

DOCUMENT 15 — 1977



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
For the Year Ending June 30, 1976

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Director, and Librarian

To the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library:

As Director, and Librarian, I have the honor to submit my report for the year July 1, 1975, to June 30, 1976.

The year has been marked by an intensive effort to maintain a cost-effective operation while at the same time offering growth in services and resources. At a time when metropolitan libraries across the nation are curtailing hours, staff, and services because of increased fiscal restraints, the Boston Public Library is working to go beyond "business-as-usual" and advance in services by streamlining procedures and systems and by seeking additional support through gifts and endowments.

This year saw considerable progress in the long-range building program, in program activities, in production of resources in large-print materials, and in General Library holdings, in cooperative programs with the Boston Library Consortium, in application of systems to bibliographic activities, and in other areas herewith enumerated.

GENERAL LIBRARY SERVICES

In the branches of the Boston Public Library programs for all age levels took place in splendid variety. Like the ethnic series in the Central Library, there were many branch activities related to community groups with various national heritages. Among them: Connolly Branch presented a "Homenaja a Cuba," celebrating the island's seventy-fourth anniversary of independence; Senator William M. Bulger spoke at South Boston Branch in a tribute to Irish culture called "There's a Place for Ethnicity"; Roslindale Branch sponsored a Przyjecie Polski, "A Bicentennial Salute to Our Polish-American Community," which drew more than 250 people.

Programs were also offered to special groups or as series: Never Too Late programs for over-sixty citizens, Especially for Women series, Parent Discussion groups, American Issues Forums, Great Books Discussions, to name a few. Of course many programs were related to

Bicentennial themes. For example, South Boston Branch featured Leo P. Dauwer speaking on "Cannons, Chimney Smoke, and Needles," covering the Freedom Trail, Knox Trail, and other Boston attractions; and Marjorie Gibbons offered slides and commentary on "Evacuation Day Reflections."

An important anniversary program took place on Sunday, May 16, when the Jamaica Plain Branch celebrated its one-hundredth birthday. Program highlights were a talk by former Branch Librarian Mrs. Geraldine Altman on the history of the branch; a retrospective view of the Friends of the Jamaica Plain Branch by Francis Moloney, assistant director; announcement of winners of the essay contest, "What the Library Means to Me"; and singing-dancing entertainment by local groups.

The twenty-eighth annual awarding of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes took place at the North End Branch on May 18 with prizes awarded to Loretta Federico and Anthony Teta for excellence in English.

Branch programs are too numerous to list here. However, in terms of program attendance, statistics for the last six months of fiscal year 1975/76 — i.e. January to June, 1976 — indicate the branches sponsored 799 programs for children, young adults, and adults with an attendance of 42,877. Based on such figures, the annual attendance obviously is in excess of 80,000. Thus, the program emerges as one important way to bring people to the scene, the place where knowledge, enrichment, information — whatever one chooses to call it — achieves focus and activation.

The mobile extension services of the Library continued to reach neighborhoods, schools, nursing homes, and homebound individuals through two Bookmobiles and two Homesmobiles. The Homesmobile service reached residents of more than sixty nursing homes as well as many individuals restricted to their homes. This service includes deposits and, many times, film programs.

GENERAL LIBRARY

Service to borrowers continued on a busy 9:00-to-9:00 schedule with first priority directed to making the open-shelf collection of more than half a million books and

periodicals readily accessible to the 1,732,942 people who entered the McKim/Johnson buildings of the Central Library this year. Enhancing the use of the large-print collection was the publication of the large-print catalog. The major publishing activity directed to increasing the effective use of the General Library collection was the completion of the *Dictionary Catalog of the General Library*. Numbering sixty-four volumes, this important tool began with the photographing of cards on January 1, 1975. Now completed and ready for allocation to the units of the Boston Public Library and regional libraries, the catalog represents the holdings of the General Library as of the January 1, 1975 date, a total of some 300,000 titles and 700,000 volumes, available for home borrowing to all residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Computer-produced supplements are planned for regular intervals.

In other General Library services the staff provided supportive assistance to the Learning Library courses and to other General Library programs and activities, in addition to their ongoing work with individual patrons.

The Children's Room of the General Library sponsored weekly activities for groups of children as well as working with the individual child. A sampling of group programs in the course of the year included: "Be a Clown — See a Clown" series; "Mary Alice, Operator No. 9," a puppet show; "Cinderella 1976" — an original musical production by Ruth Edinburg, performed by the Wellesley Children's Theatre; "An Evening with Hans Christian Andersen," featuring storyteller Diane Wolkstein. Throughout the year there were story hours, film events, and story crafts. In addition there were dynamic program offerings for adults concerned with children and children's literature: "Perspectives in Creativity," featuring award-winning illustrators Leo and Diane Dillon and Tom Feelings; "A Panel of New England Publishers"; and "First Choice, 1975, a Selection of Notable Children's Books," presented by a panel of librarians, authors, illustrators, and reviewers.

Two special programs provided high points to the General Library's service to young adults. A science fiction workshop was sponsored on May 22 featuring

author Ron Goulart, science fiction films, exhibits, and a "swapshop" of paperbacks. A second highpoint was the third annual Creative Writing Workshop which included as guest speakers Nancy Garden, author of *The Loners* and *Devils and Demons*; staff poet Louis Sasso; John M. Landsberg and Jonathan Ostrowsky-Lantz, editors of *Unearth*; and Bob Elliot, sportswriter for Channel 5 news.

In addition to serving individual young people, the Young Adult Room gave special tours, film screenings, and on-site talks about books and library skills to visiting students. In 1975/76, a total of fifty-nine classes of 1,399 students visited the Young Adult Room by special appointment. The classes came from local high schools as well as from such communities as Norwood, Medford, Framingham, Chelmsford, and Woburn. Staff members of the Young Adult Room made a total of eight visits to local schools, reaching 370 students.

The Never Too Late group of the General Library continued its pattern of exhilarating, lively, contemporary programming with films and numerous speakers on a variety of themes. Highpoints in programming included: Kendall Dudley speaking on "Daily Life in Muslim Cities"; Henry Augustine Tate on "The Golden Age of Irish Art"; Robert J. Tarte: "A Beginner's Genealogy"; Dr. Juan Freudenthal: "Ecuador and Peru"; Captain Jonathan Lucas: "Tall Ships '76"; Dr. James Lester: "The Holy Land"; Colton D. Hazard: "Morocco: Gateway to Africa"; Dr. Dietmar Kreusel: "Impressions of Germany."

The film played a dynamic part in the year's programming. A four-part, film series, "Romantic Versus Classic Art," directed attention to the careers and styles of individual artists: Jean-Auguste Dominique Ingres, Theodore Gericault, John Constable, Joseph Mallord, William Turner, Eugene Delacroix, Jean-Francois Millet, Auguste Rodin, Edgar Degas. Screened on Sunday afternoons, the films drew large attendances.

In cooperation with the National Council on American Soviet Friendship, the Library devoted four Thursday evenings to feature films produced in the U.S.S.R. Another cooperative effort in films linked the Library and

the National Endowment for the Humanities in an experimental series developed by the Modern Language Association and Time-Life Films. Called Films Plus, the programs were designed to stimulate reading through the screening of films derived from books. "The Spoils of Poynton," a two-episode film, and "The Six Wives of Henry VIII," a six-part series, were the films offered in the first experiment.

In observance of the Bicentennial anniversary the Library sponsored a third annual Summer Festival of Films. Featured were "The Saga of Western Man" and "Profiles in Courage," with "Decades of Decision" shown in the fall. Other film series were built around musical classics (including "Roberta," "Damsel in Distress," "Bandwagon"), the Montreal Olympics, and classic tales of terror.

RESEARCH LIBRARY

Beyond its constant attention to collection development and service to individual researchers and scholars, the Research Library demonstrated the richness of its holdings in many ways this past year — through exhibits, publications, programs, and participation in conferences.

In tune with the Bicentennial celebration "The Americans" was shown in the Wiggin Gallery. This pictorial definition of Revolutionary Americans consisted primarily of contemporary portraits. For July the Boston Room featured an exhibit of valuable library materials related to the Battle of Bunker Hill and the concurrent burning of Charlestown. On view were original manuscript letters, contemporary prints and paintings, maps, British and American reports, poetry, and the handwritten resolution of the Massachusetts Council of War, dated 15 June, 1775. Tied in with the Learning Library course, "Revolutionary Boston: The Leaders and the Issues, 1763-1789," another exhibit in the Boston Room highlighted literature of the Revolution ranging from broadsides and an almanac to sermons and orations.

A major exhibit brought together the word of Thomas W. Nason, who achieved fame in the art of wood engraving with his sensitive rendering of the poetic aspects of

the New England landscape. The Library's ties with Nason go back more than thirty years at which time Nason and Arthur Heintzelman, the Library's first keeper of prints, arranged a major retrospective exhibit of Nason's work; and at that time the Print Department prepared the first formal catalogue of his work.

Another eminent artist who was exhibited this past year is Fritz Eichenberg, one of this country's most notable wood engravers. His work, consisting of books, wood engravings, drawings, and portfolios, made up a retrospective overview covering four decades. This major exhibit was launched by an illustrated lecture by Fritz Eichenberg, "The Artist and the Book."

An exhibit with influence extending far beyond Boston (cosponsored with the Boston Public Library by the Dean and Chapter of The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York and by Hoyle, Doran and Berry) featured the work of Ralph Adams Cram. Cram, who — as one critic expressed it — "carried his Gothic Quest across America in the first decades of this century," was eminent as an architect of churches, but had many talents beyond architecture. The exhibit, including nearly 500 drawings, sketchbooks, models, architectural photographs, and letters, topically arranged, served as an engrossing background to the dimensions of the man. After the showing in the Boston Public Library, the exhibit traveled to New York where it opened in May in the North Transept of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.

Important as permanent exhibits are the three dioramas which have been placed at the courtyard entry to the new sales and information area. Created in precise, detailed miniature by Louise Stimson of Concord several years ago, the dioramas represent *Alice in Wonderland* (three scenes), The London of Dickens, and eleven scenes of *The Arabian Nights*.

Another Research Library activity was the archival project staffed with personnel hired under the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act): the Municipal Archives Project. The project consisted of sorting and reshelving more than 100,000 blueprints which had been moved from City Hall Annex to the

Library; shelving and making inventory of thousands of volumes of Boston city tax records; and shelving and verifying patents of the United States, Great Britain, and Germany. In addition to relocating and shelving the municipal archives material, CETA employees took responsibility for searching particular blueprints on request.

In addition to continuing growth in science resources the Library undertook important programming in the area of science. Beginning in September, 1975, the Boston Public Library joined forces with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in sponsoring a discussion series based on the NOVA science television series. Ten NOVA films from the first two seasons were selected for this "Best of NOVA" grouping with each film introduced by an expert. The programs were as follows: September 10: Opening of "Best of NOVA" with William Blaupied (AAAS), Michael Ambrosino (WGBH-TV), and Everett Mendelsohn (Harvard); September 17: "Inside the Golden Gate," John L. Saltonstall, Jr. (Boston Harbor Associates); September 24: "Are You Doing This for Me, Doctor, or Am I Doing It for You?" by Franz Ingelfinger (*New England Journal of Medicine*); October 1: "The Crab Nebula." Philip Morrison (MIT); October 8: "The First Signs of Washoe." Herbert Terrace (Columbia); October 15: "Will the Fishing Have To Stop?" Richard Hennemouth (National Marine Fisheries Service); October 22: "Whales, Dolphins, and Men," Guy McLeod (New England Aquarium); October 29: "Why Do Birds Sing?" Charles Walcott (State University of N. Y. at Stony Brook); November 5: "The Search for Life." Lynn Margulis (B. U.); November 12: "The Men Who Painted Caves" by Alexander Marshack (Harvard); November 19: "What Time Is Your Body?" by Carroll Williams (Harvard).

In still another cooperation with the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Library observed the annual meeting of that body with an open seminar to further public understanding of science. Titled "Science for the Citizens of Massachusetts," the daylong events on February 21 were coordi-

nated by Kathryn Wolff of AAAS and Suzanne K. Gray, coordinator of science, Boston Public Library. Particular attention was accorded the impact of offshore drilling for oil.

The Boston Public Library also joined with the American Association for the Advancement of Science for a regional seminar program on November 24 and 25. Called "The Food Dilemma — It's No Picnic," the invitational meeting was held at the Boston Museum of Science and sought to find ways of improving nutrition education in the state.

The Library's extensive research resources were considerably enlarged this year with many valuable gifts and special acquisitions. Notable among them were forty drawings received from the bequest of Samuel Chamberlain, who died on January 10, 1975, at the age of seventy-nine. The bequest includes original, brickwork, pencil drawings as well as pen and ink drawings of various scenes. A number of the drawings included in the bequest were reproduced in Mr. Chamberlain's autobiography *Etched in Sunlight: Fifty Years in the Graphic Arts* which the Library published in 1968.

Another notable donation is the Joan of Arc collection given to the Boston Public Library by John Cardinal Wright. This collection includes books on Joan of Arc and, in addition, drawings, paintings, and sculpture. It is housed in the Cheverus Room on the third floor of the McKim building. The dedication of the Cheverus Room took place on September 4, nicely coincident with the Library's observance of "France in New England Month" and with the official presentation of the Joan of Arc Collection to the Library. At that time Walter Muir Whitehill spoke on "Pastor Evangelicus: Bishop Cheverus, Boston, 1796-1823," and John Cardinal Wright gave background on the inspiration for his collection.

Cardinal Wright's ties with the Boston Public Library date back to his school days when he worked nights and summers at the Hyde Park Branch Library.

A particularly unique gift this year is the Robert A. Feer collection of world fairs of North America, listed in a catalog compiled by Earl R. Taylor and published by the Boston Public Library in 1976. Numbering more

than a thousand items, the collection offers a rare view — through books, brochures, catalogs, pictures, maps, souvenirs, news releases — of the world fairs from the New York Exhibit of 1853–54 to the San Antonio Hemis-Fair of 1968. The collection reflects the interest and collecting instincts of Robert A. Feer, who served on the faculties of Dartmouth, Wellesley, and Northeastern University and recognized the importance of the fairs as social history.

Other important acquisitions included the archives and old music of the Handel and Haydn Society, transferred from the society to the Library on April 28; the archives of the Ford Hall Forum; the complete published works of Wilhelm Reich on 35mm microfilm; the gubernatorial papers of the late Joseph Buell Ely, a Massachusetts governor from 1931 to 1934; documents of the peace movement in Massachusetts, donated by Jerome Grossman.

A singularly lustrous and important gift is the Fred Allen Collection, comprising original typewritten manuscripts, personal scrapbooks, and other memorabilia, donated by Mr. Allen's widow, Portland Allen Rines.

The range of gifts in subject and quantity reached from single valuable items to a collection of 2,000 books on art, music, and travel from a grateful longtime patron of the Library; a large gift of periodicals from the John Hancock Insurance Company at the time of its move to new quarters; an actual truckload of magazines from a community college in Framingham; and many other impressive items. An analysis of gift items for 1975–76 shows the following breakdown: from publishers: 179; from anonymous donors: 1,863; from 600 named donors: 18,538; total donations: 23,880.

PROGRAMS

In addition to bringing on-the-spot enrichment to audiences, many programs — built around the research and interpretation of scholars — yield data and discovery which are later published and reflect the broader objective of the Library: to add to man's accumulated knowl-

edge. Several programs of the year — many of them cosponsored or funded through private endowment — belonged in this category.

For the important annual Wiggin Symposium which took place in the thirty-fifth anniversary year of the establishment of the Albert H. Wiggin Collection and Wiggin Gallery, Sinclair Hitchings, the curator of the Wiggin Collection, and important guests, Albert Reese and David McCord, participated in "Along the Spectrum." The talks of these three speakers and the exhibits focused on three Scottish watercolor artists: D. Y. Cameron, Muirhead Bone, and James McBey.

The third annual William Addison Dwiggins Lecture, established in tribute to an important type designer/calligrapher/illustrator, brought Professor Alexander Lawson from the Rochester (N. Y.) Institute of Technology. His subject, "Frederick Goudy — A Glance into the Archives," contributed to the Library's growing body of knowledge in the art of printing. This series is cosponsored with The Society of Printers. Another milieu of Mr. and Mrs. Dwiggins' skills and interests was the notable marionette theater and marionettes which the couple created for plays which Dwiggins himself had written. In celebration of the opening of Dwiggins Marionette Theatre (an exhibit now permanently housed next to the Rare Books Room) Basil Milovsoroff, sculptor, designer, and producer of puppet plays, lectured on puppetry and, specifically, on Dwiggins' craftsmanship in the field.

In the area of bibliography the Library welcomed eminent scholar/teacher/author Jacques Barzun to the lecture rostrum for the annual Maury A. Bromsen Lecture in Humanistic Bibliography. Barzun spoke on "The Future Bibliophile: Some of His Complaints about the Twentieth Century." This important talk and the others which preceded it are available in published form.

Substantial additions to knowledge in architecture and archeology were provided in other special lectures of the year. Ada Louise Huxtable, author and architecture critic on the editorial staff of *The New York Times*, addressed the Library Associates on "Building Better Cities: A Report on Progress toward a Dubious Utopia."

In another presentation, cosponsored with Boston Society, Archaeological Institute of America, and particularly relevant to Bicentennial activities, David C. Switzer, professor of History at Plymouth (N. H.) State College, lectured on the underwater excavation of the "Defence." The "Defence" was a brigantine, constructed in Beverly, Massachusetts, which took part in the ill-fated Saltonstall expedition in Penobscot Bay in 1790. Scuttled by her crew to avoid capture, the ship has remained on the bottom of the bay for the last 186 years until excavation in the summer of '75.

With Boston an acknowledged theatrical center in the United States, the place where new drama is "tried out" on audiences, it is not surprising that theater is highlighted in the collections and programming of the Boston Public Library. In this past year the Library moved ahead in its development of the Charlotte Cushman Room on the third floor of the McKim building. Four volumes of guest books of the Charlotte Cushman Club were received as a donation this past year. The registers bear the signatures of hundreds of actors and actresses associated with theater in Boston between 1928 and 1959. Six of Charlotte Cushman's own letters, dating from 1870 to 1889, were also acquired by the Library. As part of its close involvement with theater, the Boston Public Library paid tribute to the Colonial Theater with a special program on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary. It is interesting to remember that the Colonial Theatre occupies the site where the Boston Public Library stood from 1858 to 1895. Other programs expressive of the theater in Boston are planned as periodic events in the Library.

The fiscal year saw a dynamic continuation of the National Endowment for the Humanities Learning Library courses. In observance of the Bicentennial year one entire series was devoted to various aspects of the American Revolution in Boston. The courses offered were as follows: "Revolutionary Boston," Richard Bushman (Boston University); "Culture and Its Conflicts," Martin Green (Tufts University); "Boston Black Letters," William Robinson (Rhode Island College); "Arti-

sans of the Eighteenth Century," Wendy Cooper (Museum of Fine Arts); "Emerging Immigrants of Boston," Andrew Buni (Boston College); "From Grass to Glass," Gerald Bernstein (Brandeis University); "Revolution and the Common Man," Robert Gross (Amherst College); "Law, Justice, and Equality," William Davis (MIT).

In another activity as a center of learning the Library scheduled two courses of the Harvard extension program: "Contemporary American Fiction," taught by Professor Shaun S. O'Connell (University of Massachusetts, Boston), and a course in elementary Spanish taught by Professor Mendez (Suffolk University). This cooperation with the Commission on Extension Courses marks a revival of a long-standing affiliation. Courses were offered at the Boston Public Library regularly from 1914 to 1936.

Contributing dynamically to *belles lettres* in Massachusetts were the programs entitled "Literary Boston," supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Council for the Arts. In a series of monthly literary events the Library drew on scholars as well as authors and poets who spoke on a wide range of themes or read from their own works. Programs were as follows: July 9: Martin Green, "The Literary Establishment in 19th Century Boston"; August 6, readings by poets Robert Francis, Peter Davison, and Donald Junkins; September 3: Howard Mumford Jones reading from his most recent work, *The Many Voices of Boston, A Historical Anthology 1630-1975*; October 1: three published novelists — Dan Wakefield, Maxine Kumin, and Tom McHale — speaking about their own works and the state of the novel in general; November 5: Millicent Bell lecturing on Henry James; December 3: a poetry reading by Robert Fitzgerald, Richard Wilbur, and Arthur Freeman; January 7: a discussion on Emerson and Thoreau by Leo Marx and Phyllis Cole; February 4: Justin Kaplan on the writing of biography; February 18: Howard Vincent lecturing on Melville and Thoreau; March 3: Eliot Norton in a discourse on Theatre in Boston; April 7: poetry reading by Anne Hussey and Barry Spacks; May 5: Richard Sewall commemorating the ninetieth anniversary of her death with a lecture on

Emily Dickinson; June 2: John Seelye, describing how Boston authors have carried the city and its attitudes with them when they left Boston, in "Boston Travellers."

In another literary highlight Octavio Paz, Mexican writer, diplomat, and educator, read from his poems, with Adja Yunkers providing a commentary on a special edition of the poem *Blanco* by Paz.

As lustrous as "Literary Boston" was another series, this one supported in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Council of the Arts and Humanities and highlighting music. Called Music Americana, the series reached capacity attendances on Sunday afternoons with their often brilliant offerings of lectures, live musical performances, and educational exhibits. The programs, combining both historical perspective and vibrant demonstration of musical forms, were as follows: October 5: "American Songs from Billings to Persichetti"; October 19: "Suitcase Circus: Songs and Stories of Early Rural America"; November 2: "Native American Indian Music and Dancing"; November 16: "Music Bostonians Sang Two Hundred Years Ago"; December 7: "Contrasts in Contemporary American Music"; December 21: "American Brass Music from Sousa to Joplin"; January 4: "An Afternoon of Barbershop Harmony"; February 1: "Folk Songs of Early New England"; March 7: "Broadway Shows Revisited"; April 4: "Jazz — New Orleans Style"; May 2: "Cavalcade of American Choral Music."

Ballet came to the Boston Public Library in late October and early November when speakers engaged by the Boston Ballet Company examined the dance form in Boston. Programs were: October 22: Iris Fanger of *Dance Magazine* speaking on "Boston Goes to the Ballet, 1797-1920"; October 29: John Lindquist on "Dance Photographs in Color, 1937-1971"; November 3: Sidney Leonard, ballet mistress of the Boston Ballet Company, giving a history of the company and a preview of the coming season.

Speakers, discussions, films, exhibits — many major elements in the learning process — made up the American Issues Forum which was held in the Boston Public Library. Developed for the Bicentennial under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities,

the program was designed to promote debate and discussion on issues of continuing importance in America: ecology, foreign affairs, big business, ethnicity, individual freedom and privacy, alternative life styles, and the quality of American life. In support of the series a major traveling book exhibit, provided by the American Library Association, was mounted in the cases of the Research Library and booklists designed by the American Library Association were distributed. Program centers for the forum were the General Library and branch libraries representing five regions of the city: Charlestown, Brighton, Fields Corner, South Boston, West Roxbury.

For generations Boston has reaped contributions from its rich cultural ethnical diversity. Reflecting this heritage, the Boston Public Library sponsored (and continues to sponsor) a series of ethnic months. The series included: "France in New England" (September); "A Salute to Italy" (October); "German Festival" (November); "Salute to Scandinavia" (January); Black History Month (February); "Ireland" (March); "Salute to Israel" (May). Special focus was also accorded Jewish Book Month in November with films and lectures on Jewish themes. In each of the ethnic tributes a saturation approach to programming was employed, "zeroing in" on a culture by exciting diverse routes — history, art, music, dance. Several formats were utilized — slide tape lectures, screenings of feature films, and lectures.

Exhibits were a major part of the ethnic observances. For the German Festival a display, "Have a Look at the German Book," brought together more than 4,000 titles from 385 publishing houses in the Federal Republic of Germany. In the Salute to Scandinavia celebration a stimulating collection of posters drew much viewer attention. The posters, widely disparate in purpose and message, demonstrated unique uses of the graphic idiom.

Branch programs at Mattapan, Egleston Square, South End, and Codman Square gave particular attention to Black History Month with film showings, programs of dancing, crafts, poetry reading, dramatic presentations, and lectures.

The Library's Bicentennial celebrations reached a climax during the week of March 17, not surprising since the British evacuation of Boston on that day in 1776 marked a turning point in the War of Independence. The special Bicentennial program, scheduled for Monday, March 15, included a lecture, "Boston under Siege: The Fateful Year Leading to the Evacuation," by Alan Rogers (Boston College) and "Henry Knox and the American Revolution," by Edward A. McColgan, Director, Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission.

A key library contribution to the observance was the reproduction in bronze of the Washington Medal, awarded in gold to George Washington by the Congress in commemoration of the Boston evacuation. The original medal was purchased from the descendants of Washington by fifty citizens for the centennial observance of evacuation in December 1876. Given as a gift to the City of Boston, the medal then went to the Library as permanent custodian. The bronze reproductions are available for sale as is a reprint of the descriptive booklet by Howard P. Arnold: "The Evolution of the Boston Medal."

Another important Bicentennial event involved the Boston Public Library. The painting by Emmanuel Leutze, "Washington at Dorchester Heights," an important work of art owned by the Library, was loaned to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for national viewing. Prior to this loan, the Boston Public Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to restore the painting. Large (81-1/2" x 108"), the painting was in a deteriorating condition so that restoration during the Bicentennial proved timely and essential.

In addition to its own active programming, the Boston Public Library also served as meeting ground for three library association conferences. On May 1 the Catholic Library Association met in the Library in a program which included Marjorie Gibbons, Supervisor of Branches, speaking on branch services. On May 8, at the spring meeting of the New England Technical Services Librarians, Director Philip J. McNiff and Edward Fremd, coordinator of acquisitions, spoke on the conference subject, "Acquisitions." On May 11 the New England

Chapter of the American Society for Information Sciences met in a session which addressed itself to resource sharing. At that time Mary J. Cronin spoke on the Boston Library Consortium.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications of past years received continuing attention this year: *Afro-American Artists: A Bio-Bibliographical Directory*, compiled and edited by Theresa Cederholm of the Fine Arts Department, was cited by *Choice* as an Outstanding Academic Book for 1975. *What Is a City? A Multi-Media Guide on Urban Living*, edited by Rose Moorachian, published in 1969, was cited in a recent sourcebook on environmental education. *Learning about the Built Environment*.

In other publication news *American Hero: A Sapphick Ode* by Nathaniel Niles was reprinted by the Associates of the Boston Public Library with a commentary by John Alden. The poem is a "War Hymn of the American Revolution." *The Proceedings and Book Catalog* of the Children's Books International I was published in May in time for the opening of the exhibit of Children's Books International II. A special limited edition of an illustrated essay by Douglass Shand Tucci, "Ralph Adams Cram, American Medievalist," was published for the Boston Public Library in handsome design by the Stinehour Press.

Other publications included the second *Film Catalog Supplement*; *BeePel's Choice*, a booklist for young adults who hate books, compiled by William DeSalvo of General Library Services; several literature-based, crossword puzzles for young adults on the U. S. "Constitution," rock music, women, black profiles, and the Black West. Active in the creation of the puzzles was CYAM (Concerned Young Adults of Mattapan), a group of young adults under the guidance of Garland McLaughlin, Mattapan Branch Library. A continuing publication of Young Adult Services, much used by librarians in the region, is *Tempo*, a quarterly list of current acquisitions for young adults. Other young adult lists were "Versus."

"Books to Think By," "From Oratory to Armies, Rebellion to Revolution." Two children's lists were released: "Independence Is" and "Follow the Bouncing Ball."

A publication which promises much use is the *Large Print Catalog*, a record of more than 1,500 titles available for circulation in the General Library. Arranged in subject order with an author index, the book is appropriately printed in a large print format.

The vitality of publishing in the Boston Public Library was apparent in the number of professional quality items which came off the Library's presses: Volume II of *Nova: Science Adventures on Television*, a series of reading lists; three annotated reading guides for the National Endowment for the Humanities Learning Library program, Boston: An Urban Community: "Bibles, Brahmins, and Bosses: Leadership and the Boston Community," prepared by Alexander Bloom; "Boston Architecture: From the First Townhouse to the New City Hall," prepared by Douglass Shand Tucci; "Family Life in Boston: From Colonial Times to the Present," prepared by Lynn Weiner.

SYSTEMS

A report of the Systems Office of the Library indicates that this year there was implemented on an operational basis the on-line, bibliographic processing system for the support of current cataloging of general and research acquisitions. This system was used immediately to create file-ready, catalog cards and, in some cases, book processing labels. At the same time the Library is building a holdings file for all books processed. From this holdings file the Boston Public Library will produce, on a regular basis, the supplements to the printed catalog of the General Library. Under consideration is the possibility of putting supplements in microfilm form instead of in the traditional print form.

VISITORS

Visitors from many parts of the world came to the Library for diverse reasons this past year. For example, the Boston Public Library's application of computers to

cataloging was the particular interest of three Soviet librarians from Moscow who visited with an interpreter. Another visitor, Anthony J. Loveday, executive secretary of the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries, was interested in the Boston Library Consortium and its activities. Thomas Sanabria, an architect from Venezuela, who is responsible for designing a new national library in Caracas, visited in order to study the architecture of the Johnson building. Other guests came from Sri Lanka, France, Nigeria, England, India, and Egypt. These represent some of the visitors from abroad who made contact with the Library administration. Needless to say, thousands of others visited "on their own," as tourists or students.

ASSOCIATES

The Associates of the Boston Public Library opened an office in the McKim building in the area formerly occupied by the Information and Publications offices. In addition to staffing the new office, the associates are developing a corps of volunteers to assist in conducting tours, promoting central Library programs, and possibly surveying special collections of gifts.

BUILDINGS: BRANCH LIBRARIES

As of June 30, 1976, the architectural firm of Kallmann & McKinnell completed 95 percent of the work on the Dudley Street Branch, located on 65 Warren Street in Roxbury. Still to be completed are exterior landscaping, planting, installation of exterior lights, installation of some hardware, and other various "Punch List" items.

The firm of Eco Tecture, Inc. has completed 73 percent of the Codman Square Branch, located on 6 Norfolk Street in Dorchester, as of June 30, 1976. The parking lot, lighting, and toilets have not been installed. The interior painting and landscaping remain to be done. At this stage the carpeting is about to be installed.

The construction of the Lower Mills Branch, located on 1110 Washington Street in Dorchester, is in the design and development stage under the firm of Paul Carroll Associates.

The Washington Village Branch, located on 290 Old Colony Avenue in South Boston, is undergoing fire damage repairs. At this time, June 30, 1976, a center desk and new bookcases are being installed.

Personnel hired under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) have completed plastering and painting several branch libraries. It is expected that the refurbishing of the remaining branches will be finished in the fall.

BUILDINGS: CENTRAL

Relocations in the Research Library are now completed. The Abbey Room, emptied of catalog trays, continues to be the delivery point for books from the Research Library stacks. It is planned to clean and polish the marble floor and refinish the woodwork in the near future. Centrally placed in the Abbey Room is an antique table with a history dating to another library in another country. Ornatly carved of teakwood with a pink marble top, it originally served as the library table of Antonio Panizzi, principal librarian of the British Museum from 1856 to 1866. Purchased from his estate, the table was presented to the Library by George B. Chase, a former trustee of the Boston Public Library.

The first phase in the replanting of the McKim building interior courtyard has been completed. Members of the Garden Club of the Back Bay are working to restore the courtyard to its original format: a formal, Renaissance cloister garden. It is planned to accentuate bright splashes of color to evoke a cheerfulness characteristic of the Italian formal garden. Begonias and geraniums are being used for much of this color.

EASTERN REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

The activity of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System continued on many levels and with active involvement of member libraries. Areas of ongoing services included Delivery Service, a visible and important activity; Interlibrary Loan, a key method of supplementing member library holdings and meeting the often unique needs of borrowers; and Publications, with

Paperback Power and *Haunt Your Public Library* in particular demand. The *News* continues to be a dynamic information source for member libraries.

Audio-Visual Services ranked high among the support services utilized by member libraries. A total of 34,134 films were borrowed by ninety-six libraries; the reported number of viewers of these films in regional libraries and other organizations was 1,319,797; but, in actuality, more than 2,000,000 viewers of all age groups attended film programs.

The Bookmobile/Deposit Centers continued to be a focus for service to libraries in smaller communities. The arbitrary population assignment of "25,000 or fewer" for eligibility for such service appears at this reporting to be too low. Many communities undergoing economic stresses and with populations in excess of 25,000 show real need for deposit collections.

In conclusion it can be said that one of the most all-encompassing services, difficult to assess or tabulate, is the constant back-and-forth communication between the Eastern Regional office and libraries. Some requests can be handled immediately, others require searching, visits, or a workshop. Typical requests include information on Friends groups, space allocation in library plants, book contracts, and storytelling demonstrations.

PERSONNEL

Several major changes and advancements in personnel responsibility took place this past year. Appointed to be supervisor of branch libraries, a position last held by Mrs. Ada Andelman, was Marjorie M. Gibbons, branch librarian at South Boston Washington Village Branches. Supporting her in the newly created positions of assistant supervisor are: Mrs. Francina E. Gelzer of the Dudley Street region with headquarters designated for the new Dudley Street Branch when it is completed; Mrs. