary was elected Chairman, Mr Thomas V. Reiners, of Boston College, Vice-Chairman, Miss Anna L. Manning, Boston Public Library, Secretary-Treasurer. Rev. Ernest A. Hogan, O.P., of Providence College, Mrs Marguerite S. Lechiario, Cambridge Public Library and Sr. Joan Patricia, Regis College, were elected as a Board of Directors.

A. L. M.

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REGIONAL GROUP OF CATALOGERS AND CLASSIFIERS MEET AT LIBRARY

The Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers held its Spring Meeting on May 3rd at the Boston Public Library.

A coffee hour was enjoyed in the Staff Lounge before the meeting in the Lecture Hall. The Catalog Department of both the Division of Reference and Research Services and the Division of Home Reading and Community Services were open for inspection by members of the visiting group.

The business meeting was held at 8:00, followed by a Panel discussion on "Reference Use of Subject Headings". The speakers were: Miss Lucille Wickersham, The City Library Association, Springfield; Miss Margaret Hazen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Miss Helen E. Honey, Harvard University and Miss Jeanette Hitchcock, Yale University. Miss Ruth Leonard of Simmons College served as moderator.

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BOSTON BRAVES OWNER PRESENTS COLLECTION OF BASEBALL BOOKS TO LIBRARY

A collection of over 700 books on baseball has been presented to the Library by Mr Lou Ferrini, one of the owners of the Boston Braves. The gift was accepted in a brief, formal ceremony, May 31, by Mr Lee Friedman, President of the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Library.

The gift comes at a particularly

appropriate time as this year marks the 75th anniversary of the National League. The collection includes copies of the new Official National League History and twenty-three other titles of books about the national sport, its history and notable players. Copies of each title will be placed in the Branch Libraries and the Bookmobile.

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NEPONSET BRANCH LIBRARY TO REMAIN OPEN

Following a recommendation from the Board of Trustees, and approval by His Honor the Mayor, there was recently approved by the City Council a transfer of funds which will make it possible to keep open, for a period of a year following the opening of the new Adams Street Branch Library, the present temporary quarters in which is housed the Neponset Branch Library. During this period there will be assembled adequate data to show whether or not there will still be need for branch library service from the present temporary Neponset Branch Library quarters as well as from the new permanent quarters in the Adams Street Branch Library. Inasmuch as the above action will prevent the transferring of the book stock from the Neponset Branch Library to the new quarters, it will not be possible to open the Adams Street Branch Library as early as had originally been planned. Opening will thus be delayed probably until September, by which time it will have been possible to acquire and process books which will be needed for the Adams Street Branch Library.

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NEW BOOKMOBILE IN SEPTEMBER

Plans are afoot to purchase a second Bookmobile. It is expected that the new Bookmobile will be ready for delivery in September of this year.

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FOURTH GENERAL MEETING OF WORKSHOP

The final General Meeting of the Workshop on THE EVALUATION OF BOOK MATERIALS IN TERMS OF USE IN THE LIBRARY was held

in the Lecture Hall on Friday morning, May 25. Miss Evelyn Levy, Coordinator of the Workshop, opened the program by expressing her appreciation and gratitude to the many people who contributed in helping to make the experiment and experience of this Workshop a success: the Trustees and the Director, Mr Milton E. Lord, Miss Sarah M. Usher, Chief, Records, Files and Statistics, Mr William B. Gallagher, Chief of the Printing Department as well as the many department heads, consultants, the Pre-planning and Planning Committees, and staff members throughout the system. Miss Levy then turned the meeting over to Mrs Irene H. Tuttle, Chairman of the Planning Committee and Chairman of the last General Meeting.

While excellent outside speakers were featured at the first three general meetings, the last one was devoted entirely to the final reports of the individual groups. There have been six groups in all, representing participants of varied ranks and experience, averaging fourteen to a group, holding weekly two-hour meetings, March through May. The Workshop has been self-supporting, with a total number of one hundred and fifty-six: one hundred and two from the Boston Public Library and fifty-four from outside libraries, public, college, and special. There have been eighty-eight participants in the workshop groups besides sixty-eight observers at the General Meetings. The five subject areas discussed, with emphasis on techniques and methods rather than subject fields were, Staff knowledge and evaluation of books for use with the public, with Miss Ollie Partridge, Open Shelf Room, chairman of one group, and Mr Paul Moynihan, General Reference Department, chairman of the second group working in the same subject area; Mrs Mary Obear, Uphams Corner Branch Library, chairman of the group working on the Development of book lists and their use; Miss Martha Engler, South End Branch Library, chairman of the group on Book talks for children and/or adults; Mrs Veronica Lehane, Memorial Branch Library, recorder of the group on Reviewing and selection of books for young people (age 14-18); and Miss Lorraine Tolman, Boston University School of Education Library, Acting-chairman of the group on the Evaluation and use of pamphlet material and periodical literature.

The following are but the briefest resumes of the findings, recommendations, and accomplishments of the various groups since the detailed reports may be procured by applying to Miss Evelyn Levy, Jeffries Point Branch. Ten cents will purchase ALL six reports.

Group I. Staff knowledge and evaluation of books for use with the public. Both sections of this group offered practical suggestions as to methods by which the staff can be encouraged and aided in a knowledge of books. Some of the methods suggested by Mr Moynihan's group were shelf-reading, condemning and verifying shelves. Staff members could be responsible for specific sections in ordering and planning for replacements, and so familiarize themselves with the material in these fields. This group stressed the value of annotations and practiced writing ideal annotations. It was interesting to note two different approaches and points of view dealing with the same subject. Miss Partridge's group emphasized workable policies of book selection, with division of labor, such as each staff member being responsible for one particular commercial reviewing periodical. Other suggestions were that at monthly staff meetings, each member might present brief reviews or critical annotations of several new books on the subject of the individual's interest or specialization. Lists of books in various fields could be made and other bibliographies checked in order to strengthen weaknesses. The staff should be able to handle the new non-fiction and scan the table of contents, index, preface and introduction. Development of rapid reading techniques was urged. Both groups felt that firsthand knowledge of books is a "sine qua non" in giving the ultimate in service to borrowers--Miss Partridge's group feeling that, while reviews could be relied upon for non-fiction, there was no substitute for reading fiction. Both sections stressed the need for being alert to all media of public relations, and emphasized the importance of librarians being active in clubs, churches, and groups in their communities.

Group II. Development of book lists and their uses. Realizing the value to reader and library of book lists, this group had concrete experience in making out various types of book lists, annotated

and unannotated. One of their chief recommendations was the acquisition of a depository file of printed lists from other libraries, to be kept in the Reader's Adviser's office. Another recommendation had to do with glamorizing and enlivening Books Current in title, format, arrangement and subject matter, as well as having separate book lists for children and for young people, each written in a catchy, informal style. Book lists, it was felt, play an important part in library publicity and public relations.

Group III. Book talks for children and/or adults. The techniques of preparation, organization, and delivery were thoroughly studied as well as the desired results of book talks. Theory was then dynamically put into action when each member was required to give a sample talk which varied with the personality of the speaker in his choice of talk, based on background and interest of the groups addressed, e.g., a religious group, a social group, a literary group, a foreign group, a young people's group, children's groups, a women's club. While the members realized that only practice will make them more facile and adept in this skill, they have acquired a solid foundation of poise and confidence.

Group IV. In Reviewing and selection of books for young people (14-18), many pertinent factors were considered such as environment, educational level of group, types of books, and purpose or reading, but the main accomplishment of the group will be a projected list of about four hundred books, culled from material written within the last five years. It will be attractive in format, illustrated with publishers' cuts, designed only for leisure reading to supplement the required book report lists. The titles included will be approximately seventy per cent adult books and thirty per cent juvenile, with thirty per cent fiction and seventy per cent non-fiction. Because, as yet, the Library does not have young people's librarians or readers' advisers, and in most cases no special rooms or even sections for this important but drifting segment of our public, the list should be of great value to the staff, especially those who have but little acquaintance with the background and reading habits of young people. The Committee hopes to have the list ready by September.

Group V. Evaluation and use of pamphlet material and periodical literature.

This group concentrated on pamphlet material, feeling that it was of sufficient value and scope in its own right, although they did visit Mr Bradford Hill, chief of the Periodical Department, surveyed briefly the workings of his department, and marvelled at the use made of micro-films. The group discovered, through a questionnaire sent to libraries in Boston and vicinity, that there was a great awareness of pamphlets and their importance, as well as the necessity for staff knowledge concerning their use. Several ways were suggested for wider dissemination of pamphlet material: placing them in pamphlet boxes at the end of pertinent subject matter; placing them on the shelves in covers in their proper Dewey Decimal locations, or placing them on racks. The important fact stressed was to get them out of the traditional vertical files. Pamphlets should be readily accessible to the public. Of course, the development of pamphlet material would depend on the individual needs of the library: its staff, budget, patrons. The group has made a list of sources of pamphlet material and also a bibliography on the subject.

Obviously, the workshop has meant many things to many people. Perhaps its chief value lies in its relevancy, its direct, down-to-earth attack and concrete treatment of problems with which all professionally-minded people in the library world are concerned. Best of all, the groups have not only benefited directly as individuals, but have recorded step by step progress and recommendations which lend themselves to wide application.

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LIBRARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

The following members of the staff received their degrees from Simmons College School of Library Science in June.

- Miss Elizabeth M. Kaufman, Print Department.
- Miss Helen Pappas, Information Office.
- Miss Adelaide Lockhart, General Reference Department.

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FILM FESTIVAL

Education, Religion, Industry, Recreation, and Arts and Crafts were represented at Boston's first Film Festival, held at the Copley Plaza Hotel on Saturday, May 26, 1951. Under the auspices of the Film Council of Greater Boston, the program included a full day's series of film showings in eight screening rooms. Awards are to be presented to the producers of the best film in each section, as selected by the film audience. At the luncheon, Mr O. H. Coelln, Jr., Editor and Publisher of Business Screen Magazine, outlined briefly the history of the Film Council movement in the United States and then spoke of the problems and responsibilities which are facing 16 mm film users whether in industry, education, religion, or other community groups. He stressed the power of the motion picture as an educational medium, and the importance of the film in Civil Defense and in the training of armed forces. He urged improvement not only in the quality of the film, but in the techniques of presentation and utilization. "Seek the new," he challenged. "Don't be satisfied with things as they are."

Mr John D. Brown, City Greeter, representing the Honorable John B. Hynes, Mayor of Boston, presented the key of the City, in the form of a handsomely illustrated brochure, to the Council's President. Reverend Timothy F. O'Leary of the Department of Education, Archdiocese of Boston.

The Boston Public Library is one of the sponsors of the Film Council of Greater Boston. Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Adults, is the Council's secretary.

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RECENT MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

- Reisman, David. Bookworms and the social soil. Saturday Review of Literature, May 5, 1951, p.7-8, 31-32.
- Berelson, Bernard. Who reads what and why. Saturday Review of Literature, May 12, 1951, p.7-8, 30-31.
- Guinzburg, Harold K. Book publishing; a dubious Utopia. Saturday Review of Literature, May 26, 1951, p.7-8, 39-41.
- Asheim, Lester. Book business looks at itself. Saturday Review of Literature,

June 2, 1951, p.18-19, 27-28.

Several months ago social scientists and publishers met together under the sponsorship of the Committee on Reading Development of the American Book Publishers Council to discuss a question of mutual concern of, "In modern society what part does the book play for different individuals and for different groups in their daily lives?" The committee reached no conclusions but developed a number of hypotheses which it hoped would become the subject of further investigation. Such men as Harold Lasswell, Robert Leigh, George Gallup, Clyde Hart, Robert Tyler and Theodore Waller, as well as many others participated.

The four articles listed above were inspired by the Conference, and were all written by men who participated in its considerations. In these articles, David Reisman thoughtfully examines some of the reading habits of the American people, Bernard Berelson and Harold Guinzburg write on the serious book and its relations to society, and Lester Asheim summarizes the principal topics discussed at the Conference and sets forth some of the tentative conclusions. Some of the ideas are familiar, some are remote from library work, but in general the four articles provide a great deal of stimulating matter facilely presented on the problems of reader interests, book format, and content, competitors for leisure time activities, reading habits and so on, explored primarily from the publisher's point of view but containing information thoroughly relevant to the librarian's activities.

Gondos, Victor Jr. Records and fire protection. American Archivist, April, 1951.

This is an interesting and timely article giving bibliographical references as well as some factual data on the preservation of inflammable or highly perishable material. With libraries handling films and records increasingly, the literature cited has more than theoretical interest. The writer considers the every day problem of deterioration, the hidden menace of fire and the ultimate threat of a bombing.

Esdaile, Arundel. Book men of the British Museum. Library Review, Summer, 1951, p.90-96.

For those who like their librarians and

libraries humanized, this is it. It is too bad that this appears in a strictly professional journal. How many people realize that a librarian's daily routine might entail checking under each reader's chair to see if a bomb had been left behind? A brief autobiographical note by a pre-eminent bookman. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Bulletin for libraries.

This bi-lingual (French and English monthly) is now in its fifth year. Its annual subscription is \$2.00. It has developed into a splendid tool for finding information about important publications, and for following library and cultural developments of interest. It records items that might otherwise be hard to track down. For example, the April, 1951 issue carries some 70 entries ranging from two paragraphs on the activities of the Director of the Institute of Manuscripts of the Arab League and the activities of the Library Division of the Israeli Ministry of Education to the availability of copies of the Cutter classification in uncollated signatures at the Forbes Library in Northampton, Massachusetts. Its articles are brief but it turns up very important books in every field of interest at one time or another.

J. M. C.

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MRS HIRSON SPEAKS AT LABOR INSTITUTE

Mrs Helen F. Hirson, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services, was invited to speak and to arrange a display of books for the 10th Annual Labor Institute of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor on June 9 at the Lowell Textile Institute. The theme of the Institute was Labor's Role in an Economy of Mobilization. Mrs Hirson prepared a mimeographed book-list for distribution on this theme and on the topics discussed by the other speakers.

The Institute borrowed the Library's motion picture, With These Hands, the story of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which was shown on an evening program.

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BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY  
ON AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

American Library Association. Audio-Visual Board.

The use of television by the public library. Chicago, 1949. Z717.A5  
Galvin, Hoyt R.

Films in public libraries. Chicago, 1948. Z717.G3

Klapper, Joseph T.

The effects of mass media. New York, Bureau of Applied Social Research, Columbia University Press, 1949. Z717.K55

McDonald, Gerald C.

Educational motion pictures and libraries. Chicago, American Library Association, 1942. Z692.M9M15

Nunmaker, Frances G.

The library broadcasts. New York, H. W. Wilson Company, 1948. Z716.7.N8

Rufsvold, Margaret I.

Audio-visual school library service. Chicago, American Library Association, 1949. Z717.R8

Waldron, Gloria

The information film. New York, Columbia University Press, 1949. PN1995.9.I5W3 1941.

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MLA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was opened on the afternoon of May 17 by Miss Louise B. Day, President, in the auditorium of the Museum of Fine Arts in Springfield. The two-day meeting this year served also as the centennial celebration of The Massachusetts Library Law of 1851.

After greetings from Mr John A. Humphry, Librarian of the Springfield City Library Association, the Honorable Daniel B. Brunton, Mayor of Springfield, and Dr William B. Kirkham, President of the Springfield City Library Association, Mr Stacy B. Southworth, Chairman of the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners in Massachusetts, spoke on the history of public libraries in the Commonwealth.

The early social library was cited by the speaker as the most important factor in the development of the modern public library. Mr Southworth traced the growth of the social libraries in Massachusetts

through the 50 year period following 1790, their period of greatest development. During that epoch the Boston Athenaeum was founded.

As early as 1827 individual towns of the Commonwealth began to vote for support of libraries by the town. The results of such a movement was the inception of free libraries open to all the community without distinction.

Mr Southworth cited the contribution of Boston to the growth of the public library. He praised the high caliber of the civic leaders who in the middle of the 19th century were responsible for free schools and who worked for the maintenance of free public libraries.

Mr Southworth traced the history of The Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, which came into existence by an act of the legislature in 1890. Mention was made of the excellent survey of libraries in Massachusetts made under Mr Charles E. Tillinghast, first chairman of the Board. This survey, Mr Southworth considers, is still an authoritative handbook. From its inception the Board has particularly interested itself in encouraging and aiding small public libraries. The Board has continued to serve as dispenser of professional information to public libraries of Massachusetts. In 1919 the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners was placed under the Massachusetts Department of Education, and the Division of Public Libraries was formed. The Division has already serviced the areas of Pittsfield, Greenfield, and Fall River with bookmobiles, and plans are being considered for bookmobile service to two more areas, the Merrimac Valley and Cape Cod. Action on these plans is expected in 1952. Mr Southworth mentioned the work of the Division's lending library of 87,000 volumes from which all the public libraries in Massachusetts may borrow. Mention was made of the work of the Division in certifying Massachusetts librarians and the excellent work of Mr Lord, our Director, and others who assisted in the work of certification.

The Conway plan was alluded to and Mr Southworth expressed the hope that more public libraries in the Commonwealth would consider the advantages of consolidation of library services.

Mr Southworth praised MLA for its cooperation with the Board of Library

Commissioners in obtaining needed legislation and appropriations from the State legislature. He urged the librarians of Massachusetts to imitate the faith and courage of their predecessors in providing library service to the public. He said librarians are privileged to serve people in their higher levels of living.

Paul Moynihan

CONTEMPORARY IRISH LITERATURE

The second speaker, on Thursday afternoon, was Mr Denis Johnston, Florence Purington Visiting Lecturer in English, Mount Holyoke College, formerly a Director of the Dublin Gate Theatre. His subject was Contemporary Irish Literature. Mr Johnston began his talk by reminding his listeners that Ireland has given to the world of her music, humor, charm and tragedy, and that our lives are richer because of her writers. He mentioned the close connection between Massachusetts and Ireland in his own life, and remarked that although he was born in the present home town of the Book of Kells, it was only in Massachusetts that he was able to read its pages. He has been greatly impressed by the Irish collections in our universities.

In his brief survey of the contemporary poets, novelists, and dramatists, he discussed the differences between them and writers of thirty years ago. The present Gaelic writers are in the habit of assessing their work against the background of other Irish writing, such as the works of Yeats, Synge, and Joyce. They are sensitive to criticism, frowning upon those who consider them quaint and amusing, and have no use for their compatriots who expose their sore spots in periodicals abroad. While Mr Johnston declared that there has been some good poetry, he believes that little significant drama has been published in the past fifteen years. The greatest achievement has been in the form of the novel, and he cited among the outstanding contemporary novelists, Maura Laverty, Flann O'Brien, Liam O'Flaherty, and Frank O'Connor. He considers Frank O'Connor Ireland's greatest living writer, although he is not popular in his own country. Referring to the paucity of publishers at the present time in Ireland he mentioned that there are but three

reviews which serve as media of expression for present day writers, The Dublin Magazine, The Envoy, and The Bell. While Mr Johnston believes that Ireland is in a literary doldrums at the present time, compared with the renaissance of a few decades ago, he does not doubt but that she will once again produce great literature in the future.

Ollie Partridge

LOOKING FORWARD

Mr Emerson Greenaway, Director of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, was the speaker at the dinner meeting which was held at the Hotel Sheraton, on Thursday evening, May 17. His address, entitled "Looking Forward" was in recognition of the Centennial Celebration of the Massachusetts Library Law of 1851. He began by speaking of his pleasant association with the staff of the Springfield library in the early years of his library career and then briefly outlined the cultural, social and economic conditions in America and in New England one hundred years ago.

The major part of his talk, however, was concerned with the present and future and he spoke of the instability of the times in which we live and the resulting need for a clearer view of and change in library work for the future. The Public Library Inquiry, he stated, gave librarians a chance for a soul searching in their field. The functions of the library, were presented, in this inquiry, differently and challengingly. New forms of mass communication must be reckoned with and an examination of the purpose of the library made. In considering new objectives for Enoch Pratt Library, Mr Greenaway emphasized free service to all--children and adults, aid in the search for books for education and recreation, cooperations with other agencies, sharing of ideas through institutes, film forums, etc., help in the continuous education of adults and in the personal development of all. Children and teen-agers, he emphasized, can be stimulated by careful book selection, guidance, and the development of a love of reading which will aid in the growth of the child. Contacts with schools and other agencies active in work with children are valuable.

As future plans for most libraries in

the country are dependent on funds available, two thirds of the libraries in the United States are not equipped to give library service of high quality. Furthermore, stimulating programs in libraries demand that staffs who run such programs be "tops" and to get people of this caliber library salary schedules must be realistic. However, Mr Greenaway sees an upward trend in sums allocated to libraries and he paid tribute to Mr Lord and the Boston Public Library for the position Boston holds throughout the country in obtaining increased appropriations for the last five years. He reminded his listeners that inflation wipes out fiscal gains because of the increase in the price of books and the salaries paid to beginners.

Social and cultural changes must also be considered and new problems demand new approaches to the work of serving the public. Among new ways to better service Mr Greenaway included the opening of or removal of branches to natural trade and traffic routes, and the use of bookmobiles. He feels that there may be an increase in the number of library users unless there are accelerated defense production plans, preparation for actual war or a general decline in reading. In the field of book selection he spoke of the importance of supplying material for education and information which will contribute to the growth of the individual and broaden the horizon of the reader. Besides books of permanent value he recommended use of timely books for mass use which could be disposed of easily when no longer in demand. Censorship and the work of pressure groups were discussed and he illustrated by telling of the methods used by police states abroad to take over libraries.

In closing Mr Greenaway reminded his audience of the great accomplishment of the public library during the past one hundred years and pointed out that the character of the work done in the next hundred years will be determined by the way in which librarians meet the problems and responsibilities of the present.

M. A. H.

TRUSTEE AND LAY RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR ADEQUATE LIBRARY SUPPORT

The morning session, Friday, May 18, was devoted to a Symposium, Trustee and Lay

Responsibility for adequate library Support. The chairman, Mrs George Galick, Library adviser, Division of Public Libraries, presented the speaker participants.

Mr John C. Willis, trustee of the Winchester Public Library, demonstrated that the library could sell itself to the community by a series of activities that would appeal to people of different ages and interests. The art Association, with exhibitions in its newly decorated art gallery, the library's cooperation with the garden club, and its assistance in improving the library grounds, semi-weekly hospital library service, film programs for parents with children, and a special showing for children, the historical association, the Lincoln and Lee acquisitions, the music room, and its weekly concerts are all undeniable evidence of the library's major contribution to the community life. He also referred to the trustees' surveys of the library and their efforts to raise the standards of the personnel, as well as the improved policy of allowing the trustees to have the power to increase the pay of staff members, and the sole responsibility of selecting the staff. The trustees of the Winchester Public Library have shown that a library is a business proposition with a social responsibility to the tax payers.

The second participant came from a different type of library community, the small town of Brewster, Massachusetts. Mrs Chester Slack, the chairman of the board of trustees of that small and limited library, described how the trustees were able to regenerate a 19th century type of ladies subscription library by studying what other similar libraries were doing, and to pull itself up by the boot straps, by starting everyone to work for the library, selling the idea of classroom libraries to the school, and then finding the ways and means of hiring a children's librarian. Scouts, shut-ins, club programs, and similar activities improved the library's social prestige. The participation of the trustees in the promotional and executive responsibilities of the Brewster Library showed that the library became everybody's business.

The story of the planning and completion of the beautiful and efficient Childrens library of Fitchburg as told by the leading trustee, Mrs George Rodney Wallace, is a very inspiring one. The enlistment of the

entire school population to save their pennies resulted in the initial publicity and the accumulation of the nest egg of the building fund. Other special gifts followed which resulted in the beautiful building that is the pride and joy of the entire citizenry. "Democracy in action" as Mrs Wallace expressed it, is a stimulus to other communities to make their libraries a more integral part of the community.

The Friends of the Library group is a very important adjunct to the Berkshire Athenaeum of Pittsfield, and the former chairman of the group, Mr George P. Hunt, Jr., gave an interesting account of their activities. One of their chief functions was to acquaint the members of the community with the resources of the library, study the library's activities and recommend improvements. They assisted in the plans for improved lighting and the specialized professional knowledge of certain members was used in an advisory capacity for book selection. They also assisted in the planning of an outdoor reading room, and the collection of paper bound books for distribution to service men and women.

The establishment of a group of cooperative young people, known as the "Junior Friends" was very helpful after a Workshop of World Understanding, when the children of many different nationalities were entertained by the junior friends. The Open House night and the various lectures gave the Friends of the Library opportunities to cooperate with the trustees and the staff in promoting the functions. The Friends are the liaison group between the trustees and the staff, and the city officials and the tax payers, and therefore might be termed the connecting link in the library community relationships.

Marion Kingman

BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting on Friday afternoon, May 18, was brief. The slate of new officers was read:

President, Miss Catharine M. Yerxa, Watertown

Vice President, Mr Philip J. McNiff, Lamont Library

Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Johnson, Lynn

Treasurer, Miss Lucille Wickersham, Springfield

Archivist, Mr Galen W. Hill, Quincy  
The College and University Section was accepted as a section of the Massachusetts Library Association. A representative of the Committee on Intellectual Freedom read a brief report on two bills before the General Court, and the Association voted its opposition to both measures, which, according to the Committee, imperiled our freedom. One of the bills was H426, An Act Banning the Communist Party in This Commonwealth. Mr Shaffer announced the Summer Institute to take place June 18 to 22 at Simmons College. Since all of the reports of committees will appear in the October MIA BULLETIN there was little reading of the customary reports. The meeting concluded with the induction of the new President.

Following the business meeting Mrs Ethel Henin Bowers, listed in the program as a "Dramatic Reviewer of Current Plays," delivered a talk "Let's Go to the Theatre." The speaker was in effect aptly and accurately called a "Dramatic" reviewer. Her time was devoted to a dramatized discussion of a variety of current Broadway successes including Call Me Madame, Guys and Dolls, Anna and the King of Siam, Darkness at Noon, Country Girl, and The Rose Tattoo.

The conference was adjourned after Mrs Bowers' review-monologues.

Marjorie G. Bouquet

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IN MEMORIAM

Mrs Paraskeve Bucuvalas, nee--Bessie Saharnis, who died suddenly on May 12, was a former assistant at the Tyler Street Branch Library.

She was born in Athens, Greece, and came to America with her parents at an early age. The oldest of a family of nine children, her home-life was a model of domestic harmony and parental rule. All the children at the time used the Tyler Street Branch Library. Bessie became interested in library work while a student at the Girl's High School and became a part-time assistant at that time. She was a member of the Tyler Street Staff in 1917-18, when I was the Branch Librarian. At that time,

the staff members represented some eight different racial minority groups and was a veritable melting pot in the Library system. Bessie graduated from the Girl's High School in 1917 and from the Boston Normal School in 1920. It was while an assistant at Tyler Street that Miss Saharnis was instrumental in helping to enlarge and organize the Library's collection of Greek books. Over the years she kept in touch with the Library.

She taught in the Primary Schools of Boston until she married. While at school, she was a brilliant scholar, who applied herself with zeal and enthusiasm in the work of Americanization, especially in the Greek community. She was probably at the time of her death one of the most outstanding Greek women in Boston.

She leaves a son, Michael, a student at Harvard, and a daughter, Zoe, a senior at Girls' Latin School. Funeral services were held at the Greek Cathedral of the Annunciation. Burial was in West Roxbury.

Fanny Goldstein

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Book Purchasing

Miss Mary Alice Rea will represent the Boston Catholic Theatre in an official capacity at the Catholic Theatre Convention to be held at Mundelein College, Chicago, June 13-16.

Information Office

Congratulations to Miss Mary Hennessey, graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College on June 9.

Print Department

On June 5, 1951 a small tea was held in the Print Department to inaugurate its exhibition of Prints of Paris in observance of the city's bimillennium. Invited guests included the Director of the Library, Mr Milton E. Lord, and the Trustees of the Library, the Consul General of France and Madame Albert Chambon, the Vice Consul, Mr La Pierre, and the members of the Honorary Committee and the Organizing Committees of the Paris Bimillennial Celebration.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

Three of the part-time assistants, John Rose, Michael Siraco, and Rita Taddonio were graduated from the East Boston High School on Friday, June 8. John, who enlisted in the Air Forces, is already training at the Lackland Base in San Antonio, Texas. Michael who has been on the staff two years, plans to enter Boston University in the fall. Rita received two scholarships. The East Boston High School Scholarship of one hundred dollars is given each year to the student best fulfilling the school motto, "This School is a Better School because I am Here". The Sears Roebuck Supplementary Scholarship of two hundred dollars is based on leadership, character, scholarship and ability to succeed in college. Rita also received a prize of twenty-five dollars offered by the Lieutenant Andelman Post for her essay entitled How to be a good neighbor. Rita who has been a cheer-leader for two years and co-editor of the East Boston yearbook, the "Noddler" has been active in town meeting and assembly programs. She will enter Simmons Library School in September. East Boston is proud of its "extras."

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An unusual display has attracted many juvenile readers to the Spring Book Reading Contest. A mural, depicting Mother Nature at her best with blue skies, running brook, and shady trees has been painted on a wall in the Children's Room by Mrs Helen Popp. Paper butterflies tacked on this mural by the 200 competing readers have produced a very colorful and effective display.

North End

The annual Doll Story Hour took place on Saturday, June 2, 1951 at ten o'clock. One hundred and fifty-three little girls participated in the festivities. A play, adapted from Rumer Godden's The Dolls' House by Miss Marie Pineo, Children's Librarian, staged by Miss Pineo and Miss Gracemarie Alfe and Mrs Barbara Elam, Children's Assistants, and acted by the children was presented to the group. Numbered slips were distributed to all the children present. Then a lucky number was drawn; the little girl holding the lucky

number received a prize. Lollipop doll favors were given to the children as they left the Library.

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The Third Annual Award of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes was held on Monday evening, June 4. Mr Frank Dimasi, one of last year's award winners, served as chairman. Miss Ellen C. Peterson, Branch Librarian, welcomed the speakers and the guests. Music was provided by the Julie Billiard High School Chorus. The Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes, which are awarded annually "to the North End boy and the North End girl who in their senior year at a North End high school have excelled in their English studies", were presented by Mr Milton E. Lord, the Director of the Library, to Joanne Fabiano and Louis Tardito. After the presentation of the awards, Joanne Fabiano read an essay on The value of reading. Mr Frank Buxton and Mr Patrick McDonald, Trustees, were also called upon for appropriate remarks. The address of the evening was given by Right Reverend Cornelius T. H. Sherlock, Superintendent of Diocesan Schools. At the close of the program, refreshments were served.

#### Phillips Brooks

The Friends of the Phillips Brooks Branch Library brought their season of monthly meetings to a successful close on Thursday evening, May 17, with a record audience in attendance. Under the chairmanship of Mrs Thomas Malone the Friends have tried to extend the facilities of the Library to a larger public. At this final meeting the 20th anniversary of the Branch Library was celebrated. Mr Henry M. Dean, well-known lawyer, and a native of Readville, gave an interesting outline of the early days of the Library when it was known only as the Phillips Brooks Memorial Reading Room. Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, and first Branch Librarian of Phillips Brooks, next told of families who used the Library when she was there, and of her joy in the many associations she has had with the community. The chief speaker of the evening was Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, who delighted her audience with reminiscences of her experiences as a guide

at Fruitlands and Wayside Museums.

Mr Robert Virtue, President of the Friends, acted as chairman of the program. Members of the Friends served punch and cakes during a social period following.

\*

A second anniversary meeting for young people, parents, and teachers was held on Monday evening, May 21, when Miss Nora S. Unwin, well-known wood-engraver and illustrator of books for children and adults, spoke about her work. She discussed processes of printing from wood blocks, showed work in color separation printing, and told of interesting experiences in her work as an illustrator. The audience was completely captivated by her friendliness and her delightful manner of speaking.

#### West End

An historic event took place on May 27, when Mr Samuel Markell, on behalf of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, presented an edition of the Babli Talmud to the Judaica Collection, in the presence of nearly two hundred people. The Talmud is a record of about a thousand years of Jewish learning and wisdom in all fields of endeavor. It is a compilation of the Oral Law, in contrast to the Bible, which is the Written Law. The Babli, or Babylonian Talmud dates back to the fifth century of the Christian Era, and has been a source of power and strength to world Jewry ever since.

Since 1933, Hitler and his cohorts systematically destroyed both Jewish lives and Jewish learning. When, in 1945, Germany was conquered and the doors of the concentration camps were opened, the Joint Distribution Committee with the cooperation of the American Army of Occupation set out on its task to rehabilitate spiritually as well as physically the inmates of those camps. It became necessary to publish some books quickly in order to bring to these tortured people the solace of reading and learning.

Crowning this project of book publishing a new edition of the Talmud was printed. It is known as the Talmud of the Surviving Remnant. So thorough was Hitler's destruction that not a single set of the Talmud was to be found in Germany to be used as a model, and two sets had to be flown from New York. About seven hundred sets were printed, and many have found their way to Israel, and to institutions of higher learning in every corner of the world, which

were considered legitimate heirs of Jewish heirless property. Only a few were sent to this country, and of these only two were designated for public libraries. The Semitic Division of the New York Public Library received one set, and the Judaica Collection at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library was honored as the recipient of the other.

\*

On Sunday afternoon, May 27, the noted Hebrew poet, scholar, and translator, Harry H. Fein, was honored at a tea on the occasion of the publication of his latest book of poems, "Light through the Mist". The Rabbinical Association of Greater Boston in cooperation with the Boston Public Library played host, and the West End Branch Library offered its historic and gracious building for the event.

\*

Miss Rebecca Millmeister, the champion traveler of the West End Branch Library, is on her way again. On June 8 Miss Millmeister sailed from New York on a two weeks trip to Porto Rico.

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SOAP BOX

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Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

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To the Soap-Box:

The sub-professional who came too late

Consider the case of the sub-professional who entered the service after salary increases of \$300 per annum were granted in 1949. Those of us who were not in the service at that time must lose \$300 a year, not through lack of effort on our part, but merely that we were not here at the time.

We can understand that the entering rate of pay - \$1800 - for a sub-professional was wholly sufficient at the time; and also we can understand the reluctance of the Trustees to raise the minimum. But it does seem unfair for two people in the same department, who are doing the same work, to have such a large discrepancy in their remuneration. Furthermore, the minimum entrance salary for the professional does include the \$300, so why should it not be included in the slighted sub-professional's?

In view of the substantial increase granted the Library by the City, it does appear that serious consideration might be given to the financial returns accorded the sub-professional who has entered the service since June, 1949.

A Victim

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LATE FLASHES

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Elizabeth M. Kaufman, Print Department, to Mr John J. Norman.

\*

Mr and Mrs Harry Fletcher announce the birth of a daughter, Catherine Elizabeth, on June 13. Mr Fletcher is a member of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

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Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

On the eve of the 75th anniversary conference of the A. L. A. in Chicago, dedicated to the theme, "The Heritage of the U. S. A. in Times of Crisis", the National Education Association has terminated its 89th annual convention in San Francisco. A feature of the convention was a report of the Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom on "The Freedom of the Public School Teacher", which charges that teachers are afraid to teach almost any controversial subject because of the increasing influence of various pressure groups. Because of censorship, voluntary and enforced, the report goes on to regret that the heart has been taken out of current events teaching.

As a result of this report a resolution was adopted outlining machinery to counteract the insidious influence of these pressure groups.

The fact that the conventions of two such national organizations have been concerned with the subject of intellectual freedom, together with the continuing study of censorship trends, especially trends towards political censorship of books, which has been carried on in recent months by the Anti-Censorship Committee of the American Book Publishers Council, are indicative of the ever increasing threats to our traditional American liberties. In the light of this, the deliberations of the A. L. A. in Chicago take on an added significance, and the copies of the Library Bill of Rights adopted by A. L. A. in June, 1948, at Atlantic City, sent recently to certain units of the Library, should remind us in the performance of our daily work of our responsibilities to all of the people of the community, regardless of race or nationality, or religious or political views. It might also cause us to reflect whether any one of us

merited a share of the recent rebuke of a distinguished local university professor who alleged that all too often librarians set themselves up as moral censors of their communities.

### LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The Council of the American Library Association reaffirms its belief in the following basic policies which should govern the services of all libraries:

#### I

As a responsibility of library service, books and other reading matter selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should any book be excluded because of the race or nationality or the political or religious views of the writer.

#### II

There should be the fullest practicable provision of material presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local; and books or other reading matter of sound factual authority should not be proscribed or removed from library shelves because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

#### III

Censorship of books, urged or practiced by volunteer arbiters of moral or political opinion or by organizations that would establish a coercive concept of Americanism, must be challenged by libraries in maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment through the printed word.

#### IV

Libraries should enlist the cooperation of allied groups in the fields of science, of education, and of book publishing in resisting all abridgment of the free access to ideas and full freedom of expression

that are the tradition and heritage of Americans.

V

As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Margaret F. Connell, Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

Miss Francina E. Copeland, North End Branch Library.

Miss Mary T. Crosby, Jeffries Point Branch Library.

Miss Bessie T. Griggs, Young People's Room.

Mr John W. Hall, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Miss Amy Hoey, Uphams Corner Branch Library (formerly part-time assistant on the Bookmobile).

Miss Elizabeth C. Lee, Phillips Brooks Branch Library (formerly part-time assistant at the West End Branch Library).

Mr Roger S. Linder, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

Miss Rose Moorachian, Washington Village Branch Library (formerly part-time assistant at the Codman Square Branch Library).

Mr Julian Moynahan, Rare Book Department.

Miss Gertrude Pazol, East Boston Branch Library.

Mrs Barbara O. Rogers, Fine Arts Department.

Miss Gilda Teece, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services (formerly part-time assistant at the North End Branch Library).

Transfers

Miss Mary J. Bradley, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, to Parker Hill Branch Library.

Mrs Barbara C. Elam, from North End Branch Library to Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss Isabel M. Martino, from Parker Hill Branch Library to Open Shelf Department.

Mr Louis Rains, from General Reference Department to Science and Technology Department.

Miss Mary Roberts, from Uphams Corner Branch Library to Open Shelf Department.

Engagements

Miss Barbara Dydek, Print Department, to Mr Norman B. Tomlinson, Morristown, New Jersey.

Marriages

Miss Margaret M. Gallagher, Dorchester Branch Library, to Mr Robert A. Sager, on June 17.

Miss Helen F. Maguire, Book Stack Service, to Mr William J. Carley, on June 9.

Miss Margaret A. Calnan, Connolly Branch Library, to Mr Harold R. Donaghue, on July 7.

Births

A son, Daniel, to Mr and Mrs Alain de Leiris on July 4, in Newport, Rhode Island. Mr deLeiris is a part time assistant in the Print Department.

A son, Donald, Jr, to Mr and Mrs Donald A. Gillis, on July 1. Mrs Gillis is a member of the staff of the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

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WEDDINGS, SHOWERS AND PARTIES

Miss Lois Kovner of Brockton was married to Mr Sidney Weinberg, Science and Technology Department, at Dreamwold Hall, Scituate, Sunday evening, June 24. The wedding which was summer formal, was followed by a reception and supper, after which the bride and groom left on an extended motor trip to California.

\*

On Monday, July 2, Miss Anne L. Moore, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, was married to Mr Paul J. Dolan, of Dorchester, in an eight o'clock nuptial Mass, in Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, Brookline. The bride, who wore a white going away suit and carried a bouquet of white stephanotis, was attended by her sister, and the groom's brother was his best man. After a small reception at the bride's home for members of the immediate families the couple left on a motor trip north.

\*

A large group of friends and relatives gathered together on the evening of June 17, at the home of Mrs Helen M. O'Leary, to wish Miss Margaret A. Calnan, Connolly Branch Library, good luck and happiness on her approaching marriage to Mr Harold R. Donaghue. The gifts bestowed on her ranged all the way from a silver bowl and trays to kitchen ware. Mrs O'Leary, the gracious hostess, served a delightful collation and worthy of special mention was a large decorative and delicious cake ordered especially for the occasion.

A. H.

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On Friday evening, June 18, the staff of the Open Shelf Department and Mrs Mariel C. Javelin, former Chief of the Department gathered at the Town House for dinner to honor Miss Anne L. Moore, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, also a former member of the Department, who was soon to be married. Miss Moore was presented with a corsage of spring flowers and a teapot of Irish Belleek china.

\*

ALUMNAE NOTES

Word has been received of the birth of a daughter, Betsy, to Dr and Mrs Joseph Sands, on June 16. Mrs Sands was formerly a member of the Fine Arts Department.

\*

On Saturday, June 23, Miss Therese Tuley, former part-time assistant in the Teachers Department, was married to Mr Paul J. Dorr, at St William's Church in Dorchester. Following the nuptial Mass a reception was held at the Hotel Beaconsfield.

The bride was beautifully gowned in white lace and satin. The maid of honor, Miss Patricia Tuley, Book Preparation Department, wore toast lace, while the bridesmaids wore green lace. The attendants all carried Chaparral lillies. The gentlemen of the wedding party included the father of the bride, Mr John W. Tuley, our Air Raid Warden.

\*

Mrs Lawrence Markus, (Lois Shoemaker) formerly of the History Reference Department has recently returned from Europe

where she has been studying with her husband who was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Miss Mary E. Doherty, Buildings Dept.  
Mr Edward F. Lunry, Buildings Dept.  
Mrs Katherine C. McGrath, Buildings Dept.,  
who is recuperating from a broken hip in Cushing Pavilion, St Elizabeth's Hospital, Brighton.  
Miss Pearl Smart, Personnel Office

\*

WE WELCOME BACK

Mr J. Joseph Danker, Buildings Dept.  
Mrs Mary A. Ryan, Buildings Dept.

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RECENT VISITORS

Miss Marion E. Hawes, Coordinator of Adult Work, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

\*

A group of five foreign information specialists visited the Information Office on June 19 at the recommendation of the United Council on World Affairs. The visitors were newspapermen who were on a 90-day tour of the United States. They were Dr Justus Brunner and Dr Herbert Muehlbauer, Austria; Mr Wilfried Faliger, Germany; Mr Sarkiss Carpetian, Iran and Mr P. K. Sivaprakassam, India.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The final report of the Workshop groups has been completed and has been sent to those who paid the nominal fee which was charged to cover the expense of mimeographing. Since it is readily available and many individuals did purchase it the Executive Board felt that there was no necessity for sending a copy to each unit. There will be copies in the Staff Library for anyone interested.

