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BULLETIN

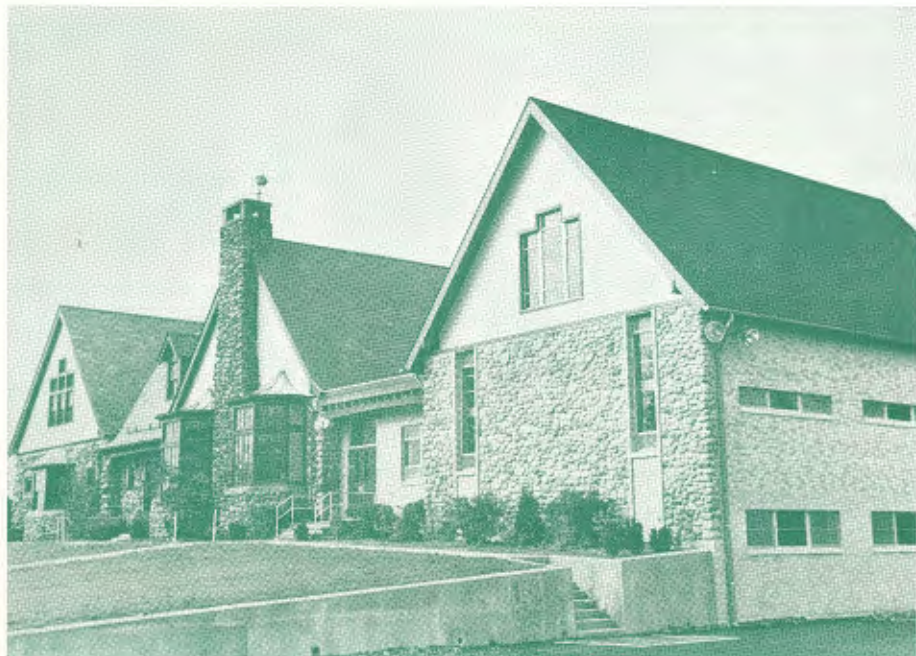
of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 36

May, 1964

No. 1



SPRING MEETING

of the

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1964

BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Barrington, Rhode Island

PROGRAM

- 9:00 A.M. Registration, Tour of Library, and Coffee Hour
- 10:00 Welcome from Mr. Russell W. Field, Jr., Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Barrington Public Library
Business Meeting
- 11:45 Mr. Robert B. Graham, Editorial Writer, Providence Journal, on International Affairs
- 1:00 P.M. Luncheon—Rhode Island Country Club
Tour of Barrington Public Library
- 2:30 Mr. John C. Frantz, Library Extension Specialist, Library Services Branch, Department of Health, Education and Welfare on Library Services and Construction Act
Mr. Leonard J. Pannaggio, Chief of Publicity and Recreation Division, Rhode Island Development Council, on Development Council's Value to Libraries
-

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING BARRINGTON

From Providence, after crossing the George Washington Bridge, follow the Fall River Expressway until reaching the sign to Barrington. Turn right to Barrington. This will take you to County Road which goes directly to the Town Hall of which the *Barrington Public Library* is a part.

To come from Newport-way, cross the Mount Hope Bridge, proceed through Bristol, Warren and into Barrington. You will be on Route 114 and again this leads you to the Town Hall.

To find the *Rhode Island Country Club* and the Town Hall from Barrington you go to the Shopping Center, down Rumstick Road to Nayatt on the right, and continue on to the Club. From West Barrington, take Washington Road, and, at the end, turn right to the Club.

If you are not able to get to the Club for lunch, there is a Newport Creamery opposite the Town Hall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEW FACES, NEW VOICES

By ELIZABETH G. MYER, *President*

Events of recent years have moved at a fast pace. There is no need here to rehearse them, for they have been amply reported elsewhere. Some thoughts do emerge, however, from a reflection on the Association's history since 1903 and on its prospects in the years ahead.

Where hitherto a relatively few, familiar figures have paced upstage and down in a well-defined pattern, they are now mingling with "new faces" in an interesting composite of talent that offers fresh interpretations with imagination and skill to an important theme—that of good library service.

The results are electric. The Association is invigorated by increased numbers and additional abilities to draw upon for the furtherance of its aims. The enthusiasm, the spontaneous ideas, the energy, and the experience of new members are enriching immeasurably the program and the services of the Rhode Island Library Association. The diversity is welcome.

Librarians have appeared with intriguing technical skills, subject knowledge, and specialties. In one Association librarians assemble who know school library work to the core; who can organize the literature of medical knowledge; who specialize in the needs of seafaring careerists; who can tune in to children and young people by particular sympathy, preparation, and study; who are teachers and leaders in library science; who can convey to others the benefit of a meticulously organized collection of books; who know the intricacies of research and can retrieve for businessmen vitally needed information and data; who have a warm and under-

standing approach to their reading public, from preschoolers to senior citizens.

In one and the same Association can be found selfless, dedicated citizens who carry responsibilities as trustees; who meet together in their various communities to plan for "the public weal" in good library service; who do not measure the hours given, the miles driven, the counsel supplied, and the burdens carried, but give freely and unstintingly of their time and effort in the cause of more nearly perfect libraries. Participating also in the meetings of this one Association appear leaders in government—lawmakers and officials who value libraries. Thoughtful and determined champions, they enunciate the cause in the halls of the legislature or in town meeting; describing needs, answering questions, and standing forth to be heard when opinions count.

This combination of interest and effort for libraries, from many sources, has come to pass within a very few years, as men and women of good will have turned their attention to the condition of the State's libraries. Realizing the educational demands of the times, they constitute a strong element motivated by a zealous concept of service for improving Rhode Island libraries.

It is encouraging and reassuring to see new faces and hear new voices as our Association gathers for its meetings. For far too long a few devoted librarians and trustees faithfully tended the light that shone in the libraries of the State. For years they labored, without glory or profit, to uphold the tradition of our region, where libraries began. Now they have company, have found new friends,

and can hope for the realization of their aspirations.

The setting is familiar, although the era is different. Stage directions are clear and concise. Cues are prompt and accurate. The production makes good use of props, mechanical devices, and scenery of quality. The drama projects its theme through a cast of characters drawn from both seasoned veterans and gifted newcomers. Action gains in momentum.

As the curtain goes up on this promising view of the future, members of the Rhode Island Library Association can recognize their roles in the parts to be played. They can appreciate the fact that a combination of circumstances entrusts to them a real opportunity to raise standards of libraries; to make of libraries vital institutions rich in resources and flourishing in usefulness. R.I.L.A. can help to illuminate this era in Rhode Island by focusing light and action upon the library scene, and by utilizing fully the talents in its membership.

BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

History

The Barrington Public Library is an outgrowth of the Barrington Library Society to which the Rhode Island General Assembly granted a charter in February 1806, and the first election of officers, a librarian and treasurer, was held on the first Monday of May, 1806. History and theology composed the body of the library, and into it were allowed no books of fiction, which the fathers believed "worketh abomination and maketh a lie." At first, the library was housed in the home of Rev. Samuel Watson who acted as librarian, and later, Rev. Francis Wood held the office.

The first public library meeting for a library organization was held at the

schoolroom of Isaac F. Cady (across the road from the Town Hall) on January 1, 1880. Donations of books had been received and a Board of Trustees elected. On the 2d of March the Trustees voted to transfer books and other library property to the town, and at the Annual Town Meeting, April 7, 1880, the library became the property of the town, and Mr. Cady's school building was hired to house the library. Mr. Cady was the first librarian and the library of 2000 volumes was opened to the public on May 8, 1880. In 1888 upon the completion of the Town Hall, the library was transferred to the room provided for it. In 1898 the library contained 8,606 volumes, and reported an annual circulation of 5,253 volumes with about 250 volumes added annually, from town and state funds.

In 1939, the present library building (a wing of the Town Hall) was completed, partly from W.P.A. funds and partly from town appropriation. In 1945 the library contained 22,905 volumes, with a circulation of 47,870 volumes.

In April, 1962, the townspeople voted \$125,000.00 to provide a new heating system for the Town Hall and library and an addition to the library. Mr. Michael Traficante was later chosen as architect, and, after disappointments and compromises (on our part) a plan was finally approved and the Coleman Construction Company hired. The cost of construction is \$103,625.00. The sum of \$8,000 left for the purchase of furniture and additional book cases and stacks was increased by \$5,000.00 by the Town Council from the Contingency Fund.

The new addition will shelve 15,000 books.

Circulation in 1945 was 47,870

Circulation in 1963 was 186,978.

Volumes at end of fiscal year,
1963—37,595.

PRESERVATION AND CARE OF MANUSCRIPTS

By CLARKSON A. COLLINS, 3RD

Librarian, R. I. Historical Society

Since I am writing largely for the benefit of small libraries, I should at first state that in general I feel that small libraries should not accept historical manuscripts if they can direct them to institutions having large manuscript collections which can make them readily available to scholars. If, however, because of local interest, a library does wish to keep manuscripts, care should be taken to see that they are properly housed and preserved.

Most letters and many other manuscripts arrive at the library folded. The first operation required is to unfold and flatten them. High humidity is necessary in order to soften the paper, which when dampened can be pressed with an electric iron. It should be placed on a piece of white blotting paper on a smooth hard surface and covered with white paper so that the iron will not come in direct contact with it. After the wrinkles and folds have been removed, the manuscript should preferably be stored flat.

The main agents damaging to paper, aside from insect and rodent pests, are light, heat, humidity, acidity, and dust.

Strong light over a period of time causes paper to deteriorate and many inks to fade. Heat makes paper become brittle and may yellow it. An ideal temperature is between sixty-five and seventy-five degrees. Wide fluctuations in temperature should also be avoided.

The best relative humidity for storage of papers is between 50 and 60 per cent. In order to retain

strength, paper must contain a certain amount of moisture but too much dampness encourages the growth of mold.

Many modern papers have a high acid content which can be highly destructive to manuscripts. It is necessary, therefore, that folders or boxes used for storage be free from acid.

Dust is damaging to paper and should not be allowed to accumulate on it. Dust present when the manuscript arrives can be removed with a soft brush or cloth, and more obstinate dirt can often be eliminated with an artgum eraser gently used. If in good condition, manuscripts written on rag paper with a permanent ink—as most of those prior to 1800 are—can be gently washed in tepid water, and afterward pressed between blotting paper. In the case of many old account books, logs, and other bound volumes that have been used as scrapbooks by later generations, the pages can be removed from the covers, the scrapbook materials soaked off, and the contents washed, dried and rebound.

Major restoration such as silking or laminating is ordinarily left to professionals, but minor tears can be repaired with Japanese tissue and paste. There are also transparent adhesive materials on the market which do not seem to harm paper. In closing a word of warning however—never use Scotch Tape for repairing manuscripts! It becomes gummy, discolors the paper, and is very difficult to remove.

A useful bibliography can be found in *A Guide to the Care and Administration of Manuscripts* by Lucile M. Kane, Volume 2, Number 11, *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History*, September, 1960.

NARRAGANSETT PENMAN

*Literary Editor of the Providence
Journal*

By GEORGE TROY

Settling down (unwillingly) to prepare a talk on today's fiction recently, I found the title coming out this way on my electric wonder, to wit:

"Remarks on the Singular Vibrations Set Up in a Book Critic Trying to Operate in a Space Age; also, a New Theory of Tittlebats."

The utter inanity of this, with its Pickwickian echo, suggested strongly that my Unconscious must have been working overtime rejecting novel after novel for review purposes even before the publishers sent them.

Not only are we getting too much sheer junk these days, not only are bedroom scenes seemingly the sole *raison d'etre* for a story—the bad writing is just plain incredible. Let me give you an hilarious quote from a recent offering:

*"Do you love your mother?"
Hope would ask Eddie. The first
clear recollection he had of his
mother was of her holding him and
asking him if he loved her.*

"Yes," he said.

*"Your father is going away,
Eddie."*

"I don't believe it."

*"He goes to bed with bad
women."*

Eddie, who could not have been more than two at the time, was obviously suffering from premature precocity. Possibly that accounts for the mess after mess after mess he lands in throughout the rest of the dreary "novel."

At the National Book Awards affair last March in New York, editors from four big publishing houses knew that sooner or later the question of junk

fiction would rear up from the book review editors of the nation assembled for a panel discussion. When it did rear (and severely)—somehow I can't now recall that the editors ever gave a clear cut reason for publishing such suffocating masses of the stuff.

All we can do is hope and pray, I suppose.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES COMPLETES ITS ASSIGNMENT

By KAY K. MOORE

Brown University Library

With the publication of its report on January 24, 1964, covering the library situation in Rhode Island, including twenty-four specific recommendations and a draft of proposed legislation, the Legislative Commission on Libraries formally ended its

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existence six days ahead of the deadline established by the resolution of the General Assembly that provided for the Commission.

Three of the recommendations should be especially noted.

The first of these is the provision that a new independent Department of State Library Services should be established, with a Board of Library Commissioners appointed by the Governor. The Board would establish policies and regulations for the new department and for a comprehensive state-wide library program; it would also appoint the State Librarian, who would be the executive and administrative head of the department. Within the department there would be three divisions—the State Library, Library Extension Services, and State Archives and Public Records. The Legislative Reference Bureau would continue to function within the State Library Division.

The second major provision is recommendation No. 18, which calls for the expansion of the principle of state-aid grants to towns and cities, based on population according to the latest federal decennial census. The bill would provide for grants ranging from 25¢ through 50¢, with the original appropriation for 1964/65 being set at 25¢. Recommendation No. 19 further provides that later grants would be dependent upon the sum appropriated by the General Assembly and the attainment by the libraries of standards to be established by the Board, with a provision in the recommendation that local communities would be given up to five years to attain these standards. An important requirement of the bill states that towns and cities either must raise their appropriations for libraries to the amount of the state-aid grant, or if they already are appropriating that much or more, that the local appropriations must not be reduced

below the sum appropriated in the previous fiscal year.

The third major provision of the Commission's recommendations involves the establishment of systems of libraries around "Regional Centers," with additional provisions for grants to the Providence Public Library as the "Principal Public Library," and to selected academic libraries for providing special facilities as "Special Research Centers." Appropriations are requested for Barrington, Providence and Westerly as the first Regional Centers, for the Principal Public Library, and for Brown University as the first Special Research Center.

Another provision is to authorize the appropriation of state funds to be used for local library construction, matched by local funds, private, public, or in combination. These funds would also be enhanced by the federal funds appropriated by Congress under

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the authorization of the Library Services and Construction Act of 1964. If full advantage is taken of these appropriations, it would be possible to have about \$600,000 spent on library construction in Rhode Island this coming fiscal year.

The total state appropriation required for the full program of recommendations is \$713,802.50; with federal funds of \$347,863.00 added to this sum, a total figure of \$1,061,665.50 would provide a substantial improvement in the library program of Rhode Island.

In this brief resume it is impossible to give all the details of these and other recommendations; the complete story may be read in the published report, which is available from the R.I.L.A. at a nominal cost of 25¢ to members of the Association and 50¢ to non-members. Address your requests to Public Library Services in Rural Areas, Roger Williams Building, Hayes Street, Providence. The Association has ordered a second printing of the report to meet the demand for copies.

For the record, the Legislative Commission was in existence from May 25, 1962 through January 24, 1964, and met 39 times. Some sections of its report were drafted and redrafted five and six times. The whole report was worked over by the full membership. The members of the Commission who signed the report were: Senator John E. Moran (D), Cumberland; Senator Rufus K. Prosser (R), Charlestown; Representative Donald R. Bonner (R), Westerly; Representative Joseph A. Thibeault (D), Cumberland; the State Librarian, Elliott E. Andrews; and the four representatives of the Rhode Island Library Association, Miss Elizabeth G. Myer, Miss Dorothy W. Budlong (secretary of the Commission), Knight Edwards, and the undersigned as chairman.

ANY DAY

By MARY HENEGHAN
*Head Reference Department
Providence Public Library*

The old Information-Reference Department of the Providence Public Library has become the Reference-Periodicals Department. The most important change being the change in name because the service aspect of the department has not changed. But with the facilities of the Periodical Department at our disposal we are perhaps expanding service.

What happens at a busy reference desk in a large public library? Even those of us who work there are hard put to explain and/or describe what we do and how we do it other than by describing some of the questions we answer—and some we have been unable to answer without outside help.

The sources are many and varied ranging from the most extensive bibliography of English literature to the telephone book for the Providence area. In between you find dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs, city directories, college catalogs, newspaper clippings, specialized book sources in the fields of religion, literature, language, social science, history and biography in continuous use.

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As a reference librarian you can help plan weddings or name the newest addition to the family whether it be baby, dog, boat or house. Then again you can find the name of the smallest nation in the world, identify the Libera service in the Catholic Church, locate the full name and title of the Episcopal Bishop of Rhode Island, provide the name of the executive secretary of the United States Conference of Mayors, or the name of the small skull cap worn by Jewish men. You are asked to provide directions from Providence to a small town in New Hampshire, to identify the reason that the fire bells are ringing in your village, to spell words which just don't look right after they have been written, to help with the wording of thank you notes.

You must always check and find the answer you give in a printed source. Personal opinions are not ac-

ceptable in a public service of this type.

At the Providence Public Library a particularly valuable 'tool' is the Rhode Island Index which provides a fount of information on all phases of Rhode Island—people, places, and events. Did Narragansett Bay ever freeze over? What is the middle name of Governor John H. Chafee? Who was the winner of the Miss Rhode Island contest in 1963? Recently by checking sources in our Rhode Island collection, it was ascertained that women had run for Lieutenant-Governor several times in the past. Term papers are continually being written on topics, such as, the Dorr Rebellion, fair housing in Rhode Island, and the triangle trade with the material indexed in the Rhode Island Index as the major source of information.

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A selective collection of government documents constitute another part of the collection. Again the wide range of topics covered in these publications is amazing but ever so valuable in trying to trace the amendments to the Taft-Hartley law, the number of people who drive to and from work in the Providence area, the committee assignments of members of Congress, the Pearl Harbor investigations and the description of the camping facilities at national parks. So you can see the questions really are varied and interesting.

These and thousands of other inquiries are answered each year, some very routine and automatic, others requiring extensive searching and contact with other institutions. We do contact other institutions for help as witness our letters to Merriam-Webster Co. for definitions of the words 'jickey' and 'quiniela'. Local residents with specialized interests can often help if called upon and many of us have personal friends who find it a source of personal satisfaction to come with the answer to a question which has us stymied. And we are thankful for any information with which they can provide us. For you see successful reference work is a co-operative thing, the librarian must know the printed sources and how to use them, must work with others so that all the library's resources can be

brought into use to answer a particular question, and must contribute freely of his knowledge of books, people and special subject areas.

In line with this philosophy that coordination of resources and cooperation in the library makes for better service the Reference and Periodicals departments have been united. Although physically separate the two areas are now administered as a unit and each member of the department will be trained to work in both areas. This will mean the resources of both areas will be familiar to all the staff and questions can be worked on in two places at the same time. Some of us are learning the reference value of periodicals and their indexes while others on the staff are really renewing this knowledge. Requests for biographical material on Joseph Short, press secretary to President Truman, information on the economic value of a college education, descriptive material on the island of San Blas were all filled by using the resources available in both sections of the Department.

At sometime or other almost every fact you know will be useful as you trace the answer to a question. Imagination, a retentive memory, knowledge of books and other resources, a liking for and an interest in people, plus the all important sense of humor and the ability to recognize that no

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one person knows all the answers or even can find them all are qualities which a reference librarian should possess. Boredom is not one of the complaints of a busy reference desk but there are times when you almost wish the phones would stop ringing and the patrons would disappear. Then you might have lost the chance to provide the serious college student with biographical information on Martin Maddan, the business man with a copy of a presidential executive order, the high school student with debate material on lowering the voting age, the researcher with copies of the laws pertaining to women which were in effect in colonial Rhode Island, or the parent with information on when to take his children to the Museum of Science in Boston and how to get there. And oh yes, for most reference librarians life would be pretty dull without people and their questions.

BOOKMOBILE SERVICE TO CHILDREN

By MARY BLAIR

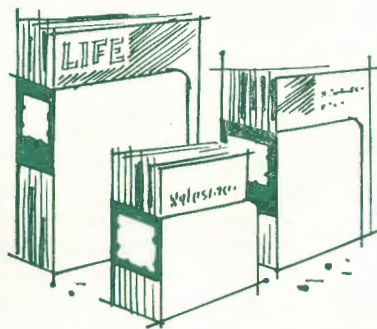
Assistant Supervisor, Public Library Service in Rural Areas

Hot rods, dinosaurs, guns, horse stories, baseball, and Dr. Seuss books—as we might expect, these are at the top of the year-round children's request list on Rhode Island's only Bookmobile. Seasonally, we get demands for holiday programs, cells, masers and lasers, fishing, and taxidermy. Periodically, teachers send us forty youngsters at a time, each to borrow "a classic" for a book report. All year long, we have parents who take books home in shopping bags—something for each member of the family, including picture books for the pre-schoolers.

Service to children on the Bookmobile, as in stationary public libraries, consists, in part, of giving

children "what they want." But a much more important part of our service, it seems to me, is to make children aware of the stories, authors, and subjects they do not know, and consequently never ask for. To the youngsters who want "something funny," I give not only *Homer Price*, *Henry Huggins*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* and *The Moffats*—always "sure-fire"—but *Lear's Nonsense Book*, and Richard's *Tirra Lirra* (both humorous poetry); Du Bois *Twenty One Balloons* (humor, plus fantasy, plus science fiction—quite sophisticated); and Hale's *Peterkin Papers* (humorous and Victorian).

I try to give our rural children, who, unlike their city cousins, have brooks and woods and fields for their backyards, all the excellent nature books by Buck: *In Ponds and Streams*, *In Woods and Fields*, *Pets from the Pond*, etc. I try to show parents some



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of the delightful easy-to-read books besides the ubiquitous Dr. Seuss, and to let teachers know that we have ten or twenty wonderful poetry anthologies for children besides the well-known Arbuthnot. Whenever I can, I encourage adults who deal with children to read to the younger group from that great body of children's literature which five-to-eight-year-olds can savor and appreciate, but which they cannot manage themselves as yet: about "the great gray-green, greasy Limpopo River all set about with fever trees"—about Dame Margery Twist who filled her reticule with a parcel of simples and rode off to nurse a fairy lady—and about the old hag with "her wig and her wag and her long leather bag".

In an increasingly impersonal world, it is one of the great satisfactions of librarianship that good library service is still a very personal thing. Many children, left alone, reject books for a variety of reasons quite apart from the story: strange backgrounds; unfamiliar periods of history; or difficult proper names. Face to face with a child, how easy it is to sketch in, with a few words, some exciting bit of plot which will make the extra reading effort worthwhile! One of my long-time favorites is the Newbery winner by Kelly, *Trumpeter of Krakow*. It is filled with adventure, mystery, alchemy, sorcery, and the great Tarnov Crystal secreted inside a pumpkin (shades of Whittaker Chambers!) all set in fifteenth century Poland, but even the most avid mystery reader won't take it home without some introduction.

The success of the Bookmobile's service to children is measured not only by reflecting the "trends" as they are voiced by boys and girls, but by creating "trends" where they do not yet exist—toward fairy tales, poetry, and biography as well as baseball, horse stories, and guns.

READY MADE CATALOGING — HOW READY?

By HELEN G. KURTZ
Brown University Library

Each year we draw closer to centralized cataloging and various cooperative cataloging plans. Here in Rhode Island cataloging service is provided to some libraries under the services to rural areas program, and the Humphry report suggests this should be considerably expanded. Most of these programs rely on Library of Congress cards and/or proof sheets, or Wilson cards. In addition, many libraries buy cards independently, or the cataloger consults the *National Union Catalog* for help in cataloging. It has been argued that it is more economical to accept printed cards as they come, and to resist the temptation to improve or alter them. Many cards will prove to be adequate, but there are certain

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problems which arise in the use of these aids which both the administrator and the cataloger should understand. If we are agreed that the public catalog should provide the patron with a better chance of locating materials than he has of winning the New Hampshire sweepstakes, a few words of caution may be in order.

For 12 years between April, 1951 and August, 1963 the Library of Congress used "limited cataloging" for trade publications, e.g., fiction, biography, history, drama, poetry, religion, travel, juveniles, text books, pamphlets, etc. This was instituted to cut down on time and expense in cataloging: for example, the books thus cataloged had shorter descriptions—only the last numbered page was given, and all illustrative material was recorded simply as "illus." Notes were cut to a minimum, as were added entries. The results of these limitations were recently studied at L.C. and weighed against comments of card subscribers and others. It was then decided to go back to a single set of cataloging rules for all publications. Therefore, card users will find more complete descriptive cataloging in use again, but cards purchased for books published in that 12 year period will still reflect the "limited cataloging" practice. For instance, editors named on the title page may or may not be traced as added entries on L.C. cards. If this person is considered important, or if there is reason to believe the book will be looked for under the editor's name, the extra entry will be needed, and the tracing added. If the illustrator is considered important this name would have to be added to the L.C. cataloging. Examples of this kind of adaptation could be considerably expanded; however, the point is, to be certain the tracings and description are really adequate for the needs of the library buying ready-made cards.

Librarians should be aware that revision of the cataloging code is currently underway and is being reflected on L.C. cards even though changes in rules have not been completed or widely publicized. Independent cataloging by the present code may not produce the same result as the L.C. printed card. Publisher's Weekly's *Book Publishing Record* has cataloged *The spy who came in from the cold* in the traditional manner, e.g. as by [Cornwell, David Moore], bracketed because the title page reads [by] John le Carré which is a pseudonym. The L. C. printed card does not follow old rules and does not carry the brackets.

Subject headings provided by Wilson or L.C. when fully copied can lead to considerable confusion, not only for the public, but also for the reference librarian. Some writers on cooperative cataloging notwithstanding, this writer believes logic

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should prevail over short sighted economies. L.C., as we all know, is cataloging for itself—a huge research institution, and its list of subject headings is expanding each month with very specific headings. Wilson and L.C. cards have been found in one study¹ to be identical 40% of the time and to be different 26.8% of the time only because the catalogers doing the books made different choices, and not because identical headings were not available. So the problem is widespread.

“See” and “See also” references are often orphans. In a recent class in cataloging it was discovered that one R. I. library was buying L.C. cards and typing on the subject headings just as they appeared on the printed cards. Nobody was aware that any cross references were in order. This “inexpensive” practice will cause such a heading as “Mentally handicapped children” to enter the catalog while most of the library’s material will be under the older heading “Children, Abnormal and backward.” The possibilities are endless. If a library or a cooperative cataloging project accepts “Discrimination in public accommodations” is this being too definitive? If the library or libraries are already using “Race discrimination” and/or “Negroes—Discrimination” should they think seriously before typing on headings “Discrimination in housing,” “Discrimination in public accommodations,” etc.? Will not too many headings divide the material of a small collection too much and considerably diminish the patron’s chance of a direct hit? And who will pay for the necessary subject work to relate the headings? Some libraries use L.C. subject headings, but buy Wilson cards, or vice versa. This, and the problem of establishing and relating

new headings, reveals the very real necessity for recording decisions in a subject authority file.

Being too specific, or accepting all the subdivisions of subjects on printed cards can be as ill advised as accepting a single inadequate subject heading which comes “ready made.” A book with the title *Los Angeles, San Francisco & Las Vegas on \$5.00 and \$10 a day*, is provided with “Southwest, New—Description & travel—Guide-books” as its only subject approach. It is obvious that even the initiated library patron, or the librarians themselves, would not think of this as an approach to a travel book on Los Angeles, San Francisco or Las Vegas. This book has literally been dropped into oblivion except from the author or title approach.

It is hoped that these few comments will show that it is not always cheaper to accept too definitive headings when the library already has an adequate one, or is it economical to use a poor heading which does not describe the book simply because a Wilson or an L.C. cataloger has made an unwise choice.

YOUR MEDICAL COUSIN

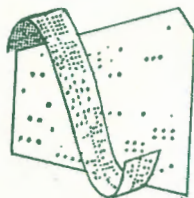
By ANNE MAXVILLE, *Librarian*
St. Joseph's Hospital

That the Rhode Island Library Association is, of library associations, the firstest with the mostest is acknowledged by all right thinking persons. School librarians, too, have been making themselves heard in the land, but how many Rhode Island librarians are aware that there is another library association of specialized librarians flourishing right under their noses?

The Rhode Island Chapter of the Medical Library Association was conceived early in 1952 and was the product of an outlander librarian’s professional loneliness. At that time the new librarian at the School of

¹ Jackson, S.L. “Sears and L.C. subject headings compared.” *Library J.* 86:755-56.

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Nursing at Roger Williams General Hospital sent out an invitation for a get-together meeting. It was her conviction (and still is) that there are just too, too many associations to join, most of which are time-wasters as is evidenced by the difficulties most organizations have with poor attendance and lukewarm support. So, in the Solarium at Roger Williams, she made a plea for professional companionship BUT ONLY if there were a real need for it. "Let's not have any officers. We won't need a treasurer, because let's not have any dues. Indeed, if this club doesn't survive easily, let's let it die a natural death with this meeting, because there will be no real need for its existence. Let there be no membership campaigns, no reproaches for non-attendance." Some responsive chord must have been struck, for that is the way it was—and is today.

After getting along by itself nicely for several years, one autumn day Helen DeJong of the R. I. Medical Society Library and Anne Maxville of the St. Joseph's Hospital Libraries went to the Yale Medical School Library to meet with similarly-minded people from round about with a view to combining the small existing medical library organizations in the New England area. It was at this time that the New England Regional Group of the Medical Library Association came into being. As in the case of the Rhode Island group, the amalgamation has survived without officers or dues. An annual regional meeting of two days is held in rotation through the states. The Host state is THE officer, and the only money involved is the \$1.00 Registration fee which pays for the dinner of the official guests at the Banquet. (Brown and Connolly, Inc., pays for the cocktail party.) It so happens that Rhode Island is the only state which has twice been hostess, our

second time having been the Fall of 1963 during the Centenary of Rhode Island Hospital. The guest speaker at the Banquet held at Brown University was Scott Adams, Acting Librarian of the National Library of Medicine of Bethesda, Maryland. Congressman Fogarty another honored guest was also present.

The Rhode Island group usually meets (no set date, but approximately every other month an urge materializes into telephone calls and arrangements) at the Brown University Faculty Club for a dinner-cum-talkshop session, courtesy of member Josephine Carson of the Biological Sciences Library of the University. Now and then, however, they meet at the Rhode Island Medical Society Library for wine, cheese, crackers and vacation slides (if there is a distinguishing characteristic of a medical librarian, it is that she generally gets abroad in the summer, and that the slides she brings back are not of hospitals or even libraries). About once every two or three years, a meeting is held at each member library, and especially when one has some new furniture or similar thing to show off.

All is not beer and skittles at their meetings however. The most valuable project which the Group has inaugurated and carried on is their Union List of Medical Journals in the State of Rhode Island. The members feel

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that this List is so valuable to them that each would willingly pay a smart sum for a copy; but this has proved to be unnecessary since Brown University also feels that it is important and subsidizes the clerical and publishing costs. The List is revised every three or four years— though a running revision is always kept up. The current revision has been deliberately slowed down awaiting jelling of the new medical school at Brown and the consequent addition of many new journals.

Most of the member libraries participate in standard library loan customs (library to library; not library to person); all are open for reference use only, to responsible persons; but most warn that their libraries are deep in the heart of the hospital, or organization), that their wares are highly specialized, and space is at a premium. A possible exception to this rule is the R. I. Medical Society Library which gives community service for reference use, though their books do not circulate to non-members of the Society.

Of those participating in mushroom sandwiches and *Petite fours* that inauguration day at Roger Williams, several still remain as pillars of the Group: Helen DeJong, R. I. Medical Society Library, Doris Johnson, R. I. Hospital Peters House Library, Betty Tillinghast, R. I. Hospital School of Nursing Library, and the venerable founder, Anne Maxville, now of St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital Libraries.

The average Rhode Island meeting draws about fifteen people. The average Regional meeting about 125. When Maine, Vermont or New Hampshire is the Host Library, it is a problem to find more than one or two libraries to participate in the burden of running a six-state meeting. Connecticut and Massachusetts, of course, range from the giants of

Harvard and Yale Medical Schools, the Boston Medical Library, to the many small hospital libraries scattered over their states. In spite of this extreme range of personnel, book stock, and interest, both the New England Regional Group of the Medical Library Association and the Rhode Island Chapter continue to flourish— without president or dues but with profit to all.

HOW TO BE NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

By RUTH E. TABOR, *Librarian*
East Greenwich High School

The onus of school-public library cooperation rests upon the school librarian. It is she who sets standards of acceptable library behavior and teaches students to use the library's many resources. It is she who secures and promptly delivers to the public library, copies of book report lists. (In fact, it is she who indoctrinates

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faculty members to produce extra copies of the same for this specific purpose!) It is the school librarian who alerts the public librarian to the "run" on Egyptian mummies or the Globe theater from the high school and suggests that the March, 1961 issue of *National Geographic* will meet the needs of Sophomores searching for Pan-American Highway information.

It is the school librarian who suggests that the English Department spread their types of book reports throughout the year so that two hundred Juniors are not demanding biographies in November and three hundred and fifty Freshmen will not clamor for essays in May. The school librarian reminds her faculty that there are areas where encyclopedias are the best (yea, often the only) sources of suitable information for student use. On occasion, the school librarian may even check the public library holdings in a specific area for a teacher who is considering a certain type of assignment. Because she knows the public library collection, the librarian may even recommend that a teacher send one student instead of thirty for a specific piece of information.

In towns where the majority of students use a single library, life is perhaps simple. Where there are several libraries in the area, used equally by large numbers of students, the school librarian's responsibility extends to each. A personal visit or telephone call may serve for one library, where another is best reached by mail or a willing student errand-boy.

It has become the practice in our town to move the school library copies of titles on a school summer reading list to the public library on the last day of school in June. This provides opportunity for at least five two-week charges for each copy before school reopens in September and

eliminates the necessity for extensive duplication on the part of the public library. With these volumes reserved for the use of our students, the library copies are available for those from the many other schools who use our public library facilities.

The school and the public library may find a form of coöperative purchasing worthwhile. If one owns BOOKS IN PRINT, could the other provide the SUBJECT GUIDE TO BOOKS IN PRINT? If one receives the BOOK REVIEW DIGEST, could the other get the FICTION CATALOG or HORN BOOK? Our public library has outstanding collections of natural history and local history, the school can therefore build in the areas of mathematics and literary criticism or education. A seldom-used title available in either library need not be purchased or replaced by the other if inter-library loans can be arranged. By the same token, suggestions for purchase may be freely exchanged when titles have general interest or value for either clientele.

Coöperation in the purchase and storage of periodicals may also be desirable since neither library can spare storage space for all the back issues we would like to retain.

Other time—, temper—, or money-saving suggestions for coöperation between school and public libraries may be in effect in Rhode Island. Why not share them with us so we can all be friends as well as neighbors?

LIBRARIAN TO TRUSTEE

By MARTHA R. MCPARTLAND

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *To show that an annual report can be fun to read.*)
To the Trustees of the East Greenwich Free Library Association:

It is my privilege to present to you this report for the year of 1963.

To try to summarize the past year in a few paragraphs is like trying to

carry a wildcat in a paper bag. Increases burst out in every direction—increases in circulation, in borrowers, in the number of books added to our collection and, resultantly, the work load on a small staff rose accordingly. To begin with, our total circulation in 1963 was 69,919 volumes, which is 2,154 more than the 1962 figure. Of this number, 43,309 were adult books and 26,610 were children's books. This is an average of 230 books issued each day—a goodly number for a library of this size. Increased, too, was the number of borrowers, we now have 8,260 active borrowers, 2,763 of whom are children. This is 1,011 more than last year. During 1963 we added 1,137 new books and had to discard 907 volumes. There are now 24,925 volumes in the library. We have continued our efforts to build up the children's collection and added 336 new books for them this year, about 60 per cent of which were obtained through the Public Library Services in Rural Areas program. We now have 4,895 children's books in the library and many demanding young readers.

Both my assistants, Mrs. Mary Rice and Mrs. Ruth Yost, are to be especially commended this year for their cooperation and willingness to make the extra effort required to assimilate these steady increases.

The Book and Program Committee presented three very fine lectures during the 1962-1963 season and these have been very well received and attended. Mrs. Rice has had her little group enjoying Saturday morning Story Hour. The visits to the local schools by the librarian were continued last Fall and some seven hundred youngsters were contacted in their schoolrooms. This cooperation from public and parochial school officials, combined with most cordial and reciprocal relations with Mrs. Ruth Tabor, the high school librarian, are

strong factors in accounting for the increased use of the library by our young people.

Our memorial collections continue to grow. The Nichols Collection has added several fine volumes, as has the Arthur Earnshaw Collection. The Thomas Casey Greene Memorial Collection has also added a number of outstanding volumes of Americana, and, through the generosity of the Greene family, the initial fund has been increased. The Arthur B. Lisle Memorial collection has been inaugurated this year through the generosity of Mrs. Arthur B. Lisle. We have already purchased a number of good books on landscape gardening and we hope to build up the Lisle Collection of outstanding books on related subjects. Mr. Lisle was a member of the East Greenwich Free Library Association for forty years and its president for twenty-three years. These various funds help mightily in allowing us to purchase outstanding, and often quite expensive, volumes to round out our library collection. The donors would be edified to hear the enthusiastic comments of residents and newcomers upon finding such handsome and informative books available in a small town library. In addition to these special collections, several organizations have contributed books to the library and friends have made donations to our general fund.

The year of 1963 you will agree has been another active one, in every sense of the word. We are part of the trend which leans toward continued use of library facilities especially correlating them with all levels of education. While we do this to the best of our ability, we try never to lose sight of our other duty to the adult citizen who seems sometime to get lost in the predominance of youth. The great pleasure in reading for entertainment should not be relegated

to the background. Reading is one of the few quiet pleasures left to us in this busy and troubled world and we must not neglect this important function of a library.

The concerted efforts of all in helping to make this a banner year is greatly appreciated. In 1964 we will once again need all our friends and supporters to assist us in improving our services and in maintaining the East Greenwich Free Library as an institution geared to meet the needs of a fast-growing community.

National Library Week in Rhode Island had several distinguishing factors in its 1964 observance. Commissioner of Education, Dr. William P. Robinson, Jr., served as State Chairman, with J. Walter Hurkett and

Richard Robbins as Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director.

On April 12th occurred two events of particular significance. The North Kingstown Free Library achieved special recognition as a recipient of the Book-of-the-Month Club \$1,000 Award in memory of Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Honored for outstanding service to its community, the Library was also honored by the presence of guest speaker, the Honorable John E. Fogarty.

The Foster Public Library presented a special dedicatory program to open its newly finished addition. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Arthur C. Coe, presided over the occasion which demonstrated admirable progress in library facilities and services for the Town of Foster.

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