\*

The five delegates who are attending the SORT meetings in Chicago as representatives of the BPLPSA are Miss Mary J. Brady and

Miss Esther E. Jalonon, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, Miss A. Phyllis Freeman, Mt Pleasant Branch Library, Miss Catherine MacDonald, Personnel Office and Miss Helen H. Savakian, Information Office.

\*

The recent Institute held at Simmons College offered much in the way of inspiration and stimulation. It is reported on in some detail elsewhere in this issue but two things were outstandingly apparent — one, that libraries as educational institutions must increase adult education projects (discussion groups, film forums, etc.) to implement facing of important issues which include factors not now in our understanding; two, leadership for such activities must be trained on a continuing basis, since few librarians have had either the training or experience required. Leadership from the community can and should be enlisted but it is not sufficient. All of which embraces the basic problem of human relations, and to quote Dr Lindeman "the real measurement of an adult education is whether or not it improves human relations."

P. A. W.

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SHARES IN CREDIT UNION AGAIN AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

To City Employees:

It was voted at a meeting of the Directors of the City of Boston Employees Credit Union held June 13, that, beginning June 14 and continuing each month thereafter until further notice, all permanent employees of the city of Boston or of the County of Suffolk, who under the by-laws of the organization are eligible for membership in the Credit Union, and holding less than 100 shares, be permitted to purchase not more than 2 shares in each month.

JOHN J. CONNELLY  
Clerk

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TEA FOR MISS LAMBERTSEN

On July 10, Miss Berit Lambertsen, who has been observing procedures in the B.P.L. while on leave from the Bergen Public Library, Norway, sailed from New York for her home in Bergen. A year ago we did not know that there was such a person as Berit Lambertsen, but in the ten months that she has worked with us we have learned to know and love her.

When a tea was suggested for Miss Lambertsen, it met with immediate approval by all. So on Tuesday, June 27th we decorated the Lounge and gathered to greet Berit. Punch and cookies were served by the Entertainment Committee and Miss Pauline Walker, President of the Staff Association, presented our guest with a watch and a weekend case. To say that Miss Lambertsen was surprised and pleased was putting it mildly. "I am so glad you had this party" she said, "because I was wondering how I could say goodbye to everyone."

And so to Berit Lambertsen, we say goodbye, bon voyage, and success and happiness in your career, and we hope, most sincerely, for a return visit soon.

A. M.

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THANKS FROM MISS LAMBERTSEN

(Letter addressed to The B.P.L.P.S.A.)

June 30, 1951

Dear all of you!

I want to thank you for the wonderful party you gave me on Tuesday. It made me so happy to be together with you again, and I was glad to have this opportunity to say good-bye to everybody before I sail.

The gifts were such a wonderful surprise. To me they materialize the consideration and generosity I have found here. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) Berit Lambertsen

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Middle West hospitality will take its place with the Southern variety in the minds of those who attended the Special Libraries Association's 42nd annual convention in St Paul, June 18-21. Having come "all the way from Boston" seemed like a magic key calculated to open almost any door through which the visiting librarian wished to pass.

Our time was divided among meetings, sightseeing and sociability. Since this was to be a short convention, the general sessions were devoted to association business. The President's annual message was delivered at the first General Session on Monday, June 18, at which Governor Youngdahl also greeted us for the state of Minnesota. Division meetings started that afternoon. Since the Business Division was my primary interest, I attended both of its sessions. At the first Public Relations was discussed from the point of view of the public librarian, in which we were reminded by Miss Sarah Wallace of the Minneapolis Public Library that "patrons are people"; also from the point of view of the government librarian, by Miss Cornelia Notz of the U. S. Tariff Commission, who must convince people that tariff rates is not the only subject on which her library can furnish information.

At the second session of the Business Division, Mr Ernest Booth, business analyst of the Minneapolis Regional Office, led a helpful discussion on handling the publications which have resulted from the Emergency Mobilization Program. In addition to suggesting ways of filing, he mentioned various government publications, so that we were able to note any which we had missed. Those of us who had kept our material on World War II controls were pleased to hear that we had acted wisely. (We already knew from experience that it had been a good idea.) A business meeting for the Division followed, in which projects for the coming year were evaluated.

A session of the Advertising Division was interesting to me, since Miss Dorothy Ware, Business Branch Librarian of Minneapolis, as one of the guest speakers talked on the services available at the Business Branch, using an opaque projector to illustrate printed forms. A lively attraction of this meeting was the drawing for door prizes, which had been donated by several companies. (None was won by a Bostonian!)

Because there was no formal "Minneapolis Day", we had to see the other Twin City as we had opportunity. Staying at a motel near Minnehaha Falls enabled us to see the park, the Longfellow Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, and the fine residential sections of both cities on our way to meetings. We visited the University of Minnesota campus, including the library, where we saw the present building, also a new classroom building under construction, in the basement of which the Archives and microfilm collection will have space. I went once again to Minneapolis on another day to see the Business Branch, and also the Minneapolis Public Library. The Business Branch is located in a rented building, in the business district. It is an active department, with a collection comparable to ours, on a smaller scale. Arrangement and use show how effective resourcefulness can be in coping with inconvenient quarters. The main library has "growing pains" even as we, and talks hopefully of a new building. There I saw their science-industry department which is conveniently located on the first floor, also their reference department.

The combined book exhibit at convention headquarters seemed well-selected, and between meetings there was opportunity to examine books and annotate the list which was distributed - really long distance book selection.

We knew we would not see any Indians in St Paul, but the Reception Committee had to give us an illusion, at least. On Monday evening, a delightful get-acquainted party was held at the James J. Hill Reference Library - a beautiful building. Part of the entertainment was an exhibition by Schmidt's Indian Drum and Bugle Corps - all members dressed in authentic Indian costume. It is safe to say that never before had such sounds echoed from the balconies of the Hill Library. Here, too, there were prizes. All present were happy to see Mr H. W. Wilson draw the one intended for the person present who had attended the most conventions. For the rest of the evening, he proudly sported an orchid in his lapel.

The Minnesota Historical Society was host at a tea on Wednesday afternoon. Besides enjoying delicious refreshments, we were able to see two interesting exhibitions - one of Currier and Ives prints, and one of the work of John Rood, a Minnesota sculptor. The final social event of the Convention

was the Smorgasbord held on Wednesday evening. The crowd overflowed the main ballroom, but food was ample and most attractively served.

Toastmaster Kenneth Fagerhaugh, speaking with authentic Scandinavian accent, added a light touch to the program. His roll-call by states gave us all a chance to stand up and be counted. A beautiful silver tray was presented to Miss Alma C. Mitchill in recognition of her service as editor of Special Libraries, and the primary gavel award went to the Texas Chapter. The highlight of the evening - a musical skit by the Minneapolis Public Library staff - humorously reminded us of the right and wrong in public relations.

This was St Paul's first S.L.A. convention, and I am sure that those who attended hope that it will not be the last.

MRS DOROTHY M. LOVETT

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NOTES ON THE B.P.L. QUARTERLY

In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the Albert H. Wiggin Collection of Prints, Drawings and Books as part of the Library, Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, has summarized its history and some of its more notable acquisitions in the current issue of The Boston Public Library Quarterly for July 1951. Negotiations relating to Mr Wiggin's gift of the Collection were spread over a period of years from 1935 when the Trustees were first aware of the possibility of its coming to the Library, until 1941 when it was made available to the public. Mr Wiggin, whose career began in Boston, and whose interest in prints came about, we are told only accidentally, was able to develop through years of discriminating selection a collection that is internationally known. Represented in it are the works of artists in England, France, Italy and America, of our own day, of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and a few of the old masters, including Dürer and Rembrandt. It was the purpose of the founder, not only to gather and preserve these rarities but to make them available to students, connoisseurs and experts everywhere. The lectures and demonstrations conducted in the Print Department, the travelling exhibitions, the advice given collectors, are all part of an educational program that is acknowledged as essential in main-

taining a living collection.

The fun that comes with playing a joke on some one, of fooling, of "taking in" the unsuspecting, is apparently perennial and literary folk are no exception. Mr Frank Weitenkempf, author, and former Curator of Prints at the New York Public Library, has assembled a sizable list of these undertakings in the writers' world which have occurred from the eighteenth century to the present, in his article, "The Literary Hoax." That it takes skill for these performances is admitted. There must be literary ability, wit, and imagination, along with a number of other outstanding qualifications, and this may in part account for the distinguished names attached to some of the better known hoaxes, among them Benjamin Franklin, Edgar Allen Poe, Richard Aldington, John Cotton Dana, and Archibald MacLeish. Apparently, all this invention was done in a spirit of innocent pleasantry. The victims were always plentiful and ready to be tricked, and there were no evil consequences.

The article, "The Bimillennium of Paris," by Mr Zoltán Haraszti, Editor of Publications, in celebration of the 2000th year since the founding of the City of Paris, should be required reading for every member of the Staff. Read about the atlases, the mediaeval manuscripts, the incunabula, the examples of fine binding and modern book illustration, all part of the Library's own collections and now being shown in the Treasure Room, -- and don't miss seeing them.

A group of letters entitled, "Isa Blagden to Kate Field," from the Library's Kate Field Collection, the gift of Lillian Whiting, is presented with a brief introduction and notes by Mr Edward C. McAleer. The letters tell of people and events in the eighteen-sixties when many Americans, among them Harriet Hosmer, Charlotte Cushman, Frank Booth and his sister, and the Sanfords of Boston, aunt and uncle of Kate Field, found Italy, and Florence in particular, an attractive place for a sojourn abroad. Mr McAleer is the editor of the recently published letters of Robert Browning to Isabella Blagden, brought out by the University of Texas Press under the title, Dearest Isa

C. H.

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EXTRAS ON OUTING

Participants in the annual fourth of July outing left Copley Square Wednesday at 10:30 A. M. - destination Crane's Beach, Ipswich. Throughout the trip, the two busses, carrying 68 part-time assistants and their friends rang with the songs and laughter of the happy group. When the busses entered the road leading to the beach, many of the group were dismayed at the line of traffic returning from the beach, but luckily some parking space had been reserved for busses and we entered without any trouble. After leaving the busses most of the group disappeared into the bathhouse and in a short time reappeared in beach attire. The day passed rapidly, speeded by swimming, softball and the eating of other people's lunches! Happily no rain fell, which is unusual on a library outing, and many of the party were the recipients of sunburns. At 8:45 P. M. the busses left Crane's Beach with a weary lot of beachers. At 10:30 the busses arrived in Copley Square where the group dispersed. To Bill Davis and Amby Flaherty of Book Stack Service go our thanks for a memorable outing.

ONE OF THE SIXTY EIGHT

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CAPERS AT AGLIO ACRES

On Saturday, July 7, an evening of entertainment and dancing was provided the part-time assistants of the Library at AGLIO ACRES in Hyde Park. Mr Thomas Aglio, Periodical and Newspaper Department, played host to approximately sixty of his fellow workers. The weather was ideal for the outdoor occasion and the large terrace and spacious garage were decorated with multicolored lights, streamers, and balloons, Japanese lanterns, and fans.

Mr Paul Delahanty of the Open Shelf Department, a magician, entertained the group with tricks. He also attempted and successfully completed the difficult task of mind reading to the amazement of his audience. Mr John Burgholzer, of the Book Stack Service, showed movies of the recent library outing which took place in Ipswich.

After the entertainment, tables were set up on the terrace and refreshments were served buffet style. The group concluded the evening with dancing until midnight.

The Party was a huge success and another is planned for the near future.

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SUMMER INSTITUTE

Those of us who were privileged to attend the Summer Institute on The Library's Function in Community Leadership, held at Simmons College, School of Library Science, June 18-22, 1951, came away with the thought that it was an experience that we would not have missed. Of the fifty registrants, seven were from the Boston Public Library: Mrs Eleanor N. Chaplin, Assistant In Charge Charge, Washington Village Branch Library; Miss Catherine E. Flannery, Branch Librarian, Orient Heights Branch Library; Mrs Helen F. Hirson, Assistant in the Office of Home Reading and Community Services; Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults; Miss Marion C. Kingman, Branch Librarian, South End Branch Library; Mrs Bette Preer, Children's Librarian, Mt Pleasant Branch Library; and Miss Pauline A. Walker, Branch Librarian, West Roxbury Branch Library. Other registrants were from New York, Baltimore, New Hampshire, Michigan, Maine various parts of Massachusetts, Germany and England.

Although we cannot adequately put into words our enthusiasm for the Institute, we have attempted in this combined report to convey at least something of the spirit of the Institute and to give some impressions of what we gained from it.

Much of the success of the week was due to the careful planning of Miss Sigrid Edge, Professor of Library Science at Simmons. The choice of the three leaders was a happy one -- Dr E. C. Lindeman, formerly Professor of Social Philosophy at the New York School of Social Work, and leader in the field of community relations; Miss Margaret Monroe, In Charge of Group Discussion Leadership in the New York Public Library, Office of Adult Services; and Mr Saul Bernstein, Professor of Group Work, Boston University School of Social Work.

Throughout the program emphasis was placed on the librarian's responsibility for aiding people to think about and discuss problems of significance in today's living. There was constant opportunity for the participation of each librarian. Not only were the principles of group leadership considered, but these principles were demonstrated in a variety of ways. The entire Institute was a unique combination of inspiration and

practicality.

We arranged ourselves comfortably in a semi-circle of easy chairs about the lounge with ashtrays at hand for those who wished to smoke, as Dr Lindeman conducted the opening session of the Institute. It was his task to outline general world conditions affecting the life, thought, and culture of the world of today. The picture he presented was on the whole rather gloomy — over half the population is undernourished and only one-third of the people use the written word. There is no longer a sharp distinction between war and peace; there is a grave lack of high grade leadership, and a serious tendency toward fanaticism. Lack of moral responsibility is to blame for the human misery. Hope lies in the ability to recognize that responsibility, and the moral determination to carry it through. Communists do not have the solution. Their attempt to achieve a good end through bad means, that is through deceit, becomes unethical and can never make a better world. The Librarian's role as a community leader is to stimulate a finer sense of values that will enable this generation to crystalize its thinking on a higher ethical plane and to strengthen its will. By means of education, human beings can find a way out.

Dr Lindeman illustrated his points by referring to some of his experiences in various parts of the world, returning repeatedly to observations about Denmark. (Finally he noticed the recurrence himself and paused to apologize, saying that he was probably a little partial to Denmark because he is of Danish ancestry. Then he told a story of a lecture he had once delivered in which he spoke too frequently in praise of Denmark until at last one of his audience spoke up and said, "Isn't there anything rotten in your Denmark?")

India is another country from which Dr Lindeman has recently returned after a considerable time spent as lecturer at one of its universities. His observations of trends there were most revealing.

In subsequent meetings Dr Lindeman outlined various methods used in leading discussions, and suggested basic issues that should be considered in planning library programs — How to conduct a struggle against Communism; Development of the Welfare State; Civil Rights; Housing; Crime; Leisure; and Trade Unionism. At the final session he summarized the accomplishment in terms of new knowledge and the possibility of its practical application

to our various problems. He re-emphasized the fact that Librarians are no longer free from the problems of leadership. This leadership will have flexibility in its methods. It will be leadership of quality rather than quantity, and will frequently be experimental and diversified in its content.

Turning from the philosophic, long-range considerations of the library's high role in Adult Education, Mr Saul B. Bernstein presented the concrete, relevant principles and practices of group discussion. His lectures on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons pertained to Dynamics of Work with Groups and Discussion Leadership and Participation. If Dr Lindeman's sessions were on a Miltonic plane by which one might loftily aspire to live and work, Professor Bernstein's were on a plane by which one might better meet specific, immediate problems, directly and practically. It was this fine balance, this supplementation of one another's procedures that made the Institute of such high quality and so inspiring, pertinently related to the needs and interests of the participants.

Professor Bernstein first considered the diversity of group life in the United States connected with or arising from occupational, civic, recreational, and religious interests and activities.

"Keep a fluid, exploring mood, be enthusiastic, have skill in locating what's on their minds" were some of Professor Bernstein's general dicta for successful work with groups. Other important matters discussed in down-to-earth fashion, were how to establish a group, ice-breakers, physical arrangement, purposes of group discussion. Methods and maneuvers of discussion, relevance of subject, and criteria used in determining the success of the group were other provocative topics. For those of us who have wondered just how to gauge the effectiveness of a group, here are a few leads: continuing interest, enlarged membership, improved quality of discussion, individual satisfactions, and growth, and perhaps, most important of all, the acquisition of new learning of some kind and the more subtle "concomitant learning" that goes with it. Professor Bernstein seemed to think that seven to twenty was an acceptable group, though he has known of great success with more or less numbers. Several rating scales were shown, together with discussion of the pros and cons of the different approaches, such as symposium, panel, lecture, socio-drama, buzz-session,

and small group-discussion. One of the librarians presented a specific individual problem: How to get a Friends of the Library Group together, and constructive suggestions were offered by Professor Bernstein and the audience at large.

It should be emphasized that Professor Bernstein's own approach to the members of the Institute was a creative, dynamic one, in which he expected the fullest audience participation, and together we actually evolved, under his guidance, many of the values, objectives, and modes of group discussion.

The Institute was not only stimulating as a demonstration of discussion groups, but it was also novel and exhilarating in the application of the principle "learning by doing."

On the first afternoon the members broke up into small groups for a buzz session to determine the problems which were of greatest concern to them in their work with groups. Each group briefly reported its findings. The following morning Miss Monroe reported that upon analysis the questions of all groups seemed to fall into three areas:

1. The philosophic approach to Library problems.
2. The relation of the Library to other educational groups in the community.
3. Assuming that the Library has a unique role in education, how do we reach people? Have we sufficient materials and staff? How are the staff to be trained? What methods should we use in putting our programs across?

Thus we saw the results of our first afternoon buzz session applied as a pattern for the Institute.

The registrants were divided into four small groups of about twelve each, for two half-morning sessions. The groups kept the same membership for the two sessions.

At the first of these sessions, the groups considered how the public library could promote The Basic Issues Facing the United States, as expounded by Dr Lindeman. On the final morning of the Institute the groups answered two challenges, What Have I Learned at the Institute? and What Can I Take Back to My Library Program?

At the completion of these group discussions, oral reports were presented to the whole body. For all the group discussions there was a "recorder" who submitted a written report for the official record.

As the subject matter of the group discussions will be available in the final report of the Institute, we shall not attempt to summarize them here.

With the increasing importance of the use of films in adult education group work, it was a "must" that one session be given over to this medium. Miss Monroe briefly introduced Due Process of Law Denied, a film adapted from The Ox-Bow Incident (20th Century Fox). Following the showing of the film we became a film forum Library Audience and Miss Monroe ably led us in a discussion of the complex emotional situations and the psychological, political and economic problems suggested by the film.

We then broke up into our four groups and for twenty minutes each group considered the film problems they would like to have discussed during the next hour.

Back again in the large group our questions concerning the value of film forums, regional film service, sponsored films, and film budgets were answered by Miss Monroe and those members of the group who had had experience with films.

One afternoon we observed a socio-drama in action. A group member suggested the problem of a group of parents who wished to meet with the Librarian to discuss the problems of their adolescent children. From the group volunteers became the dominating parent, the career parent, the selfish-loving parent, the "don't" parent, the parent who continually quotes from books, and the normal parent. With Mr Bernstein as a "not too successful leader" the group held its first meeting at the Library. Following this meeting members of the audience discussed the techniques used by the leader.

A second socio-drama was then presented by the same participants, with Mr Bernstein as a "successful" leader. The effect of his improved approach to the parents was observed and discussed by the audience.

Another form of role-playing was suggested for an entire group. The group was divided into three types of citizens to discuss whether or not Communistic literature should be freely displayed in the Library. One type was to be extremely liberal believing everything should be included; one was the other extreme believing nothing was to be included; the third was a moderately liberal group. Following a buzz session each citizen group presented its point of view. Each individual should then be able to make up his own mind concerning the correct solution to the problem. It

was suggested that this was a good way to discuss a controversial problem. Since people have been assigned to play a role they feel freer to express a view point which may be misinterpreted.

At the close of one afternoon session, Dr Lindeman illustrated his personal faith in people, books, and the exchange of opinions by giving us a demonstration of his own kind of reading aloud.

He prefaced the demonstration by explaining that he used it in place of routine term papers, as a means of encouraging original thinking by his students, and of relieving himself of the tedium of correcting and reading his own ideas in someone else's form.

Such a method should be used preferably in an informal atmosphere, in a private home, possibly following a dinner, where the conversation naturally flows into channels of good thinking. Ideally there should not be a very large group, five or six being preferable.

In our demonstration group there were two individuals who had lived in Europe. The wider the variety of backgrounds, the more liberal and varied is the point of view expressed.

Dr Lindeman's choice of book was DeTocqueville, *Democracy in America*. He started the group by reading aloud a paragraph or two pausing occasionally for comment on the universality of the author and the timeliness of his thinking. Each member of the group reading in turn, was free to question, comment, or interrupt the reading with reflections on the text.

Maybe this does not sound very impressive -- just a simple reading and thinking about some provocative writing, and yet we felt that it did lead to more individual enjoyment, more group thinking and more interchange of ideas than might appear in the initial evaluation. We believe that it is a method that can be promoted in a branch library with success. It does require several copies of the same book, but that is a minor consideration in view of its practicality and informality.

Dr Lindeman summarized the values by reading aloud that there is a high correlation between good silent reading and the vocal form. The continued practice of reading aloud leads to more careful and thoughtful silent reading.

On another day Miss Monroe concluded the afternoon with a demonstration of a "Great Books Discussion" as one method of Adult Education group work. She asked for volun-

teers from the group and six members seated themselves around her in a circle of easy chairs. It could not be a complete demonstration, as we were limited for time. Also, the real discussion group has its own contributing membership which meets regularly for mutual exchange of thinking, usually without any visitors.

The text was the Human Rights Charter of the United Nations, and the leader's job was to guide the thinking of the members into profitable and liberal interpretations of the text. Miss Monroe did this by a series of skillful questions directed sometimes to the group, and again to the less vocal individuals. The questions were aimed to present a consensus of opinion and to enrich the horizons of group members. The discussion led to the acceptance of differences on some of the issues. While there were no real clashes of opinions there was an adequate demonstration of how a group thinks cooperatively about a given book. It certainly was an outstanding demonstration of an approved method of group thinking and learning which depends on skillful leadership. This method relies upon the informality of a give and take answer to questions, and yet the leader must tactfully lead the group through the impasse of narrow and hasty opinions to wider and more liberal thinking. Discussion is an art and not a formula. As one of the most creative and versatile forms of adult education, it requires the best in both the individual members and the leader.

The three group discussions in which everyone was a member of a small group were more than demonstrations; they were subjective experiences. From these three brief discussions, we, ourselves, experienced some of the benefits of discussion groups. We, ourselves, witnessed the changing attitudes of librarians with seemingly incompatible communities, conservative and liberal-minded, slowly come to agreement on basic principles acceptable to all. Only here, in the small group discussions did the more reticent registrants find the medium in which they could express themselves. Here, also, we discussed problems that personally concerned us; for example, several groups thought of applying these new techniques not only with the public, but at staff meetings and at trustee meetings.

Another advantage of having the group discussions during the Institute was the opportunity of applying almost simultaneously the principles and criteria as listed

by Professor Bernstein. The leaders of the groups could practice his suggestions and the group members could evaluate their leaders and themselves as group members. The members were able to realize for themselves how helpful were the occasional summaries of the leaders and the members could appreciate the role of a constructive group member who was able to understand another member's point of view.

The Institute, enlivened and pointed up by the various stimulating demonstrations, has truly provided a sound foundation, a frame of reference for those who were fortunate enough to come, see, listen — and learn! The meetings left one convinced of the value and importance of group discussions, of the library's function in community leadership, and with the firm resolve to experiment with, and to put into practice the exciting, novel techniques and procedures. In closing the Institute, Miss Edge said, "We have just had a spiritual and intellectual banquet!" It was indeed a remarkable and thrilling experience.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Professional Literature

Boston. Public Library. Cataloging and Classification Department. Reference and Research Services.

Manual of cataloging and classification policies, prepared by Mary D. Farrell. Boston. Boston Public Library. 1951

Brown, James Duff

Manual of library economy. 5th ed. by W. C. Berwick Sayers. London, Grafton & Co., 1937

Drury, Gertrude Gilbert, ed.

The library and its organization; reprints of articles and addresses. N.Y., H. W. Wilson Co., 1924

Janzow, Laura M., ed.

The library without the walls; reprints of papers and addresses. N.Y., H. W. Wilson, 1927

Johnson, Margaret F., and Dorothy E. Cook

Manual of cataloging and classification for small school and public libraries. N.Y., H. W. Wilson, 1950

Kotinsky, Ruth  
Adult education councils.  
N.Y., American Association for Adult Education, 1940

Fiction

Angoff, Charles  
Journey to the dawn.  
N.Y., Beechhurst, 1951

Barrett, William E.  
The left hand of God.  
N.Y., Doubleday, 1951

Coxe, George H.  
The widow with a gun.  
N.Y., Knopf, 1951

Flannigan, Katherine M.  
The faith of Mrs Kelleen.  
N.Y., Coward-McCann, 1951

Koestler, Arthur  
The age of longing.  
N.Y., Macmillan, 1951

Swinerton, Frank  
A flower for Catherine.  
N.Y., Doubleday, 1951

Ullman, James Ramsey  
River of the sun.  
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1951

Wouk, Herman  
The Caine mutiny.  
N.Y., Doubleday, 1951

Non-Fiction

Argus, M. K.  
Moscow-on-the-Hudson.  
N.Y., Harper, 1951

Bartlett, Arthur  
Baseball and Mr Spaulding.  
N.Y., Farrar, Straus & Young, 1951

Harriman, Margaret C.  
The vicious circle.  
N.Y., Rinehart, 1951

Hughes, Langston  
Montage of a dream deferred.  
N.Y., Holt, 1951

Jones, Stacy V.  
How to get it from the government.  
N.Y., Dutton, 1951

Kennedy, Nancy, comp.  
The Ford treasury of favorite recipes  
from famous eating places.  
N.Y., Simon & Schuster, 1950

Lamb, Harold  
Suleiman, the magnificent.  
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1951

Loeb, Robert H., Jr.  
A wolf in chef's clothing.  
Chicago, Wilcox & Follett, 1950

Mizener, Arthur  
The far side of paradise.  
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1951

Rukavina, Kathaleen S.  
Jungle pathfinder.  
N.Y., Exposition Press, 1950

Thomas, Lowell, Jr.  
Out of this world.  
N.Y., Greystone Press, 1950

Waters, Ethel, with Charles Samuels  
His eye is on the sparrow.  
N.Y., Doubleday, 1951

Wilson, Donald Powell  
My six convicts.  
N.Y., Rinehart, 1951

Woodham-Smith, Cecil  
Florence Nightingale.  
N.Y., McGraw-Hill, 1951

X, Father  
Everybody calls me father.  
N.Y., Sheed and Ward, 1951

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RECENT MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

The July 7, 1951 issue of the Saturday Review of Literature is captioned "Our Librarians' Diamond Jubilee". Two of its articles that afford stimulating reading are:

Evans, Luther H. The public library: rampart for freedom, p. 6-8, 33.

This is an interesting statement from the Librarian of Congress. He touches on the concepts of freedom of speech and freedom of the press, freedom to hear, and freedom to discuss, in their relationships to the free public library. He points out the tempo of change today, as it effects

the need of constant access to the printed page if intellectual horizons are to be kept from shrinking in relation to contributions to information and ideas made available today via the printed page. Turning from this area of pure thought, Mr Evans presents a thumbnail sketch of the status of the public library today stating, "For an institution of such superlative social importance the public library has faltered alarmingly in support and in accomplishment." He enumerates four sources of the shortcomings of the system; first, its decentralized local support and management; second, the need for more and better librarians; third, the need of extending library services to include all media capable of inexpensive accumulation into reservoirs; and fourth, the failure of the library to fit itself into the life of readers by convenient methods, locations and services. Better financial support is a basic consideration involved in overcoming these handicaps and in achieving that important level of service needed to keep libraries free and able in the role they should assume in a free society.

Detzer, Karl. They pushed out the walls, p. 8-10.

This is an account of how the Louisville Free Public Library of Kentucky has blossomed. Two men - Mayor Charles F. Farnsley and Librarian Clarence R. Graham - poured energy and ideas into the formula, "Tear down the walls. Take the library out to the people." Money has been fortunately available to make possible these excursions into the field of radio, television, picture collections, and recordings. Courage was theirs to take down the "White Only" signs. Much of this program is familiar, reported piecemeal in professional journals. But this slick journalistic account make interesting review reading. It is in keeping with the quotation that terminates the article. "The librarian must not only be a scholar and educator, he must be a shrewd advertiser of his library's goods. He must buy his materials, display them, and promote them with all the skill of a huckster."

Osborn, Andrew D. Dewey - 1951 in Library Journal, Vol. 76, No. 13; July, 1951. p. 1118-1121.

Those who have handled the new edition of the Dewey Classification tables will have their own vivid impressions of the changes that meet the eye straightway. The tradi-

tional brown binding, the multiface-type, the simplified spelling, and the intriguing classification provisions for the most hypothetical book, in some cases, have been superceded by a green-bound handy-sized volume, printed in conventional English, in clear attractive type faces of few fonts. This article by Mr Andrew D. Osborn, which is more than a review, looks at the book from the point of view of the classification modifications, and discusses specific changes that will make it easier in anticipating changes in practices based upon the previous editions. Use will bring out a great deal more than any one study will, of course, but Mr Osborne has done some interesting counting and comparing that those not working with the schedule will find impressive and those working with the schedule will be saved from duplicating.

Rider, A. F. Story of decimal classification, Library Journal, Vol. 76, No. 6, March 15, 1951, p. 473-6.

This article, would seem well worthwhile reading to refresh one's mind with the names, editions and other developments associated with the venerable if recently rejuvenated Dewey. Mr Ryder's use of Melvil Dewey's notes as well as his personal acquaintance with Mr Dewey makes the article authoritative as well as interesting.

Altick, Richard. The scholar adventurers. N.Y., Macmillan, 1950.

Essentially a series of literary essays on research problems. This can be read by the librarian as an apologia and almost as a glorification of the art and calling of the cataloger, the reference worker, the librarian, who stands and serves. The "Case of the Curious Bibliographer" brings out how the thorough, vigilant, cataloger, bibliographer, librarian might have forestalled a major literary and financial hoax. "The Quest of the Knight Prisoner" shows how carless cataloging impeded research on Sir Thomas Malory for years -- and kept one edition of his "Mort d'Arthur" from coming to light until 1934, because the text was not examined prior to cataloging. The book has a wealth of literary detail as well as some jocose handling of the literary trade. I don't think there's been a book like it since Altrocchi's "Sleuthing in the Stacks."

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Periodical Department

Periodically Speaking

Arrangements with the motion picture industry for the production of a series of official Federal Civil Defense Administration films are now completed. Designed for wide 16mm distribution ... and based on information contained in public education booklets prepared by the Federal Civil Defense Administration, these films will be designated official U. S. Civil Defense films. No other films, it was stated, will carry this approval, or any other Federal Civil Defense Administration endorsement.

Titles include: "Survival Under Atomic Attack."; "Preparing Your Home Against Atomic Attack"; "Fire Fighting for Householders."

Full information which includes price lists and release dates can be found in the news from: Around the State, Illinois Libraries, pp. 283-4, June 1951.

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Note to the Bindery Department:

A "personal" article on the New York Public Library's printer, John Archer, who is retiring after 41 years of service, can be found, with photograph, in American Printer p. 32, June 1951.

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STAFF TALENT ON EXHIBITION

For the first time in the history of the Library members of the staff were represented in the exhibits on all three floors of the Library during the month of June. Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Curator of Prints, was represented by two of his etchings, in the Wiggin Gallery; Mr Kenneth Barnes, Periodical and Newspaper Department, had an exhibition of photographs of Mexico on display in the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery; and Mr George S. Scully, Exhibits Office, was represented by background drawings of French scenes in the display cases in the main lobby.

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

Dear Soap Box Editor:

"The tumult and the shouting are over" -- the party for Berit Lambertson is over and she has sailed back to Norway and library work in her native country. We have been glad to have her with us; we have told her so; we have given her gifts and sent her away with all best wishes for success.

I think there is more to it than that. I think she has provided us with an incentive to reexamine ourselves critically and to answer honestly the question: How do I rate as a representative of my library, of my city, of my state, and of my country? To my way of thinking, Berit Lambertsen rates 100%.

S. M. U.

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To the Soap Box:

Thanks to Mr Barnes for a valuable and interesting insight into "professional hobbies", in his recent exhibit. Are there any more sources to be tapped in the "Librarian's Reservoir of Talent??"

M. F. R.

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Dear Editor:

It may have escaped the notice of some, the rather important changes that have been made in the minimum qualifica-

tions for certain positions appearing in the current announcements of vacancies to be filled. However, all must have noticed the remarkable elasticity which said, "minimum qualifications" have shown over the past few years. If this is not mere vacillation, if there is a logic or consistency behind these changes, other than a venal one which respect for our profession compels me to dismiss from the mind, it is not immediately apparent.

Why, for example, was experience in the administration of a circulation unit of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services made a prerequisite for First Assistants, Assistants-in-Charge, and Branch Librarians in said division, yet the position of First Assistant in the General Reference Department calls for no administrative experience whatsoever, and such experience in reference work as is required may be gained almost anywhere in the system, or outside of it? The net effect of this is that, while any person in the branches who can show a modicum of experience in general reference work, and almost any person in the branches gets to answer a general reference question occasionally, can apply for the First Assistantship in the General Reference Department, provided they have otherwise qualified by examination, yet all persons in the Division of Reference and Research Services, without previous experience in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, are automatically debarred from positions in the latter Division.

Now the justice of this does not concern me too deeply. Who looks for justice in this life? But the logic of it does. Why is it that last year I was an eligible candidate in good standing for several positions in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, and this year I am on the outside with my nose pressed against the glass? There has been no noticeable change in my education, training, etc., since last year. I'm still the same lovable tyke I always was. How then has the situation been altered to call forth such a radical change? I am sure that there is a good explanation for the change and I have no doubt that by the time this letter reaches print, one will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,  
Eamon E. McDonough  
Reference Assistant in the  
General Reference Department

\*

Dear Editor:

There has been considerable discussion lately as to the wisdom, or lack of it, in instituting the so-called unlimited book privilege. In particular, criticism has been aimed at certain members of the public who have, according to some reliable sources, "abused" the privilege, by taking out an "excess" of books. It is not my place to defend the public, but, to use a hackneyed phrase, if Justice is to be served, then defend I must. Actually, criticism in this instance, in any form, shape, or manner, of any member of the public, either to his face or behind his back, is grossly unfair. The reason for this should be obvious: there is no such thing as an actual infraction of this rule.

When the rule was instituted, there was no qualification of it. It merely stated that a cardholder could take as many books as he wished. Some time ago I tried to list all the possible reasons for instituting the rule. I could think of six. I have no doubts that all six of the reasons were actually considered, including one, being the desire to increase circulation, but the most likely to have been the deciding factor was to give ordinary convenience to the public, such as when they see a book they want, but already have four books out. But for every one of the reasons, I could also list at least one flaw for which provision should have been made, if the rule was to be kept free from "abuse". Every one of the flaws is foreseeable. Yet no provision was made for any of them. This is the result either of shortsightedness, or intentional and previous agreement to any abuses which might arise. The latter seems unlikely, but the former seems incredible. More than one person knew that the rule was to go into effect. Surely someone might have foreseen the difficulties and "abuses" that would arise, and could have done something to prevent them.

In any case, the thing to do now is either to admit the mistake and correct it, or bear with it and keep quiet. But, in either event, criticism of any member of the public is unfair, regardless of how much he may seem to be abusing it. In the mind of Mr John Q. Public, the rule was instituted for his benefit and convenience, and there is no reason why he should not use it to the utmost. And he is so right.

This letter would hardly be worthwhile, unless I offered a suggestion for correcting the situation. It follows.

- 1) Limit the number of books allowed on a card to six (6). This is plenty for the average reading public. They got along for years on four.
- 2) Of these six, allow one seven, and two fourteen day books, so that not more than half their books could be new books.
- 3) Allow the borrower to take out more than six books, in special circumstances, but only at the discretion of the librarian in charge. This discretion is given now in the case of renewals and summer reading.

Are there any flaws in this? Certainly. The principle one being that the librarian in charge is going to have a few more indignant people on her hands, who think they should be allowed to take a certain book, and the librarian says "no". But I think that librarians should be chosen for their tact and ability to handle the public even more than for their knowledge of library science. An illiterate can eventually be taught to file cards. It is a lot harder to change a tactless person into a diplomat.

JUST AN EXTRA

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A job is never rushed, or speeded through. 'Til it reaches the Record Room, that seems to be the cue.

It hangs around to be approved and such And people don't seem to hurry much! But charging down the corridor they breathlessly announce, "Hurry, rush, out by twelve!" and off they bounce.

So valiantly we do our best And meet the deadline, quite a test. Every time we comply. I wonder why! (sigh)

E. M. S.

THE TEMPTATION OF ATHANASIUS SMEED

Athanasius Smeed the humble  
 Athanasius Smeed the quiet  
 Who always was known to sit alone  
 And never engage in a riot  
 Awoke one day from his dreaming  
 Awoke from his bookish devotion  
 To Duty, with fevered brain teeming  
 With thoughts of a Big Promotion.  
 Straightway to the Maggid of Copley  
 The wise man whom everyone knew,  
 And said Athanasias, "What will be effi-  
 cacious?  
 Tell me just what it is I must do."  
 And the Maggid said, "Examinations."

So Smeed as if urged by wild horses  
 Proceeded to take all the courses  
 And through all of them flew  
 One by one, two by two,  
 And studied and crammed  
 And was finally examed.  
 Then waited to receive his due,  
 Nothing happened.

Back Smeed went again to the wise man  
 Dolefully murmuring "Something's amiss.  
 I did as you bade  
 And to do it was glad.  
 Now what am I lacking in this?"  
 The Maggid said, "Degree."

Right quick our brave Athanasius  
 Enrolled with the greatest of speed,  
 Embarked on the career most dismal and  
 drear

Of Undergraduate Smeed.  
 Semester after semester  
 Credits he piles up a-pace  
 By day and by night and mid summer's  
 delight,  
 'Til he came to the end of the race.  
 Clutching his prized piece of paper  
 He waved it as promotions went by.  
 Past him they went, some other place bent,  
 And left him to sit high and dry.

Sadly approached he the wise man  
 "How long," he sobbed, "how long  
 must I study my books  
 And sit on tenterhooks?  
 What did I do that was wrong,"  
 The Maggid said, "Library School."

With faith now renewed, with new hopes  
 imbued,  
 With a marked air of manly defiance,  
 Smeed went forth from there to the atmos-  
 phere rare

Of the Beautyrest School of Library Science.  
 Projects he planned, and articles scanned,  
 Read Mudge and McDiarmid and Haines  
 And those invlauable tools, the old L. C.  
 rules.  
 But what did he get for his pains?  
 Nothing.

Forlornly he crept to the wise man,  
 Like an atom that's failed in its fission  
 He said, "This is absurd.  
 Tell me what's the good word  
 That will aid me to reach my ambition?"  
 The Maggid said, "Points."

Smeed had lost his enthusiasm  
 But he thought that he'd give it a try.  
 He sat on the floor and added his score  
 To see how many points he'd put by.  
 He counted them up and he counted them down  
 And sideways and backwards and forth.  
 He counted them round and he counted them  
 flat.  
 He compassed them by south and by north.  
 And just as he know, he had quite a few.  
 But what good did it do?  
 None.

Yet joyously Smeed returned to the wise man.  
 His heart it was light; it was gay.  
 For ambition had flown  
 His soul was his own;  
 He cared not what the Maggid might say.  
 And the Maggid mumbled, "Tap dancing -  
 I'm sure a knowledge of tap dancing will  
 do it."

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LATE FLASH

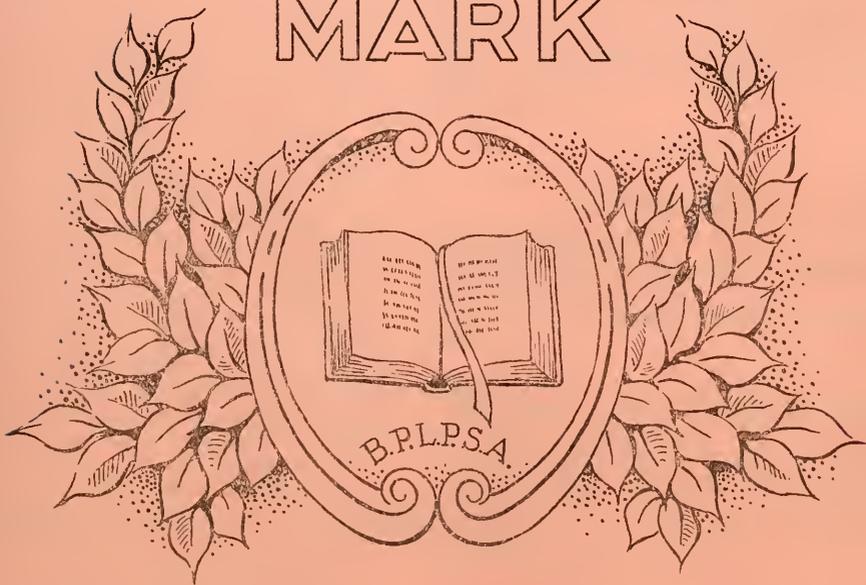
Mr and Mrs George Meyers announce the  
 birth of a son, George Douglas, on June 30,  
 1951. Mrs Meyers is the former Alice  
 Toorks who worked in the Book Purchasing  
 Department.

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THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

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The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Throughout the year 1951 librarians have been asked to reflect on and to reestablish in their minds those principles and values inherent in our American heritage. In such a retrospective mood, involving concepts and basic values, our thoughts went back to the librarians of many years ago - to our heritage as librarians. According to all available account these librarians of another day were invariably considered, not only with respect and honor, but with genuine affection. What were their values? By what criteria were they judged before the days of library schools, scientific approach, position analysis, and other means of evaluation? Turning to the very early reports of the Trustees and Superintendents (Librarians, Directors) of the Boston Public Library for clues, we were immediately intrigued with three words which recurred in their descriptions of the excellence of the library personnel. These words were intelligence, zealousness, and cheerfulness. In the exact shade of meaning of each word, we have what even today stands as a picture of an almost perfect librarian.

Intelligence would indicate a high degree of understanding and knowledge and the ability to apprehend the interrelationships of presented facts in such a way as to guide action towards a desired goal. Zealousness would be characterized by an active and eager interest in problems - a sort of efficiency with warmth, necessary in those who would win the confidence of, and work well with, people. Cheerfulness would imply a bright and equable temper or disposition showing itself in the face, the voice, the action. It suggests a strong and spontaneous, but quiet, flow of good spirits - not a hail-fellow-well-met, not a hearty person, but the best aspects of each with the brakes on.

A cheerful person would lend an element of peaceful happiness conducive to, and quite appropriate for, a pleasing library atmosphere. The collective description suggests a combination of knowledge, warmth of personality, plus interest and a desire to help. As primary requisites for librarianship it would indeed be difficult to improve on these.

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### PERSONAL NOTES

#### New Staff Members

Miss Lillian L. Friedman, Washington Village Branch Library.

Mrs Naomi L. Wayne, West End Branch Library.

#### Transfers

Mrs Joyce P. Ellis, Roslindale Branch Library, to Bookmobile.

Miss Ruth M. Gomes, Washington Village Branch Library, to Phillips Brooks Branch Library.

Miss Ellen E. Richwagen, Bookmobile, to Roslindale Branch Library.

#### Engagements

Miss Bernadette F. Russell, Roslindale Branch Library, to Mr John J. O'Callahan of Charlestown.

Miss F. Laurelle West, Phillips Brooks Branch Library, to Mr Harold Cole of Randolph.

#### Marriages

Miss Anne L. Moore, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to Mr Paul J. Dolan on July 2, 1951.

#### Births

A daughter, Ellen Sandra, to Mr and Mrs Jack Terban, on August 4. Mrs Terban is a member of the staff of the Mattapan Branch

Library.

A daughter, Joan Elizabeth, to Mr and Mrs Arthur B. Farren, on August 7. Mr Farren is a Junior Custodian at the Mattapan Branch Library.

Resignations

Mrs Rose G. Giella, North End Branch Library, to remain at home.

Miss M. Virginia Lyons, Kirstein Business Branch, to accept a position with the U. S. Army in Germany.

Mrs Arlene Mullin, West End Branch Library, to live in North Middleboro.

Mrs Anna Lou Shanor, Phillips Brooks Branch Library, to live outside the Boston area.

Retirements

Miss Mary C. Toy, Chief, Young People's Room, July 31, 1951.

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BON VOYAGE

Mr Zoltán Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books, who sailed on the S. S. Liberté on July 31 for a ten-weeks' trip to Europe.

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WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Nina Bartalini, Branch Issue Department, after three months' visit with relatives in Italy.

Miss Marie Cashman, Open Shelf Department, after an accident.

Miss Rosalie Lang, History Department, after a trip abroad.

Miss Pearl Smart, Personnel Office, after an illness.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Mr Leo J. Hines, formerly of the Open Shelf Department, is in charge of the daily noonday organ recitals inaugurated this season on Boston Common. The enthusiasm of the crowds observed at the Parkman Bandstand testify to the success of this pleasant experiment.

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MR HILL RE-ELECTED

Mr Bradford M. Hill, Deputy Supervisor of Reference and Research Services and Chief of Periodical and Newspaper Depart-

ment, is receiving congratulations on his reelection as a member of the SORT Steering Committee and as Editor of SORT Bulletin. His letter of notification, answered in the affirmative, is of interest to all:

Dear Mr Hill:

I am very happy to tell you that you have been reelected a member of the SORT Steering Committee for 1951-52. At the Steering Committee yesterday, July 11, you were also reelected Editor of the SORT Bulletin, and I hope very much that you will accept, for you have done such an outstanding piece of work that I can't imagine the Bulletin without you at its head.

Miss Cathon and I are doubly sorry that you couldn't come to this Conference: first, because we wish you could hear the compliments people have been paying the Bulletin; and second, because we would have liked for you to be enjoying the pleasant company (as you know, we invited people to make the SORT Booth their headquarters during the Conference, and a lot of them did!).

May I hear from you as soon as possible so I can make the announcements to the Organization?

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)Dorothy Heiderstadt  
Chairman, SORT

P.S. The two new members of the Steering Committee are:  
Mrs Frances Griffin, Buffalo P.L. Staff Assn.  
Miss Eunice Coston, Atlanta P. L. Staff Assn.

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CARE

The CARE scrapbook is back after being on display at the SORT Booth during the ALA Conference in Chicago. The following letter, received by Miss May C. McDonald, Chairman, CARE Committee, is most gratifying.

Dear Miss McDonald:

I am writing to tell you how much

we appreciated having the CARE scrapbook on exhibit at the SORT Booth during ALA.

It was such an interesting scrapbook and many people examined it.

You may be interested in one comment I overheard, "Look, what the Boston Association does with its money and we have a party." A visitor from the library school in Helsinki, Finland was delighted to find a letter from the Director of the Helsinki Library and said she had just had a letter from him that morning.

Thank you for sending the scrapbook.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) Laura E. Cathon  
Ex-Chairman, SORT

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Warm summer days and vacation absences bring about a period of inactivity in the program of the Association. There have been no pressing matters requiring prompt attention and the Executive Board has not met since June. None the less, the officers and individuals on the various committees have been continuing their work and plans in preparation for the fall projects, when it is expected that the members will have returned refreshed and with new vigor for the year ahead.

P.A.W.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EXHIBITS OFFICE

Miss Gwen Barrows, Assistant Attaché of the Office of the Embassy of the United States of America, London, England, visited the Library on August 6, saw the Indian arts exhibit and immediately sought to borrow the entire exhibit, currently being shown on all three floors, in order to send it on tour of the libraries and museums of England, Scotland, North Ireland and Wales. She considered it a splendid way to bring to the attention of peoples in other countries this particular contribution of the American Indian.

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BPL ON TV AND RADIO

On Thursday, July 26, Daisy Meadows of the Whiting Milk Company, spend a day on the Bookmobile, traveling from West Roxbury to Boston, in preparation for making a tape recording. On Thursday, August 2, the tape recording was made for the broadcast which will be heard over WNAC on August 23 or 30 at 9:15 a.m.

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In connection with the Library's recent exhibit of antique automobiles, Mr Byron Hull, a member of the Antique Automobile Association with headquarters at the Larz-Anderson Museum in Brookline, appeared on WNAC-TV as Bill Hahn's guest on Friday, July 27.

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Mr Walter C. Forse, Director of Public Relations for the Boston Council, Boy Scouts of America, was interviewed by Vincent Maloney on Monday, July 30, on WNAC-TV. Mr Forse gave a preview of the current exhibition, The Arts of the American Indians.

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PERIODICALLY SPEAKING

"It takes less than a second to say 'please'."

"By actual measurement, it requires 0.016 minute for the average person to say 'will you'. Yes, sixteen-thousandths of a minute! If you give 50 orders a day, and preface each with a 'will you', you will thereby use up 0.17% of your normal working day - or 0.8 minute.

"According to the microwatch, 0.014 minute are needed to say 'please'. Fourteen-thousandths of a minute! Less than a second. So if you say 50 'pleases' a day, you will thereby use up 0.15% of your work day - or 0.7 minute.

"A simple 'thank you' requires 0.016 minutes. Again, sixteen-thousandths of a minute! Spoken 50 times a day, that's 0.17% of your work day - or 0.8 minute.

"Add them up: 0.8 + 0.7 + 0.8 = 2.3. If you show your good manners 50 times a day, a high average, this will have taken 2.3 minutes of your 8 hour day." From

(As a general practitioner of human relations for the Library, are you putting on your best "desk-side" manner, not to mention putting in your "time", when dealing with the public???)

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The Personnel Office may be interested in an article in the same issue, under the heading, EXIT QUESTIONNAIRES HELP OUR EMPLOYEE RELATIONS. According to the captions, the first page is a personal letter sent a few days after the employee's departure from the company, along with two more pages comprised of 14 questions that cover the human relations program in detail. Results include about 65% response of frank, helpful, constructive criticisms and comments.

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PARTIES AND SHOWERS

Miss Mildred E. Francis, Business Office, was guest of honor at a dinner at Town House on Thursday, August 9, attended by members of the staff of the Business Office and friends from other parts of the Library. Miss Francis, who is being married on August 25, was presented with a corsage and a gift on money.

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On Tuesday, August 14, Miss A. Virginia Haviland was hostess at a shower in honor of Miss F. Laurelle West, Phillips Brooks Branch Library. Present and former co-workers presented Miss West with a Universal Automatic Perculator, and many individual gifts.

\*

On Tuesday morning, August 14, from ten to eleven o'clock, a coffee party was given to honor Miss Jane Hasson, assistant housekeeper, as she retires after thirty-five years of service in the Central Library.

The reception was attended by over one hundred of her friends, including many members of the Division of Business Operations who had previously worked in Miss Hasson's department. A purse, as token

of the affection of her many friends, and a check from Local Union #1314 of which Miss Hasson has been vice-president, were presented with best wishes for her new life of leisure.

Lovely pink phlox and pink candles decorating the tables, and delicious coffee, doughnuts, and cookies served by a committee of long-time friends, helped to make the affair a charming one.

A SUGGESTION

"...rules on wedding gifts and retirement:	
Wedding gifts:	\$5.00 for service from 1 thru 5 years
	10.00 for service from 6 thru 9 years
	15.00 for service of 10 years or more
Retirement:	20.00"

Quote from AD LIB, July 25, 1951 (Indianapolis Public Library Staff Association)

Editor's Note: The BPLPSA has ruled on the expenditure of money for flowers for the services of its deceased members. Should it, perhaps, now consider gifts for members leaving to be married or retiring?

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STORYTELLING ON BOSTON COMMON

Arrangements have been made for a series of story hours to be given at Playland on Boston Common by Children's Librarians from the branch library staffs. The first hour is to be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 16, followed by a second story hour on Tuesday, August 21, at 11 a.m. The series will continue through the summer on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m., except that no program will be held if it is raining at 9 a.m. on either day.

\*\*\*\*\*

YAN KEE TRAY DER

Man wearing size 8½ B, or possibly 8 C shoe, contact The Question Mark, Pair of practically new brown shoes are yours for the fitting.

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ALA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Dr Maritain on "Tolerance"

Whenever civilization becomes reflectively turned on itself and its problems, it is the philosopher's role to try to help us interpret these problems and their meanings in the light of truth and basic values. It was, therefore, particularly timely and appropriate that Dr Jacques Maritain, one of the most powerful forces in contemporary philosophy, was chosen as a speaker at the 75th Conference of the American Library Association. Dr Maritain's address will be reviewed in its entirety in the September issue of the "Question Mark". In this issue we include only his thoughts on "tolerance"

Dr Maritain believes that without mutual tolerance democratic society cannot survive. In this regard he pointed out that "there are people who think that not to believe in any truth, or not to adhere firmly to any assertion as unshakably true in itself, is a primary condition required for democratic citizens to be tolerant." This, he maintains, is a barbarous and erroneous assumption. If it were true that whoever knows, or claims to know truth or justice cannot admit the possibility of a view different than his own, then it would follow that the rational animal would be the most dangerous of beasts. In reality, it is through rational means, not through coercion, that man is bound by his very nature to try to induce his fellow men to share in what he knows, or claims to know to be just, even though "truth always makes trouble, and those who bear witness to it are always persecuted".

The real problem centers around man's rights with regard to his fellow man plus his vicious inclinations which derive from his will to power. In this regard, theorists err when they shift their fight feelings about the subject to the object and thus deprive man and the human intellect of adherence to the truth--in which consists man's dignity and his reason for living.

"There is a real and genuine tolerance only when man is firmly and absolutely convinced of a truth, or what he holds to be a truth, and when he at the same time recognizes the right of those who deny this truth to exist, and to contradict him,

and to speak their own mind, not because they flee from truth, but because they seek truth in their own way, and because he respects in them human nature and human dignity, and those very resources and living springs of the intellect and of conscience which makes them potentially capable of attaining the truth he loves, if someday they happen to see it."

To say "tolerance", moreover, is not enough. For tolerance has a merely negative connotation. The right word is friendship, or love, brotherly love. Only love which is a positive force can really enforce tolerance in human life. It is a fateful delusion to substitute skepticism for love. Faith in God is the root of neighborly love, and neighborly love is the core of tolerance. Love for our neighbor springs from faith and helps us to recognize whatever beliefs other than our own include of truth and dignity, of human and divine values. It makes us respect others, urging us to seek in them everything that is stamped with the mark of man's original greatness.

M.F.D.

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Friends of Libraries Luncheon

This year the Friends of Libraries Luncheon was sponsored jointly by the ALA and the Friends of the Chicago Public Library, together with the Caxton Club, the Society of Midland Authors, the Indiana Society of Chicago, and the Cliff Dwellers, all literary societies of Chicago, in order to honor the memory of John T. McCutcheon, the famous cartoonist and humorist of the Chicago Tribune. This luncheon was the eleventh annual authors' luncheon of the Friends of the Chicago Public Library and the above-named literary societies and is customarily held in the spring of the year to honor an outstanding author of the midwest. However, because the Annual Conference of the ALA was held in Chicago this year, these associations combined their usual program with official greetings to the American public libraries.

Mr Leo R. Etzkorn, Chairman of the ALA Friends of Libraries Committee and of the Free Public Library, Paterson, New Jersey, welcomed the audience and introduced the following guests: Mr Clarence R. Graham, Retiring President of ALA; Mrs Lolita D. Fyan, President of ALA; Miss Helen Ridgway,

Secretary of ALA Friends of Libraries Committee; Mr Edward J. Fahey, Past President of the ALA Trustees' Division; Mr Harold Brigham, State Librarian of Indiana and new President of the ALA Trustees Division of the new Public Libraries Division; and Milton G. Ferris, Trustee of the Atlanta, Georgia, Public Library, who had won an award as an outstanding public library trustee in 1950-1951. Mr Etzkorn then introduced Miss Flora Belle Ludington, Librarian of Mt Holyoke College and Chairman of ALA International Relations Board, who in turn introduced many foreign librarians in the audience. The meeting was turned over to Mr Ralph G. Newman, President of the Friends of the Chicago Public Library, who spoke briefly about the work of the Friends of Chicago Public Library.

The following individuals were next presented: Mr Joseph B. Fleming, President of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, who welcomed the guests and praised the work of the Friends of the Chicago Public Library. Mr Fleming paid tribute to John T. McCutcheon as a contributor to the educational, political, and social life of Chicago; Miss Gertrude Gescheidle, Librarian of the Chicago Public Library, who also gave praise to the Friends of the Chicago Public Library and outlined the organization's activities; Mr Franklin J. Meine, President of the Caxton Club and the Cliff Dwellers Club and author of the book Tall Tales of the Southwest. Mr Meine spoke of John McCutcheon's life and work on the Chicago Tribune. He was a war correspondent and traveler for that newspaper for 43 years as well as a humorist and nationally-known political satirist and cartoonist; Miss Fanny Butcher of the staff of the Chicago Tribune who gave a charming informal portrait of John McCutcheon as husband and father; Dr Edward C. Elliott, President Emeritus of Purdue University, John McCutcheon's college, who spoke on John McCutcheon - Gentleman; Mr Herb Graffis, President of the Indiana Society of Chicago, who gave a very humorous portrayal of McCutcheon's outlook on life; Mr D. Laurence Chambers, President of the Bobbs-Merrill Company, publishers of his delightful autobiography Drawn from Memory, who commented on McCutcheon's cartoons; John T. McCutcheon, Jr, who currently conducts the column entitled A Line o' Type or Two in the Chicago Tribune; and Mrs John T. McCutcheon,

the widow of the humorist, who spoke very movingly of her pleasure at the fine tributes to her husband.

Catherine MacDonald

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SORT Meetings

The seventy-fifth anniversary theme of the ALA Conference, Our American Heritage, was covered by many experts in various fields both in the general sessions and in the section meetings. Out of a most profitable and most enjoyable week, the SORT business meeting and the SORT public meeting should be of particular interest to those who participate in staff organization activities.

At the business meeting, presided over by Miss Laura E. Cathon, Carnegie Library, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the usual procedure was followed: reports were read; votes on committee members were collected and counted; new constitutional amendments were read, approved and voted on; and Mrs Anne N. Danegger, Northwestern Branch Public Library, Chicago, spoke on The Local Staff Organization and SORT. Mrs Danegger pointed out how the local staff organization can contribute toward bringing members to participate in the national organization. The advantages of belonging to SORT were summarized. It acts as a clearing house for staff organizations' problems. SORT has conducted many important surveys, some of which are:

1. Job analysis
2. Pensions and insurance
3. Salary
4. In-service training programs
5. Five-day week

In making these surveys, SORT has found that employees misjudge employers' attitudes toward staff organizations. Most employers encourage and favor them. Mrs Danegger stated that staff organizations should be urged to:

1. Participate in SORT activities.
2. Contribute to SORT Bulletin.
3. Contribute toward traveling expenses of members attending SORT meetings.
4. Assign reporters to SORT meetings.

Four key words summed it up: encourage, support, publicize and promote.

Announcements of particular interest to our Library are: Mr Bradford M. Hill,

Chief of the Periodical and Newspaper Department, was elected to the SORT Steering Committee, and Miss Dorothy P. Shaw, of the same department, will continue indexing the SORT Bulletin.

At the public meeting, Miss Alma S. Krans, Deering Library, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, spoke on How Staff Organizations Can Aid National Defense. The principal speaker was Mr Clarence B. Caldwell, Director of Personnel, Sears-Roebuck and Company, Chicago, Illinois, whose subject was Developing Staff Morale.

Mr Caldwell started off on a diplomatic foot by telling his predominantly female audience that "women are more dependable.. more on the beam...more inclined to move above...and, all things considered, have better morale than men." He pointed out that good staff morale is important for efficient operation of a unit, savings through efficiency, and proper use of facilities. Objectives of an organization can be met only through cooperation and teamwork. Employees should have the right attitudes and perform duties with conscious enthusiasm.

Methods of discovering or uncovering employees' attitudes are:

1. Go to employee and ask how employee feels toward job and company.
2. Watch for persistent problems of management of unit as whole.
3. Use combination of methods (anonymous questionnaire, free comment sheet).
4. Use non-directive interviewing of employee in area being surveyed.

The above methods should be handled by trained personnel people at the regional office level.

The purposes for such a survey program are:

1. To serve as a general temperature.
2. To locate department where greatest satisfaction or dissatisfaction exists.
3. To locate problem department.

Sears-Roebuck conducted an organization survey program over a period of two years. A program of this nature is highly adaptable and can be used in various situations. It should be employed as a constructive effort to assist local management to find

what the weakness in a unit may be and how to correct it.

Mr Caldwell stressed that there is no simple explanation for any given state of employee morale. Such things as top management policies and/or direct supervision influence employee morale. Management must attempt to make business a good place to work. In Sears, this has resulted in an older group of employees. There is a smaller turn-over of employees.

Decentralization of employee-management relations should be encouraged. Top management must realize that managers must allow expression of ideas and be influenced in their action by results. For better cooperation, there must be ample opportunity for advancement, freedom to say what is on one's mind, security in old age, fair hearings of cases, freedom from fear of loss of job, feeling of individual responsibility, and good working conditions.

A supervisor must do the following to help personnel morale:

1. Know employees as individuals.
  - A. Try to understand the things the employee does.
  - B. Have bond of confidence.
  - C. Learn to listen to employees.
2. Know how people team up with each other.
  - A. Learn how employees are influenced by each other.
  - B. Recognize common bonds between employees tending to band together. Supervisor thus can predict how things will be acted upon--how a new situation will be accepted.
3. Know what things are very important to employees.
4. Know who the informal leaders are. They will be on top and can help supervisor to reach other employees.
5. Know when human relations problems are brewing.
6. Know how to handle problems that arise.
  - A. Have an orderly plan of analysis, a checklist.
  - B. Find out all about problem.
  - C. Make up mind before discussing problem.
  - D. Do what you have to do. If you cannot take action, tell why you must say "no."
  - E. Handle situation in light of

circumstances.

- F. Avoid stating opinion without giving background facts.
- G. Let employee talk. (Do not monopolize conversation; do not talk too much.)
- 7. Be sure to follow four simple rules in giving new work to an employee.
  - A. Tell how work is to be done.
  - B. Show how work is to be done.
  - C. Observe how work is done.
  - D. Correct and compliment work done.
- 8. Tell employees in advance of any change and discuss change.
  - A. Everybody should voice opinion.
  - B. Stop when the meeting is over.
  - C. Do not prolong the discussion.
- 9. Have clear-cut personnel policies.
- 10. Set up a system of rewards that are to be given according to policy.

The "supervisor" may be the chief of the department or the person in charge of a given unit as well as the supervisor of personnel. It is interesting to note how many of these methods that Mr Caldwell outlined are followed in the Boston Public Library.

The public meeting was closed by Dorothy Heiderstadt, Louis George Branch Library, Kansas City, Missouri. Copies of the 1951 SORT Survey on Retirement and Insurance Plans were distributed. The BPLPSA copy is on file and may be consulted by any member.

Helen Savakian

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Editor's Note: The remaining reports of the ALA Conference will appear in the September issue to The Question Mark.

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BOOKMOBILE NO. 2

The delivery of Bookmobile No. 2 has been delayed until the early part of October because the manufacturer of the truck chassis could not make an earlier delivery to the bookmobile manufacturer. It is now expected to place Bookmobile No. 2 in operation about the fifteenth of October.

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TRUSTEES VISIT OTHER LIBRARIES

During the week of August 13th, two of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library, accompanied by the Director, made a tour of certain libraries in the eastern and midwestern part of the country. The two Trustees who made the trip were Judge Frank J. Donahue, and Mr Patrick A. McDonald. The trip was similar to that taken by the other three Trustees during the summer of 1950. It took the group to New York, Princeton, Baltimore, Washington and Detroit. The visitation was made in order that all of the Trustees would have first-hand information, ideas and impressions from other libraries which will be helpful to them in making their plans for the enlargement of the Central Library building.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Christie, Agatha  
They came to Baghdad.  
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1951

Sieveking, Lance de G.  
A tomb with a view.  
London, Faber and Faber, 1950

Non-fiction

Andrews, Roy C.  
Heart of Asia.  
New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1951

Barrymore, Lionel  
We Barrymores.  
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1951

Better homes and gardens  
Garden book.  
DesMoines, Meredith Publishing Co., 1951

Boswell, James  
London journal, 1762-1763.  
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1950

Bradley, Omar N.  
A soldier's story.  
New York, Holt, 1951

Edward VIII, King of Great Britain  
A king's story.  
New York, Putnam, 1951

Garden, Mary  
Mary Garden's story.  
New York, Simon & Schuster, 1951

Higgins, Marguerite  
War in Korea.  
New York, Doubleday, 1951

Spender, Stephen  
World within world.  
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1951

Williams-Heller, Annie  
The busy woman's cook book.  
New York, Stephen Daye Press, 1951

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Science and Technology Department  
Mrs Vanda Cariani has recently fulfilled her requirements for her Master's Degree at Simmons College.  
Mr Walter Fraser, an extra-assistant in the Patent Room, has been chosen as the Student Representative from Boston University at the Fourth Annual Congress of the National Student Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston  
To the tune of "Frere Jacques" the following "singing commercial" opens the weekly meeting of the summer reading club:  
Are you reading - are you reading  
TV members? TV members?  
Come and join our contest  
Come and join our contest  
At the library  
At the library.  
The contest is provided by some healthy competition as the three channels into which membership is divided compete for high scores on the TV screen quiz and score board.

Mt Pleasant  
An excellent example of community cooperation is now in progress. In direct response to a suggestion made by Mrs Chesley Jones, an active borrower and patron, a new series of story-hours for pre-school-age children was inaugurated on July 25. Realizing that requests from

neighborhood children for stories indicated a need that could best be met by library aid, Mrs Jones proposed a plan to Mrs Bette Preer, Children's Librarian, for a cooperative program for these youngsters. An hour of stories, games, browsing, and general introduction to the library, under the joint leadership of Mrs Jones and Mrs Preer on Wednesday afternoons, has been the result. In this way, children who would not ordinarily have been reached are being made aware of the Library's resources through the interested efforts of a true friend of the library.

Neponset

Before Miss Ruth M. Hayes, Branch Librarian, left for her vacation the latter part of July, the staff tendered her a three-point party. A birthday cake expressed wishes for many happy returns of the day. After the refreshments and entertainment, Miss Hayes was presented with a gift to express a wish for happiness in her new home, and also in her new position as Branch Librarian of the new Adams Street Branch Library.

West End

The West End Picture Collection borrowed a page from the technique of show business this summer. Just as a successful play goes on tour after several seasons in the big city, so did the Picture Collection, which has long been well known here, go travelling, playing one and two week stands in the different branch libraries. The pictures were assembled in units, on subjects of either permanent or contemporary interest. Posters made by the members of the staff, as well as pertinent book jackets, accompanied the pictures. The Vatican, Cartoons, The Royal Family of England, Famous Personalities, State Flowers, The Bible--Old and New Testaments, and Children in Art, were some of the exhibits, which to judge from the reviews were a 'hit'. All of the above mentioned units, as well as many others on a variety of subjects, are available on request to individuals, organizations, and branch libraries.

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There has been an unusual opportunity to be of special service during the summer to one handicapped boy in this district. Patrick's father had sought help from the Massachusetts General Hospital for methods

of correcting the child's stuttering. One suggestion of the doctor had been to have an interested person spend a short time each day listening to the child read, and reading to him. The father turned immediately to the library with these words, "I have always heard that Miss Goldstein will help, if it is at all possible."

The pleasant task of working with the child fell to Miss Elinor Day, Children's Librarian, and it was not long before Pat showed a little more confidence and less self-consciousness. A visit with his mother to talk things over also proved helpful in the matter of planning reading. The results in terms of generally improved reading ability should show up quite noticeably this fall, and incidentally, Pat is a much happier boy because of his special friends at the library.

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At last success has crowned the unceasing efforts of the West End Joint Planning Board in the realization of a special civic project of the Esplanade. As secretary of the West End Planning Board, Miss Goldstein has worked for more than 15 years with municipal and state authorities to acquire bathing facilities for the use of the West End district, especially the children. A swimming pool, 185' long by 65' wide, with an ultra modern bath house, equipped with showers and 1000 lockers which can be used in the winter, considered the most modern in the country, were formally opened at a public ceremony on Tuesday, July 24, 1951. Although it cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to build, child and grownup alike may have full use of its facilities including locker, towel and soap, for the unbelievable sum of one penny. It represents only a beginning of what will eventually prove to be one of the greatest concentrated recreational areas in the world. In due course of time, there will be installed on the Esplanade, from Longfellow Bridge to the Lagoon, tennis courts, handball and volleyball courts, picknicking and skating facilities, etc. Have libraries an important role to play in civic development?

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WE CONGRATULATE

On July 5, 1951, Mr Chester A. S. Fazakas, Branch Issue Department, completed fifty years of service in the Boston Public Library. He was guest of honor at a luncheon at the Town Room on that day.

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BAY STATE COMMUNITIES  
JOIN IN LIBRARY SERVICE

Librarians of Fitchburg and Leominster have recently inaugurated a library service believed unique in the state, whereby adult library card holders in both cities may obtain books from either library.

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SOAP BOX

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Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Soap Box:

I was interested to read the article Periodically Speaking (concerning Civil Defense films) in the July Question Mark. I note that the last paragraph reads, "Full information...can be found in the news from Around the State, Illinois Libraries"... Perhaps it is professional pride that makes us add, "or in the Boston Public Library Film Office."

It may be of interest to note that the first of the films mentioned in the article namely, SURVIVAL UNDER ATOMIC ATTACK, is in our film library and may be borrowed by

any group or organization in Boston.

M.C.J.

\*

Frustration is my lot of late  
When looking through the volumes new.  
There's History, Philosophy,  
Psychiatry, and Russia, too,  
How to sew and how to knit  
And how to sail the seven seas;  
Of such there is a plenitude  
But where are all the mysteries???????????

My disposition now is poor,  
My temper's even more so;  
I long to open up a book  
And find a mangled torso.  
Has murder now become extinct  
Or outlawed by the library?  
A pox upon the Sciences,  
Give me a gory mystery!!

\*

MURDER IS OUT

The shelves are bare, the shelves are bare  
Of books that used to curl my hair  
And now of sleepless nights I lie  
And watch the drowsy stars go by.

For, oh, alas! The books I see  
Are quite devoid of mystery.  
The heroes bold no longer hunt.  
The instrument's no longer blunt.

No more my midnight oil I burn.  
Instead, in bed I toss and turn  
And yearn with anguish sore and deep  
For one more corpse before I sleep.

\*

Dear Editor:

I have received a number of personal comments anent my letter of last month. May I answer them by recounting a story that was a great favorite of the late Charles Butterworth.

It seems that two little boys, Anacreon and Aristides, were walking down to the drugstore one fine day. As they passed a high board fence, the neighborhood bully stepped out from behind it and without saying a word walked up to Anacreon, snatched off his glasses, twisted his tie,

cuffed him on the ear and strode away.

Anacreon pulled himself together and the boys proceeded on their errand. On their way back they passed the same board fence. Again the bully stepped out, trampled on Anacreon's toes, kicked him in the shins, knocked him to the ground and strode away.

Anacreon picked himself up, brushed himself, turned to his friend and said reflectively, "You know, Risty, I think that kid doesn't like me." Aristides, whose father was a psychiatrist, stared back over his shell-rimmed glasses and replied, "The trouble with you, Anacreon, is you've got a persecution complex."

To end as Mr Butterworth used to, "I just tell this story to illustrate the good feeling existing in this country at the present time."

Eamon E. McDonough  
General Reference  
Department

\*

Dear Editor:

Is it too much to ask of the "higher echelon" appointees that the rest of the staff be approached with politeness, consideration, and dignity? All too often, even those members of the staff who are in responsible positions and who have been in the employ of the Library for many years, are treated as though they were grade-school children on the first day of their first part-time job...or worse. Their motives, their knowledge of their work and of library procedure are questioned with rudeness and stupid innuendo.

Even if some of us are sometimes at fault, it would seem there must be a better method of approach to the problem. The present treatment loses the respect of the staff and lowers morale amazingly fast. It is neither the adult nor the professional approach. Nor does it ever get any other result but deep resentment. Yes, I too am

RESENTFUL

\*

To the Editor of the Question Mark:

In the letter of Mr Eamon McDonough published in the "Soap Box" in the July 1951 issue of The Question Mark there appear several statements upon which comment may be helpful.

He states that for promotional appointment to the position of First Assistant in the General Reference Department "such experience in reference work as is required may be gained almost anywhere in the system, or outside of it;" and again that "any person in the branches who can show a modicum of experience in general reference work, and almost any person in the branches gets to answer a general reference question occasionally, can apply for the First Assistantship in the General Reference Department, provided they have otherwise qualified by examination..." He appears to have overlooked in the statement of minimum qualification for this promotional appointment the specification of the kind of library program in which "experience in general reference work" must have been obtained, namely, "experience in general reference work in a large reference and research library" (the underlining is mine). It is believed obvious that the services of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services are not in any sense comparable with those of "a large reference and research library." The type of "large reference and research library" indicated by the specifications is exemplified by such institutions as the Harvard University Library and the Library of Congress, or by parts of institutions such as the Reference Department of the New York Public Library and the Division of Reference and Research Services of the Boston Public Library. Thus "experience in general reference work" in a branch library in the Boston Public Library system does not meet the minimum qualifications set for the promotional appointment in question.

Further, Mr McDonough raises the question of "why, for example, was experience in the administration of a circulation unit of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services made a prerequisite for First Assistants, Assistants-in-Charge, and Branch Librarians in said division, yet the position of First Assistant in the General Reference Department calls for no administrative experience whatsoever...?" The position of First Assistant in the

General Reference Department is primarily one specializing in "knowledge of and experience in general reference work in a large reference and research library." It is not comparable with a position specializing in administration such as the positions of Branch Librarian, Assistant-in-Charge, First Assistant in a branch library.

To clarify further, the Library has attempted to make the standards set in the minimum qualifications for promotional appointments more adequately specific in their application to the positions to be filled. In considering candidates for promotional appointments, attention has been given not only to education and training but also to actual experience in the fields represented by the positions to which promotional appointments are to be made. See the statement of procedure under "Evaluation of Candidates" which appears in the announcements of promotional appointments. This has included "experience" together with "formal education" and "training", and it has indicated the variations in weighting to be given to these three elements, depending upon the position and its divisional location to which the promotional appointment is to be made. To be consistent with this it seems desirable therefore that the statement of minimum qualifications be equally specific in application to the positions to be filled.

The point therefore, is not whether an individual is employed in the Division of Reference and Research Services or the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, but rather whether he has had "experience in general reference work in a large reference and research library" or "experience in the administration of a circulation unit." If he possesses the required qualifications, irrespective of where gained, be it in the Boston Public Library system or elsewhere, there is no barrier preventing his transferring from one division of the Boston Public Library to another. He is not "automatically debarred" from doing so.

Finally, a comment on the last question which Mr McDonough asks. "Why is it that last year I was an eligible candidate in good standing for several positions in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, and this year I am on the outside with my nose pressed against the glass?" A review of the Announcements of Promotional Appointments to be Made prior to the July 7, 1951 announcements revealed that

the statement of Minimum Qualifications contained an inconsistency. Whereas the first statement of minimum qualifications in each instance set forth the Promotional Examination requirement with no experience requirement, the alternative statements that followed did contain an experience requirement either in the Division or in the field in which the position was located. In the interest of the Library to obtain candidates with actual experience as well as examination accomplishments, the experience requirement either in the Division or in the field in which the position was located has been added to the first minimum qualification on the announcements made on July 7, 1951. This is true except in one instance, namely, the announcement of promotional appointment to be made to the position of Bookmobile Librarian. Because this area represents a comparatively new field of library activity to the Boston Public Library, opportunity for an expression of interest in and application for this titular position has been provided to members of the staff who have qualified by the passing of the appropriate Promotional Examinations.

Thank you for this opportunity to make comment.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wright  
Supervisor of Personnel

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THEY APPRECIATE

NETHERLANDS

To the Professional Staff Assoc.

This month I accepted gratefully the food-parcel you sent to a Public Library in The Hague. It was a very nice surprise to receive this parcel in our branch-establishment. The contents is distributed under the staff of my library, which was very welcome received and with which we were all very glad. One more, in my name, my many gratefully thanks.

Yours respectfully,  
Miss Walkate  
Branch Librarian

\*

GERMANY

Dear Friends:

My conscience is bothering me quite much. In March you enjoyed me so much by a package, and still I did not even tell you what a great help you gave us. Rendering thanks only now, I do not do so less heartily. There were so many wonderful things in the package, it would be just impossible to thank you for every single piece. My boy, who just began going to school, got red, red cheeks while we were unpacking and cried: "Oh, Mother, I like this so much!" or: "Isn't this fine, Mother?" And my little daughter, 18 months of age, you could smell the good soap for a long time. Before going to sleep the children sometimes got a spoon of honey or blackberry preserve from your package, then they slept twice as well of course. Now, it is possible to buy in our stores all the precious things that were in your package. But when you have to dress children there are so many expenditures that make a big whole into your wallet, so that the rest is just enough for the most necessary goods. The surprise you gave us was terrific. To give such a package is a sacrifice for you, naturally. But if the way of thinking you showed would be general, - if people would help their fellow men and even sacrifice for them, there would be much less quarrel and envy. You have showed by your package that you do not only think that way but act, too. There is a German proverb (it is a little poem):

If you want to be happy all your life  
Help that others might have happiness;  
For the joy that we are giving  
Fills the heart of your own.

The best greetings of thankfulness!  
Sincerely yours,  
Ouisste Freygang,  
Teacher

\*

INDIA

Dear Miss Lambert:

Please convey my best thanks to the Professional Staff Association for the CARE food parcel donated by their staff. I greatly appreciate this token gesture of friendliness extended to their colleagues in other lands.

Yours very truly,  
Jagjit Singh  
Librarian Grade III

\*

NORWAY

Some days ago very unexpectedly I got a huge care packet from you. It certainly contained an incredible lot of good things which of course I was awfully glad to get. But the kind thoughts and the warm hearts of the givers moved me deeply. - A few years ago thousands of Norwegians would have starved to death were it not for the help from U.S.A. and Denmark. We feel awfully grateful and I hope we shall never forget what you have done for us. - I was at Chicago University 1/2 a year in 1948. It was a very interesting experience and I have the most pleasant memories from that time. How different America is from Europe, and how little we know about dimensions. Everything seems so vast, and without any limits! - My library is one of the biggest public libraries in Norway with about 60,000 vols. It serves as a county library as well and has a bookmobile. We are also responsible for the inspection of all the rural libraries in the county and the school-libraries. I have just come back from a week's inspection, a not altogether pleasant job! Some few of them are very good, but most of them need rearrangement. If only the housing question could be solved, then everything would be so much easier. - Our new library law forces every community to have a library. I don't like force of any kind, but I think the future inspectors will have an easier job than the present ones. - The other day I had the pleasure to show 2 Americans the library. We have a lot of tourists here every summer because the town has very good connections with all the rest of the country as well as foreign countries. - If any of you should happen to come to Norway (It is really a beautiful country!), I hope you'll see the library. - Again thanks a lot!

The very best regards to everybody

Yours  
 Chief Librarian  
 Kristiansands  
 Folkebiblioteket

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JAPAN

Dear Miss Lambert:

It is first time to write for American and it was first time to re-

ceive a CAR package from the U.S.

I can't express how glad my family was to get the wonderful present by my poor English. I've never expected to receive such precious daily supplies. Thank you very much from botton of my heart. I'm working SCAP Civilian Information & Education Library in Yokohama and the library has about 6000 books and 500 periodicals which were sent from your country and open for Japanese. There are 14 workers here, chief librarian is an American lady and there are all Japanese. We are very busy having lots of readers who seek the true meaning of study. I say thank you so much again and again.

Sincerely yours  
 Kieko Hihara

Mi querida Senorita.

I am the sister of Kieko. I too want to express the thanks, but my sister did so already. So I am going to tell you about my country. At first, myself. Am a student of Senior High, 3rd year class. My name is Margarita M. Masae Hihara. Margarita Maria is my Christian name, and am learning Spanish at the Church. I have a pen pal who lives in New Mexico, and she is very good for me. The most Americans that I have met are kind to us, and I like them. My mother was very glad to get your nice present and cooked us very nice supper with them which we appreciate so much.

My brother, working at C.I.E. Library, the same one in which my sister works, likes beef very much. And to tell you secret, he ate lot of beef and it was laughable enough to see his appetite. Oh, I was going to tell you about my country but I only wrote about my family. I'm sure that it is not so interesty for you to read such things. Pero, i que lastima! Lo he escribiada. In my next letter (if I can) I will write you more interesty things.

Friendly yours  
 Margarita

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ITALY

To the Boston Public Library:

I received the recent Care Package. I am a sculptor in unfortunate economic circumstances owing to the real lack of artistic activity in Italy, therefore the arrival of this package was particularly welcome to me and my two sons. Please accept our best wishes and heartfelt thanks. Yours, Pasquale Platania

FINLAND

To an Unknown Friend for an Act of Love:

Many heartfelt greetings and a thousand thanks for that very valuable package. I had never before had the privilege of opening an American package...When I saw my children coming home from school, I wondered why my tubercular daughter, who is taken to school and back home each day, was now pushing the sled. And when they came nearer I saw the package in the sled and the child pushing the sled. The children were so happy that they were trembling with excitement. There were many cans of delicious food in the package, and rice, and so much precious coffee, too. Many, many thanks for all the delicacies.

We lost my husband. He died from tuberculosis in the military hospital about six years ago. The children are 8, 10 and 12 years old. But the Lord will provide for us. We receive a small pension from the Government and I sew for people here in the country. War is terrible! I lost my only son from my first marriage in a mine-detecting expedition. That was awful! My husband visited home from the hospital and the children contracted the disease. The twelve-year old has had her leg in a plaster cast from the waist down for two years but tries to keep on going to school. She is the best student in her class. The middle one had a tubercular infection in her eyes but she received hospital aid from the Finnish Red Cross and had her eyes cured.

This Finland has become so poor because the Government has such enormous expenses: us war widows, orphans, invalids, and the war debts. If only there were no wars anywhere! The women and children have to suffer so. This is a cold country. It probably is not so cold over there. I pray for God's blessing on you and happiness and success in your work. I cannot imagine what you look like, you who have brought a ray of light to this widow and her children.

Bertta Martinmaki

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GREECE

Dear Miss McDonald:

On behalf of the students at Pierce College, I want to thank you for your part in sending CARE Packages of books to our school library. The first packages of books to come to Greece were

received just before Greek Easter, which as you may know, came very late in April this year, and were presented to the library as an Easter present in a morning assembly program.

From seven different sources in the U.S. scattered from Boston to Charleston, S.C., from New York to Kansas City to Independence, Oregon, 58 books were sent to us to start a juvenile collection. Two maps, one of the U. S. and one of the world, were included. We pinned these up on the curtain and pointed out the U. S. and Greece on the world map and the location of the donors on the U. S. map. Then girls carried the books, two by two across the stage, read the titles in English and gave the books to the librarian and her assistant who arranged them on tables and on the stage. The books were left on display for only one day because the pressure to take them out was too great. Even the maids and janitors are trying to learn English and were very interested in the collection.

At the end of the day, 54 books were out and we had left only Snakes, Turtles, Everyday machines, and one that got torn in the excitement. These will be used in classes but apparently did not look like holiday reading to the girls although trucks, boats, dictionaries and history were almost as popular as the story books. I cannot begin to tell you how enthusiastically the books were greeted, but perhaps the snaps taken in the auditorium after the presentation will give you some idea. The color and newness of the books, the gay pictures and easy English, and the variety of subject matter are a delight to the girls who have recently begun to learn English and have been working with old books, pretty much in tatters. We have had gifts before, but not brand new, shining new, lovely new books.

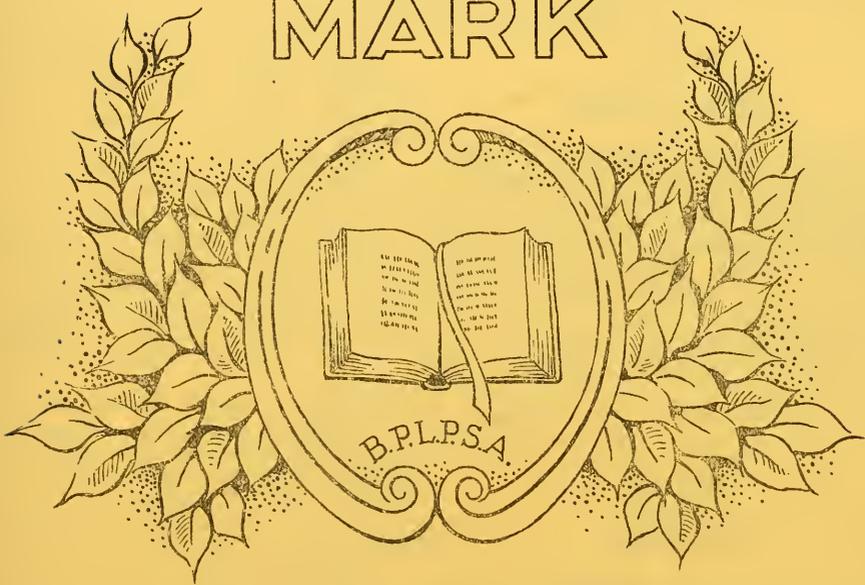
Please thank the members of your association and let them know that their generosity has given great pleasure to a group of Greek girls.

Sincerely yours,  
Louisa Tcholakian,  
Librarian

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THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

One of the interesting trends in library development in recent years is the manner in which libraries have taken up the challenge of dwindling publics, and have increasingly gone into the "market place" for ideas and methods which have proven effective in business and industry and the allied field of public relations. An example close at hand is the attractive, recently opened Adams Street Branch Library which in accord with current trends is functional in construction, and incorporates un-traditional eye appeal, comfort and informality with traditional library service. Planned with reader interest uppermost in mind it speaks for itself as a tangible example of good public relations.

In the less tangible realm of public relations, however, involving policies and their interpretation to the public, we sometimes wonder whether we have similarly streamlined our concepts in our day-to-day contacts with the public. Do we not, on the contrary, at times appear quixotic and arbitrary in actions, which though frequently necessary and desirable from the long range, administrative point of view, are perhaps not adequately understood and interpreted by the staff. In changes such as the recent reduction in the number of fiction titles purchased in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, and the dislocation of service, caused by transfer of the fiction collection in the Division of Reference and Research to the Depository Library, should not all of us who have direct contact with the public ask ourselves whether or not we clearly understand the reason behind such actions so that we may interpret the library in as sympathetic a light as possible. If we do not understand, is it not our duty to inform ourselves? Vague, half information

given to the public can only serve to exasperate further irate patrons, whereas an informed explanation of a consistent, clearly defined policy will usually mollify the most belligerent.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 4 - National Library Day.

To mark the founding of the American Library Association in Philadelphia in 1876 and to focus attention of the nation-wide project of adult discussion of the American heritage under library leadership, the ALA's 75th anniversary theme.

October 10-13 - New England Library Association, New Ocean House, Swampscott.

October 26 - Fall social meeting of the B.P.L.P.S.A.

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### PERSONAL NOTES

#### New Staff Members

Mrs Agnes R. Burke, Young People's Room.  
Miss Geraldine Coyman, Cataloging and Classification Department for Reference and Research Services. Miss Coyman was formerly a part-time assistant at South Boston Branch Library.

Miss Catherine M. Flaherty, Registration Department.

Mr John J. McCafferty, General Reference Department. Mr McCafferty was formerly a part-time assistant in the General Reference Department.

Mrs Mary C. West, Young People's Room.

#### Resignations

Mrs Alice Galvin, Connolly Branch Library, to remain at home.

Miss Elizabeth C. Hershey, Personnel Office, to move to Wilmington, Delaware.

Mrs Sarah K. Marshall, Book Stack Service, to remain at home.

Mrs Pauline F. Vinci, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, to join her husband at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

Miss Gloria Shine, Connolly Branch Library, to attend the Columbia University School of Library Service.

Transfers

Miss Ruth M. Hayes, Branch Librarian, Neponset Branch Library, to Adams Street Branch Library.

Miss Mary V. Doyle, Children's Librarian, South Boston Branch Library to Adams Street Branch Library.

Mrs M. Dorothy Ekstrom, City Point Branch Library to Adams Street Branch Library.

Engagements

Miss Muriel C. Figenbaum, Print Department to Mr Walter P. Robinson, of Belvedere, Kent, England.

Marriages

Miss Mildred E. Francis, Business Office to Mr Paul Conlon on August 25, 1951.

Miss F. Laurelle West, Phillips Brooks Branch Library to Mr Harold Cole, on August 25, 1951, at South Hamilton, Mass.

Births

A son, Steven, to Mr and Mrs Stephen L. Baxter, on August 30. Mr Baxter is a member of the staff of the Binding Department

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WEDDINGS

On Saturday, August 25, Miss Mildred E. Francis, Business Office, was married to Mr Paul E. Conlon, of Roxbury, at a nine o'clock nuptial Mass, in the Blessed Sacrament Church, Jamaica Plain. The bride wore a white satin gown with a finger-tip veil and carried a prayer book with a white orchid. She was attended by her sister, and the groom's brother was his best man. Many of the bride's friends from the Library attended the wedding. The bride and groom flew to Bermuda for their honeymoon.

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WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Pauline Eaton, Book Stack Service, after a long illness.

Mrs M. Patricia Gillis, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services after a maternity leave of absence.

Miss Mary McDonough, Book Preparation Department after a visit with relatives in Ireland and a tour of France, Switzerland, and Italy.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture, delivered by Mr Ralph Munn last April, is at the printer's and will be available shortly for distribution. It is to be in brochure form and will be sent to all contributors to the Hartzell Fund, to ALA, and to other libraries and individuals who may be professionally interested. A copy will be on file in the Staff Library creating a tangible and permanent tribute for the future.

Having met recently with the Program Committee, of which Mrs Javelin is Chairman, it was again brought to my attention that there is a need for clarification or re-emphasizing of the aims and purposes of the Association and the direction of its growth. Concomitant with that is the matter of the financial situation of the Association and the necessity for increased funds with which to work if the Association is to present to the membership the stimulation and professional impetus that was deemed desirable in its establishment.

An excellent summary of the SORT meetings held at the ALA Conference, prepared by Miss Helen Savakian, appeared in the August issue of the Question Mark. It is hoped that it will be read carefully by all members of the Association for it answers the question frequently heard "What are the advantages of belonging to SORT?". The full texts of the talks delivered have since been received and may be seen upon request.

P.A.W.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

In Informaciones for June, a magazine published by the State Department of the United States, an article entitled "La Senorita Toni and her little friends" describes the work of Miss Eva J. Antonnen formerly children's librarian at East Boston Branch Library. Since March, Toni has been organizing the children's library in the Biblioteca Lincoln which opened on May 29.

As the Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City has a varied program of such activities as story hours, recordings, puppets, painting etc. to stimulate interest in the library, so has the Biblioteca Lincoln. The key to her work is sincerity, and friendship is her principal aim.

In working with children, Toni believes, we must study the child's world with honesty and perception. Just as the library's furniture is scaled to the child, so our methods must be suited to him. Our attitudes toward children must not be fixed. If we treat children with dignity and respect, they in turn respond with dignity and respect.

The article concludes with a story typical of the close understanding of the child's world which Toni has. "One of the finest compliments ever given to me came from a timid little eight-year old girl who had been observing me solemnly for several days and who asked, 'Senorita Toni: What are you going to be when you grow up?'"

D.F.N.

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Mrs Dorothy Kelson, recently of the Open Shelf Department, is "in print" in the current issue of Accent, with a poem entitled, The Mould.

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A gallant tribute to the researches of the reference librarian is contained in an article on James Norman Hall by Ellery Sedgwick (a former trustee of the Library) in the September issue of The Atlantic Monthly in which he writes, "In the British Museum I discovered one of those wonderfully learned ladies whose unrecorded burrowings make the reputations of the celebrated writers of history"

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MISS TOY RETIRES

On an evening early in June Miss Toy was invited to dinner by "her girls" as she always called her former staff members. She was surprised to discover later that she was to be the honored guest at a party at the 1812 House in Framingham given by several staff members who had formerly worked with her in the Children's Room. Following dinner and an evening of happy reminiscing she was presented with a Florentine silver pendant and chain. Although it was known she would soon retire, this was not a farewell party but one to be repeated in the near future.

Later in the month the staff of the Young People's Room honored her at the Toll House in Whitman. It was a delightful party and Miss Toy's gift was a Swiss music box, beautifully ornamented with toy figures made in Germany.

It was not until July 31 that Miss Toy retired after forty-eight years of service in the Library. Entering in 1903, she worked for a short time at the South End Branch Library, later in the Teachers' Room, then part of the Children's Department, and then as Children's Librarian in the same department, finally becoming Chief of the Young People's Room in 1940.

Miss Toy will be missed not only by the boys and girls who frequent the Young People's Room of today, but by many readers who have since grown, married, and have children of their own. Frequently parents brought their children to meet her and to see the room where they had learned to love good books. Often these people came from distant cities and were happy to find that Miss Toy was still there to greet them and to be a part of their happy memories. The Question Mark of a few months ago carried the story of Dr Pauline Stitt, now practicing in Hawaii, who was thrilled to discover that Miss Toy, who had introduced so many fine books to her as a child, was still doing so for other children. Many teachers and other students of children's literature will be disappointed at not finding her there this fall to aid them in the preparation of reading lists for the coming school year. And so too will others who brought their various problems to her. She was very courteous to and understanding of the less privileged and often found ways to help them. Her many thoughtful and kind acts were numerous and unknown to many. It was only by accident that one learned of

them, and never from Miss Toy.

In the future she will have time to do more of the many things in which she is interested. Her doll collection which has been gathered over the years needs attention. Charitable activities will gain. The latter are numerous but the one most cherished is perhaps her work with the blind. There will be some time for travel and if there is then any left over, there will be the books which all librarians talk about, - the ones they will read if they ever have time.

Miss Toy took great professional pride in her work and inspired others to do so. She was very proud to see her boys and girls advance in the library field and in other professions, and never lost an opportunity to "spur them on" to higher goals.

She won the love and respect of those who worked under her and it is from the heart that we and all her friends at the Library wish for her many years of good health in which to enjoy her well-earned retirement.

M.V.D.

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FILM COUNCIL OF GREATER BOSTON WINS AWARD

The Film Council of Greater Boston received second award in the nation at the annual Film Council of America convention held recently in Chicago. The Reagan Memorial Awards were established in honor of the first president of the Film Council of America, and are given for outstanding achievement. Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, in Charge of Work with Adults, is secretary of the local council.

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THE LIBRARY ON TV AND IN PRINT

On Tuesday, September 4, Bill Hahn of WNAC-TV, interviewed Edward Sossen, a young assistant in the Memorial Branch Library, in connection with the sea shell collection which Edward is displaying at the Branch Library. Before Edward left the studio he received a telephone call from a gentleman in Cambridge who, after seeing the program, offered his shells to the young collector.

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Members of the Stanley Associates, 755 Boylston Street, photographed a television "short" of the Adams Street Branch Library on Friday afternoon, August 31. This sequence will be used later as part of a series, The Boston Story, which will portray various characteristic features of life in Boston. Time and station will be posted on the staff bulletin board.

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The Boston Sunday Post magazine will feature the work of the Teachers Department some time in September. In October the magazine will tell of the Hinckley collection of Low tiles, 400 of which will be exhibited in the Central Library from October 29 through November 25.

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ADAMS STREET BRANCH LIBRARY OPENS

On Wednesday, August 29, at 3 o'clock, the Adams Street Branch Library was formally opened to the public. The Director, Mr Milton E. Lord, introduced Mr Lee Friedman, President of the Board of Trustees, who described the facilities offered by this new branch library, - the first new branch library in Boston to be erected in twenty years. Mayor Hynes invited the public to make full use of it, and promised that a similar new building would be erected next year in the Egleston Square area. Miss Ruth Hayes, Branch Librarian, then invited everyone present to inspect the building, and refreshments were served to about 400 guests.

Great enthusiasm was expressed over this strikingly new library which represents a radical change from the old monumental style building and is infinitely less expensive. Simple and functional in design, it makes the most of light and color. The furnishings, too, provide sharp contrast to the usual drab, library equipment. Upholstered chairs in gay colors of green, coral, and blue, plus harmonizing window draperies, make a most attractive, comfortable setting. A small area in the adult room has been partitioned for the use of smokers, proving that no stone has been left unturned in the Library's efforts to provide what the public wants.

G. A.

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ALA CONFERENCE REPORTS

Pre-Conference Audio-Visual Workshop

At any National Library Conference much benefit is gained from the opportunity to discuss common problems with librarians from other parts of the country and to discover that the questions that are puzzling New England librarians are similar to those which concern librarians of the West Coast. The 1951 Conference in Chicago was no exception to this.

One of the highlights in recent years has been the Pre-Conference Audio-Visual Workshop. This year the fourth of these workshops was held July 7 and 8. The theme, in keeping with the over-all Conference theme, was Our American Heritage in Books and Films. Throughout the Pre-Conference there were showings of new and important or unusual films. At the opening session, Mrs Grace Stevenson of the Seattle Public Library, presented the American Heritage Film List which had been prepared for the Conference by a special committee. The list has been distributed to all libraries and will serve as a buying guide for films in this field.

Space does not permit a detailed account of all the meetings, so I will briefly describe two of the more unusual ones and just mention the others.

On Sunday morning, Mr Eric Haight, President, Films, Inc., gave a most interesting demonstration of discussion strips, a new device for adult discussion groups based on films and books. As an introduction he showed a discussion strip of How Green Was My Valley, since practically everyone in the audience had read the book or seen the commercial moving picture. A discussion strip differs from an ordinary film strip, which is frequently just a condensation of the original film. In the discussion strip a still from the original picture is thrown on the screen with provocative questions for discussion under the picture. Although designed originally for high school classroom groups, it was the opinion of those who saw this demonstration that it could well be adapted for use by a library adult discussion group.

Many of us wondered why Anna and the King of Siam had been selected to be shown at a 16mm educational film Conference. We soon discovered the answer. Following a condensed 16mm version -- about an hour long -- the corresponding film discussion

strip was shown suggesting the many points in this book which might be considered. It was unfortunate that there was not time to break up into small groups to discuss some of the many questions suggested. In a library program it would be difficult to show a long film, a filmstrip, and then have a discussion, but it would be quite possible to have the group read the book beforehand and then use the filmstrip to at least channel the discussion in the right direction. It is a new, untried, and undeveloped technique, but one that should have definite possibilities as it is developed.

A second equally interesting program was presented by Miss Mary Dollard, in charge of the popular Reading Room of the Cleveland Public Library. This was a demonstration of a book talk and film program based on The Quiet One, a fifty-minute moving picture.

Miss Dollard spoke briefly about the film and then reviewed a group of books, fiction and nonfiction, dealing with juvenile delinquency. The film was then shown and had there been time it would have been followed by discussion.

The choice of the film was not too happy for this type of meeting. Although an outstanding film, it is too long to combine with other techniques. However, it was selected, rather than a shorter film, in order that those who had not previously had an opportunity to see it might do so.

At other meetings, Mr Spenser Shaw of the Brooklyn Public Library presented a story hour with recorded music as a background. It may be remembered that Mr Shaw was formerly Branch Librarian in the Hartford, Connecticut Public Library.

A demonstration of the correlation of books and films by Mrs Robert Forsyth, teacher-librarian in the Chicago schools, proved once again the possibilities of the film as an educational medium. The demonstration was carried out as an actual school experience with children from Mrs Forsyth's school viewing the film, Norwegian Children and then reading selections from a correlated book, followed by questions by the teacher.

M.C.J.

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Dr Mead Speaks on Teen-Age Youth at Third  
General Session

Dr Margaret Mead, well-known anthropologist, ethnologist, author and lecturer, was the speaker at the Third General Session of the ALA Conference. Her subject, within the ALA 75th Anniversary Theme - The heritage of the U.S.A. in times of crisis - was "Teen-age youth in time of crisis". In contrast to the erudite and scholarly speeches of Dr John A. Wilson and Dr Jacques Maritain on the preceding days, Dr Mead's talk was distinguished more for its wit and surface sparkle. Nevertheless, a talk by such a distinguished authority was bound to contain many provocative ideas.

Dr Mead divided her talk into two parts. In the first she endeavored to identify the group which we term teen-agers and in the second to clarify that group's relationships to earlier generations as it seeks to "develop new models for a new world". According to Dr Mead, although each generation has always differed somewhat from the preceding, there has usually been enough of a "vertical" relationship to allow for "vertical" conformity. Today's teen-agers, however, are facing such new problems in such a new and different world that the only model they can find as a norm for behavior is from within their own group. They are completely alone as they face today's society and we, of an earlier generation, cannot give them any answers; nor can we really understand them since their experiences and ways of looking at experience in no way resemble our teen-age ways either between World War I and World War II or even after World War II. Contrary to the old saying, Dr Mead believes there is something new under the sun - our teen-agers who are trying to find "a new model for a new age group in a new age".

In the face of this theory it seems as if there would be no way for us to aid this group with its "realistic, reality-testing, objective frame of mind" which has developed in a machine age and which wants all its answers to be based on fact and have a machine-like precision. Dr Mead does not think the impasse is as complete as that, however, for she believes that although we cannot give teen-agers the answers, we can help them find the information which will lead them to the answers through group trial and

error. And that is why the librarian is so important in the teen-agers world. The librarian knows where to find this information from the past and how to offer it without comment or restriction and even without himself realizing its possible significance to these teen-agers who through group thinking and group action may be able to fashion those new models for a new age from it.

To some of us, Dr Mead's conclusions may not have proceeded quite logically from the premises in the earlier parts of her talk nor may the role she called upon us to play today have seemed so very different from that played by older generations for younger ones in other periods of great change. Nevertheless, she couched her ideas in such ear-catching, epigrammatic phrases - such as her characterization of today's teen-agers by their "Is it necessary?" as contrasted to an earlier generation's "Ought I?" - that the audience was completely hers throughout her talk.

E.L.

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Association of College and Reference  
Libraries - Reference Librarians Section  
Meeting

One of the meetings of the Association of College and Reference Librarians held on July 10, proved to be a very interesting and most worthwhile one. This meeting was in the form of a panel discussion led by Mr Louis S. Shores, Director of School of Library Training and Service, Florida State University, with the following individuals as members of the panel: Miss Winifred Ver Nooy, University of Chicago Libraries; Mr Jack Dalton, Alderman Library, University of Virginia; Thomas S. Cleveland, Free Library, Orange, New Jersey, and a 1950 library school graduate; and Mr Roy Schlinkert, Detroit Public Library. The subject of the discussion was "Are Library School Reference Courses Adequate?"

Mr Shores asked the members of the panel to give their opinions to the question as to whether or not the new library school graduates are better equipped for reference work than library school graduates of 10, 20, or more years ago. Miss Ver Nooy felt that recent graduates analyze reference problems more than older graduates do but that they do not know the

idiosyncracies of basic reference books nor do they understand people or their wants. However, she added, they are willing, enthusiastic, and ambitious. Mr Schlinkert stated that he felt the newer graduates were not as adept as earlier library school graduates in doing reference work and that they were particularly weak in the subject of government documents. Mr Cleveland defended the recent library school graduates by saying that the training he received in reference work was more adequate for general reference work and that he did learn basic reference books thoroughly. Mr Dalton had no comments to make.

To the question next posed by Mr Shores, the consensus of opinion was that far too many reference books were taught in the first part of a reference course in the present-day library school and too few basic reference tools were taught well.

One of the members of the panel brought up the point that the trouble is not with the courses being taught in present-day library schools but with faulty undergraduate courses and particularly a lack of foreign language background. Mr Cleveland believed that foreign languages were needed only by scholars and especially since English is accepted and spoken nearly everywhere. Promptly, individuals from the audience took up the discussion. One such person indicated that he believed foreign languages were needed in library work but that a more important question was which languages to study. Another individual, who was a college librarian, stated that college librarians need a knowledge of foreign languages, especially French and German and now also Russian. This latter librarian believed that these languages should be prerequisite for entrance into library school and that a library school should not be expected to teach foreign languages. A third member of the audience said that the average library school student does not know in what field of library work he wishes to specialize until at least half-way through his library training and therefore he does not know while he is in college which foreign languages will be required of him. A fourth statement from the floor was that in New York State the Special Libraries Association Placement Committee noted that nine-tenths of the special libraries required foreign languages and in the scientific libraries a knowledge of Russian was

now an absolute necessity. Mr Dalton reported that the University of Virginia is conducting this summer, for catalogers and reference librarians there, a 6-weeks intensive course in many foreign languages. Mr Dalton then asked how many individuals in the audience felt that foreign languages were needed before graduation from library school. Only two persons, of whom Mr Cleveland was one, felt that foreign languages were not necessary.

To summarize the discussion Mr Shores made the following points:

- (1) that library schools need to be more old-fashioned and to give more drill in the scope of basic reference books;
- (2) that library schools should give more attention to the subject of government documents;
- (3) that library schools must help their students to understand people;
- (4) that foreign languages, especially French, German, and Russian, are needed in reference work,

Catherine MacDonald

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Dr Maritain Speaks at Second General Session

Dr Jacques Maritain's reflections on Western Civilization and Religious Faith, centered on two particular aspects of the subject, the multiplicity of religious creeds composing the American "body politic" and the fact that the terrestrial or temporal commonwealth itself involves in its moral, social, political, and juridical structures a more or less hidden, more or less secularized religious inspiration.

The American "body politic" is unique in that it was explicitly born out of freedom by men belonging to different national stocks and political lineages working together in the pursuit of the same common good. Our forefathers and those who came after them came to free themselves from history, determined to live together in freedom and for freedom.

This democratic body in order to be alive must and did have a common charter or kind of common faith, not religious but civic, lay or secular in nature. Such a common creed of freedom was practical, not theoretical and pertained to individual freedoms of minds and conscience. Men of different faiths can agree on the tenets in

question. This common charter, the Constitution of the U. S. had its roots in a heritage of Christian thought and civilization and can readily be described as an outstanding lay Christian document tinged with the philosophy of the day. The founding fathers were neither metaphysicians, nor theologians, but their philosophy of life and their political philosophy, their notions of natural law and of human rights, were permeated with concepts worked out by Christian reason backed up by unshakeable religious feeling. Christian meaning has been projected into the sphere of the temporal social and political existence. This positive freedom to achieve genuine human ends originates, like the sense of dignity of the human person from which it is inseparable, in the Judeo-Christian tradition and in gospel inspiration.

There are certain unformulated, unwritten laws, certain common inspirations, by virtue of which we revere, perhaps for different reasons, such things as truth and intelligence, human dignity, freedom, justice, love and friendship, between the members of the human race and society. The deepest source of this common inspiration, Christianity, has been at work in the social life of peoples according to two distinct modes of action, which might be called the movement from above and the movement from below. The movement from above, from the church teachings and from the very level of faith is in itself the most important. It is the movement from below, in other words the slow transformation of the common consciousness of the people on the terrestrial level, the germination naturally produced in the depths of the secular temporal consciousness under the stimulus of Christian leaven, that Dr Maritain was especially anxious to emphasize.

Christ taught equality of man, the dignity of the human soul, the dignity of the poor, respect for inner values, and love of one's neighbor. Dictates of human authority can be binding in conscience when their authority has its source in God. From this fact no man and no group of men has in itself the right to rule others. It is as deputies of the people and it is toward the common good of the people that they must lead. Such ideals and aspirations characterize the democratic philosophy of man and society and it is under the influence of the gospel ferment at work in

the world that they took shape in the secular consciousness. It can readily be seen that the democratic impulse burst forth in history as a temporal manifestation of the inspiration of the gospel and cannot exist without it, as the secular conscience of the peoples in a democracy depends upon genuine Christian inspiration.

Dr Maritain believes that no constructive cooperation can be attained between the western and the communist worlds because of the basic opposition between the formative spirit in the one and the other. Political techniques can be adopted as well as scientific and industrial techniques but this has nothing to do with the real coming together of man.

Christian inspiration and a sheer materialistic inspiration have intercrossed, so that though we have one world in the physical or historic-dynamic and economic sense we do not have one world in the religious, cultural or political sense.

Western civilization is bringing about the achievement of social justice. It's reaction to distress in other areas arouses the hope of mankind. From the public life of peoples a thirst and aspiration for that spiritual experience of love which comes to full fruit in saintly souls is unquestionably developing now in the various spots of the world and is especially striking in this country - and that is enough for our hopes for mankind.

M.F.D.

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Adult Education Meetings

The Adult Education sessions were among the most practical of the Conference meetings. Space permits only a few highlights from these meetings. The buzz session was used to encourage discussion following the showing of With These Hands, a film presenting the development of the union movement in the United States, with particular emphasis on the I.L.G.W.U. This program was planned by the Joint Committee of the Library Service to Labor Groups, under the Chairmanship of Miss Dorothy Bendix of the Newark Public Library. It was the unanimous opinion of the group that this film would have general use with labor and lay groups.

Of special interest to the members of the B.P.L.P.S.A. was the symposium on

Adult Education Begins at Home. At this meeting Miss Evelyn Levy, Branch Librarian of the Jeffries Point Branch Library, most ably described the B.P.L.P.S.A. Workshop on The Evaluation of Book Materials in Terms of Use in the Library. Miss Janet Stevens of the Enoch Pratt Free Library interested the audience with her statement that the Library was closed on a holiday on which it is usually open so that the entire staff of the Library including the maintenance staff could attend a one-day Institute on the relation of staff members to one another and to the members of the public. Mrs Leona Durkes of the New York Public Library described their recent staff workshop at which lists of Readable Books on important subjects were prepared for the general reader and for the reader who has difficulty in reading English. Although the Detroit Public Library has been for some years successfully arranging the books in certain of its branches by reader interest rather than by Dewey Classification, few Libraries have attempted this daring step. Therefore considerable interest was awakened by the talk of Miss Ruth Rutzen, who is in charge of Home Reading Services at the Detroit Public Library. In the brief time allotted to her she explained that the purpose of this arrangement was to make the collection of books more meaningful to the readers. Two questions are considered in shelving a book — "What does it deal with" and "Who will use it?".

Following a luncheon meeting in the Wedgewood Room of Marshall Fields at which Dr John A. Lapp, Chairman of the Citizens Schools Committee, Chicago, spoke on Citizen Apathy, Curable or Incurable, there was an afternoon meeting in the Upper Tower of the Stevens Hotel. Mrs Mildred Mathews, Superintendent of Adult Services, New York Public Library, and Mrs Florence Craig, Director of Adult Education, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio were the speakers. Neither the Luncheon room nor the hotel meeting room was adequate for the unexpectedly large attendance at these meetings, evincing the increased interest of Librarians in Adult Education. Mrs Mathews, who will be remembered by Boston Public Library staff members for the outstanding talk she gave at our recent Workshop, stressed the organization and value of small book discussion groups where several people read the same book or part of a book before the

discussion which is conducted by two leaders. One such program is that sponsored by the Great Books Foundation. New York Public Library expects to start several fifth year Great Books groups this fall and will also continue a series of Book discussion programs on The American Idea. Mrs Mathews discussed the practical aspects of selecting and training group leaders, the importance of adequate publicity, and the need for evaluating group activities from the individual as well as from the Library point of view.

Mrs Craig concluded the adult education conference program with a dynamic talk on The Book Review as a Technique for Discussion. With her inimitable enthusiasm she discussed the preparation of the audience for book review meetings, the stumbling blocks in the way of successful book meetings, and the group techniques needed in improving book meetings.

The adult education meetings as a whole re-affirmed for those present the challenge that faces Librarians today and re-awakened in them a desire to put into practice the ideas and techniques suggested.

M.C.J.

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LIBRARY BOWLING LEAGUE

The Library Bowling League is about to begin its third season. The opening night will be Tuesday, September 25. So far, forty-three names have been submitted. Anyone else wishing to join may contact Miss Eileen Wilson of the Book Purchasing Department.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-fiction

Collison, Robert L.  
Library assistance to readers.  
London, Crosby, Lockwood, 1950

Sewell, Philip H.  
The regional library systems.  
London, Library Association, 1950.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

Many tedious hours of rehearsal, concern over a Grumpy who could not help but smile most of the time, anxiety over the durability of the make-shift stage curtain (staff members' dragones pinned together and strung on rope), thoughts of cotton beards falling apart, and the eternal fear in the words, "What if I forget my part?" all formed a very real apprehension for the fourteen youngsters about to put on their first performance of Snow White. All this was soon forgotten, and the East Boston TV Club members lost themselves in the pleasure of performing for the two hundred youngsters from the social centers.

Seven dwarfs donned yellow caps bearing their names and long white cotton beards, a Queen assumed a nasty air of wickedness, a Prince became a gallant hero, and a Snow White took her audience through joy and sorrow, while a young narrator read between scenes the narrative necessary to unfold once again the favorite old fairy tale.

The second performance was attended by some one hundred and forty youngsters who had come to the library for the closing meeting of the TV Summer Reading Club. The play was a delightful antecedent to the excitement of receiving the earned reading certificates, the fun of joining in the singing of the club's theme song, and the refreshments, all of which constituted a party for children. The cast will perform once again, Friday, September 14, as a part of our "Back to School" program.

Phillips Brooks

The end-of-the-season party for the Summer Reading Club of the Phillips Brooks Library, held early on Thursday evening, September 6, was, as one adult present said, "a heartwarming experience." Fifty members of the club attended, having qualified to receive certificates for summer reading, and about fifty adults came as invited guests - parents, grandparents, and aunts.

The program presented by members of the club was arranged to show the kind of activity that girls and boys had enjoyed during the summer. It began with four book reports, including one on AMOS FORTUNE FREE MAN, given by a girl who had had correspondence with the author, Elizabeth Yates, before her book was awarded this

year's Newbery Medal.

Two books charades, THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER and LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, were much enjoyed for the originality and liveliness of their presentation. This kind of activity was very popular during the summer at Reading Club meetings.

Chief event on the program was a finished performance of the new puppet play, SNOW WHITE AND THE DWARFS, using a new set of puppets created by girls and boys during the summer, furniture built by one of the boys, and costumes which two of the mothers helped make. The play was adapted and rehearsed under the experienced direction of Mrs Elizabeth Lee, summer assistant at the library.

The evening concluded with the giving out of the certificates and a special award for the outstanding contribution to the library's traditional wild flower exhibit. The latter was won this year by a fourth grade girl who was first to find 42 different species in the collection of 167 flowers. Visitors were interested in seeing this exhibit, also the puppet-making exhibit, and a display of finger-paintings done to illustrate stories told at the library. Refreshments of cookies and punch were served with the cooperation of mothers and older members of the club.

Roxbury Memorial

September 27, 1951, marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Roxbury Memorial Branch Library. This branch which is unique in the system in that it is the only branch library in a high school building, has had but two librarians during the twenty five years of its service, Miss Beatrice Flanagan, who was Branch Librarian from 1926 to 1938 and Miss Margaret McGovern, who has been librarian since 1938. During this time there has been a close cooperation between the High School and the Library which has expanded and developed through the years. Books are chosen with the needs of both students and teachers in mind, and the Roxbury Memorial Branch has one of the finest reference collections in the system. This is not a one-sided development, however, for the children and adults of the community have used and enjoyed the library from the beginning. Two of its first patrons, Mrs Ida Lawrence and Mr Emerson Pierce, have been constant and appreciative, and both have spoken with pride of the twenty-five years during which they have patronized it.

In commemoration of this quarter century anniversary an exhibit of pictures and photographs has been assembled. In one, the imposing Roxbury Memorial High School building is pictured with a photograph of the former branch library housed in a little store on the corner of Haynes Park and Warren Street, called the Warren Station. Pictures of the first story hours and the early Christmases of Roxbury Memorial Branch are also included in the exhibit.

Margaret McGovern

#### West End

Miss Rebecca Millmeister our tireless traveler, who voyaged to Puerto Rico earlier in the season has just returned from a rural retreat in New Hampshire.

Miss Nura Globus is presently enjoying a motor trip through upper New York State and the Adirondacks. We are waiting to hear about her reaction to Broadway's current plays.

Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, will travel to Atlantic City for the 37th Annual Convention of Hadassah, the largest national group of Jewish women in the world. Miss Goldstein will attend the meeting as a delegate from the Boston Professional and Business Women's Chapter of Hadassah from September 16 to 19.

The personal interest which the patrons of the West End Branch take in their local library was recently manifested by the receipt of two books of French poetry by M. Rosaire Dion-Levesque and his wife Alice Lemieux. M. Dion-Levesque, who is editor of the French paper L'Toile in Lowell, Mass. was especially appreciative of news given him by Miss Goldstein concerning the book, QUE LIRE? by Jean Capart, a two volume work in the French language which had never been reviewed locally. M. Dion-Levesque wrote a penetrating review of the book in French for his paper. Since Prof. Capart was one of Miss Goldstein's continental library friends, she has sent a copy of the review to Mme. Jean Capart, the widow, in Burssells.

Once in a great while some small incident occurs to underline the fact that a library may make a very deep impression on a child -- an impression that carries over into his adult life. One day this summer such an incident took place at the West End Branch Library when a smartly dressed and personable woman approached the desk and asked if she might look around. It

developed that she was making a nostalgic visit to the West End neighborhood where she had lived twenty-five years before, and she wanted also to see again the library where she spent many hours reading and studying. Her memories of the West End Branch Library were particularly keen, and she spoke of her enjoyment of the Story Hours and of the crowds of children who frequented the branch. Although she found some physical aspects of the library greatly changed, she felt the spirit of warmth and friendliness had remained the same through the years. She is at present a successful lawyer in New York City, yet she has never forgotten the West End Branch Library which was almost a second home to her.

Jewish Book Month will be celebrated this year from November 23rd to December 24th. All Branch Librarians who are interested in obtaining posters, pictures, periodicals, books and other printed material will please contact Miss Fanny Goldstein, Secretary of the Boston Jewish Book Month Committee.

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#### SOAP BOX

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Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

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To the Editor:

Orchids to the staffs of Book Selection Department and Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services; Book Purchasing and Book Preparation Departments for their splendid work in acquiring and processing, on such short notice, the

collection for the new Adams Street Branch Library. The tremendous task, performed so efficiently and under considerable strain, won the admiration of the many staff members who glimpsed them in action.

An Admirer

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Soap Box Editor:

The new salary schedule recently distributed to members of the staff gives \$2560 as the maximum for the Sub-Professional service. This is inaccurate, since those who entered the service before June 1949 now enjoy a maximum of \$2860, or \$300 per year more than their colleagues who entered after that date. Why should this discrepancy exist when \$300 was granted by the Mayor to every city employee, with the obvious intention of increasing the entering rate and the maximum for each position?

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To the Editor:

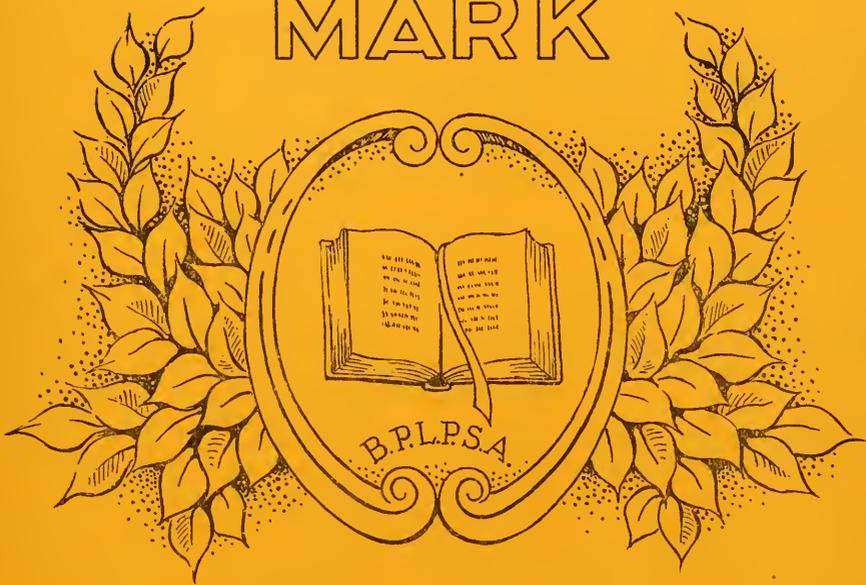
The beautiful, meticulous work performed by the Library's Binding Department was again called to our attention in the handsomely bound tooled leather remembrance book presented by the friends of Miss Hasson on the occasion of her retirement.

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THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

At the recent conference of the New England Library Association, in Swampscott, the Director of the Rutland (Vermont) Free Library excited surprised comment when he announced that his library had closed for the day to permit him and his staff to attend the general meeting arranged by the Vermont Library Association. Representing one hundred percent membership in a local library organization, this contrasted disappointingly with B.P.L. representation in both our state and national library associations. It is perhaps to be expected in times when modest salaries are increasingly feeling the pinch of inflation that we should consider carefully before adding association dues to already strained budgets. However, with the remembrance of an unusually stimulating conference fresh in mind, it is an opportune time to remind ourselves of some of the advantages to be derived from such professional affiliation. In addition to the prestige of identifying ourselves with organizations representing the profession are the more tangible advantages of personal participation by casting our vote in association affairs, attending conferences, and receiving current publications. Through the latter media are provided information concerning new developments in our particular fields and common meeting grounds with librarians of similar interests, where a sharing of experience is made possible. Finally, by support of these organizations we lend strength to long range plans to promote and raise standards generally of the profession.

If you are not already a member of at least A L A or Massachusetts Library Association why not apply now for applications to Miss Sarah M. Usher, A L A Membership Committee, or to Miss Elizabeth J. Hodges, Librarian, Leominster Public Library, who

is chairman of the Massachusetts Library Association Membership Committee.

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The publication of The Question Mark has been delayed this month because of the holiday, and to make possible inclusion of reports of the New England Library Association Conference which coincided with the usual Question Mark deadline.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Through November 11. Exhibition of prints by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, Boston Public Library, at Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

October 20. Fourth Annual Human Relations Institute. Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library.

October 26. Social Meeting, B.P.L.P.S.A. Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library. Program to be announced.

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### PERSONAL NOTES

#### New Staff Members

Mrs Josephine M. Shaw, Roslindale Branch Library.

Mrs Eunice R. Walker, South End Branch Library.

Miss Helen T. Leydon, City Point Branch Library.

Mr Charles A. Hanson, Cataloging and Classification Department for Reference and Research Services, formerly part-time.

Miss Helen F. Beeman, Personnel Office.

Miss Sylvia M. Wood, Allston Branch Library.

Miss Lois G. Goddard, Mattapan Branch Library.

Mr William K. Seward, General Reference Department, formerly part-time in the Statistical Department.

Resignations

Mrs Beverly Lambert, Cataloging and Classification Department, Reference and Research Services, to remain at home.

Mr Julian L. Moynahan, Rare Book Department, to study at Harvard University on a fellowship.

Mr Frank A. Milillo, Book Stack Service, to accept another position.

Mr Ernest W. Roussos, Book Purchasing Department, to accept another position.

Mrs Fannie C. Chung, Uphams Corner Branch Library, to remain at home.

Miss Mary Ann Reeves, Science and Technology Department, to attend Boston University.

Miss Ingrid E. Kyler, Fine Arts Department, to attend Columbia University Graduate School.

Retirements

Miss Elizabeth P. Ross, Branch Librarian Codman Square Branch Library.

Miss Ruth B. Sather, Assistant, Codman Square Branch Library.

Miss Beatrice C. Maguire, Branch Librarian, Uphams Corner Branch Library.

Transfers

Mrs Agnes R. Burke, from Young People's Room to Washington Village Branch Library.

Miss Irene M. Bennett, from Office of Home Reading and Community Services to Book Preparation Department.

Mrs Mary R. Delano, from Allston Branch Library to Adams Street Branch Library.

Mr Paul Smith, from Business Office to Book Purchasing Department.

Miss Lillian L. Friedman, from Washington Village Branch Library to Adams Street Branch Library.

Mrs Naomi Wayne from West End Branch Library to Mt Bowdoin Branch Library.

Marriages

Miss Marie E. Murphy, Codman Square Branch Library to Joseph T. White, on September 8, 1951.

Miss Julia M. Manning, Rare Book Department, to Edward F. Gurnett, on September 22, 1951.

Mr Paul Smith, Book Purchasing Department, to June White, September 23, 1951.

Miss M. Lois Cheverie, Bookmobile, to Mr Daniel Hughes, on September 29, 1951.

Miss Shirley Borden, History Department, to Daniel A'Hern, on September 29, 1951.

Births

A son, Paul Edward, Jr, to Mr and Mrs Paul E. Nagle. Mrs Nagle is on leave of absence from the Office of Records, Files, and Statistics. Mr Nagle is a member of the staff of the Book Preparation Department.

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WEDDINGS

On Saturday, September 8, at a 10 o'clock Nuptial Mass, Miss Marie E. Murphy, Codman Square Branch Library, was married to Mr Joseph T. White of Charlestown. The bride wore a gown of white satin and lace, a pearl and rhinestone trimmed finger-tip veil, and carried a prayer book with a white orchid. She was attended by her two sisters, and the groom's brother was his best man. Mrs Cecilia McCarthy of the Charlestown Branch Library was the soloist. The maid of honor was gowned in Nile green tulle with a matching picture hat and carried yellow roses, and the flower girl wore orchid taffeta and carried an old-fashioned bouquet. Following the reception, attended by many of the bride's library friends, the couple motored to New Hampshire for their honeymoon.

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Miss Julia M. Manning, Rare Book Department, was married on Saturday, September 22, at the Mission Church, Roxbury, to Mr Edward Francis Gurnett, Jr, of Newtonville. The bride wore a white satin dress embroidered with pearls and was attended by Mrs Mary Buckley dressed in green taffeta. She was given away by her brother. After the ceremony relatives and a few close friends of the couple met at the Hotel Beaconsfield for a delightful wedding breakfast, followed by dancing.

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On Sunday afternoon, September 23, Miss June White of Roslindale became the bride of Mr Paul W. Smith, formerly of the Business Office, at Holy Name Church, West Roxbury. The bride wore a white satin

gown with lace inserts, and carried a bouquet of glamour lilies with a white orchid. The maid of honor and the three bridesmaids wore velvet gowns. Many friends attended the reception which followed the ceremony. After a trip to New York and Cape Cod, Mr and Mrs Smith will make their home in Roslindale.

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PARTIES

The staff of the Jamaica Plain Branch Library held an impromptu luncheon in the staff room, Thursday, October 4, to honor Miss Ruth V. Mann, who was married to Sgt. Charles Gibson, Saturday, October 13. Miss Mann was presented with a place setting of silver.

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Miss Elizabeth P. Ross, Branch Librarian, and Miss Ruth B. Sather, Assistant, recently retired after many years of service at Codman Square Branch Library, were honored at a luncheon at the Branch on Thursday, October 4. The staff presented water color paints and pastels and pads of arts paper to Miss Ross, who is an art enthusiast. Miss Sather was given a navy and silver Parker '51 pen. The luncheon was prepared by Mrs Jean Buchanan, and Mrs Alice Harrison.

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BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

to

Miss Alice Hackett, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, who recently underwent an operation.

\*\*\*\*\*

WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Palmyra Piccolo, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, after an extended illness.

\*

Mr Zoltán Haraszti, Rare Book Department, after a trip to England, Scotland, France and Italy.

\*

Misses Mary Ellis and Ruth Stenstream, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Ser-

vices, after a trip to Ireland.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Fourth Alumnae Tea

On Saturday afternoon, September 29, Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, was hostess at a tea at her home in Brighton. Her guests were: Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, Emeritus, and Branch Librarians, Emeritus, Katie F. Albert, Mary E. Ames, M. Florence Cufflin, Elizabeth H. McShane, Katherine S. Rogan, Mary M. Sullivan, Geneva Watson, Rebecca E. Willis, and Miss Elizabeth P. Ross, whose retirement became effective the next day. It was regretted that four Branch Librarians, Emeritus, had previous plans and could not be there; Mrs Edith H. Bailey, Clara L. Maxwell, Carrie L. Morse, and Katharine F. Muldoon. Assisting Miss Guerrier were the same "caterers" who had served in 1950. Colored slides taken during vacations this past summer were shown - some of Nova Scotia by Miss A. Virginia Haviland, and some of Florida and other southern states by Mrs Muriel C. Javelin. There was also ample time for reminiscing as well as for sharing enthusiastically with each other plans and projects for the future. The group was convincing exemplification of Robert Browning's philosophy:

"Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be."

S.M.U.

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A BIRTHDAY GIFT

In honor of the eighty-first birthday of Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, on September 20, 1951, the Saturday Evening Girls presented the Library with \$25 to be added to the EDITH GUERRIER FUND.

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RETIREMENTS

MISS BEATRICE C. MAGUIRE

In the resignation of Miss Beatrice C. Maguire on September 30, 1951, the Boston

Public Library and the citizens of the Uphams Corner district have lost a faithful worker and a good friend. For over thirty years she has served them long and well for her chief concerns were directed always toward the larger interests of the public and the library.

Her training at Simmons College Library School and her experience as a Children's Librarian at Charlestown Branch Library provided her with an interest in Children's work which lasted through the years. When she came to Uphams Corner as a branch librarian in 1917, she became aware of the need for more adequate quarters for the children and their books. Under her instigation and direction, the unused swimming pool on the first floor of the Municipal Building was transformed into an attractive and useful Children's Room which has flourished and served hundreds of children for twenty-five years.

The rich and widely varied collection of books at Uphams Corner, especially the reference collection and that in the technical field, are a tribute to her judgment and knowledge of books. In Miss Maguire her public found an interest and ready willingness to provide for their literary needs. She was untiring in her efforts to search and find answers to their questions and would go to great lengths to provide the right books to meet their problems. In such a way she has built up the Library's collection which has contributed so much to its usefulness. Miss Maguire's gifts for organization and efficiency were due to her farsightedness and discernment and were a great contributory factor in the growth of the Branch Library. Her rigorous attention to detail in the matter of schedules and work systems made her staff and her library an effective unit.

Her public at Uphams Corner owes her a debt of gratitude for she guided the growth of the Library along with the growth of the community; a gratitude which has been expressed by many people during these months since her tragic illness last December.

M. E. O.

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MISS ELIZABETH P. ROSS

When Miss Elizabeth Ross suddenly announced her retirement, to take effect

September 30, her fellow-librarians were stunned. They recovered sufficiently, however, to gather at a luncheon at the Hotel Vendome on Wednesday, October 3, to honor her for her years of service in the Library, and to express their deep regret at the loss of her presence in their midst. As friends, they came to wish her every happiness, and as a parting gift, she was presented with a handsome black bag, the contents of which, she told us, would be used to go out West, next year, to her nephew's wedding.

Everyone who has worked with Miss Ross at Codman Square or on committees, or just sat with her at meetings, will remember her dry sense of humor, her direct and sensible approach to problems, her sincerity and great kindness. She was enthusiastic and energetic in her work, and devoted to the ideal of the widest possible personal service to the public. Miss Ross became a friend, by name, to so many people who used the Library, that there was always some one coming back just to see her. In so far as a person can be identified with a place, Miss Ross was "Codman Square". We hope that her new leisure and activities in Georgetown will give her as much pleasure and satisfaction as she always seemed to have from her work. A good sport, a grand person, and a fine librarian, Miss Ross, good luck to you!

F.C.L.

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MISS RUTH B. SATHER

When Miss Ruth B. Sather retired on September 30, 1951, she had completed exactly 40 years of full-time service in the Boston Public Library. While it is given to few people to round out an even number of years of service, it is also given to but few in this Library system to have spent those years in working in the same Branch Library. Miss Sather had served as First Assistant and as Assistant at Codman Square Branch Library for four decades, following five years of part-time work, and during that time had had an opportunity to know her district -- to watch it grow and change -- and to know well the people with whom she came into daily contact. For many years she has labored under a physical handicap which would have caused a person of lesser determination and courage to have taken the

easy way out and retired early. Instead, she came to work with a regularity which even the vicissitudes of weather could not interrupt. She will be missed by the staff and by the public she served as she, in turn, will miss the daily routine. Best wishes go with her as she plans for her days of leisure!

S.M.U.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

An Executive Board meeting was held on Wednesday, October 3, bringing together the members for the first time since the vacation period. Consideration was given to new or continuing work of the Association.

Action has been initiated in the matter of a contribution by the staff toward a written statement of objectives for the Boston Public Library. A small committee is being formed to work with the President and the Board with the hope that something tangible may be presented at the November business meeting. Efforts are being made to obtain first hand information in regard to this undertaking from other large libraries such as New York, Detroit, etc.

The Association had the privilege of acting as host to Mr Magnus K. Kristoffersen, Librarian, Hartford Public Library, at luncheon after the SORT meeting on October 11th at Swampscott at which he was the speaker. Mr Bradford Hill as Chairman of the SORT Steering Committee was in charge of the meeting.

The date of the November business meeting will be Friday, November 23rd - keep this date in mind.

P.A.W.

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THE STAFF IN PRINT

KAESONG

What is wrong  
At Kaesong?  
Bitter words or silence sealed  
With a bitterness congealed:  
Can the breach be never healed?

While the emissaries bicker,  
All the waiting world grows sicker,  
Hope has nearly ceased to flicker.

Time runs out--and still the slowing  
Pace continues. There's no knowing  
Of the end--and blood is flowing.

Now a miracle is needed.  
Miracles alone are heeded.  
Miracles alone are seeded

With resurgin' life for men.  
Christ, appear to them again,  
But as Lord triumphant--then

Drop a bomb-of-peace in glory  
On the earth inept and gory,  
Crash on Satan's territory --

Smash the spirit that defies thee,  
Smite the terror that denies thee,  
Crush the will-to-war that flies thee--

That the end of wild defying,  
End of desperate denying  
End at last the fruitless dying!

Margaret Munsterberg

(Reprinted from The Churchman, Oct.1,1951)

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A FINAL REPORT

Early in the year 1950 the Publications Committee was notified that the Executive Board had voted that The Question Mark be indexed, beginning with Volume I, Number 1, and that six copies of each volume be bound.

The Committee immediately undertook the task which had been set for it and reports on the progress of the work were made at the semi-annual business meetings of the Association. When new committees were appointed in 1951, the retiring Publications Committee asked permission to complete this work which had proved to be more time-consuming than had been anticipated, and which it had not been able to encompass within the year. The work has now been completed and eight bound and indexed copies for each of the years 1946,1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 have been distributed

as follows:

1. B.P.L.P.S.A. official files
2. Trustees' Library
3. Book Stack Service
4. Staff Library
5. The Director
6. Office of Records, Files, Statistics
- 7.)
- 8.) Extra copies for loan, replacement, etc.

Current issues are being indexed as they appear so that bound copies of Volume VI should be ready early in 1952.

For the record, all the work of indexing, revising and editing, and part of the stencil cutting was done by the committee outside of library hours. As time permits and volunteers are available, the index will be typed onto cards and the years interfiled so that there will be an up-to-date cumulative index maintained.

It should be of interest to members of the Association that in July a bound copy of Volume IV (Volume V had not been completed at that time) was sent to the ALA Conference in Chicago. In acknowledging its receipt, Miss Hazel B. Timmerman, Executive Assistant, A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration, wrote: "It is an excellent piece of work and will be a very interesting and helpful addition to our Personnel Administration Exhibit."

Sarah M. Usher, Chairman  
Publications Committee,  
1950

Editor's Note: Congratulations to the former Editor on this splendid and valuable undertaking which will be of such lasting benefit to the Association.

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REPORTING THE B.P.L.

On Tuesday, September 10, Dick Tucker of WBZ-TV interviewed Mr Harold Marshman, chief instructor at the North Bennet Street Industrial School, through whose efforts the Library exhibited the work of the School's department of piano tuning, regulating, and repairing during the month of September.

Mrs Helen F. Hirson was Bill Hahn's guest on WNAC-TV, Wednesday, September 19, when she spoke of the Library's service to labor and the exhibit on Labor's Role in the Community.

Polly Huse discussed the Library's exhibit in observance of Fire Prevention Week on Friday, October 12, over WBZ-TV.

Sometime during the month of October the Boston Sunday Post Magazine will feature the story of the Library's teen-age program, highlighting the Keen Teens at Connolly Branch Library.

The Boston Globe will feature gifts to the Library in the rotogravure section either late in October or early in November. The Boston Post will also publish a story on gifts to the Library. These have been planned in connection with the exhibit of gifts which will be on display in the Central Library during November.

The following news item has appeared in the Boston Globe and many local papers.

"Miss Audrey Totter, Hollywood star, will feature the second broadcast of the radio series 'Operation Brotherhood' to be heard Saturday, October 6, over WBZ from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

"Miss Totter's recorded narration is entitled 'Headline Hate'. This broadcast is one of a series of twelve radio programs devoted to incidents related to the kind of good human relations required in eliminating hostilities growing out of racial or religious differences.

"The final five minutes of the program will highlight a discussion by Dr Dennis C. Haley, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, and Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Head, Adult Education Department of the Boston Public Library. They will tell what the schools and the libraries are doing toward building understanding and cooperation among the ethnic, racial and religious groups of the community. Dean Charles W. Havice of Northeastern University, chairman of the Conference's Regional Education Committee, will be the moderator."

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CARE

C are-Unesco Children's Book Fund  
A sks your help and charity  
R arely has the need been greater  
E verybody will agree.

B ooks make friendships that are binding  
O vercome the language strife  
O ur aim must be to kindle  
K nowledge of our way of life.

Food for mind as well as body  
Unity through books we share  
Not a dream but something we can  
Do right now - show that we CARE!

S.R.

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TO INCREASE OR NOT TO INCREASE?

In the October issue of the ALA Bulletin there will appear the proposed new scale of dues, together with a ballot so that you may vote for or against the suggested increase. As you consider this proposal in connection with your own personal budget, won't you please give a few thoughts to the ALA budget, and to what those in the library profession expect ALA to accomplish within the limitations of its budget? Don't vote in haste -- consider the pros and cons -- but vote!

Sarah M. Usher  
ALA Membership Committee

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Mr Heintzelman in Solo Exhibition at the  
Museum

Not to be missed by print lovers and fellow staff members is the current solo exhibition of etchings, drypoints and drawings by Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, Boston Public Library, at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibition of about fifty items represents a selection from a gift of nearly 300 prints presented to the Museum by Mr L. Aaron Lebowich, a Boston businessman and art collector. The collection which is second in importance to that in the Library's incomparable Wiggin collection of Mr Heintzelman's work, includes the notable Wine Grower and Three Score Years and Ten (generally considered his two finest works), The Rabbi, which first attracted the interest of art critics, portraits of Maestro Toscanini and Dr Albert Schweitzer, and several of the artist's masterly characterizations of Amish folk and other Pennsylvania Dutch. Notable in the latter group is a fine vigorous sanguine drawing of a Lancaster County Farmer which is a preliminary study for the drypoint of the same subject.

As a local critic has written, in reviewing the exhibit, "this is a top caliber show by an artist who not only has

something real and lasting to say, but who knows how to say it remarkably well". The exhibition will continue in the first Print Gallery through November 11.

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OFFICIAL JOTTINGS

At their last meeting the Trustees voted to award a contract to the D. A. Rossano Construction Co., Inc., for alterations to the former quarters of the Book Purchasing Department. When the alterations are completed, the area will become the Children's Section of the Open Shelf Department. The alterations which are to be made will be in keeping with those in the new Open Shelf Department quarters.

\*

A contract has been awarded to the Boston Show Case Company, for fourteen wall exhibition cases. When delivered, the show cases will be installed in the first floor corridor walls of the Central Library Building.

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The Trustees have awarded a contract to the Aetna Electric Company, for the installation of new fluorescent lighting fixtures in the corridors on the Stack two level, and in the corridor on the Stack three level leading from the passenger elevator to the new quarters of the Book Purchasing Department.

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The Tyler Street Reading Room will reopen sometime in the early part of November 1951.

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Word has been received that Bookmobile No. 2 will arrive in Boston and be ready for use before the end of October 1951.

\*

Two branch libraries are being painted and redecorated at the present time. They are the West End and Charlestown Branch Libraries.

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NOTES ON THE B.P.L. QUARTERLY

The trials of an editor are graphically told in Lydia Maria Child and Anti-Slavery by Ethel K. Ware, which appears in its first instalment in the October issue of the Quarterly. Mrs Child was already an author with several books to her credit, including the Juvenile Miscellany, when she contributed to the Abolitionist cause one of the most telling pieces of writing which had so far been produced in its defense, An Appeal in Behalf of that Class of Americans Called Africans, published in 1832. Thomas Wenworth Higginson, William Ellery Channing and Charles Sumner all confessed themselves moved by the power of her arguments here. It was only natural therefore that when the New York paper, The National Anti-Slavery Standard, needed an editor, Mrs Child was selected for the post. It was a full-time assignment. The paper was never out of debt, although by Mrs Child's valiant efforts it more nearly approached being so. She was expected to keep her readers informed of current local, national and international trends. She attended meetings and reported them, reviewed books, wrote letters, and never for a moment let the interest of her public flag on the subject of Abolition. All of this she did almost unaided, with an infinitesimal salary, yet not unmindful of the New York around her. From these excursions into the life of the great city which she observed with an appraising eye, have come her Letters from New York, published in The Standard and read with relish by her friends in Boston and the younger Transcendentalists. For all her prominence in the causes of her time, Abolition, the rights of Indians, the care of the poor, and of the insane, Mrs Child shunned publicity, we are told, and was impatient with those who wished to write her lifestory. Her skill as a contender in those controversial fields is revealed in her correspondence. There are notable examples of this in many of the Library's special collections, in the anti-slavery manuscripts, and in the volumes of the Child Papers.

In The German Petrarch of 1532, Miss Munsterberg writes with both erudition and wit as she describes an old book written by Petrarch in 1366, not long before his death. By that time experience had taught him much and in the dialogues between Hope, Fear, Sorrow, and Reason there is compressed the wisdom of a lifetime, or as it is phrased in the sub-title, "how every

one should keep himself in fortune and misfortune." The Library's copy, a German translation of the original Latin, is called Von der Artzney bayder Glück des guten und widerwertigen and was printed in Augsburg in 1532. It is in two volumes, bound in leather-covered wooden boards, and has some remarkable illustrations, one of which is reproduced in the Quarterly. Apart from the interest of the work as a valuable addition to our collections, the article is an example worth noting of a detailed, professional description of a book.

There is a singular appeal in the picture which Mr Francis B. Dedmond of the University of North Carolina gives in his notes on the beginnings of public library activity in the town of Concord, Massachusetts, a hundred odd years ago. Mr Dedmond has compiled from manuscripts and reports a summary of what life was like in the days when Thoreau was one of the shareholders of the newly-founded Concord Athenaeum, when the book count of the Concord Social Library was slightly less than a thousand volumes and Emerson was serving on its Library Committee. Altogether, it is a prosperous record. The Concord Social Library progressed to public status, availed itself of the benefits of the Library Enabling Act of 1851, acquired a building of its own, the gift of a public-spirited native son, and in due course, a collection numbering in the thousands.

C. H.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

On October 4, 1951, in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House, there was held a State Civil Defense meeting to which had been invited women who lead state-wide women's organizations and their local branches, as well as women in the City of Boston Civil Defense setup. In representation of the Library two members of the Civil Defense Planning Committee attended -- Misses Ruth S. Cannell and Sarah M. Usher.

Mr John F. Stokes, State Director of Civil Defense, welcomed the group and introduced Mr Edward A. Weeks, Editor of THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, who presided. The first speaker was Major Charles G. Helmick, Commanding General of the New England Subarea, who spoke on Relationship between the Army and Civil Defense. He brought out the point that when the 81st Congress passed

the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1951, it placed responsibility for Civil Defense with states and municipalities, not with the Armed Forces. This was because the Armed Forces are busy building up their strength and in time of attack would be moving according to set plans in order to insure that the country is well protected. The assumption is that the enemy is going to attack, if it can, the production centers, thereby interfering with the flow of supplies to the Army. Boston ranks high enough on the list so that everyone must be aware of the danger and aware of the need of taking what steps can be taken to minimize the danger.

Civil Defense is of value to the Army because :

- (1) It works to reduce the effect of an attack upon the productivity of the area and
- (2) The men in the Armed Forces know of the dangers to which their families are exposed and the fact that machinery exists to take care of the families at home effects their peace of mind and fighting ability.

The Army has certain duties in connection with Civil Defense:

- (1) Furnishing technological information when needed,
- (2) acquiring knowledge of possible sources of attack,
- (3) discovering enemies' capabilities,
- (4) in case of attack, disposing of unexploded bombs and other munitions.

A large group of people well-organized and well-trained in duties of Civil Defense can be of tremendous value. In case of attack one of the greatest elements to combat will be panic, caused by fear. Four elements making up fear were analyzed:

- (1) Imagination. We assign to the unknown powers out of proportion to the actual weapon.
- (2) Ignorance. An atomic bomb is nothing more than an enlarged high explosive shell with definite limitations and definite effects. If we know the limitations and the effects, we will not have overwhelming fear.
- (3) Egotism. Each one feels that he is individually the target of attack. Let egotism express itself in definite Civil Defense jobs rather than in worrying about getting hit.
- (4) Isolation. One person alone can let his imagination run wild but in a Civil Defense organization where he is

working with others with something definite to do, there is an incentive for curbing the imagination.

In closing Major Helmick said: "The measure of the effectiveness of our Civil Defense is our ability, when called upon, to live up to the standards of courage set by our forebears in the early days when every minute they were open to attack without warning, by savages. It is important that we be worthy successors of our forebears of whom our children, when they look back upon what we did in this crisis, may be able to say, 'They did their job well.'"

The second speaker was Commissioner Patrick A. Tompkins, Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, in charge of Civilian War Aid Services. His main concern is with food, clothing, and housing, and to accomplish anything effective along these lines, cooperation with organized industry is absolutely necessary. As one example of the type of problem with which his group is faced, he cited the fact that most of the milk for the three southern New England states comes from the three northern states and the five largest pasteurization plants are all located in Charlestown, one of the supposedly vulnerable spots along this coast.

He stressed the fact that women will be called upon to do dirty work -- washing dishes, cleaning toilets, scrubbing walls from top to bottom -- to eliminate possibilities of contamination. He urged the women to go back to their organizations and tell their friends and neighbors that there is a job to do, and that it is a dirty job. He said: "If you put into your daily living 1/10` of 1% of the energy that the known and unknown Communists in America put into their daily living in an attempt to destroy America, you will have made your contribution to Civil Defense and you will have made your contribution toward saving your own skin."

Commissioner Vlado A. Getting, M.D., Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in charge of Medical and Health Services, stressed the importance of being prepared in all parts of the Commonwealth for every type of disaster. He warned that there may be multiple attacks simultaneously so that each region of the State must be as self-sustaining as possible. We may expect panic, biological warfare, chemical warfare, radio activity, demolition and atomic bombs -- all without warning. There will be illnesses in larger degree than normally and crowded housing condi-

tions. He listed several steps:

- (1) Recruiting people to take part,
- (2) Signing up with an organization (Red Cross, etc.)
- (3) Training in technical skills (First Aid, etc.)
- (4) Manouvers, mock exercizes in preparation for the real thing.
- (5) Cooperation with units within the state and outside the state.

In answer to the question, "What can women do?", Dr Gettings listed such activities as First Aid, Nurses Aids, Canteen Workers, Clerks in hospitals, Assisting in taking blood from donors, locating supplies and equipment so that in time of disaster they could be assembled with the least waste of time. He believes that there can be no success without wholehearted cooperation and that women must do their share. He urged the women to go back to their organizations and get people to work with enthusiasm, reminding them that they are working not only for themselves but for their neighbors as well. Finally, he stated his belief that there will always be an America, and though Atom bombs may fall on Boston, there will always be a Boston.

Miss Pauline Fenno, Consultant at the State Civil Defense Headquarters, in charge of Women's Voluntary Participation for Civil Defense, spoke of her experiences as a member of the staff of Lady Reading, who headed Great Britain's Women's Voluntary Services, in substantiation of her belief that women of America can do the job that is theirs in connection with Civil Defense. She listed three steps to be taken by women's organizations:

- (1) Contact local Civil Defense Directors
- (2) Alert members to the needs for their services
- (3) Get practical training through, for instance, the various branches of the Red Cross.

A brief question-and-answer preceded the adjournment of the meeting.

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The Library was represented by Mrs Edna M. Wollent, R.N., at a meeting of the Health Services Division, City of Boston Department of Civil Defense, which took place in the Dowling Amphitheatre, Boston City Hospital on October 8. John H. Cauley, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, presided. The meeting was opened by the

showing of the film Self Preservation, presented by the Federal Civil Defense Administration. The first speaker of the evening was Francis D. Moore, M.D., Mosley Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, who, in his talk on Mass Treatment of Burn Casualties, considered what the layman can do to help and stressed that the great need is for tremendous store of plasma without which even the medical men are handicapped.

The highlight of the meeting was an address, Planning Civil Defense, given by Colonel Jack Gault, U.S. Army, Chief of Tactical Division, Federal Civil Defense Administration. The keynote of his talk was the need for speeding up Civil Defense preparations. On his way to Korea, he had stopped in Boston, as the medical center of the country, for information on "first aid and help of the laity in treatment of burns, etc." His entire emphasis was on the necessity for speed.

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One of the best pieces of publicity which the Library's Civil Defense program has received was the article which appeared in the Boston GLOBE on Sunday, September 2, 1951.

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FRENCH GOVERNMENT INVITES MR HEINTZELMAN  
TO ORGANIZE EXCHANGE EXHIBITION

At the invitation of the French Government, Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, will sail on the Liberté, November 2, for France, to organize an important exchange exhibition of French prints to come to the United States.

Through the efforts of Mr Heintzelman and M. René de Messières, Conseiller Culturel at the French Embassy in New York, the first post-war exhibition of American prints was sent to the International Exhibition of Contemporary Printmaking, held in the Petit Palais in Paris in May 1949. The American section of the exhibition, in which fourteen countries were represented, was then shown at the United States Embassy in Paris and is now travelling through the occupied American Zone in Germany. The interest in the exhibition has been so great that by special request of American authorities in Germany it will continue to be shown until the end of 1951.

As a result of the success of this exhibition, Mr Heintzelman was asked to

organize a second and more comprehensive group of prints that would represent the efforts of the foremost artists working in the print field today. The project was sponsored by the Print Department in the Boston Public Library, and the Cultural Attaché of the United States Embassy in Paris. The exhibition of one hundred items was inaugurated in July 1950 in the International Exhibition of Printmaking in Rouen. It was then shown at the Embassy in Paris and is now travelling through the provinces of France.

A third show was organized at the invitation of the United States Embassy in Paris, which was expected to open in its gallery in the autumn of 1951 and then go on tour. Details for the exhibition were arranged by Miss Muriel Figenbaum, First Assistant, Print Department, Boston Public Library, while on an extended stay in Paris for research and study at the Bibliothèque Nationale. Because of the importance of the exhibition it is expected that the opening will take place in the galleries of the Bibliothèque Nationale in the Spring of 1952.

With so much American representation in France the idea of a French exhibition to come here was met with much enthusiasm by M. Albert Chambon, Consul Général de France in New England, and by M. René de Messières. At the request of the French Government Mr Heintzelman was invited to go to France to make arrangements personally for this exhibition, working with the Comité National de la Gravure Française in Paris.

Since the idea of the American exhibitions was given birth through the Print Department in the Boston Public Library the thought was to open a French show in the Albert H. Wiggin Gallery early in 1952, with official representation from the City of Boston and the French Government. After the display here the exhibition will travel to the major art museums and galleries in the United States. In addition to M. Albert Chambon and M. René de Messières, Directors and Curators of the major print centers in this country have lent their names and offered their help. Serving also as members of the Honorary Committee are Mr Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, and M. Julien Cain, l'Administrateur Général de la Bibliothèque Nationale and Directeur des Bibliothèques de France, who will be Honorary President of the Exhibition.

This is not the first exhibition of the sort arranged by Mr Heintzelman. While resident in France in 1927 he organized with M. P. A. Lemoisne, who was then Conservateur du Cabinet des Estampes at the Bibliothèque Nationale, an exchange exhibition of prints between France and the United States. During World War II he was responsible for the many exhibitions of French art in Boston, and was awarded the honor of the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Government in 1947.

M.C.F.

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LABOR EXHIBIT CREATES STIR IN LABOR CIRCLES

As many of the staff members assisted in the preparation of the exhibit, Labor's Role in the Community, presented in the Main Lobby of the Central Library during the month of September, they will be interested to know that the exhibit aroused attention near and far.

In addition to the prominent publicity in all the Boston newspapers, there were articles and photographs in six union publications, local and national. Television, too, found the service to labor worthy of news. On Station WNAC, I was interviewed by Bill Hahn on his fifteen minute program at noon. Moreover, three different still pictures were used on three TV newscasts.

Many union officers have come to the library. Mr Henry J. Brides, President of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, and Mr J. William Belanger, President of Massachusetts CIO, came on the second day of the exhibit and praised it highly. Mr Julius Bernstein of the Labor Committee to Combat Intolerance exclaimed, "This exhibit is the best thing that has 'hit' this town!"

Some of the results of the publicity included:

1. At the request of the Worcester Public Library, Mr Stephen E. McCloskey, the AFL Liaison Officer, who planned the exhibition, is arranging a similar exhibit.
2. Pictures and information were sent upon request to a publisher in Washington for use in several monthly journals of International Unions affiliated with the A.F.L.
3. At the request of the Chairman of the ALA Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups, an article describing the exhibit, the planning, publicity, and the

reaction of the unions and the community was sent for the next issue of the Committee's Newsletter.

4. At a meeting of the Boston Central Labor Union, I was given the opportunity to speak about the exhibit.

5. Miss Anne R. Somers, Special Consultant, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, has asked for pictures and material describing the exhibit and information on the Library's service to trade unions. Her letter ended, "May I take this opportunity to congratulate you and your Institution on what seems to me a valuable contribution to community relationships."

6. Commendatory letters have been received from union officers and friends.

On the many occasions when union officers praised the exhibit, I always wished that all who participated in the preparation of the exhibit could have been present to hear the genuine appreciation in person. Instead, I must resort to this written expression of gratitude on behalf of union officers and members and of myself in particular for the gracious cooperation we received from the Staff.

The initiative for the exhibit came from Mr Thomas J. Manning, in charge of the Exhibits Office. In the arrangement of the exhibit, he was ably assisted by Mr George Scully, his assistant. All the staff members of the Statistical Department were most helpful in assembling books and pamphlets for the exhibit. Miss Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, arranged with a book store for us to have new copies of books in colorful jackets. She also gave advice of the final draft of the booklist that accompanied the exhibit. During Mr Gallagher's absence, Mr Edward Roche of the Printing Department was most helpful in designing and printing the booklist.

Frequently, union officers asked me to extend their thanks to Miss Elizabeth B. Boudreau for the outstanding publicity she arranged for the exhibit. A month before the exhibit opened, Miss Boudreau, Chief of the Information Office, offered her utmost cooperation. She assigned the lead article of the B.P.L. News to the exhibit and the Library's service to trade unions. In addition, she succeeded in obtaining a feature story in the Sunday Post Magazine and a full page in the rotogravure section of the Boston Sunday Globe. With the opening of the exhibit, Miss Boudreau arranged for spot announcements on nine

radio stations on the six and eleven o'clock news broadcasts.

There is no doubt that the unions in and around Boston were gratified with the exhibit. An example of their appreciation is expressed in the following excerpt from a letter by Mr Julius Bernstein, Executive Secretary of the Boston Labor Committee to Combat Intolerance: "We are particularly thankful for the Library's display because although the colleges have installed courses pointing up the ideals and principles and motivations of organized labor, too little information has filtered through to the non-college community. The library is an excellent double-edged instrument. It can point out to the community at large the story of labor and it can serve as the educational resource department for the labor movement."

Helen F. Hirson

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N.Y.P.L. UNDERTAKES  
MAJOR MICROFILMING PROJECT

Announcement was made recently by Ralph A. Beals, Director of the New York Public Library, that before the end of 1952 the 8,000,000 cards in the Library's public catalog will be reproduced on microfilm. This project, which will be completed at a cost of \$25,000, will insure these records against all kinds of damage including storm, fire or enemy attack. In contrast to the space occupied by the present card catalog, the photographic copies, on 800 reels of 16 mm safety microfilm, will occupy only 2 cubic feet of space somewhere outside of the Library. When the present task has been completed the microfilming of the 4,500,000 cards in the Library's official catalog will get under way.

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WE CONGRATULATE

Mr Robert F. Dixon, who completed fifty years of service in the Boston Public Library on October 7, 1951.

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NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Dr Boas "Sparks" Vermont Program

As a main feature of the Thursday morning session, under the auspices of the Vermont Library Association, Dr George Boas, Professor of the History of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, delivered a challenging lecture entitled, The Living Book. In it, this vivid speaker pointed out the great importance of desultory reading and the power of books in the human battle against ignorance and fear.

Following a brief introduction by Mr Leonard B. Archer, Jr, Director of the Rutland Free Library, Dr Boas began by emphatically announcing that he had no intention of trying to tell librarians how to run their libraries or how to serve their public. However, (despite the recent conclusions of the Public Library Inquiry) Dr Boas went on record as a defender of pure pleasure as a good reason for reading.

He declared that there are several enemies of the reading habit who masquerade as friends. For example, the advocates of "the hundred best books," would force a patented list of classics on all readers, despite the fact that much of the wisdom of Plato and Aristotle has since been superseded. Insisting on "the latest" in science or art, the anti-traditionalists, also, prevent much acquisition of knowledge. To their infatuation with the present, Dr Boas replies that what is up-to-date today is completely out-of-date tomorrow in our rapidly changing world. For the provincialism in culture resulting from over-specialization in one field of human endeavor, he feels only contempt.

What of Elbert Hubbard's Little Journeys or Al Capp's Lil' Abner? How much more of our culture and thinking has been molded by these than by T. S. Eliot? Even though such works are not included in college courses, the social historian cannot ignore them.

As Dr Boas says, "In every full course dinner, from soup to nuts, there is a certain amount of carbon in each dish." Random reading brings encounters with both the worthwhile and the worthless. But from such a desultory use of books, the thinking reader emerges with a great truth: he at least begins to realize how heterogeneous the human race really is. He learns that men have not only changed from time to time, but from place to place

as well. He will see the fallacy of selecting one aspect of an age - such as "victorianism" in the nineteenth century - and making it represent that age as a whole. For people make an age, not vice versa, and every era has as many facets as it has individuals.

Since no two men are alike, it follows that educators must remember there are as many Hamlets as there are men who read Shakespeare. The potency of life said to be contained in books comes alive only as these books are read. And each man changes for himself what he reads, giving it his own personal interpretation.

For any government to be a democracy, it must fully recognize these differences among men. Such a government is necessarily, then, one of limited powers. As its people change and new movements appear, a democratic government, like that of Britain, France, or the United States, must make constitutional provision for these changes.

Unfortunately, in Dr Boas' opinion, a new conformity is being forced against nature upon the American people with the anti-Communist investigations which he deplores. Today, an American citizen can be "disgraced for upholding the very ideas for which our democracy exists." No ardent Communist would hesitate one instant before a loyalty oath, but any American who believed in democracy would. What will be the result? If the exposition of Communist principles is confounded with the advocacy of them in a university classroom, there will soon be no one left to contravert Communist propaganda with a study of the sources of that ideology.

In a brilliant conclusion to his stimulating address, Dr Boas compared conversation to a duel in which the speaker is lucky if he touches his opponent at all. Books, more than individuals - or anything else - can quiet our fears and distill our ignorance. Librarians and educators alike must fight against the spies and scandal-mongers who are seeking to destroy our freedoms.

B.G.W.

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ADULT EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Library's Responsibility in the Communication of Ideas: Demonstrations of the Use of Books and Films in Group Discussions, was in itself a challenging subject. And the choice of Mrs Florence S.

SORT MEETING

Craig, Director of Adult Education, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio, was a most happy one. Mrs Craig is also Chairman of the ALA Adult Education Board and a Specialist in Group Discussion Methods. Even the early morning hour - 8:30 - did not lessen her usual enthusiastic approach to the problem at hand. She brought us a fresh viewpoint and many provocative ideas.

At the first morning meeting, on October 11, we became a program committee, planning for a church group meeting. After previewing the film, Search for Happiness we divided into small "buzz" groups to prepare the program. Some members planned the introduction to the film and the opening question, some the meeting procedure, and still others the concluding statement. Then without more ado we became the church group and the program proceeded as planned in the buzz session, with Mrs Craig as the leader. The spirited discussion which followed was halted only by the clock. It was a notable and exceedingly practical hour and a half.

On the following morning as members of a women's club, we listened to Mrs Craig review for us, Sweeper in the Sky--The Life of Maria Mitchell, First Woman Astronomer in America, and then came the questions for discussion. Here again members of the women's club certainly were not allowed to listen passively and then to go home without even knowing the title of the book, as sometimes happens in actual experience.

The third morning we were ourselves, that is librarians, faced with the challenge of inducing members of our public to read all sides of a question. Mrs Craig first pointed out the many obstacles individuals must face in trying to find an answer to a current problem. She graphically illustrated her talk by showing us headlines on the same subject from different newspapers. She pointed out that even columnists have copy changed if their remarks are contrary to the paper's policy. She told amusing stories of news events inaccurately reported by well-meaning reporters. In the buzz session which followed, we then discussed what we, as librarians, could do about it.

M.C.J.

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The Staff Organizations Round Table of the ALA, popularly known as SORT, held its program Thursday morning, October 11. Mr Magnus K. Kristoffersen, Librarian of the Hartford Public Library and Mr Bradford M. Hill of the Boston Public Library were the speakers. Mr Hill, who is editor of the SORT Bulletin and a past president of the BPLPSA, was chairman of the meeting.

Mr Kristoffersen spoke on the value of a staff association to the librarian and the library. He cited several functions that staff associations could perform. A staff association provides for an exchange of ideas between staff members, can promote library publicity, serve as intermediary between the librarian and the more timid personnel, help provide funds for upkeep of staff quarters, and work for group hospitalization, insurance, credit unions, and loan funds. The Hartford Librarian then discussed some of the disadvantages of a staff association from the administrator's point of view, such as limitation of administrative sovereignty, time consumed by correspondence between the administrator and the association in matters where a swift decision is necessary or preferred, the possibility of agitators using the association as a forum for their harangues. Mr Kristoffersen told the audience about the accomplishments of his library's staff organization, such as working for and obtaining longer vacation periods and a five day work week.

Mr Hill traced the history of SORT from its inception in 1937, and gave the four purposes for its existence, i.e., to encourage the founding of staff associations, to act as a clearing house of information among the associations, to cooperate with them in their plans and programs, and to cooperate with those ALA boards concerned with personnel matters. Mr Hill spoke of the four surveys conducted by SORT on the five day week, the in-service training program, cooperative administrative activity, and retirement and insurance programs. The results of these surveys may be obtained from Mrs Frances A. Griffin of the Buffalo Public Library. Mention was made of the SORT Bulletin which appears three or four times annually and contains summaries of papers read at conventions, surveys, and news from members.

A question period followed and the number and type of questions asked indicated the keen interest of the audience in

matters pertaining to staff associations. During the question period, Mr Lord expressed his pleasure and satisfaction with the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. He feels that the activities and our opinions expressed in THE QUESTION MARK columns have shown the maturity of our Association.

At luncheon, Mr Kristoffersen was a guest of the B.P.L.P.S.A., which was represented by Mr Hill, Mrs Elizabeth L. Wright, Mrs Geraldine S. Herrick, and Mr Paul V. Moynihan.

P.M.

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#### MASSACHUSETTS PROGRAM

Miss Catharine M. Yerxa, President of MIA and Librarian, Watertown Public Library, presiding at the Massachusetts Program, on Friday, October 12, had the pleasure of introducing Mr David H. Clift, the newly appointed Secretary of ALA. The evident sincerity of his brief message assured us of his ability and desire to be of practical service on the Board.

Miss Helen A. Ridgway, Chief, Bureau of Libraries, Connecticut State Department of Education, formerly Chief Public Library Specialist of ALA, introduced the next four speakers who presented and discussed with penetrating keenness their ideas on "Arming the Mind and Spirit of the American People".

Professor Allan B. Overstreet expressed strong concern over the world role of America, the problems being faced today, and how America is responding. He believes that the major problem is not the actual threat of physical violence, but rather, psychic violence, what is being done to thinking man. We live under threat of a garrison police state. There is a break-down of the requisites of happy personal life. On every hand there is an undermining of critical judgment. Everywhere are the three problems of complexity, tension and conformity. Professor Overstreet emphasized the need for devoting every possible effort to the clarification of our national thinking. We are dealing with ideas, and these must be the best possible.

Mrs Florence S. Craig, Director, Adult Education, Cuyahoga County Library, Parker Wheatley, Director, Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council, and Arthur T. Hamlin, Executive Secretary, Associa-

tion of College and Reference Libraries, continued with able and potent discussion from their particular view points. The session closed on the thought that librarians must be "prepared to pull their own weight" in tackling these problems of America together.

E.G.

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#### CONNECTICUT PROGRAM

In the Yale University Library today there is a large collection of original letters, journals, and miscellaneous papers written by James Boswell. The story of the Boswell papers is one of the most interesting and fascinating in recent English Literature.

Mr Herman W. Liebert, of the Editorial Committee of the Yale Edition of the Private Papers of James Boswell, who told the story at the Saturday morning meeting of the New England Libraries on October 13, used the word "exciting" constantly and he certainly passed the excitement along to his listeners.

James Boswell was of Scotch ancestry and of good family. He was a lawyer of repute, and held judicial positions in Scotland. His visits to England, which he recounts in the London Journal, with humor and frankness, were usually on vacations or outside of business sessions. That he was a man of some substance and culture is witnessed by his correspondence with all of the notable men of his time including Voltaire, Rousseau and Sir Joshua Reynolds.

After Boswell's death in 1795, his journals and papers disappeared. Some years later, a letter was found which had been used as wrapping paper for a grocery package in a small store in Paris. Other papers were found in the same shop. But the vast bulk of the collection was subsequently located in a castle near Dublin, and more were found in old trunks and store houses. How these letters were purchased and finally housed in the Yale Library is truly an "exciting" tale.

One collection has already been published, the London Journal. Its frankness has been subjected to much criticism, but it serves, Mr Liebert explained, as an excellent picture of London in the seventeenth century.

Thus after a lapse of 150 years, James Boswell has come into his own, and may claim a place to fame in his own right.

A.L.M.

NEW ENGLAND UNIT CATHOLIC LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

On Saturday afternoon, October 13, Reverend John A. Broderick, Chairman, opened the meeting of the N.E. Unit of the Catholic Library Association by presenting the retiring Chairman, Mr John M. O'Loughlin, with a scroll as a testimonial of the affection and esteem of the members of the Unit. Mr O'Loughlin, Librarian of Boston College, has recently been elected President of the Catholic Library Association, and as such has had many additional duties placed upon him.

Miss Mary Alice Rea, Program Chairman, introduced Miss Margaret O'Connor of the Worcester Free Public Library, who chose as the title of her talk, "The Breath of God." The breath of God is the vital factor implanted in the child at birth. Books and reading may marr or enliven this factor and Miss O'Connor listed books that all children should and do love.

Miss Dorothy Becker, assisted by Miss Marie Kennedy, Miss Jeannette Pepin, and Miss Gracemarie Alfe, all members of the Boston Public Library staff, demonstrated book characters with marionettes, and the audience laughed at the antics of the Three Bears and Goldilocks, Rumpelstiltskin, and Beauty and the Beast.

Mr Daniel Sargent needed no introduction to the audience. He is well known, particularly to Catholic readers, for his many books and poems. He asked in the title of his talk, What is a democratic poem? In testing poems for democracy, he quoted Walt Whitman, Homer, the Song of Roland, and Robert Frost. Poetry, whether of kings or shepherds, he declared, is enjoyed by all. Being of kings and shepherds it cannot be identified with any particular class of people, and thus poetry alone, cannot be either democratic or undemocratic.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by announcing the dates of Catholic Book Week, February 10 - 16, 1952.

A.L.M.

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FOURTH HEWINS LECTURE GIVEN BY FORMER  
STAFF MEMBER

The Round Table of Children's Librarians at their annual fall meeting at Swampscott on Saturday, October 13, presented Mr L.

Felix Ranlett as fourth CAROLINE M. HEWINS Lecturer. Mr Ranlett, Librarian of the Bangor Public Library, was formerly Chief of our own Book Selection Department. He had as his subject The Youth's Companion as Recalled by a Staff Member.

Mr Frederic G. Melcher, founder of the lectureship and honorary chairman for the meeting, briefly prefaced Mr Ranlett's reminiscences with his own inimitably gleeful recollections of boyhood experiences with the Youth's Companion.

Mr Ranlett's memories of his years with the Youth's Companion before World War I, and again after his return, provided a warm-hearted and intimate account. Describing his work in the editorial's library and his later duties as an assistant editor and editorial reader, he discussed the Miscellany Department, for which he made selections from English and German periodicals, and the Boys' Department page for which he wrote practical articles on what to do and how to do it. The former department, he told his audience, existed during the paper's entire 102 years' history, from 1827 to 1929.

Glimpses of many well-known editors and contributors were delightfully given. Among them were Charles M. Thompson, Ira Rich Kent, John Clair Minot, Charles Boardman Hawes (Newbery Medal winner), and the prolific Charles Asbury Stephens, a lifetime contributor who, he said, was pointed out to visitors with reverent whispers. Gluyas Williams was a staff artist, as were Walt Harris and the famous cowboy Will James.

An important institution of the Youth's Companion, Mr Ranlett entertainingly pointed out, was the thirty-to-fifty page premium list, printed annually in October. This carried lush descriptions of prizes to be earned by young readers who exerted themselves to get new subscriptions. (Such an effort Mr Melcher himself recalled making.) At the periodical's headquarters, this collection of seemingly perfect items was the big attraction for visitors.

Mr Ranlett gave in conclusion his answer to the question "Why did the Youth's Companion die?" This he feels was due to business difficulties, not to a decline in reading matter. There was a lack of sufficient advertising (taboos against many things that fill our advertising pages was a great factor), but there was not a lack of subscribers.

Miss Pauline Winnick, Chairman of the

Round Table of Children's Librarians, announced that both this lecture and last year's paper on Caroline M. Hewins, given by Miss Jennie Lindquist, Editor of the Horn Book Magazine, will be printed in digest form in forthcoming issues of the Horn Book. She also announced that next year's lecture will be presented by Mrs Elinor Whitney Field, on the subject of her grandmother, Mrs A. D. T. Whitney. The latter's writing included many popular books for girls, Faith Gartney's Girlhood, etc., brought out during the last half of the nineteenth century. Mrs Field is author of Tod of the Fens and other stories for children.

V.H.

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#### N.E.L.A. ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1951-52

Announcement was made at the recent conference of the New England Library Association at Swampscott of the following slate of officers:

President, Louise B. Day, Chief Librarian, Lynn Public Library, Lynn, Massachusetts.  
Vice-President, Frederick G. Kilgour, Librarian, Yale Medical School, Connecticut.  
Treasurer, David A. Jonah, Librarian, Brown University, Rhode Island.  
Secretary, Lucille Chandonnet, City Library, Manchester, New Hampshire.  
Director, Dr Sidney Butler Smith, Director of Libraries, University of Vermont.  
Director, Edward C. Heintz, Assistant Librarian, Bowdoin College, Maine.  
Past President (ex-officio), Ransom L. Richardson, Librarian, Curtis Memorial Library, Meriden, Connecticut.

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#### LIBRARY PREPARES BOOKMARKS FOR UNUSUAL FILM

Bookmarks have been prepared by the Boston Public Library in connection with the William Snyder production of The Emperor's Nightingale by Hans Christian Andersen, which has its New England Premiere at the Exeter Street Theatre on October 21.

Jiri Trnka (pronounced Jerry Trinkka) was attracted to the fairy tale during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, since

Andersen's bird could not sing in the bondage of a cage. Then followed two years of painstaking effort in a 300 year old building in Prague, where Trnka wrote the script, made the sets and costumes with his assistants, and photographed the entire film with one camera.

Originally produced as a color pantomime with an accompanying musical score, the American version has a narrative written by Phyllis McGinley, author of poems and children's stories, and is narrated by Boris Karloff.

The result is a delightful picture of charm and authenticity. Personally speaking, the members of the Boston Public Library's film preview committee, some of the children's librarians, Miss Gordon and I, who attended the preview, are looking forward to the day when this will be sold in 16 mm. The ALA has issued the following statement: "The world of people and the world of puppets are related with ingenuity and charm in this beautiful extension in color of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale."

Elizabeth B. Boudreau

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#### RECENT MATERIAL OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

Lancour, Harold. Training for librarianship in North America in The Library Association Record, Vol. 53, No. 9; September 1951, p. 280-284.

In this article for our English cousins, Dr Lancour of the Library School of the University of Illinois has written a straightforward, concise, informative article on the past, present and projected goals of library training in North America that makes pleasant, profitable reading. Devoid of the artificial jargon and verbosity that too often befuddles writings on the topic, this article discloses an evolving pattern and a philosophy over the years of professionalism within library work. The answers to hypothetical questions that conclude the article, touching on recruiting, "sub" professionalism, etc., are interesting footnotes to the ideas in the body of the article.

Maizell, Robert E. The subject-departmentalized public library in College and Research Libraries, Vol. XII, No. 3; July 1951, p. 255-260.

The article briefly sketches the historical developments of departmentalization within libraries, pointing out examples of libraries that represent the four types the author has identified. The Boston Public Library is described as at a second step toward complete departmentalization - "Libraries with several subject departments and the distinction between circulating and reference materials less clear than in the first type mentioned (a functional type of organization)." The author lists 12 problems most commonly met in subject departments. They do not seem to have their origins in subject departmentalization by any means. He assembles 16 other principles now in actual operation or which have been suggested as of possible use to improve on such short comings. Again, these principles could be applied basically to some purpose in almost any library situation - large public, branch, or special.

American Library Directory. 19th edition. New York, Bowker, 1951.

While a directory may not constitute conventional reading, it would be quite understandable if pages 241 to 244 were read with satisfaction by all members of the staff. The holdings of the Boston Public Library are set forth in greater detail than in previous editions and there can be expected perhaps a more vigorous use of the library's collections because of this wider diffusion of word of its specialties. An additional feature also in this edition of the directory is the inclusion of all branch libraries of a library system, their mailing address, holdings, and branch librarian. The entry for each state is preceded by statistics on state aid, regional libraries in the state, population without public library service, etc. Massachusetts reports holdings of 2.5 volumes per capita, a circulation of five books per capita and expenditures of \$1.73 per capita. 496 people out of a population of 4,663,788 in Massachusetts are reported without library service. State aid is reported as "None", a statement that may give rise to some questions. There are the ever-useful list of library extension agencies, clubs, schools, periodicals as well as a subject index to special collections and an index to memorial libraries and collections connected with colleges and universities and larger public libraries.

Jamieson, John. Books for the army, The Army Library Service in the Second World War. New York, Columbia Press, 1950.

This book is more than a history of a library service put together to service all theaters of the war. It touches on the publishing history made by the Armed Services Editions, Censorship, the Soldier Voting Law, Victory Book Campaign, etc. A solid book that reads well and carries a great deal of information applicable to non-service connected activities.

Bibliographic Organization, Papers presented before the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Graduate Library School, July 24-29, 1950. Edited by Jesse H. Shera and Margaret E. Ega. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1951.

The preface of this book opens with the lines: "The acceleration of publication in all areas of activity has made it increasingly difficult for the librarian to meet the bibliographic needs of scholar, technician, and general public." The papers presented discuss the problem from the functional approach, the subject approach, and the management approach. Solid reading, with some humor, but all pertinent in this day of out-pourings from so many presses.

J.M.C.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

- Aldridge, John W.  
After the lost generation.  
New York, McGraw-Hill, 1951
- Atkinson, Justin B.  
Once around the sun.  
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1951
- Booth, John N.  
Fabulous destinations.  
New York, Macmillan, 1950
- Dodge, David  
20,000 leagues behind the 8 ball.  
New York, Random House, 1951
- Freeman, Lucy  
Fight against fears.  
New York, Crown Publishers, 1951

Henderson, J. Y.  
Circus doctor.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1951

Michener, James A.  
Return to paradise.  
New York, Random House, 1951

Partridge, Bellamy  
Salad days.  
New York, Crowell, 1951

Salomon, Irving  
Retire and be happy.  
New York, Greenberg, 1951

Sheen, Fulton J.  
Three to get married.  
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1951

Fiction

Babson Naomi L.  
I am Lidian.  
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1951

Davis, Burke  
The ragged ones.  
New York, Rinehart, 1951

Feuchtwanger, Lion  
This is the hour.  
New York, Viking Press, 1951

Jackson, Shirley  
Hangsaman.  
New York, Farrar, Straus and Young, 1951

Macken, Walter  
Rain on the wind.  
New York, Macmillan, 1951

Mason, Van Wyck  
Proud new flags.  
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1951

Miller, Davis M.  
The chain and the link.  
Cleveland, World Publishing Co., 1951

Nathan, Robert  
The innocent Eve.  
New York, Knopf, 1951

O'Flaherty, Liam  
Insurrection.  
Boston, Little, Brown, 1951

Spellman, Francis Joseph, Cardinal  
The founding.  
New York, Scribner, 1951

Sumner, Cid R.  
Sudden glory.  
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1951

Walker, Mildred  
The southwest corner.  
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1951

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Office of Chief Librarian Division of  
Reference and Research Services

Bouquet to the B. P. L.

The following tribute to the Library, which was thought to be of general interest to the staff, is an excerpt from a letter sent to Mr Richard G. Hensley from a visiting patron, Mr Nigel Hill Herrick of Urbana, Illinois.

...I have used, in person, many of the great libraries in this country and have always met with kindness, yet the Boston Public is somehow superlative in its functions. Even the little court with the fountain and greenery where you can rest your eyes a little while when they are tired from reading is unexpected and typical and important. I have found in the whole place a spirit of helpfulness 'over and above the call of duty' ... If I were a librarian I would certainly hope to work in a place like the Boston Public and to do as good a job as you ...

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Periodical Department

Periodically Speaking

For "what to do" on that lunch hour break, "would be" inventors from Science and Tech, or artists from Fine Arts, might be interested in viewing replicas and working models of inventions copied from original drawings of Leonardo da Vinci, now on display at the International Business Machines office in Copley Square. Exhibits include "previews" of the helicopter, double hull of a ship, an automobile jack, aerial bombs, scaling ladder and other equally intriguing items. An illustrated brochure is given to each visitor which serves as a tribute to all inventors by

placing before him "a worthy example of a man exercising to the fullest extent his capacities to think, feel and create in service of his fellow men."

M.R.

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BRANCH NOTES

Memorial

The following letter was sent with flowers to the library staff from the faculty of the Memorial High School for Girls:

TODAY IS A SPECIAL DAY! We Memorialites all feel jubilant because today, SEPTEMBER 27th, we celebrate the coming of the MEMORIAL BRANCH OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY into our school building.

It is quite fitting that we rejoice - on this 25th anniversary of that eventful day - at this excellent addition to our halls of learning. For, in 1854, the first library in the City of Boston was opened in a Boston Public School on Mason Street. This building on Mason Street was later used as headquarters of the Boston School Committee.

Our efficient librarians, under the able direction of Miss Margaret McGovern, are willing at all times to help us in our search for knowledge. When we need books for class assignments, or for pleasure reading we have only to ask courteously for help in our Memorial Branch of the Library and that assistance comes to us from every member of the library staff.

Today, the MEMORIAL BRANCH is celebrating the 25th birthday of the inauguration of the library in our school building. We hope that all who visit the library today will congratulate the friendly librarians on this - the 25th anniversary of the birth of Memorial Branch. And from today on, may we always show in our courteous dealings with the librarians that we appreciate their gracious help, so cheerfully given, to enrich our lives.

Every school should be to those who dwell in it a place where the heart is comforted as well as where the mind is benefited. Our librarians have done much to add light and warmth to the lives of all the dwellers in our school.

The MEMORIALITES thank the LIBRARIANS, and wish them MANY MORE YEARS OF HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY. CONGRATULATIONS!

ROXBURY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL (GIRLS)

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Phillips Brooks

Book Week will begin early in Readville when on Thursday evening, November 8, at 7:30, Miss Anna Bird Stewart, author of stories and biographies for young people, will speak to an audience of young people and especially interested adults. Miss Stewart's new biography, Enter David Garrick, has just been published. It follows her widely read Young Miss Burney, which was this year placed in the Festival of Britain Exhibit in Lichfield Cathedral. Members of the staff who are interested in this eighteenth century research and in young people's reading are most cordially invited to attend this program.

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Uphams Corner

At a Branch located in a Municipal Building:

A young lady who appeared at the Registration Desk saying that she wished to "register" gave a full application, and her references were duly checked by the Directory. When she was told that her card would probably be ready for her the following afternoon, she replied, "Oh, I wanted to register for voting."

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West End

West End children were given two special "treats" during the month of September. On September 11, a small group of children was taken on a trip to Jordan's to see the various exhibits of the British Fortnight. The doll exhibit, the movies, and the industries exhibits, all proved interesting and instructive. However, the most intriguing attractions were the English "Bobbies", the "Beef-eaters", and the Scotch Bag-pipers in their traditional and colorful kilts. All three groups were unusually kind and cooperative in talking to the children, explaining their uniforms and answering their questions. The morning ended pleasantly with refreshments and a walk back through the Common to the library.

The second "treat" was the Summer Reading Club Party, which was held on September 15. One of the features of this party was a play, "The Lawrence Boy", an adaptation of a scene from "Little Women". This was produced and acted by four West End girls and it was a commendable performance. The presentation of certificates and special awards came next; and finally re-

freshments, ice cream and cookies, were served.

From the Mouths of Babes ... One of the members of the West End Branch Summer Reading Club is a little eight year old girl who joined it a month after its inception. In spite of this disadvantage she finished the season at the head of the list, having read fifty-four books. When asked how she managed to read that many books in so short a time, this was her answer: "I am really very busy with loads of other things, but I have found out that if you truly want to do something, you will find the time to do it in."

Plans are now taking shape for the observance of Jewish Book Month, which will take place November 23 - December 23, under the joint sponsorship of the Boston Public Library, the Bureau of Jewish Education, and the Jewish Centers Association. Speaker's programs and exhibits are being arranged. Libraries interested in taking part in this year's activities are invited to communicate with Miss Fanny Goldstein, Librarian, West End Branch, who is Secretary of the Jewish Book Month Committee in Boston and Honorary Chairman of the Jewish Book Council of America.

\*

The West End picture collection always extensive and alert has been still further reorganized during the Summer to meet the challenge of the ever changing world scene. Out-dated units have been discarded. Some old ones have been augmented, and many new ones have been created. The picture collection in general and in special units is available to Branch Libraries for exhibit purposes. The half-a-dozen Branches who have already borrowed these exhibits have reported them a most successful experiment and it is hoped that other Branches will also take further advantage of them.

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#### SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration.

The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Editor:

Many staff members were surprised to learn, through recent letters in the Soap Box, of the double standard for salaries in the sub-professional service. To my knowledge, no official explanation has been made for this unhealthy situation, but, if money was appropriated by the city to provide a flat increase for all employees, then the entering salary for all grades should have been increased. Surely the cost of living has risen just as high for the sub-professional as for the professional. Could the Professional Staff Association initiate some action with a view toward correcting this inequality?

\*

To the Editor:

In the Editor's Corner of the Question Mark for September, in a plea for correct and sympathetic interpretation to the public of certain policies of the library, we read ... "should not all of us who have direct contact with the public ask ourselves whether or not we clearly understand the reason behind such actions ..." Does this recognize the fact that in many instances the staff cannot understand because the staff receives no official explanation, or even notice of, "such actions"? Certainly we could do a better job in public relations if we had the advantage of an explanation, from an official source, in advance of "such actions".

In the dark

\*

To the Editor:

A Patron's Lament!

I came to the Boston Public Library, standing majestically in Copley Square, There I found books, and books, and books: some old, some new, some rare. I sat in the subdued light feasting my hungry mind

As I read the works of Aristotle, Euripi-  
'des and Kind.

Such an array of learning within so small  
a space  
Seemed to be an unadulterated asset to the  
human race.

This morning as I drank my coffee and  
read the local news  
I came across an item that tends to change  
my views.

"There will be smoking at the library," in  
bold, black type.

To my biased eyes, those words were an  
awful sight.

"Smoking" and "polite conversation will be  
permitted"

Easy chairs will be provided to which all  
will be admitted.

"Comfort will be the main theme," alas,  
alack, by hooks

I, in my innocence, thought the main  
"theme" of a library was books.

Creature comforts - smoking, talk and  
maybe drink - have won the day  
Now it is a "club" - or so the papers say,  
No more need I come to the B.P.L. to feast  
my hungry soul  
I just will pass it by as I go out for a  
stroll.

After all, I have a smoke, a drink, a  
chair at home.

Why need I roam?

Just to get smoke in my eyes and sit on a  
bit o' foam!

\*

To the Soap-box Editor:

Apropos of the startling news in the  
Boston Post of October 11, 1951 which  
stated that "Plans for developing and  
expanding the Boston Public Library into  
the most modern public library in the  
world where smoking and chatting will be  
permitted, and where stiff-backed chairs  
will be discarded", I should like to  
point out that no mention of books was  
made in this Utopian plan for a "library  
which will be conducted like that of a  
private club or home." From experience of  
working with the public, and after all ex-  
perience is the best teacher, what the  
public really desires is a library with an  
ample supply of good reading. The major-  
ity of individuals do not wish for smoking,  
and they dislike chattering when they are  
browsing or reading.

A Realist

To the Soap Box Editor:

Some of us who have cast longing eyes  
at the new quarters of the Open Shelf De-  
partment read with mixed feelings the re-  
cent announcement in a local newspaper of  
the projected innovations, presumably in  
that Department when it opens. In the  
"raised eyebrows" department was the  
announcement that it would be conducted  
like a "club" where smoking and "polite  
conversation" would be permitted. Experi-  
ence having revealed to us some of the more  
lawless tendencies of certain members of  
the public, expressed in mutilation of  
books and equipment, causes us to wonder  
how soon before those pastel chairs and  
fragile tables will reveal the impressions  
of burning cigarettes and other disfigure-  
ments. Knowing our own proclivities we  
have visions of lighted cigarettes (or cig-  
ars) laid carelessly on a shelf while an  
absorbed borrower excitedly turns the pages  
of a "who done it" to see who "done in"  
whom, and lo - in the twinkling of an eye,  
borrower and "who done it" disappearing in  
a cloud of smoke, as a shelf of those  
handsome, plastic bound (inflamable?) books  
ignite in a merry blaze. No doubt this has  
been anticipated and attendants will be  
hovering about armed with fire extinguishers,  
first aid equipment and silent butlers.  
We hope too they will be prepared to cope  
with the minority - but oh how articulate!  
non-smokers who "can't bear" cigarette and  
cigar smoke. As for "polite conversation"  
will that exclude irascible comment from  
members of the public who have been known  
to "shush" not only voluble patrons but  
even staff members whose necessary conver-  
sation has disturbed their musings on the  
abstractions of Aquinas or the loves of  
Larrimore?

Conducting a library like a "club" in a  
suburban community, with a more or less  
homogeneous public is one thing but to  
attempt it in the heart of a great city in  
a neighborhood frequented by eccentrics,  
inebriates (and worse) on the very fringes  
of "skid row" is courageous indeed. When  
the millenium comes and Open Shelf De-  
partment does move perhaps those of us in our  
more austere, smoke free, tranquil quarters,  
where "the book is the thing" won't be so  
envious after all.

Could be wrong

\*

To the Soap-Box:

Is ALL of the red-tape involved in inter-departmental records really necessary? Does anything sound sillier than a Division Head notifying an employee, over his signature, that certification has been granted for certain examinations, giving complete details as to date, examinations, rate of pay, etc...with doubtless many carbons to the supervisor, department head etc...and then requesting that the department head send back a service change sheet containing the exact information which was sent from that office to him? A department which serves the public should be permitted to serve the public. Closed departments which service those departments should devote their time to servicing them in the public interest. If it is necessary to maintain so many nearly identical records in files in the offices, cannot the records be typed in the offices by trained secretaries, for signature by the departmental heads if the signature is strictly necessary? Then titular assistants might have time for more important items of work! Many of us get almost no time for the work in which we are trained because red tape has eaten so far into our schedules.

One who is NOT a secretary

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LATE NEWS

Bergen, Oct. 9, 1951

Dear all of you!

Thank you for cards and letters both on the boat and later on. I certainly enjoyed reading and showing the Question Mark you sent me, to my family and the staff at the Public Library of Bergen. I had the most wonderful trip going home - the Atlantic showed itself from its most friendly side, so we could do nothing but enjoy it. Although I am happy to be with family again, it has taken me some time to settle down again. Bergen is as beautiful as we, her citizens, always claim her to be, and I didn't realize how much I have missed the hills surrounding Bergen, protecting us in a way. Yes - everything seems to be exactly the way it used to be - and that is just the point! Apparently nothing has changed. But when you are away you feel that you, yourself, have

changed, and expect everything else to have developed the same way. Anyway - the fall has come, the days are getting shorter, and the week needs at least a couple of days more. To the information of those who knew about my plans: I didn't get the U.S. Information Library-job. My chances seemed to be quite good for a long time, so I hesitated taking anything else before I knew how things would turn out. Mr Eide, The U.S. Public Officer, is still looking for rooms for the library. The Public Library here didn't have any jobs at the moment. Four days of filling-in at the Open Shelf is all I got there. To-day they are advertising 2 assistant jobs, and I intend to apply for them, although I already am working now. The University Library of Bergen couldn't take in anybody except as apprentices with 206kroner a month. To work in a University Library would be quite a new experience to me, and as long as I am just waiting to get into the library school next fall, I might as well learn as much as possible in the meantime. The University of Bergen is only 3 years old, and has just got new buildings on one of the best sites of the city. The library, though, is the old Museum Library, and is still located in the Museum Building. We have just opened a new reading room quite a bit larger than the old one. The result is that we all have been working hard in order to get everything ready. Especially the recataloging has been a lot of work. - And cataloging is what I am still doing - something I have nothing against! The people at the library are very nice, mostly young people, so I feel quite at home after one month only. Still I haven't lost contact with Bergens Offentlige bibliotek. Mrs Rieber-Hohn, the vice-librarian, is looking over some of the B.P.L. publications I got with me, and from time to time I remember more and more things to tell when I am up visiting them. Miss Ellingsen, the childrens librarian, got the juvenile books Miss Gordon sent with me, after I had read them all. I kept Tidewaterales though, for my own pleasure. Miss Ellingsen was very pleased, as I know she has told you. I am going to talk about American children and young people to six and eight-graders on Oct.18. It is arranged by the Childrens Department in our public library. Talks are given every Thursday, usually accompanied with films or slides. The U.S. Information Office is trying to get a suitable film for my talk. They will also have a projector for us to use. So I am quite anxious to

BON VOYAGE

see how it is going to turn out. Beside doing cataloging I have joined a workshop-group for modern Norwegian literature, and my mother & I are enjoying a course in The understanding of music. One of the significant uses of fall is the stream of books the publishing houses are sending out on the market. A lot of them are Norwegian, but we also get quite a few translations. I recognize many of those I looked through or read while in Boston. More and more people seem to think they are writers. Reading the bookreviews in the papers is getting to be quite a job now. I don't dare to think of what might happen if all these books were worth while. -We wouldn't get time to live. The leaves are turning yellow and red, and I am thinking of the New England autumn which made such an impression on me. About a month ago, we had the Ingersoll's here, Fern Ingersoll from the B.P.L. and her husband who graduated from Harvard this year. They came from England where they have been travelling around for a month or so, stayed here five days and then went on to Oslo by motorcycle. They had bad luck with the weather, but I think they saw most of Bergen all the same, and we all enjoyed so much having them. I will say good-bye for now, and I hope you will forgive me for having waited so long before writing! Please remember me to Boston, and especially Copley Square!

Sincerely yours

(SIGNED) Berit Lambertsen

Note: Letter copied without paragraphs to save space.

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to those making the visitations in Baltimore, Toledo, Cleveland, Detroit, leaving by plane on Sunday, October 21, and returning Friday evening, October 26, 1951:

- Mr Milton E. Lord
- Mr John J. Connolly
- Mr John M. Carroll
- Mrs Ada A. Andelman
- Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon
- Mrs Mary K. Harris
- Miss Ruth M. Hayes
- Mrs Muriel C. Javelin
- Mrs Grace B. Loughlin
- Mrs Sara Lyon

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Members and friends of  
The B. P. L. P. S. A.

are invited to an  
illustrated lecture

Westward with New England Eyes

by

STEWART ANDERSON  
Lecturer and Photographer

One of the most successful lecturers in the B. P. L. lecture series in recent years, Mr Anderson's exceptional color photography of the West will be of particular interest to staff members who make a hobby of photography.

FRIDAY · OCTOBER 26, 1951 · AT 8:30 P.M.

THE LECTURE HALL

*Refreshments*

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Muriel C. Javelin, Chairman

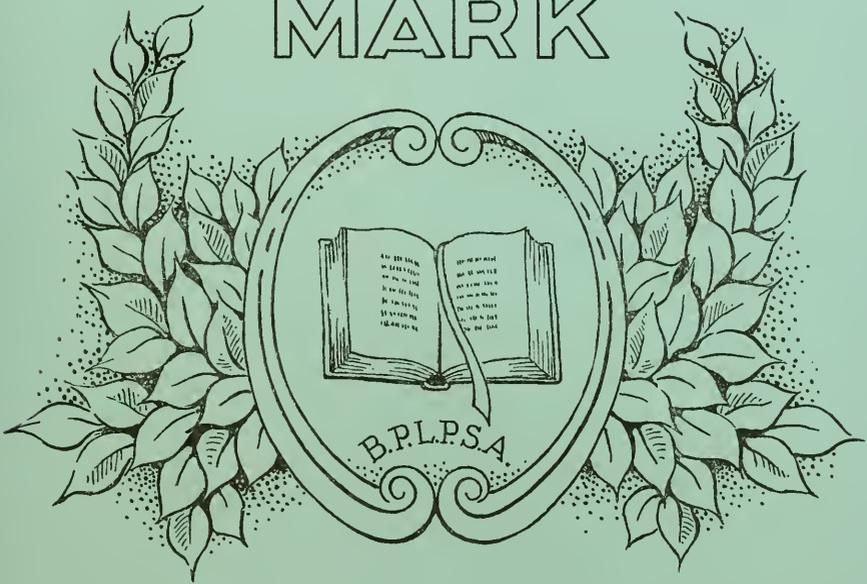
Edward X. Casey  
Margaret W. Haverty  
Ruth M. Hayes

Pearl Smart  
Loraine Sullivan  
Pauline Winnick

Please Post



THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

In a current play by one of our more thoughtful contemporary dramatists, the author in a climactic scene, sums up the principles for which his hero - no less a figure than Socrates - is on trial for his life. Defying the prevailing Athenian distrust of non-conformity, he has Socrates remind his judges that "the air of democracy is only healthy when inquiry bites constantly at the heels of every proposal and project." This trenchant statement serves vividly to remind the reader that the very nature of a democracy requires the active participation of every one of its members, and only through such action is life and meaning given to the principles which sustain it. It is the test of such a basic truth that it can be applied with equal validity to the simplest as well as the most complex situation. Thus in case of our own Staff Association, a democracy in Microcosm, opportunity is provided through meetings and the ballot to "bite at the heels" of any "proposal or project" with which we are not in agreement. As the approaching fall business meeting of the Association will be concerned with important work in progress and reports of committees requiring action by the Association, let us all make a special effort to be present at this meeting, and through our active participation give support and guidance to the officers we have elected, and the committees which are giving their time and energies to carrying out the aims of the Association. Appended to the President's notes in this issue of The Question Mark is the agenda of the meeting.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 21. Special Meeting of the Quarter Century Club for election of officers, at 9:30 a.m. in the Lecture Hall.
- November 23. Business Meeting of the B.P.L.P.S.A. at 9:30 a.m. in the Lecture Hall.

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PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

- Mrs Mary E. Brigante, Uphams Corner Branch Library.
- Mrs Miriam F. Cohen, Kirstein Business Branch.
- Mr John I. Collins, Business Office.
- Mrs Rosemary G. Corcoran, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services.
- Miss Catherine M. Hannon, Codman Square Branch Library.
- Miss Felicia J. Langdon, Bookmobile.
- Mrs Margaret E. Lewis, West End Branch Library.
- Mrs Miriam F. Porter, Codman Square Branch Library.
- Mr Charles D. Ruddy, Book Stack Service.
- Mrs Bridie P. (O'Connell) Stotz, Uphams Corner Branch Library. Before her marriage Mrs Stotz worked in the Periodical & Newspaper Department and in the Business Office.

Resignations

- Mrs Patricia M. Blythe, Book Stack Service, to remain at home.
- Miss Winifred L. Glotzer, Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library, to work in Brookline Public Library.

Mrs Patricia R. Halley, Book Stack Service, to remain at home.

Mrs Katherine Jaffe, Memorial Branch Library, to remain at home.

Miss Jean J. Pollard, Bookmobile, to be married.

Retired

Mrs Margaret Calnan Donaghue, Branch Librarian, Connolly Branch Library,

Marriages

Miss Ruth V. Mann, Jamaica Plain Branch Library, to Mr Charles W. Gibson, October 13, 1951.

Engagements

Miss Ruth Marie Gomes, Phillips Brooks Branch Library, to Mr Maynard Richmond Wilbur, of Washington, D.C., and Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Miss Barbara M. Salowitts, Accounting Department, to Mr Harold D. Bloom, of Dorchester.

Births

A son, Edmond Granger Dyett III, to Mr and Mrs Edmond Granger Dyett Jr, on October 17, 1951. Mrs Dyett is on a leave of absence from the Roslindale Branch Library.

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WEDDINGS

On Saturday morning, November 10, at a nuptial mass, Miss Alice Nuttall, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, became the bride of Mr James Chisolm, at the Most Precious Blood Church, in Hyde Park. The bride was attired in a lavender garbadine suit with a hat of a deeper shade, and wore a white orchid. She was attended by Miss Claire Fitzpatrick, who wore a gray garbadine suit with pink accessories. The groom's best man was Mr James Kineen. After a wedding breakfast at the Hotel Puritan, the couple left to spend their honeymoon in New York.

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PARTIES

On Thursday evening, November 1, a very surprised Miss Alice Nuttall of the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, was greeted by a group of her Library friends gathered at the home of Mrs Mildred Francis Conlon to wish her happiness at a shower given by her friends. Miss Nuttall was presented with a lovely white corsage and received many beautiful gifts.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to

Miss Virginia Haviland, Branch Librarian, Phillips Brooks Branch Library, who has also joined the staff of the Horn Book Magazine as co-editor of the Booklist.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

Miss Sarah M. Usher has been appointed a member of the Information and Counselling Section Committee of the Department of Civil Defense of the City of Boston.

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On October 25, Mr John W. Tuley served as Sub-Sector Chief at the South Boston Sub-Sector, Frost Coal Company, Neponset Avenue, during the test in communications and radiological monitoring. Ground Zero was the Fore River Ship Yard in Quincy. Miss Helen H. Savakian of the Information Office served as Journal Clerk during this test.

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RETIREMENT

MRS MARGARET C. DONAGHUE

On November 1, 1951, announcement was made of the appointment of Mrs Margaret C. Donaghue as Branch Librarian, Emeritus. Mrs Donaghue, the former Margaret A. Calnan, Branch Librarian of the Connolly Branch Library, had resigned from the service after her marriage to Mr Harold R. Donaghue, on July 7, 1951.

Mrs Donaghue has completed thirty-six years of service with the Boston Public Library, and had served as a Branch Librarian-

ALUMNI NOTES

ian in Jamaica Plain district for twenty years. It was with mixed feelings that her staff and the community received word of her marriage and resignation from the Library. All were delighted, of course, with her happy news; but also keenly regretful that it would take her away from the district. The place she occupied in the life of the community will be hard to fill. Mrs Donaghue's years of helpful counsel to her staff and wise leadership of her community will long be remembered. She took a particular interest in the vocational guidance of teen-agers, and established one of the finest vocational guidance pamphlet files in the system, which is used constantly by the students and teachers of the district. She was equally aware of the needs of the older reader. Her regular visits to the convalescent and nursing homes, to bring books to the shut-ins and to stimulate the interest of the aged or ill in the joys of reading, will be greatly missed. Her record of service with the Neighborhood Council, the Girl Scout Leader's Organization, the Guidance Center (an organization interested in problem boys), has been outstanding.

Mrs Donaghue's energetic driving power, efficient management and enthusiasm resulted in the promotion of the Connolly Branch Library as the central meeting place for all community activities.

Possessed of great personal charm, she is also an individual of exceptional ability and energy. She combines tact with complete candor, and is always considerate of the feelings of others. Her human qualities have endeared her in the hearts of all.

Twenty successful years in a position of considerable responsibility is an accomplishment of which to be proud, and also a record which deserves a sincere word of gratitude from those whom she has helped so generously during all these years.

May the inspiration we found in her leadership, and the worthy example in her fine record long remain with us; and may the years ahead hold for her the best of health and a great deal of happiness.

G.T.B.

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Miss Mary C. Toy, Chief of the Young People's Room, Emeritus, left by plane for a trip to Europe late in October. While abroad, Miss Toy, in company with a Nun of the Cenacle Order, will attend the ceremonies celebrating the beatification of the founder of that Order, after which she will visit the Italian and French Rivieras, and other places of interest in France and England, flying home early in December.

Prior to her departure, Miss Toy was the guest of the Children's Librarians at a Bon Voyage tea in the Women's Lounge at which she was presented with a gift of money.

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VISITORS

Dr Joseph Mayerhofer, Osterreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna

Dr Gerhard Liebers, Murhard Library, Kassel, Germany

Professor Tadao Watanabe, Yamaguchi University, Hofu City, Japan.

Miss Annemarie MHLzer, Director, Public Library, Berlin, Germany

Dr Gustav Hofmann, Director, Bavarian State Libraries.

Dr Gisela von Busse, Bad Godesberg, Germany.

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PRESIDENTS NOTES

At the Executive Board meeting held on November 7, it was voted to establish a new Standing Committee to be known as the Special Services Committee, with Mr Samuel Green as Chairman. Mr Green has served the Association in numerous ways for a long period of time, handling matters pertaining to discounts, and three times a year, taking care of a flourishing candy business. He will continue in this capacity, representing the Association in conducting these and related matters.

It was also voted to request the present Concession Committee, Mr Aaron Starr, Chairman, to continue functioning through January 18, 1952, the date of the Annual Meeting. The Concession Committee was created to serve for one year from the date of the opening of the Coffee Shop and its duties would terminate November 14, 1951.

A committee was appointed to work with the President on the initial steps of preparing suggestions for the development of a possible written statement of objectives for the Boston Public Library. Mr Bradford M. Hill, Miss Louisa S. Metcalf, Mr Charles L. Higgins, and Miss Edna G. Peck, all past presidents of the Association, were asked to serve because of their experience, and are now working on material which might be suggestive of the direction for the further growth of the statement, to be presented at the November business meeting. Other groups will be needed to work on this once the beginning has been made in order that there may be an opportunity for expression from representative view points of the Staff. This Staff-initiated project has been in the minds of many for sometime and it will be recalled was brought to this point of action as a result of an inquiry addressed to the Director by the Staff Committee preparing for the first general staff meeting arranged by staff members, and held last February. The Director's reply indicating the Administration's interest precipitated the present undertaking.

Mrs Dorothy M. Lovett, Business Branch Librarian, will serve as Chairman of the Bertha V. Hartzell Lecture Committee for 1952, the committee members to be announced

The Association has received numerous requests in the past for information concerning the Institute and Workshops conducted by the Association. Recently such information has been sent to the Los Angeles and Brooklyn Public Libraries and to the Education Committee of the Special Libraries Association.

There will be many important matters discussed at the business meeting on Friday, November 23, 1951, some of which will require action at the Annual Meeting in January. With this in mind each member should feel responsible to be present, schedules permitting, and voice his opinion the morning after Thanksgiving Day. The agenda for the meeting follows; please read it carefully and think about the items listed in preparation for your contribution towards the decisions to be made.

P.A.W.

AGENDA

1. Reports of the standing committees. Recommendations will be made by the Program Committee in regard to the

number of meetings to be held during the year.

2. Reports of Special Committees.

- a. The CARE Committee will include in its report recommendations regarding the handling of the special project for the UNESCO Children's Book Fund.
- b. Miss Evelyn Levy, Coordinator of the Workshop, will present her full report on the results of the Workshop based on the evaluation questionnaire answered by the participants.
- c. Mr Aaron Starr, Chairman of the Concession Committee, will report on the work of that Committee at the conclusion of the first year of the existence of the Coffee Shop. There will be an opportunity for discussion regarding the future relations between the Association and the concession.
- d. The President will report on the progress of the Committee on Library Objectives.

3. Report of the Nominating Committee presenting the slate for 1952, will be read by the Chairman, Mr Thomas Manning.

4. Miscellaneous items.

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THE LIBRARY IN PRINT

The following item appeared in the Sewing Circle of the Boston Post, Friday, October 19.

**AELE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
EMPLOYEES GIVEN HIGH PRAISE**

Dear Readers--In these days of so much (and, too often, only too well justified) criticism of so-called "servants of the public" one is apt to forget the many thousands in this category who do their jobs faithfully and well. A short time ago I had occasion to go to one of the Boston public libraries, where I applied for the first card I'd had in many, many years.

I was most pleasantly surprised for,

were I a member of a visiting board of library trustees, better help and attention could not have been given. The young librarian, admirably suited to her work and, I would say, in exactly the right niche, explained in great detail the exact privileges a library card embraced. She took the trouble to show me the shelves that housed the seven-day books, the display of current magazines, and the "special" shelves -- i.e., helps for parents, etc. When I asked about a particular book, she said it wasn't in stock at the moment, but she'd get it and notify me by card (which she did) immediately it became available.

Her wide knowledge of books, authors, and of people, was apparent in her pleasant comments. Some little children wandered in, and she went to great trouble to help them, and even the littlest one was happily working her way through a picture book when I reluctantly took my leave, to return to the office.

The good this young lady (and I don't doubt but there are hundreds like her) does, will live for many years to come, for she is nurturing the seed of, or thirst for, knowledge -- "and the truth shall set them free."

I know my experience is not an isolated one, for, when I mentioned it to a friend, she said she was similarly pleasantly surprised in a library far removed from "mine", but, I'm glad to say, also in Boston.

ANN-MARIE

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Bookbinders from the Library's Binding Department demonstrated their craft -- tooling, finishing, covering with leather -- in the first floor Exhibit Hall of the Museum of Science at Science Park during Book Week, Tuesday, November 13 through Friday, November 16, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

On Sunday, November 11, there was a page of rotogravure entitled "New Life for Old Books" in the Boston Globe on the activities of the Binding Department.

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Sometime during December the Boston Sunday Globe will carry a page of rotogravure on the Art Week exhibits which the various Branch Libraries featured in cooperation

with the Boston School Department.

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QUOTABLE QUOTES  
PROBLEMS THEN - AND NOW

"Whatever else a great library ought or ought not to garner to itself, it has one plain duty laid upon it to acquire works of literature...a library should see to it that the real books come first...other sorts of books are in a measure for the material benefit of some particular man or men, some creed, some political system, some commercial theory -- they too should be here -- every one of them if possible, but not to the neglect of the poetry, the drama, criticism, the essay, the novel -- or of any fashion whatsoever of pure letters -- belles lettres, as we used to call them -- these are the primordial cells of the tissues of a library...Work in a library, my friends, is not all cakes and ale, as many suppose it to be. Association with books is, I am sorry to admit, something like dog breeding -- admirable for the books and the dogs, but rather belittling to the human being. Much of it is nervous, dirty, fussy detail, with no tangible end in view from an individual standpoint. The fun is in seeing the thing grow, to realize that one's own life and strength pass imperceptibly into the totality of result. A library is a cemetery in more senses than one. It absorbs youth, ability, and fine enthusiasms. The great public catalog, unquestionably the grandest achievement of its kind, is a huge Moloch, so far as we are concerned. Our eyesight, our backs and legs, our patience, and the sweetness of our lives have all gone into its insatiable depths. Scorn not its limitations and its imperfections therefore -- they are the imperfections of human nature itself... It is astonishing into how few hands the welfare of any great institution is practically committed...This superb building was put through by the bold, almost arrogant, defiance on the part of five men, of public opinion, and of the jeers and insults of the press. But it was built on that wholesome principle enunciated by the late William H. Vanderbilt: "The public be damned"...All these demands must be met in some fashion, but the more serious requirements are never to be neglected...it is a pleasure to recall that no valuable work, reasonably within our means, was allowed to slip from us...a healthy obstinacy in these things is always desirable. Little

confidence is to be placed in the man or the institution too ready to do what people will like. There is but one consuming ideal which a large library has a right to cherish, and that is to have on its shelves every broadside, pamphlet, or book which ever was or ever will be printed. He who thinks today that he can choose with entire wisdom is a fool; and I believe that any man, or institution, or church, which undertakes to prescribe what another may read is knavish....The expense of the branches and stations have increased in proportion to an immensely improved utility. Duplicates...are bought as never before. The old policy used to be to buy one copy each of a foreign and one of an American edition of the same work...but there was no attempt to meet any demand adequately, and as a result there was more money to spend on a greater variety of books...Today there is a very faithful attempt made to supply in some measure the demand for the more usual books...it is a concession to the theory that the public has a just claim on amusement and entertainment...but mankind insists upon reading, not consciously so much for amusement as for refreshment. It is my humble opinion that Alexandre Dumas, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson - the romancers greater or smaller - have relieved more cases of nervous exhaustion than did ever bromide of potassium. Mental science is valuable therapeutics for people with no minds...the citizens want these stories, and they hopefully frequent these halls to get them. There are at least 50,000 people in this city who want to be reading, at this moment, "David Harum," "Janice Meredith," and "Richard Carvel," and a fresh army is at our ramparts crying for "To have and to hold" - for four days only. It takes more than the ample purse of this rich city to feed such an appetite. At such a point begins the problem of attempt to minister to the pleasure rather than to the needs of a population. The more that attempt is made the weaker relatively becomes a library in other and better directions..." Lindsay Swift.1900.

Editor's Note:

These excerpts, culled by a member of the Association from a public lecture given at the Library in 1900, by Mr Swift, Editor of Library Publications at the Boston Public Library, are but a handful of nuggets from a pungent and

brilliant statement on The public library in its relation to literature. (Cat. No. 6199.34)

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MEETING OF ROUND TABLE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The November meeting of Round Table for Young Adults was held in the auditorium of the Attleboro Public Library, on Thursday, November 1.

The business meeting was conducted by Mrs Katherine Jeffrey, in the absence of Miss Claire Riley, president of the organization. The first business to be considered was whether or not to omit the May meeting and meet only in the Fall, Mid-Winter and July. No vote was taken on this matter, as it was left for further consideration and discussion.

A motion was made and seconded that the group go on record as disapproving the discharge of Miss Mildred L. Batchelder.

Miss Helen Jackson, Supervisor of Audio-Visual Aids and a former teacher in the Bedford Public Schools gave an interesting and entertaining talk on Audio-Visual Aids in the Public Schools.

She maintained that a backward child could learn better by picture than by written word and sound, for the picture depicts what he finds hard to learn by word of mouth. The children are prepared for the films, then the lesson is presented; then a follow-up of the subject, to discover what the children retained from this method of teaching and learning.

Miss Jackson is entirely sold on films, for she feels that educational films do not create prejudice, they are documentary and ethical. Several Bedford business men have become so interested that they have donated films to the schools.

In several Minnesota schools collections include as many as 3000 tapes recorded, for teaching on subjects from history to Hamlet. These are called Teach-o-Discs, and have proved very successful. Of particular interest was the fact that the Baker School in Brookline owns a recording machine in its Memorial Library, for the use of children. This is so modulated that it cannot be heard outside of the room. Children play the stories over and over again, for the sheer pleasure of listening to them

Several films were shown to the group, two of which were on the use of the library,

B.P.L. STAFF MEMBERS ON LIBRARY TOUR

During the week of October 22-26, eight members of the staff of the Boston Public Library - Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Mr John M. Carroll, Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Mrs Mary K. Harris, Miss Ruth M. Hayes, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Mrs Grace B. Loughlin, and Mrs Sara Lyon - together with Mr John J. Connolly and Mr Milton E. Lord, visited the Central Library Building and three of the Branches of the Detroit Public Library; five libraries in the Wayne County Library System; the Central Library Building and two of the Branches of the Cleveland Public Library; the Central Library Building at Toledo; and the Central Library Building of the Enoch Pratt Free Public Library in Baltimore. The purpose was to study building plans, and certain services and operating procedures, with particular emphasis on book charging systems.

The greatest value of such a tour perhaps lay in the fact that for one week complete attention was given to the study of libraries, listening, observing, asking questions, and later discussing what had been seen. The group travelled as a unit so that similar situations would be viewed by all. The result was an over-all impression of the libraries seen, rather than a detailed knowledge of some one phase of a library's work. Each noon the group lunched with those staff members performing similar work in the libraries visited, the pattern followed being similar in each instance. The head Librarian and key staff members began each visit with a resume of the present organizational set-up of the Library, as well as of plans for future development, and special techniques and services known to be of interest to the visitors. The various departments of the Central Library buildings were then shown to the group. In Detroit and in Cleveland, Branch Libraries were also visited in the afternoon. This required the Directors of these two Libraries to give up an entire day to their duties as hosts.

Detroit

The Detroit Central Library Building with projected expansion into wings, for which funds have yet to be raised, and its charging system (perhaps) were our chief interest here, although its Branches, also, represent some very fine planning.

Detroit's Central Library is a handsome monumental building, standing on a

spacious landscaped lot a short distance from the business district. The original design of the building incorporates a driveway through it, parallel to the front of the building, dividing the first floor into two separate buildings.

The library building houses the administrative activities, which include a Reference Service Director, and a Home Reading Services Director. The reference services are organized among five subject departments, a Rare Book room, and a Burton History Department. A Science and Technology Department are housed in a separate building adjacent to the Central Library Building while a Down Town Library offers foreign languages, current newspapers, and a general reference type of service. Complete subject departmentalization has been sought. As a first step in setting up the subject departments, a section of a room in front of the first floor, formerly occupied by a Periodical Department, was made available by allocating periodicals to subject areas or to the General Information Department, (a department the need of which is conceded in Detroit). The History and Travel Department was set up in this area. A large Children's Room is also located in the front of the building on the first floor, and in the rear a Registration Department, a checkroom, telephone booths, and a Parent-Teacher's Department, the use of which may eventually be eliminated by the subject departmentalization. On the second floor, the Fine Arts, and Music and Drama Department, the Philosophy, Religion and Education Department, Language and Literature Department, and the General Information Department occupy three outside reading rooms. In the Center of the building is a handsome reading room, housing all the fiction and a selection of popular books and magazines. The Rare Book room is located in an area between the reading room and the General Information Department. On the third floor are the Social Science Department and the Burton Historical Collection.

Each department has its own catalog, prepared by photographic reproduction. The Library has a teletype installation linking it directly to the State Library at Lansing, The Library at Ann Arbor, etc.

No record is kept of what is given a reader in the reading room. The main entrance provides the only authorized exit and an attendant on duty there is responsible for inspection of all books taken from the

building. Books that circulate are taken from the individual department by the borrower and charged near the entrance. Charging is done by the IBM system. The reader who has an identification card makes out a slip for each book he wishes to withdraw, putting book identification on one slip for each book (author, title, book mark) and signs one slip. The loan slip is placed in a machine which prints the transaction number and date due on the loan slip. The predated date due transaction card is placed in the book pocket, the transaction number on the loan slip and on the date due transaction card agreeing. The identification card is returned to the borrower and the loan slip is filed by transaction sequence.

When a borrower returns a book, the transaction card is removed from the book, which is then ready for shelving, and the transaction card is sent with others once a week to a central sorting area. The cards are put into consecutive order by IBM equipment. Absent numbers indicate books still charged out. The signed slips with transaction numbers corresponding to the absent transaction cards are withdrawn from the charge slips and these become the basis of overdue work which is all done at Central. This charging system is used in branches as well as Central.

The branches of the Detroit system visited were all housed in new buildings, where extensive use of glass, colors and modern plastic furniture make the interiors cheerful and attractive. Each new branch has its separate smoking room readily convertible to an assembly area, and each has its own motion picture projector. The three age groups are recognized. However, young people's books are housed in the adult area, not isolated. In these branches the conventional arrangement, by classification mark, with occasional displays of books on special topics, is being superseded by a "reader interest" arrangement so the home maker, for example, will find books on consumer research, cooking, draperies, party giving, etc., all shelved together regardless of Dewey classification. Some eleven "reader interest" concepts for adults and a fewer number for children have been worked out, after several years of experimentation. These are followed more or less uniformly and a residue collection of "information" books not adaptable to "reader interest" categories remain on Dewey Classification in each

branch. In the Branches where the "reader interest" shelving is used, it has been found that the circulation has increased. This concept has also been considered in book selection as it frequently eliminates purchasing those books which fit neither into an "interest" group nor into a Reference Classification, and which have been found in the past to be shelf-sitters. Furthermore, a more adequate and satisfactory subject coverage seems to result when books are ordered for a "reader interest" collection.

Wayne County

The Wayne County Library system is made up of small community libraries. The newer ones represent very economical construction methods by use of cinder block and other low cost materials. These libraries give great attention to special provisions for attractive quarters for small readers and nursery furniture, rocking horses, record players, etc. For the adult reader they have special record collections and even television sets. Their charging system parallels in simplicity that of Detroit without use of a machine. The reader records as many as four books, by author, keyword of title and copy number, on a "charge slip", on which he also signs his name and address. Each book is given a "loan number". The loan number also appears on predated, date due, key sort loan cards. The predated loan card is put in the proper book and the loan number is placed on the charge slip. All charge slips are placed in a container face down to preserve numerical order. The return processes parallels the Detroit transaction system. Self charging and transaction card processes in both libraries have worked successfully.

In a few of the Wayne County libraries the registration of borrowers has been discontinued and no identification cards are used. The librarians know their clientele, who seldom use more than one library. In one of these libraries, with a yearly circulation of about 80,000 books, only one book has been unrecoverable in a year's time.

Cleveland

The Cleveland Public Library was built after complete subject departmentalization had been adopted in previous quarters. It is a rectangular building, with its stack area in the center. There is an attendant on duty at the entrance so that strict reading room control is not needed. The

check room is beyond the control point. Central Recordak photographic charging with a borrower's identification card takes care of all central library lending. This is the same type of machine that is currently being used at Mattapan and West Roxbury Branches.

In Cleveland, the subject departments have direct access to stack areas and, in some departments, there is stack shelving within the reading room area itself. History, Sociology, Business Information, Science and Technology, and Education share one floor; General Reference, Periodicals, Popular Library and Literature another, etc. All shelving and shelving reading is performed by one unit of service. Extensive use is made of signs, posters and directional information. The key note is struck by the exterior of the building, where generous illuminated display cases are built into each corner of the building, and more modest ones flank the entrances.

The Library sponsors certain services that are either unusual or especially emphasized. Its service to shut-ins, and its hospital work seem exceptional in both scope and activity. Its visual education program, its speaker's bureau, its readers advisory service, all seemed to be vigorously supported. The visits to Cleveland's branches showed what could be done in commercial quarters adapted to library purposes.

Toledo

Toledo's Central Library building has a simple exterior with twelve display windows at street level, although the building itself is set back from the sidewalk about fifteen feet. The window displays correlate books with general subjects, specific events of local or national significance, a particular author, etc.

The building itself has two floors of public service departments. These departments are arranged around a great central hall, which is roofed over with translucent material, so that there is the effect of a central courtyard. Throughout the building, completed in 1940, there is a most unusual use of colored glass for decorative purposes. This is due to the fact that the Libbey Owens Glass Company is located in Toledo. Vitrolite has been used throughout the building. Of particular interest are the murals in the entrance hall which depict the arts and sciences in various colors of inlay on a background of gray Vitrolite. In the Children's Room thirteen

subjects from Children's books are illustrated in inlaid murals with jade Vitrolite background, while in the Story Hour Room subjects from Mother Goose and Aesop's Fables are portrayed against a gray Vitrolite background.

This Library has subordinated the General Reference activities to the Social Science Department. There is complete subject departmentalization. The stack area occupies two entire basement levels below the reading room areas. As one enters the building, one finds elevator and checkroom outside a control point at which all outgoing books are examined. Beyond is a large hall, with central return and charging desk. Books returned here are sent to a basement sorting room by booklift and distributed from there. Toledo had just installed machine charging and was still working out its applications. The public catalog is in this hall, with a reference assistant on duty at all times. On the same floor are the Science Department, the Business Department, Fine Arts and Music Department, the Social Science Department, History Department, Philosophy Department, and the Language and Literature Department. On the second floor is a Local History Department and a Children's and Young People's Department. Each department had office and work areas adjacent to its reading room and also has book lift and stairway to its basement stack area.

Enoch Pratt

The Enoch Pratt Library building is similar to that of Toledo. The first floor of the building, close to the sidewalk, is surrounded by a row of display windows given over to exhibitions showing the results of much planning and outlay by a trained staff. This building, also, depends on control at the entrance, obviating the close supervision of material used in the reading rooms. It is a Library that has achieved complete departmentalization. All its subject departments are on the ground floor, except the Fine Arts and Music Departments, and the Poe Browsing Room. Non-musical recordings are housed in the Literature Department. Its Central Hall is the scene of many a gathering, and a Christmas Book Fair will be held there this year.

Organization of reader services on an age group basis, headed up by coordinators for adult, young people's, and children's services seems to have resulted in an effective integration of Central and Branch

activities, using all media of information—the film, the recording, the book, the speaker, the reading list, etc. It is interesting to note that no libraries visited limit the number of adult books circulated, unless the number requested seems unreasonable. In some instances, there is only one due date a week for books circulated, this date being the least busy day of the week. Three weeks is the usual circulation period. A book thus circulates for a minimum of twenty-one days, if it is taken out on the due day; or a maximum of twenty-seven days, if it is taken out on the day following the due day. This system reduces to a minimum the overdue work.

In all of the libraries, the departments of the Central Library and the Branch Libraries cooperate closely in the selection of books. Department Heads, Branch Librarians, and Supervisors or their equivalents meet together weekly to consider and to examine the new books. In most libraries the books of non-fiction, as well as those of fiction, are read by staff members.

Most of the libraries place great emphasis on lists and posters, particularly in the Central Libraries. Lists of one department are displayed in all other departments, and in the Branch Libraries. This is particularly true in Cleveland where, even in the Periodical Department there are shelves of books, because, as they explained, a borrower might not otherwise get beyond the periodicals. The fact that both Toledo and Baltimore have professional sign painters and artists on their staffs accounts for the finished appearance of their exhibits and book lists.

There are public meeting rooms in all of the Central Library buildings. With the exception of Wayne County, all have extensive film lending departments, all circulate recordings, and at least one of the Wayne County Libraries circulates record players.

This summary outlines but a small part of the information and impressions derived from the visits to these libraries. The members of the group that made the trip all have literature and examples of the work done in the libraries visited that they would be glad to share with interested members of the staff, and they will be happy to discuss any phase of the trip with them.

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THANKSGIVING BUSINESS BACK

IN  
CANDY CORNER

Green's Candy Corner announces a brisk pre-Thanksgiving candy business amounting to 492 pounds at a total of \$404.77. This represented a substantial saving to members of the staff in terms of discount. Congratulations and thanks to our capable and efficient candy representative, Mr Samuel Green!

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TRAVELOGUE PRESENTED AT BPLPSA  
FALL MEETING

The fall professional meeting of the BPLPSA was held in the Lecture Hall on Friday evening, October 26, 1951. Mr Stewart Anderson, the guest speaker, based his talk on his experiences during two trips to the National Parks and the Canadian Rockies. His running comments highlighted exceptionally fine colored slides which he had taken during his trips. The audience, although not large, was an appreciative one. All felt that the evening had been one delightfully spent far from the sights and sounds of Copley Square.

In the absence of the chairman of the Program Committee, Mrs Muriel Javelin, the meeting was conducted by the President, Miss Pauline Walker. At the conclusion of Mr Anderson's films the guests adjourned to the Young People's Room where the Entertainment Committee under the chairmanship of Miss Dorothy Nourse served refreshments

E.G.P.

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CONCESSION

Congratulations to the Concession on the recent celebration of its first anniversary. The occasion was marked by the distribution of gay candy candles to those who visited it on its birthday, November 14.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

BRANCH NOTES

Periodical Department

Periodically Speaking

Bookbinding and Book Production for October, 1951 has an article on Pauline J. Love, Editor of Publications for the A.L.A. As a "profile" of her professional and personal interests, it gives those who may have come into contact with her an interesting insight into her activities as well as those of our professional organization.

While referring to a recently published article of Mrs Love, the following information of interest is mentioned. The production cost of A.L.A. publications is greater than that of most publishers because of the type of books published.

"Bibliographies, footnotes, enumerations, tables, headings...etc. all bring composition costs to two or three times higher than that for the average trade book."

A.L.A.'s production of the 7th edition of Guide to Reference Books is illustrative of a typical composition problem. The book requires three sizes of type and so many accents, for practically every language in the world, that few composing rooms are able to handle the job...With composition representing 50 to 75% of costs, sometimes the use of an IBM typewriter and photo-offset is the only way a book can be published economically.

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According to the Report of the Queens Borough Public Library (New York) for the year ending 1951, the following were perhaps the most humorous questions asked during the year. The problem is: Can our Gen Ref top them? Or better still - answer them?

1. Which way do a horse's ears point?
2. My wife does not know how to cook sauerkraut right. Can you give me the recipe my mother used to use to thicken sauerkraut, so I can teach my wife the right way to cook it?
3. In a small library, are books in the 100's, 200's, etc. arranged clockwise or counter-clockwise ?

One of the most baffling questions was asked by an old man, ignorant of the enormity of the problem, who wanted to know "What makes the world tick?" in a few short words.

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Neponset

The first film program was held on October 17, 1951. The movies about puppets and birds were enjoyed by a group of about two hundred youngsters who cooperated very well, considering the lack of space. For the next program it is planned to issue tickets for admission to prevent overcrowding.

A Halloween party given for the Reading Club was a great success. All the members, about twenty-five, appeared in costume. After the games, prizes were awarded for the prettiest and the funniest costumes. Refreshments were later enjoyed by the children.

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Phillips Brooks

Two evenings devoted to discussion of books provided special interest recently. On Thursday evening, October 18, at the regular monthly meeting of the FRIENDS OF THE PHILLIPS BROOKS BRANCH LIBRARY, Miss Edna G. Peck was the speaker, presenting reviews of "Fall Favorites." This annual autumn book review program provides great pleasure for Readville friends of Miss Peck, a former Branch Librarian here.

November 8 was the beginning of an extended Book Week program. On this evening Anna Bird Stewart, well-known author of stories and biographies for young people, spoke to a large group of boys and girls. Telling of her experiences in becoming a writer (a career begun at the age of seven) and of the serious work of an author who does careful research for fiction and biography, and writes poetry as well, she was both entertaining and inspiring. One of the boys was so delighted with her amusing way of telling stories that he solemnly assured her she could be a comedian if she were not an author. The Library was happy to welcome into this audience members of reading clubs from Connolly, Dorchester, and North End Branch Libraries.

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West End

Come and see us! The building has just been refurbished and is gleaming with fresh new paint and polished surfaces in readiness for the holidays and the Boston Public Library Centennial. The beautiful old building, in spite of its new modern dress-up, still remains a living Sentinel, dignified and hoary with history--proudly acclaiming its glories of yesterday and present day vitality as a beacon of light and learning in the community.

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Because the Branch Library is still rich in memories and historic associations for many Bostonians it often has occasion to be host to very interesting people and to hear rare anecdotes about its long existence as the Old West Church, anecdotes about the building itself, the ministers and the parishioners. Recently, one such caller out of the past was a Mr Bryant, who came in to clear up a point of information and who remained for the best part of the evening, reminiscing about the time he was a young man, living on Lynde Street and worshipping here. His memories of the Church's last minister, the Reverend Cyrus Bartol, are numerous and vivid. He described him as a liberal and progressive man, with a lively sense of humor and a weakness for punning. He told of the time Dr Bartol took a group of children to Blackstone Square in the South End to witness the inauguration of the first electric street lighting in Boston. Mr Bryant was also there. At the conclusion of the ceremonies Dr Bartol turned to Mr Bryant and said, "It is something light in a matchless display."

It is such and similar incidents that add the spice of variety to the daily routine.

Meetings

The poems of John Greenleaf Whittier were read and discussed by the members of the West End Poetry Group at their meeting on Tuesday evening, November 13, in the Lecture Hall.

Exhibits

One hundred original drawings by the illustrators of children's books now adorn the walls as a special feature for Children's Book Week from November 11-17.

"America's Robert E. Lee", "Serapina", "Steamboat South", "Tiny, the turtle who wanted to fly", "Mr T. W. Anthony Woo", "Young Readers Horse Stories" and "Home at Last" are a few of the most intriguing titles being displayed in this valuable exhibit.

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Children's picture books in the Hebrew language which were made in Isreal will be the focal point of the annual Jewish Book Month exhibit from November 23 - December 23. The most recent works of popular Jewish authors will also be shown.

Children's Room

Ghosts and goblins had their day a little ahead of time when on Saturday, October 27th, an early Hallow'en celebration took place for the benefit of the small patrons of the library. With a ghost story to start the fun and a play entitled "The Soft-hearted Ghost", produced and acted by seven local girls, the morning turned out to be a memorable one for more than sixty children who attended. Hallow'en candy and paper favors completed the festivities.

A Junior Poetry Group has been inaugurated under the inspired leadership of Miss Pearl Strachan formerly Poetry Editor, Christian Science Monitor staff. Miss Strachan has conducted poetry groups for children many times before, notably among the boys at the Burroughs Foundation, and her gracious personality combined with her delightfully sensitive reading of poetry will help the children to appreciate a field too often neglected. Miss Strachan's program includes the reading of poems, interspersed with personal touches, the telling of stories, and the encouragement of poetry writing and reading among the children. The group meets every Saturday morning at 10:30.

In observance of Art Week, the West End Branch is displaying a group of water color paintings done by the pupils of the William Blackstone School. Bright autumn flowers and foliage are delicately and naturally portrayed with unusual talent.

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SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

To the Editor:

In the Soap Box of the May, 1951 issue of The Question Mark, "Concerned" wrote a letter illustrating how 23 persons in the Division of Home Reading Services had been recognized for their subject specialty, whereas only 5 persons in the Division of Reference and Research Services had been similarly recognized. It was also shown that there were many people using this special subject knowledge, tested through the Promotional Examination system, in their daily duties within the Division of Reference and Research Service, who were not receiving any administrative recognition of their specialized knowledge because the Administration has not opened up the position of Reference Librarian. Yet, Assistants within the Division of Home Reading Services, with comparable subject specialties, are receiving recognition from the Administration of their specialty by appointment to the position of Children's Librarian.

Apropos of this, I would like to add to the letter of "Concerned", the thoughts of a nationally recognized authority in the field of reference librarianship, Miss Mary N. Barton, Head of the Reference Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, on this subject:

"...The book knowledge and research skill that must be built up practically from the beginning by each new assistant who comes to a subject or general reference department creates an important administrative problem because of the time in-

involved. Furthermore, given the necessary educational qualifications plus the personal traits needed, together with a high degree of intelligence and mental curiosity, the assistant's value to her department cumulates in a truly remarkable way...I wish there were some way to compute accurately the cost of libraries in loss of efficiency due to staff turnover in this type of work. From an administrative point of view, the great problem to my mind, is to find a way to recognize the value of this kind of service, in salary and prestige. There is undoubtedly a danger that some library administrators may be much more alert to see and honor administrative ability than to recognize reference ability. If we admit the importance of skilled service with the public, then should we not honor this work to a sufficient extent, so that assistants do not feel compelled to leave it as soon as they reach a high degree of competence? My remarks about the cumulative value of experience assistants should most certainly not be construed as a desire to discourage promotion but rather as a plea for greater chance of promotion within the field of skilled reference service."

Fortunately, within the framework of the Personnel Classification and salary schedules for the bibliothecal service, in the Boston Public Library, there are plans for the position of Reference Librarians, but when are the positions going to be opened? With the possibility of our new building with its special subject departments being built in the not too distant future, would it not be wise to begin laying the foundations of that departmentalization now by developing a well-integrated reference staff of titular rank now!

Another who is concerned!

P. S. The quotation is from Miss Barton's paper, "Administrative problems in reference work" published in The reference function of the library. Papers presented before the Library Institute at the University of Chicago, June 29 to July 10, 1942. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1943. p. 244-245.

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To the Soap Box:

In the May 1951 issue of The Question Mark there appeared a letter to the Soap Box which pointed out discrepancies between the personnel classification in the Division of Reference and Research Services and that in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services. The facts presented in this letter were of interest to many, I am sure.

It seems to me, too, that there are many departments in the Division of Reference and Research Services where the titles of Reference Assistant and Reference Librarian could be used.

I haven't seen definitions of the positions as used in the Boston Public Library but I think the definitions might be "Assistant who does reference work" and "Librarian who does reference work." "Reference work," as defined by Margaret Hutchins in her Introduction to Reference Work, "includes the direct personal aid within a library to persons in search of information for whatever purpose, and also various library activities especially aimed at making information as easily available as possible."

There are members of the staff in the various departments of the Division of Reference and Research Services who are daily performing the duties in these activities and who have indicated special subject knowledge by passing examinations in their fields. Some have acquired a knowledge of subjects and sources and library techniques that can only be acquired through years of experience.

In the rigid classification system of the library some departments are allowed only two titular positions of administrative rank, and the general assistants must do the same work, but without official recognition. These departments could not function properly otherwise.

I think the problem could well be studied by the Professional Staff Association.

We're human too.

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To the Editor:

In our "outside" reading we often meet with remarks of such compelling relevance to library problems in general and our library affairs in particular, that we want to read them to the entire staff over a public address system. So how about instituting a new feature in our QUESTION MARK called "QUOTATIONS" and asking staff members to contribute what pearls they encounter in their reading - the Editors of course reserving the right to pass on the importance, timeliness, and relevance of such quotations. Current newspaper clippings, damning us or praising us, find their way to the bulletin board; and articles of interest in library literature are brought to the attention of the staff in other ways, but old and forgotten statements made by people of note in library affairs and buried away in old books or magazines should occasionally be disinterred and printed in THE QUESTION MARK for the instruction, amusement and edification of the staff. In this way not only will justice be done for one more minute to some past good men, but we will be able to measure ourselves against the high hopes envisioned for us as librarians and educators by those people of public spirit and intelligence who had so much to do with the making of this library and the expression of the ideals of a public library. The staff can compare itself with our predecessors in the service and see whether we have improved in quality or fallen by the wayside; we can compare the Library as it once existed as an idea in the heads of responsible citizens with what it is today, and in general stop for a while to take stock of ourselves. How do we stack up - as Library in the Library field; as educational institution in the community; as library workers compared to those who came before us; as administration vs. past administrators; as trustees vs. past trustees. Some of the quotations should be interesting and illuminating.

Browser

Editor's Note:

An excellent suggestion! The excerpts selected from Mr Swift's lecture by this contributor, which appears in the current issue of the Q.M. make an interesting beginning to such a feature. Let us have more contributions from the staff for future issues of the Q. M.

To the Editor:

New Open Shelf

Quiet Shelves.  
 The ticking of an unheard clock.  
 Inviting Chairs, unused.  
 Catalogs, unfilled.  
 Polished floors, untread upon.  
 And glass walls, still unsmudged.  
 Here are only books,  
 Row on aging row,  
 Mute testimony to the genius of Man.  
 And in between the rows,  
 Oblivious to the grandeur that he lives  
 among:  
 A mouse.

P.J.D.

\*

Dear "Soap Box" Editor:

Many Central Library friends of Miss Mary C. Toy have expressed genuine regret that they were not asked by the Children's Librarians to join in the tribute paid to their colleague on her retirement when she was guest of honor at a morning coffee hour and was presented with a gift. Their good wishes are with her, nonetheless!

Disappointed

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Dear Editor:

Now, about those promotions??

Nosey Parker

\*

Editor of Soap Box:

Oh when? Oh when are those appointments going to be made? They would make nice Christmas presents for some people!

Anxious

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Dear Editor:

Just think of it! Steak, 27¢ a lb., leg of lamb, 23¢, turkey, 29¢, ham, 22¢, coffee, 10¢ a lb. No, I'm not suffering from the Indian summer heat. It's

just a bad case of nostalgia creeping in.

I was just looking at a November, 1939 issue of a Boston paper and those were the prices I saw. And these, too. Apples, 10 lbs. for 29¢. Potatoes, 15 lbs. for 25¢. Butter, 30¢ a lb. Eggs, 23¢ a dozen. Women's shoes (not bargain basement but Slattery's if you please) \$5.95. A misses dressy dress, \$16.95. A women's Harris tweed reefer, \$25. Men's suits, between \$20 and \$30, some with two pairs of pants. Those may not have been the good old days, but they sure were the low-priced ones.

Now, what brought on this fit of nostalgia and drove me to the newspaper files was the persistency of a rumor to the effect that a representative of the Administration of the Library in a discussion of our present salary scale made the remark, "the bibliothecal staff is adequately taken care of," (from the financial point of view.)

It is obvious from the prices I have quoted above that in order to maintain ourselves at our 1939 level of living, without any extras for our long years and gray hairs and the sharp rise in taxes, we would now have to be getting a salary at least twice that of 1939. But are we? We are not.

The minimum salary of 1939 was \$1043. Double that is \$2084. The present minimum is a little short of that. As for the maximum, in 1939 it was \$1930. Double that is \$3860, which makes the present maximum a full \$300 short of being adequate. I don't know how the rest of you bibliothecaries feel about this adequacy business, but as for me, I've got last year's coat on and believe me the wind of inadequacy really whistles through it.

A HUNGRY BOOKWORM

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COMMITTEE ON NOTABLE BOOKS

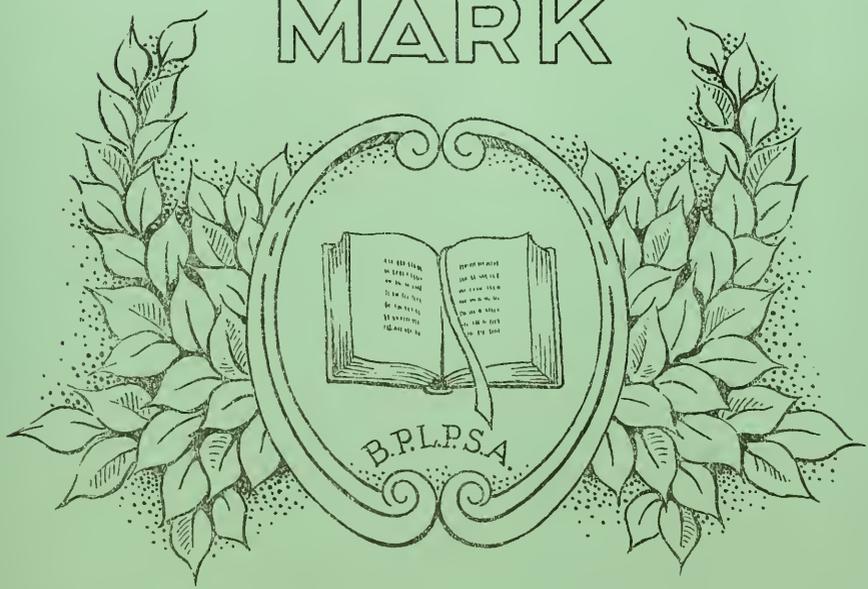
Once again the Boston Public Library has been invited to participate in the selection of titles for the annual ALA list of Notable Books. The following are serving on the committee:

- Edna G. Peck, Chairman
- Geraldine M. Altman
- Gerardine T. Beck
- John M. Carroll
- Christine Hayes
- Charles L. Higgins
- Frances C. Lepie
- Louisa S. Metcalf
- Dorothy F. Nourse
- Sarah Richman
- Lorraine A. Sullivan



*Miss Fisher*

THE  
*Question*  
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



Publications Committee: Geraldine M. Altman, Ruth S. Cannell, Mary F. Daly, Thomas J. Manning, Beryl Y. Robinson, Martin F. Waters, Louisa S. Metcalf, Chairman

Publication date:  
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:  
The tenth of each month

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Through perusal of the account of the recent tour of libraries, undertaken by eight members of the staff, in company with the Director and the Assistant to the Director and Chief Executive Officer, which appeared in last month's issue of The Question Mark, and through conversations with individual members of the group, considerable interest and curiosity has been aroused in the details of various services, techniques and procedures, especially in regard to charging systems, of which the group made a particular study. Their enthusiasm for much that they observed has been contagious, and insofar as casual discussion has permitted, much of this enthusiasm has filtered down through the staff. The prospect of simplification of routines and elimination of much of the drudgery associated with the present system generally in use is a cause for rejoicing for most of us, and the prospect of partial relief after the first of the year when certain new charging procedures and loan rules go into effect is a happy one.

Inevitably, because of the limited time remaining, there is considerable confusion in the minds of the staff as to the many implications of the changes to take place. Doubtless most of these misgivings will be resolved in an official statement which we assume is forthcoming, clarifying the whole problem, and explaining how the different systems operating simultaneously in various units of the library will "mesh", thus preparing the staff and the public for the new set-up.

\*

The members of the Publications Committee join in wishing their readers all the joys of the season.

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"And

now

abideth

faith, hope,

charity, these

three; but the

greatest of these

is charity." To you

who have CARED in 1951

we give thanks and extend

greetings. For 1952 we wish

you health and happiness, peace

and prosperity.

E. Lange

V. Lehane

B. Preer

S. Richman

M. McDonald

Committee on CARE

PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Miss Mary J. Campbell, Mattapan Branch Library.  
 Mr Alden F. Caldwell, Book Stack Service.  
 Miss Jean L. Eaton, Science and Technology Department.  
 Mrs Beulah S. Hamilt, Uphams Corner Branch Library.  
 Mr Walter G. Harris, Book Purchasing Department.  
 Miss Mary L. Hegarty, Rare Book Department.  
 Mrs Therese A. Moore, East Boston Branch Library.  
 Miss Benedetto A. Ricciardelli, Book Stack Service.  
 Miss Teresa L. Tape, Book Preparation Department.  
 Miss Stella Kallas, Connolly Branch Library.

Resignations

Mrs Marion F. Martin, Uphams Corner Branch Library, to remain at home.

Transfers

Miss Mary J. Brady, from Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, to Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services.  
 Miss G. Elizabeth Fitzgerald, from Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services to Tyler Street Reading Room.  
 Miss A. Phyllis Freeman, from Mount Pleasant Branch Library to Mattapan Branch Library.  
 Miss Margaret J. Murphy, from Mattapan Branch Library to Charlestown Branch Library.  
 Mrs Helen M. Popp, from East Boston Branch Library to Brighton Branch Library.  
 Mrs Eunice R. Walker, from South End Branch Library to Memorial Branch Library.  
 Miss Patience-Anne C. Williams, from Brighton Branch Library, to Connolly Branch Library.  
 Miss Ruth E. Winn, from Uphams Corner Branch Library to South End Branch Library.  
 Miss Veronica Yotts, from Charlestown Branch Library to Mount Pleasant Branch Library.

Marriages

Miss Elaine Parsons, Kirstein Business Branch, to Mr Thomas J. Marzilli, on November 22, 1951.

Military Leaves of Absence

Mr Frank J. Donovan, Book Stack Service, October 18, 1951.  
 Mr William A. O'Donnell, Book Stack Service, November 5, 1951.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO

Mr Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, on receiving one of the citations awarded for the second year by the Municipal Research Bureau, to six city employees who have made outstanding contributions to the public service, at a Public Service Dinner, held at the Parker House on Tuesday, November 27. The award was of particular significance as it was the second consecutive year that the Library has been so honored. In Mr Heintzelman's absence abroad Mr Low accepted the award and citation on his behalf. The citation reads:

"In recognition of outstanding service rendered to the City of Boston this Public Service award is hereby presented to Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, Library Department.

"Keeper of Prints of the distinguished Albert H. Wiggin Collection, he has brought national and international prestige to the Library and to the City. He was recently invited by the French Government to arrange for an important exchange exhibition of French prints to be shown in the United States in 1952. Renowned as an etcher, his artistic achievement is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Library of Congress and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, in Washington, the British Museum in London, and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. He has just been accorded the honor of a 'one-man' show at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. As an advisor to the student, critic to the collector, and interpreter to the layman he has made the Print Department of the Boston Public Library a vital force in the art life of the community."

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WE WELCOME BACK

Miss Alice E. Hackett, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, after a long illness.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY  
TO

Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, School Issue Department.

Miss Katherine J. Gorham, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Rosalyn S. Warner, Roslindale Branch Library.

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ALUMNAE NOTES

Friends of Miss Eva J. Anttonen, former Children's Librarian in the East Boston Branch Library and for several years with the Benjamin Franklin Library, Mexico City, will be interested to hear of her marriage on November 22, to Dr Luis Ceret. For those who will wish to send their good wishes her address is, 125 Arboleda, Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico City.

\*

Miss Elizabeth C. Hershey, formerly of the Personnel Office, is engaged to Ben Watson Melvin, Jr., of Seaford, Delaware.

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THE STAFF IN PRINT

It has just come to our attention that A Library Classification System for the Literature of Industrial Hygiene and Allied Subjects, prepared by Miss Loraine A. Sullivan, Chief, Science and Technology Department, Boston Public Library, in collaboration with W.C.L. Hemeon, Engineering Director, Industrial Hygiene Foundation, Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, was published by the Foundation in February, 1951. The system has been used since its original composition in 1936 for the filing of technical literature received in the Office of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation. Its use over the years has resulted in some changes which are incorporated in the present publication, which has been issued in response to many requests for information

concerning the system.

\*

Miss Elizabeth M. Gordon, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Children, reviewed a page of Christmas gift books for children in the Boston Sunday Globe of December 2, 1951.

\*

A feature article entitled Boston - Pioneer in Public Libraries by Miss Elizabeth B. Boudreau was published in Panorama Magazine for December 3.

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LIBRARY ON TV AND IN THE NEWS

The B.P.L.'S.A. CARE scrapbook was featured by Lindy Miller and Helen McCann of the Elm Farm program on WBZ-TV Wednesday, November 28. Reporting on the work of CARE in Europe, Francis X. Mayers, Chief of Missions for the American and French zones of Germany for the past three years, read letters from the scrapbook to illustrate the gratitude of those who have received CARE gifts.

\*

On Friday, December 7, at 12:45 p.m., Bill Hahn interviewed Miss Edith W. Fisher of Cambridge over Station WNAC-TV. Miss Fisher showed some of the crèches which she has loaned to the Library for exhibition in the Main Lobby and in the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery from December 10 through January 2.

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On Wednesday evening, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. over Station WVOM there was a Round Table discussion on a "Design for Jewish Reading". The participants on the panel were Miss Esther Rudy, author of "A Design for Living"; Rabbi Joseph Marcus, Librarian of the Hebrew Teachers' College, author and poet; Mr Harry H. Fein, well-known Boston author and translator, whose latest books is "Light Through the Mist"; and Dr Harry Zohn, instructor of German at Brandeis University, an authority on German literature and especially Stefan Zweig. The moderator was Miss Fanny Goldstein.

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On Sunday, December 16, at 1:00 p.m., over Station WEEI, there was a Round Table discussion on "Some Recent Jewish Books". The participants on the panel were Mr Lee M. Friedman, well-known Boston author, whose latest book is "Pilgrims in a New Land", and President of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library; Prof. Oscar Handlin, author of "The Uprooted"; and Mr Joseph Gaer, author of some fifteen books, the latest of which is "The Lore of the Old Testament". Miss Fanny Goldstein was the moderator.

\*

A feature story about Miss Fisher's collection of crèches will appear in the Sunday Post during the month of December. Miss Fisher, it will be remembered, is a sister of the late Bessie E. Fisher, for many years First Assistant at Fellowes Athenaeum Branch Library.

\*

A print of the exterior of the Central Library building appears on the cover of the new Classified Telephone Directory with an explanatory article on the inside cover. This is the first time that the Telephone Company has used a picture of any Boston landmark.

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VISITORS

Mr Matthew C. Pottinger, Librarian of the Scottish Central Library.  
Miss Annelies Molkenthin, Public Library, Berlin-Kreuzberg.

A group of students from the Division of Librarianship of the New York State College for Teachers, headed by Professor Robert S. Burgess, Jr., Chairman of the Division, visited the Library on Friday, December 7, 1951. The Division of Librarianship is an accredited Library School which, in the main, trains librarians for school libraries.

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IN MEMORIAM

Word was received on December 3, of the death in action in Korea, of Mr John H. Kelly, former member of Book Stack Service from 1947-1949.

CHRISTMAS DANCE PLANNED BY THE YOUNGER SET

All employees and friends of the Library are cordially invited to attend a Christmas dance to be held at Obert's Bungalow, 603 River Street, Mattapan, (3 minutes from Mattapan Square.), on Saturday evening, December 22, 1951.

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening and a dance band will provide music for the occasion. The gala affair will begin at 8 o'clock, and continue 'til twelve midnight.

A subscription of \$1.50 per person, or \$2.50 per couple, is your passport to a good time!

Tickets may be obtained from:

John Burgholzer	
Bill Davis	Book Stack Service
Amby Flaherty	Central Library

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HOW JURY DUTY AFFECTS B.P.L. STAFF MEMBERS

In view of the present eligibility of women to serve as jurors, it may be of interest for members of the staff to know what is done by the Library in case a member of the staff accepts jury duty. The employee is paid the regular fee for his service as a juror (at last report this was \$7.00 a day) and is not paid by the Library. Recently a woman member of the library staff received a call from a police officer who was checking names of women residents eligible for jury duty. In this particular case the jury duty was expected to continue for a thirty-day period, and the individual was given the opportunity of accepting or declining to have her name put on the eligible list.

R.S.C.

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FREEDOM SHRINE PRESENTED TO LIBRARY

The Exchange Club of Boston, at its weekly luncheon on December 10, made formal presentation of the Freedom Shrine to the Boston Public Library. The Shrine is a collection of important and historical documents copied from the originals and permanently preserved on plaques.

Accepting the gift on behalf of the Library was Milton E. Lord, the Director.

Also present from the Library were John J. Connolly, Assistant to the Director and Chief Executive Officer, Thomas J. Manning, Assistant in Charge of Exhibits, and Elizabeth B. Boudreau, Chief of the Information Office.

Mr Jack Brown, City Greeter, represented the Mayor in honoring Mr Lord at the luncheon. Mr Brown mentioned the fact that visiting celebrities no longer are given the key to the City but are instead presented with a brochure which includes etchings of important landmarks. In his presentation of the brochure to Mr Lord, Mr Brown said: "To a public spirited citizen, Mr Milton Lord, from Mayor Hynes." Thus, Mr Lord technically possesses the "key" to the City.

E.B.B.

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WEST ROXBURY BRANCH LIBRARY  
EXPERIMENTS WITH FILM FORUMS

A series of four film forums was recently concluded at the West Roxbury Branch Library. These programs were held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of October and November and were presented with the cooperation of the International Relations Committee of the West Roxbury Woman's Club. They were planned with the help of Mrs Muriel Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, who met with the Branch Librarian and the Chairman of the Committee, in the spring, and suggested various forms for the tentative program.

It was decided to use the general subject Behind World Headlines since any current material could be grouped under that as the date for the meetings approached. It was next decided to choose four countries that were focal points in the world news, Russia, China, Japan and Iran. After pooling suggestions, the speakers for the series were secured by Mrs Javelin and she advised on the selection of the films to be used, all of which came from the Library's own collection.

Miss Louisa Metcalf, Reader's Adviser, compiled the reading lists which were mimeographed for the series, one list for each subject, and helped to secure the books from Branch Issue and Open Shelf Departments to augment the Branch holdings of titles on the lists. The books were displayed and lists distributed at each

meeting and were then made available to the general public in the Adult Room for the intervening weeks.

The programs were as follows:

October 10. Subject - Soviet Russia and the World Crisis. Speaker - Dr Edward R. Collier, Head, Social Science Department, Boston University. Film - Children of Russia.

October 14. Subject - Crisis in China. Speaker - Prof. Benjamin I. Schwartz, Department of History, Harvard University. Film - Farming in South China.

November 14. Subject - Japan and the Treaty. Speaker - Dr Toshio Tsukahira, Research Fellow, Russian Research, Harvard University. Film - Japan and Democracy.

November 28. Subject - Iran and World Oil. Speaker - Professor Charles P. Kindleberger, Department of Economics, M.I.T. Film - Struggle for Oil.

The purpose of the combined effort was to stimulate interest in world affairs and to supply information in the form of talks, films, and printed material to help individuals form opinions on world problems.

The forums were an interesting and successful experiment in cooperative effort - both from the view point of a branch library cooperating with a community group, and from that of a branch library and the Office of the Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults working together. In the first instance good public relations are fostered and the nucleus of an enthusiastic audience assured, and in the latter case a much more ambitious program can be undertaken.

The continued interest on the part of the participants, over half of whom attended all the meetings, and the individual satisfaction as expressed by many indicated the success of the program.

P.A.W.

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WHOSE FACE IS REDDEST?

That things are "really bad all around" is certainly apparent in the Library's new telephone listing. Of all places, it is listed under City, of Boston - Law Department!

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Among the reports presented at the business meeting of the Association held on November 23, was that of the Program Committee. In this report which was accepted there were four recommendations: One, that the Program Committee plan two instead of three meetings each year, supplemented by outside tours to educational institutions; two, that the May meeting be the meeting omitted, particularly if the Hartzell Lecture is to become an annual Spring event; three, that the Fall meeting be a lecture type with an outstanding speaker, and that this speaker be paid a nominal fee; four, that the Winter meeting be a "mystery" entertainment which might be an informal program by staff members or perhaps even a motion picture and record concert followed by a longer social hour in which definite steps would be taken to introduce staff members to one another. The Committee also raised the question as to whether members would prefer to have the evening programs begin at 7:30 instead of 8:30, and suggested that the Concession might be requested to serve a buffet supper from 6:00 to 7:00 o'clock for those who do not wish to go home.

The statistics appended to the report of the Planning Committee for the Library Workshop 1951 indicate that 88 persons participated, of whom 46 were from the BPL and 42 were from 18 outside libraries. The total expenses for the Workshop amounted to \$86.68 and the total receipts were \$168.40 which made it possible for the Workshop Committee to turn over to the Treasurer a balance of \$81.72 for the Association. The report itself was an evaluation based on the questionnaire which was sent to all participants from whom 47 answers were received. Thirty-nine were in favor of the workshop as a type of in-service training and only one person answered definitely in the negative. Suggestions for fields to be covered if another workshop were to be offered included:

1. How can public libraries more adequately meet the needs of the public with all types of educational materials such as books, pamphlets, sources of information, etc., and how can libraries make this service to the public more adequately known.

2. Book reviewing from the point of view of the special needs of librarians,

to be studied and discussed with book editors and book reviewers of newspapers and periodicals.

3. Public relations, to be divided into three parts: (a) Techniques of program planning for community discussions, meetings, etc., (b) using, rather than competing with modern mass communication media such as television, radio, pocket books, and (c) the library's role in community projects.

4. Development of lists of literature of various subject fields.

5. Discipline problems.

6. How to cooperate with publishers to resist the spread of the second rate at the expense of the first rate in books.

7. Professional ethics, which might be divided into supervisory problems and inter-staff relations.

8. The library's role in promoting a developmental reading program for adults and children.

9. A further study of fields already covered in past workshops. These were: (a) Use of audio-visual tools, (b) Work with young adults, (c) Development of book lists and their use, and (d) Use of periodical literature and picture collections.

In conclusion the Committee made the following suggestions and comments for consideration when the Association is planning future in-service training activities.

1. The Workshop is only one form of in-service training and not necessarily the best adapted to our needs. The views noted prove that it is a valuable and constructive experience to those who participate in it, but it should not be forgotten that it requires a great deal of time and work on the part of planners and participants alike.

2. Any decision on the part of the Association to continue the program of in-service training, whether it be in the form of a workshop or some other form, should be accompanied by a full sense of the responsibility involved and the participation of the individual members not only in the decision but in the carrying through of that decision.

3. If another workshop is planned, we suggest that it be built around the specific problems of small groups composed of individuals of similar work background and experience. We also suggest that there be a preliminary briefing of the leaders in the aims and goals of the workshop. The experience of the 1951 Workshop definitely

points to these two factors as necessary requisite for success.

This exceptionally fine report is a substantial contribution to the future work of the Association and any interested members may borrow a copy of the complete report from Miss Edith M. Sliney, Corresponding Secretary, in the Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

Two items have been referred to the Constitution Committee for possible changes in the Constitution and By-Laws in preparation for voting at the Annual Meeting in January 1952. One is in regard to Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws, Nominations, Paragraph d. This provides for the nomination of a candidate by submitting a letter and does not place a time limit for submitting the letter. The other item is that of dues under Article III of the Constitution. The matter was discussed at length, and it was decided to conduct a poll to ascertain the feeling of the membership as to raising the dues to act as a guide to the Constitution Committee in wording the change for the ballot.

The Auditing Committee has been selected for this year and will be composed of Mr Louis Raines, Chairman, Miss Mary C. Robbins, and Mr Louis Polishook.

Instructions will be forwarded with the ballots in January for the return of absentee ballots. Just a word of warning at this time - please read and follow carefully in order that all ballots may be counted and non disqualified.

F.A.W.

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BPLPSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES  
SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 1952

President

Mrs Veronica M. Lehane, Memorial Branch Library.

Mr Eamon E. McDonough, General Reference Department.

Miss Pauline A. Walker, West Roxbury Branch Library

Vice-President

Mr Gerald L. Ball, Book Purchasing Department.

Mrs Julia Manning Gurnett, Rare Book Department,

Mr Leonard J. Macmillan, Book Purchasing Department.

Treasurer

Mr Louis Polishook, Science and Technology Department - Patent Room.

Miss Dorothy P. Shaw, Periodical and Newspaper Department.

Corresponding Secretary

Miss A. Gertrude Barry, Personnel Office.

Miss Edith M. Sliney, Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

Recording Secretary

Miss Phyllis E. Adams, Book Stack Service

Mr William R. Lewis, History Department

Miss Helen H. Savakian, Information Office.

Executive Board (Two to be chosen)

Mr Kenneth C. Barnes, Periodical and Newspaper Department.

Mr Edward X. Casey, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Miss Mary F. Daly, Statistical Department.

Mrs Margaret W. Haverly, Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Miss Evelyn Levy, Jeffries Point Branch Library.

Miss Gladys R. White, Mount Pleasant Branch Library.

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BENEFIT ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

The Boston Public Library Employees Benefit Association will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary at a dinner and dance at the Hotel Somerset on Thursday evening, May 15, 1952, it was announced today by Mr Albert Carpenter, President of the association.

The Entertainment Committee, under the chairmanship of Miss Helen E. Colgan, has already laid the groundwork for the banquet which will be an important library affair celebrating not only the Golden Anniversary of the Employees Benefit Association but also the advent of the Centennial Anniversary of the Boston Public Library.

An early announcement is being made to enable the staff to reserve May 14, 1952 for the Employees Benefit Association party.

Helen E. Colgan

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THE LIBRARIES I VISITED ABROAD

The Editor's kind request that I write an article about my trip to Europe puts me in a quandary. I spent over eight weeks abroad - five in England and Scotland, and the rest in France - and I was on the go all the time. Apart from a week each in London and Paris, I hardly ever stayed more than two days in the same place. If I were to tell about everything I saw, it would fill the whole issue - which would not be right. I do not wish to crowd out a single contribution to the "Soap Box".

Obviously, I have to make a choice. I visited castles and cathedrals, dined in old inns and sat in modern cafés, mixed with crowds and walked in quiet parks - I travelled by trains, boats, and buses, and on a few occasions even took a taxi. Which of these things would interest readers most? I almost forgot to mention the libraries. Of course, this is what they are most impatient to hear about. I shall speak, therefore, to the exclusion of everything else, about the libraries I visited.

But my difficulties are not over. For I visited not only many libraries but a good many varieties of them - public libraries, great and small; college libraries; private libraries in chateaux; the libraries of the great cathedrals; the shops of rare book dealers; and the stalls of the bouquinistes along the Seine. It would be easier to concentrate on one or two of them, but I shall be discursive; after all, I have been on a trip.

I begin with the library of Salisbury Cathedral. The Verger directed me to Chancellor Dimont. (I found out later that of the resident canons, either the Dean or the Chancellor served everywhere as librarian.) It was late afternoon, and I went to see the Canon in his charming seventeenth-century house, to make an appointment for the following morning. The library, in a corner of the Cloister, is kept in excellent order by an old lady cataloguer. The exhibition cases contain many illuminated manuscripts; a huge thirteenth-century missal among them. Their famous Anglo-Saxon liturgy, however, had been sent to London for the Festival of Britain exhibit at the British Museum. But the chief treasure of the library is one of the four original copies of the Magna Carta. Chancellor Dimont is an active member of the Alcuin Society; and I promised him to make certain the BPL has

all their important publications.

At Peterborough I had only one afternoon to spend. I had already seen Gloucester, Norwich, and Ely, but Peterborough was still a surprise. The English cathedrals are amazing mixtures, embodying all the styles of medieval architecture. Gothic churches often have Norman fronts, and Norman churches Gothic fronts. The latter is the case with Peterborough, with its enormous West façade built in the thirteenth century. Over the Galilee Porch there is even a loggia added in the fifteenth! I was looking at it from the Gate (outside the book-store housed under eleventh-century vaults), when an old gentleman stopped. The loggia, he told me, was the library, fitted out from money given by one of the parishioners as a memorial for a son killed in the first World War. The gentleman turned out to be the Dean; and, since I had only an hour left, he hurried for the keys. One cannot examine books while thinking of catching a train, but I particularly remember some of their early English law books. No great crowds ever enter this library. The circular stairway, so narrow that even a single person has to tread carefully, would discourage people even if the cases were stacked with best-sellers.

The library of Lincoln Cathedral, rebuilt by Christopher Wren, has a serenity which lingers in one's mind. Canon Milford was my guide there. We met at the south porch of the Cathedral, as I was gazing at the statues of Edward I and his two wives, Queen Eleanor and Queen Margaret. Queen Margaret's is one of the most beautiful medieval statues; unfortunately, some skeptics have suggested that the head dates from the eighteenth century. "I hope you believe that it is genuine," the Canon said, adding with a twinkle in his eyes, "This is an article of faith with us." I saw several Caxtons in the library, a second edition of the Golden Legend among them. I could not help informing the Canon that we had the first edition. But their most important possession - for an American, at any rate - is the broadside "The Ten Capital Laws of New England," printed in London in 1643, one of the two existing copies.

There is nothing in England to compare with the transept of York Minster. Standing under the lantern, I was lost in admiration of the "Five Sisters", the most magnificent grisaille windows in the world. Canon Harrison met me there after Mass, and

we went over to the library. Some years ago many of the rarest manuscripts and early printed books of the Cathedral were sold, through Dr. Rosenbach, to the Huntington Library in California. (The Canon still remembers with relish the dinner at the Savoy which the Doctor gave in his honor.) However, there are still some very good books in their chests - among them an eighth-century gospel, which may have been there since the time Alcuin was Bishop of York. But Canon Harrison was particularly proud of their enormous collection of medieval records. Under a feeble lamp a young man was bending over a huge roll, doing research on the rents of thirteenth-century tenants in West Riding, for his doctoral dissertation at the London School of Economics. I persuaded him to come out to the daylight for a cigarette.

Of all the Norman churches of England - and there is nothing like them in France - Durham is perhaps the most impressive. The hill with its wooded slopes is a strangely romantic spot in a dull, industrial district; and the most romantic sight is the Cathedral itself, on top of the hill. The Lady's Chapel with its slender, late Norman columns has an unusual splendor. The library, housed in what was formerly the monks' dormitory, is undoubtedly the richest cathedral library in England. Here there are still some Gospels from Lindisfarne, huge folios with large outline-drawings tinted with red and green; the eyes of the stiff figures have an almost hypnotic stare. Durham was the home of St. Cuthbert; and everything reminds one of him: the large wall paintings, his many relics and vestments, and his wooden coffin.

At Oxford, I naturally went to the Bodleian. Dr. Huntley, the Acting Librarian, showed me around, explaining their ingenious system whereby the books are carried by an underground pneumatic tube from the new Bodleian into the old, the whole operation taking a mere seven minutes. The new Bodleian Library, viewed somewhat critically by many visitors, is hardly more than a store-house; and, considering the limitations of space and purpose, Sir Giles Scott, the architect, could have done no better. There are only a few exhibition and reference rooms on the ground floor; everything above and below - and there are some dozen floors in all - is stacks. The old Bodleian has been

largely emptied of books and the halls have been converted into reading rooms. But Duke Humphrey's library on the top floor is intact - and as badly lighted as ever. I strained my eyes over some superb twelfth-century manuscripts; and later saw some of the incunabulae, thousands of which are lined up on the sixth floor below.

I sat for a while under the dome of the Radcliffe Camera, and chatted with the students on the steps outside. Of the college libraries, I first visited that of Merton, the oldest library in England. Here the chains on many of the volumes looked quite natural. I spent a delightful hour in that same room twenty-five years ago - a long time for me, but not for Merton, built in the fourteenth century.

At Cambridge, my first visit was to the library of Emmanuel College - the school of John Harvard, and of the Puritan divines who came to New England. I saw Pepys' library across the river at Magdalene College, including the cipher manuscript of the Diary. The Wren library at St. John's College was closed, but the building is beautiful even from the outside; and the walk along the River Cam and over the Bridge of Sighs - in the famous "backs" - makes one realize why most people prefer Cambridge to Oxford.

The new university library at Cambridge, also the work of Sir Giles Scott, is a remarkable structure. Dr. Keswick, the Librarian, handed me over to Mr. Oates, the Keeper of Rare Books, who was just arranging a Renaissance exhibit. It was a pleasure to see how many of their items we had; but the main treat was seeing the Caxtons, the most complete collection in existence. From wooden shelves behind his desk, Mr. Oates pulled some of the most valuable books in the world.

I shall not say anything about my afternoon at the British Museum, and the hour or two spent at the Records Office. Nor can I say much of the National Library at Edinburgh, or even of the public library - the most authentic of all the Carnegie libraries. I pass over my visits at the London book dealers, at Mags' in Berkeley Square, Quaritch's in Grafton Street, Robinson's in Pall Mall, Goldschmidt's in Bond Street, etc. I was anxious to know what they had; and I saw some very beautiful volumes in their stores. But it is tantalizing to see books, when you know you don't have the money to buy.

But I have to speak of my stay in Boston -

I mean Boston, Lincolnshire. It is a happy little town, and the River Witham with the enormous warehouses on both sides is very picturesque. The "Boston Stump" catches the eye at once. It is a magnificent tower, light and graceful in spite of its tremendous height, its octagonal lantern visible from many miles. St. Mary's Guildhall, where the Pilgrim Fathers were tried and jailed, is a really fascinating place. At supper at the White Hart near the bridge I asked for baked beans, but the waitress did not know what I was talking about. It was the evening before market day, and in the Pub people were standing in a double row before the bar. A townsman told me all about the condition of the countryside. The farmers of Lincolnshire have been prosperous for generations ever since the draining of the fens; and the merchants do a thriving business exchanging grain for timber with the Scandinavian countries.

The following day I went to the public library, which is housed in the city hall. The rooms are spacious, but the books seemed few. It was the newspaper room which impressed me most; some of its patrons looked like cousins of those here. Mr. Scott, one of the city councillors, kindly offered to take me around. We drove to the mouth of the river, to the spot from which the Pilgrims are supposed to have embarked in 1607. Then we visited the dry-docks, and finally the Church of St. Botolph, where John Cotton was vicar for twenty years before coming to America. We climbed upstairs to see the library. I took a little tract off the shelf and it was by John Cotton; another, and it was a Mayhew. For a minute, I had the feeling of being back in the BPL, in one of the alcoves of the Prince Collection. Mr. Scott is a Norfolk man, who has lived for twenty-five years in Boston. "Of course, that's nothing here," he said, "One's family has to have been here at least two hundred years, for one to become a Bostonian." This too had a familiar ring.

Dear Editor, the allotted four sheets, typed double-spaced, are long passed, and I have not said a word yet about the French libraries. I have to stop my account altogether, or to continue it in the next issue.

Zoltán Haraszti

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### TYLER STREET READING ROOM OPENS

On Friday, December 7, at three o'clock, the Tyler Street Reading Room at the corner of Oak and Tyler Streets, was officially opened.

The Tyler Street Branch Library, which had served that section of the city for many years, was closed in 1938 as an economy measure. While the years passed, the need for some type of library service in the district continued to grow. The opening of the building as a Reading Room on Friday was the result of many months of careful planning on the part of civic-minded citizens and library personnel.

The rooms have been completely renovated and present a very attractive appearance. The adult room is furnished in modern club room style, with chairs and sofas upholstered in gaily-colored plastic, blond mahogany informal tables, and attractive floor lamps placed strategically for relaxed reading. The Children's Room is also pleasing in appearance and furnished to meet the needs of young adults and smaller children.

The rooms were made especially attractive for the opening ceremonies with cut flowers and Christmas decorations artistically arranged. After a few introductory remarks by Mr Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, Mr Lee M. Friedman, President of the Board of Trustees, spoke briefly on behalf of the Library and introduced His Honor, Mayor John B. Hynes, who paid high tribute to the library service in the City of Boston and said that he hoped it would be his privilege and pleasure to perform several similar library dedication services during the next four years. Mr George T. Lanigan, Councilman of the district, welcomed the new Reading Room and its staff and paid tribute to the library's contribution to the development and welfare of his constituents.

At the conclusion of these official ceremonies, an informal reception gave an opportunity for residents of the district and library personnel to become acquainted. Branch Librarians and their friends were responsible for the punch and cookies which added to the pleasure of the occasion.

The Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association extends greetings and best wishes to the newest member of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

E.G.P.

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS PROGRESS

The Program Committee reported at the recent Business Meeting of the Association that considerable progress had been made on the episodic skit on the growth and progress of the Boston Public Library which is to be presented in February as a prelude to the Centenary. Several planning meetings have been held. A questionnaire was sent to each staff representative asking for names of staff members who could help with the skit. Many volunteered their services and will be called upon soon. Miss Christine Hayes and Miss Bessie Doherty, have been working on the script. Committees will be appointed before the end of the year and rehearsal will begin before the early part of January.

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NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Bauer, Harry C.  
The Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center.  
Seattle, Washington, University of Washington, 1950.

Columbia University, School of Library Service.

Sample catalog cards for use in connection with courses in technical service in libraries. 2d ed.  
New York, 1951.

Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans.

The Michigan conference; a meeting held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 2 & 3, 1949.  
Ann Arbor, 1950.

Daniel, Charles  
Bookshelving in the high school library. Urbana, Illinois, University of Illinois Library School, 1949.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.  
Reference books, 2d ed.  
Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1951

Illinois University. Library School.  
The teaching of cataloging and classification at the University of Illinois Library School, by Kathryn Luther. Urbana, 1949.

Iowa. State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Ames Library.

Library instruction manual. 2d ed. Ames, 1950.

Jamieson, John A.

Books for the Army, The Army Library Service in the Second World War. New York, Columbia University Press, 1950.

Pittsburgh. Carnegie Library.

Stories to tell to children; a selected list.

Pittsburgh. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 1950.

U.S. Library of Congress. Rare Books Division.

A guide to its collections and services. Washington U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1950.

Yale University. Library.

Staff manual.  
New Haven, 1949.

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DEPARTMENT NOTES

Exhibits Office

At the request of one of the descendants of J. G. Low, the tile exhibition which was on display in the Puvis de Chavannes and Sargent Galleries during the month of November is being sent to the Utica Public Library for exhibition there.

The "How to Make and Repair a Violin" exhibition, which was displayed in the Central Library and in several of the Branch Libraries has been requested by the Brookline Public Library for exhibition early in December.

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Fine Arts Department

Last year a Christmas television program featured various editions of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, which were on exhibition in the Central Library. Remembering the success of the program, Paul Keyes, Program Director of Station WNAC-TV, has requested the loan of the "best" edition to be used to illustrate a recitation by a youngster from Quincy. Miss Priscilla McFadden, Chief of the Fine Arts Department, who owns the collection, has generously agreed to the idea. Mr Keyes will make

his selection next week and the program will be televised at 12:45 p.m. on Christmas Day.

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Rare Book Department

On the desk of the Curator of Americana, there is a small figure of St. Anthony with the Infant in his arms. It is a beautiful little statue, but St. Anthony is not there for artistic reasons alone; he serves a very useful purpose. It seems that when an abstruse question is plaguing the staff, or a possession of the department is not readily found, St Anthony is invoked, and generally comes to the rescue.

But this is not all. This is not the original St. Anthony. In the days when Miss Elizabeth Adams worked in the department there was another St Anthony. His prowess was so remarkable that when Miss Adams left to go to the State Department in Washington, D.C., she took the statue with her and has it "working" for her there.

It was Mr Chevalier, former Chief of the Catalogue Department, who first taught the Rare Book staff to call upon the Saint for help in recovering misplaced books. He carried several little lead figures of St Anthony in his pocket and would lend one on occasion. Lost personal property, too, has been found. Miss Adams recovered a ring which had been lost for over a year, and last year the diamond hoop wedding ring belonging to author Henrietta Buckmaster was discovered where she had left it in a folder of the Chamberlain Collection. An extra assistant contributed the following verse:

Saint Anthony, Saint Anthony,  
Get up and turn around;  
Something is lost  
And has to be found.

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BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

Miss Dorothy Nourse, Branch Librarian, was hostess at a delightful luncheon as members of her staff gathered to honor Mrs Helen Popp on the occasion of her transfer to the Brighton Branch Library.

Mrs Popp was presented with a beautiful silver compote by her former associates. In turn, she surprised each member of the staff with a framed water color that she had painted. Since her posters and art displays have been enjoyed so much by public and staff alike at East Boston, these personal mementos brought particular pleasure and appreciation to the recipients.

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North End

At the meeting of the newly-formed boy's club known as the Bolos (Book Lovers) to be held on Wednesday, January 23, at 6:30 p.m., Mr Frank Alfe will be the guest speaker. Mr Alfe, a junior in the School of Business Administration at Boston College, will talk about and show photographs of his trips to the White Mountains. This event will be the second in a series of lectures based on the club's theme of Human and Physical Geography.

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Washington Village

Overheard:

A small boy was being shushed by his mother. The three-year-old looked up solemnly at her and said, "Why should I shush-I don't see God here."

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Young lad to Assistant: "Will you pick out a novel for an elderly girl of 23?"

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The children's room being overcrowded, a boy walked up to the children's librarian and said, "How about reserving a table for tomorrow night?"

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A little girl asked the children's librarian if she were a girl, a mother, or a lady. The reply was, "Well, everybody tries to be a lady." The little girl made a quick decision. "You're a girl, then."

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As a little boy was heading for the staff room, an assistant stopped him and explained that it wasn't for the public. "But I'm not the public," was the retort, "I'm St. Augustine's."

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West End

An audience of nearly 200 gathered in the Library on December 1, to hear two distinguished Jewish authors, as part of the observance of Jewish Book Month. Mr Herbert B. Ehrmann, a member of the original Jewish Book Week Committee of Boston, was the chairman. Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, as hostess, extended greetings on behalf of the Boston Public Library. Rabbi Harold Kastle, educational consultant, represented the Jewish Bureau of Education. Mr Stanley P. Salzman, vice-president of Little, Brown & Co. told the inside story of publication. Professor Oscar Handlin, author of "The Uprooted", one of the two authors honored, spoke on "Putting People into History." He discussed the various methods used by well-known historians of the past. Mr Joseph Gaer, whose "Lore of the Old Testament" is the first book of its kind to be published in English, revealed the variety of sources where legends, anecdotes and tales interpreting The Book of Books may be found.

After the formal part of the program was concluded, the guests had an opportunity to "Meet the Authors" informally, and to examine the various exhibits which were especially arranged for Jewish Book Month, on the works of both Dr Handlin and Mr Gaer, books on Isreal and the approaching season, and on Stefan Zweig, as well as a general exhibit of the latest books of Jewish interest. Exhibits will remain on display throughout the month of December.

A tea and coffee hour followed. The hostesses were Mmes. Samuel E. Angoff, Herbert B. Ehrmann, Oscar Handlin, R. Duncan Luce, Leon S. Medalia and Abraham Rudy.

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Children's Book Week festivities were climaxed with a "Meet the Author" morning on Saturday, November 17, when a large group of children gathered to see and hear "real live authors", Miss Marjorie Hayes, author of many children's books including The Little House of Wheels and Green Pease and Miss Pearl Strachan, well-known poet, formerly of the Christian Science Monitor. Miss Hayes read one of her picture books and told a story from Robin on the River, and Miss Strachan read in her delightful fashion a number of poems.

Later the boys and girls had an opportunity to talk personally with the two guests, and then the group adjourned to the Children's Room where Miss Strachan helped in the selection of books of Poetry.

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During Book Week two schools in the West End district participated in an essay contest, the subject of which was "Why I Like the Library". Results were enlightening and gratifying, with many compliments on service rendered and remarks about the "Nice Librarians". However, there was one amusing bit of misinformation, based no doubt on the sad experience of many past fines. One child wrote that the Library provided many wonderful books, "and you only have to pay a cent a day for each book you take out."

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A meeting of the Boston Theological Librarians was held at the Library on Tuesday evening, December 11. This was the first time that many members of this group had had occasion to visit the building. After the regular meeting, Miss Goldstein and the members of her staff emphasized the beauties and special features of this library, and served refreshments to the guests.

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SOAP BOX

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Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publications, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed.

&

Congratulations to

The Exhibits Office on the beautiful Christmas display on exhibition in the Main Lobby. The familiar crèches loaned by Miss Edith W. Fisher are further enhanced by the superbly executed backgrounds by Mr George Scully, Exhibits Office. Scenes from the biblical story, painted with an air brush on pyrolin, give the effect of stained glass and the rich, jewel-like tones lend warmth and color to the entire Lobby.

L.S.M.

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For the Soap Box

The Library grapevine reports that the rejuvenated Tyler Street Reading Room is a little sister to Adams Street Branch Library in its homey furnishings and modern decor. It also is buzzing enthusiastically over the official opening last Friday when the Director, the Mayor and the Trustees dedicated it with simple, friendly ceremonies. But rumor doesn't state the source of the funds for the refreshments. Are they from the Trustees, city funds, or did they just grow like Topsy?

Curious

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Dear "Soap Box" Editor:

While the male portion of the Library's staff frequently invades the Women's Lounge to join in festivities planned for special occasions, it seldom happens that the female portion has an opportunity to inspect the "suite" assigned to the men in Stack I.

Quite by chance, I happened to pass the men's quarters (on my way from the Publications Storeroom in the basement) at a time when the kitchen door was open. I was so surprised at what I saw within that my exclamations brought forth an invitation from the occupants of the moment to "come in and look around." What I saw is the inspiration for this word of congratulations to the Library Administration, the Buildings Department, the Men's House Committee and to whomever else has been involved in the responsibility of modernizing and redecorating the men's quarters.

Freshly painted walls and woodwork, tables and chairs with shiny chromium in evidence, red leather divan! The two rooms are most worthy of viewing by all the female members of the staff. I wonder if the men have ever thought of reciprocating the occasional feminine hospitality and holding a "Ladies Day".

S.M. Usher

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Dear Editor:

Mr Athanasius Smeed has suddenly come to the realization that although there is a record of his educational accomplishments and varied experience on file at the Personnel Office, he is possessed of many talents which he has as yet kept hid beneath his bushel. Consequently he presents the following memorandum, without apologies to Sir Joseph Porter or W.S. Gilbert, as a codicil to his personnel record.

THE TALENTS OF ATHANASIUS SMEED

At the age of three I did declaim  
Which added to my family's fame.  
I gesticulated in a manner grand  
And my relatives all gave to me a great  
big hand.  
So, I think that such a talent qualifies me  
For a titular position in the library.

In carpentry class I made a bench  
And my mother called me her little mensch.  
Though no one could sit on it 'cause the  
legs were weak  
Of my accomplishment I very often speak.  
So, I think, etc.

At the age of fourteen I sang in the choir  
Though my voice was just as cracked as the  
bell in the spire.  
My E above high C sent cold chills up the  
spine  
And at funerals and weddings I'd especially  
shine.  
So, I think, etc.

At the age of eighteen in a grocery store  
I packed pecks of potatoes by the dozen and  
score.  
I delivered all the orders to the wrong  
address,  
But my smiles of greeting brought school-  
girls such happiness.  
So, I think, etc.

At the age of ~~twenty-one~~ for Congressman Groat  
 I addressed large gatherings to urge their vote.  
 I speechified with eloquence of such degree  
 He was returned to office by a plurality.  
 So, I think, etc.

As to my opinions you can plainly see  
 They are as inoffensive as can possibly be.  
 On most important issues I sit on the fence  
 And I never beat my wife except in self-defense.  
 So, I think, etc.

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My Dear Fellow-members:

Inasmuch as this is the season of peace towards men of good will, it is not my intention to stir up inter-necine strife. Nor do I write in a spirit of levity or acrimony. I am merely writing to point out to the membership of our association an existing situation and to suggest a possible course of action.

The recent appointment of a person not previously a member of the staff of our institution, nor even a member of our profession, to a high titular position in this institution is a matter of no little concern to us all. There is none among us so unfair as to question the wisdom of the trustees' choice of person, nor so rash as to question their legal and moral right to make such a decision. I, myself, do not know enough concerning the gentleman appointed to form any kind of judgment as to his fitness to hold the position. Consequently, I am quite willing to believe that he was the finest choice that could be made, if those responsible, legally and morally, for making the choice have been willing to vouch that such is the case.

It is rather to the manner in which the appointment was made that we must turn our attention. On July 1, 1946, the Director of the Library issued the following notice:

"By authorization of the Trustees, the Director will henceforth publish on January 1 and July 1, in each year a list of those vacancies in titular positions which are officially recognized as in existence as of those dates, and to which adequately qualified individuals may be considered for appointment."

This decision followed several years of negotiation with the Trustees by representatives of staff organizations, first, of the Boston Library Club, later of the Library Union, to have adopted just such an administrative policy.

It was assumed, perhaps erroneously, by many thinking members of the staff that this statement of policy represented an assurance on the part of the Administration that persons already in the service of the Library would be given an equal opportunity through the study of the qualifications and the filing of an application to present themselves as eligible candidates for titular positions. It was, of course, never intended at any time, either by those making the suggestion, or by the Administration in accepting the suggestion, to stifle the growth of the institution by absolutely refusing to introduce new blood into the staff, even at high levels, if it was found that no candidates in the service could equal the proved abilities and talents of those candidates from outside the service.

If, however, such an assurance can logically be inferred from the above notice and subsequent notices of titular vacancies, one must insist that it forms a sacred agreement between staff and institution. Inherent in every examination taken by every neophyte, underlying every effort of the individual staff member to better his training by study, to improve his work to a greater degree, is the implicit promise, not of a guaranteed promotion for that individual, but at least, that, when promotional opportunity presents itself, he will be given a "fair shake."

Some there may be among the members of our association who may feel, "What is this to me?" Who, since they had no aspiration to this particular position under discussion, feel that it is none of their affair. Who, because of long association with the staff, are exceedingly aware and ultra-critical of the human failings of one or another of the persons who might ordinarily seem to be logical candidates for the promotion. To these, I commend the words of John Donne in his famous Devotion, "No man is an Iland, intire of it selfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine." The opportunity that is denied to one today, may be denied to many or all tomorrow.

Impossible? Let us concretize. Perhaps you are the lowly page constantly on your feet all day handling books. Your work has

has been exemplary. You have even tackled the first few steps in the sub-professional examinations. You look to a slight promotion. Not a title. Merely a change of duties which would allow you a little more intellectual scope. But what happens? Someone is found outside the system who somehow fills the unannounced needs of the position you hoped for.

Or again, you are engaged in children's work. You aspire to the title of Children's Assistant. You have passed the examination in that field. You are sure that your training and experience are worthy of consideration. Yet tomorrow, a young lady from the children's department of a large bookstore enters the service at that point towards which you were striving, without the posting of a vacancy, without any previous mention of qualities sought.

An institution such as this library is not a mere collection of self-seeking individualists. It is a staff, an organized, cooperative staff working towards the common goal, the betterment of the library. If, once a merit system for promotion within the institution is adopted and cooperatively acceded to by the staff, the spirit and letter of that system cannot be consciously violated without serious damage, evident or latent, to the morale of the personnel of that institution.

I would, therefore, suggest that it is incumbent on the Executive Board of our association to come to grips with the present situation. I think that there is more need for a Committee on the Objectives of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, than there is for a Committee on the Objectives of the Library, that there is more need for a Committee on Personnel Morale than on Personnel Rating. I submit that in the present situation, the Executive Board, in accord with that clause in our constitution which urges us to look after the social welfare of the staff, should appoint a Committee on Personnel and, then, contact the Trustees of the Library with a view towards obtaining authorization of that body for the attendance of said committee at Library board meetings where questions of personnel arise especially in the matter of promotional opportunities. Such authorization was requested years ago by the Boston Library Club and actually is in force in many of the major public libraries throughout the country.

If ever our Association needed leadership, now is the time.

Sincerely,  
Eamon E. McDonough

To the Editor,

In regard to the current enforcement of the fifteen-minute relief of a four-hour work period, it may be noted that the majority of the Central Library Personnel spend their relief in the Concession.

Apart from the surging throng which must be battled at the counter and the inability to obtain a seat, is the crux of the matter—the problem of getting waited on.

There is no way to correct this situation while the Concession remains able to handle only a fraction of the personnel, because of its minute quarters.

It would seem that in a fifteen-minute period, approximately three or four minutes must be spent to arrive at the concession. Anywhere from five to ten minutes to have your order filled, leaving a hasty few minutes which may be spent in an attempt at relaxation. How may one feel at all relieved? The difficulties of returning to work within the allotted time may well be diminished, should the Concession be properly enlarged, allowing a little "relief" on a relief period, instead of hurried indigestion.

It may seem appropriate at this time to question that since the Concession is so affectionately called the "Coffee Shop" why nothing has been done to make the coffee drinkable? Couldn't the committee be coaxed into at least making a suggestion to rectify this?

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Dear "Soap Box" Editor:

Last week I saw a newly-furnished and repainted men's suit in the Stack I which brought forth an expression of commendation.

Today in the Women's Lounge in Stack II I have seen what calls forth anything but commendation. It was a large and ugly-looking hole burned out of the arm of one of the three luxuriously upholstered divans which have added so much beauty to the room. I am grateful that the hole was not allowed to reach such proportions that the entire divan was demolished!

In hope that similar incidents may be avoided in the future, a concrete suggestion is offered:

That job order slips be made out instructing the Library's carpenters to make five simple end tables to be placed at each end of the three divans (there is already a table at the sixth end), and three low coffee tables to be placed one in front of each divan.

CIVIL DEFENSE

While, when money is available, furniture may be bought in stores at high prices, I am confident that the Library's carpenters can make excellent tables at not too great a cost. Everyday experience shows that the expensive furniture is so consistently unappreciated by some that it is constantly abused by them.

If the tables are made, it will mean that there will be within reach of each individual who occupies any portion of a divan a table upon which to place ashtrays. I am loathe to believe that the Library employs assistants who are so weak that they would be unable to make the effort necessary to reach out and place ashes in trays on wooden tables instead of placing the trays and the ashes on upholstered furniture!!!

S.M. Usher

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To the Soap Box:

Is it too much to ask that tables be provided in the Lecture Hall during staff examination periods? Must we exhaust ourselves physically as well as mentally?

One of the sufferers.

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OPEN HOUSE AT JAMAICA PLAIN BRANCH

On Friday, December 14, Open House was held from 2 until 5 o'clock. In a festive Christmas setting, tea was served to approximately two hundred and fifty patrons of the library. The table was very colorful, with a silver tea service at either end, a huge centerpiece of holly, flanked by two Christmas tree candelabra. The guests obviously enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the staff and neighborhood friends over the tea table, and to see on display many books suggested for Christmas gifts. Among the distinguished guests welcomed were two former librarians of Jamaica Plain Branch, Miss Katie F. Albert, who retired in 1936, and Miss Rebecca E. Willis, who retired in 1950. The enthusiastic response of the public was extremely gratifying to the staff. We are looking forward to making this event an annual custom.

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Several people who volunteered last year for Predisaster Service have asked when there will be an opportunity for them to serve. A check with the Registration of Volunteers Section at Civil Defense Headquarters reveals that at the present time there is no work for these volunteers. Assurance was given, however, that the Library is on the list to be called upon whenever there is need.

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On December 4, 5, and 6, The American Red Cross, Boston Metropolitan Chapter, held a Disaster Institute, each day's session being one and one-half hours in length. Inasmuch as Red Cross disaster work is very closely allied with that which would be done following a war-caused disaster, the institute was considered to be an important part of the orientation of Civil Defense Disaster volunteers. The Library allowed time for the following to attend the first day's session: Coordinator of Civil Defense Program, Deputy Coordinators of Civil Defense Program, the Nurse, Members of the Civil Defense Planning Committee, and those who have volunteered for Disaster Service and have been selected to be Deputy Chiefs of Counseling Teams - 26 persons in all. Of this number, 7 were unable to attend because it was not possible to rearrange schedules.

Mr Victor C. Passage, Assistant Director of Disaster Services, Eastern Area of the Red Cross, Alexandria, Virginia, and Mr Philip Bassett, Director of Disaster Service for the Boston Metropolitan Chapter of the Red Cross, conducted the institute. Following a film showing Red Cross workers in action immediately following an actual disaster, there was a description given of exactly how the Red Cross is set up to care for disaster victims, and of how Civil Defense closely parallels that setup.

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Invitations were issued to this same group, to others who have volunteered for Disaster Service, and to those who completed the First Aid course in the Spring of 1951, to attend a closed circuit television program on Friday morning, December 14. Originating in Washington, the program was beamed directly to the Boston audience in the Pilgrim Theater on Washington Street. It attempted to show only one phase of Civil Defense - the care of the homeless immediately following a disaster.

It stressed four points in mass care:

- (1) Analysis + survey + flexibility = Service;
- (2) Other Civil Defense services + coordination with welfare = Service;
- (3) Prepared + assembled staff = Service;
- (4) Lodging space + planned lodging assignments = Service.

After the twenty-minute TV presentation, there was a panel discussion, with a panel of three experts in Washington, D.C., who answered three questions put to them from Boston and two from a similar audience in Philadelphia. From Boston: (1) How can the teams that operated this center be organized and trained? (2) What will happen to these homeless people after the emergency is over? Where will they go; who will care for them? (3) What procedures have been developed to get information on members of families separated from each other? From Philadelphia: (1) Must all these services carried on in mass care centers be contained in one building? (2) Can you tell us about how many people are required to staff one of these mass care centers?

Discussion groups of some twenty persons each met at Civil Defense Headquarters later in the morning to discuss television as a medium of instruction and orientation. The Library was represented in these groups by Miss Ruth S. Cannell, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, and Miss Sarah M. Usher. Mrs Marjorie G. Bouquet was to have been the fourth but was prevented from attending by illness.

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LATE FLASH

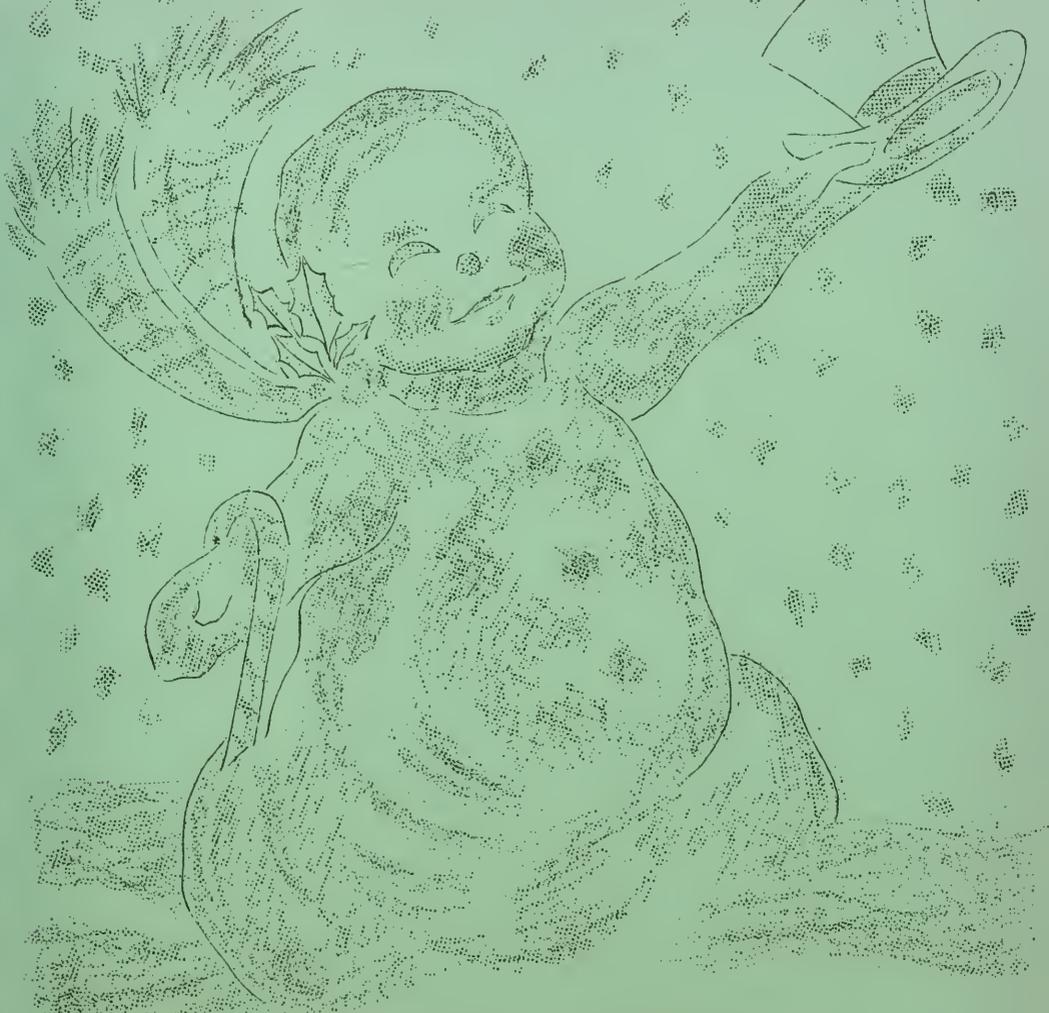
MR NEWMAN RECEIVES GREETINGS  
FROM THE Red SOX

Among the first Christmas cards to reach the Library was one addressed to Mr Donald Newman. It bore the following message:

"With every kind thought for you at  
Christmas and sincere wishes for your  
happiness in the New Year

THE BOSTON RED SOX"

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA



WOMEN'S LOUNGE - CENTRAL LIBRARY  
Thursday Afternoon, December 20, 1951  
3 - 5 o'clock

Committee for Christmas Tea

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Vanda B. Cariani, Chairman |                      |
| Margaret D. Butler         | Rosalie A. Lang      |
| Mary O. Cahill             | Marion D. MacWilliam |
| Alice N. Chisolm           | Ruth V. Marshall     |
| Barbara P. Cotter          | Helen G. Pappas      |
| Elizabeth M. Kaufmann      | Mary T. Sands        |
| Santa C. Koster            | Edith M. Sliney      |









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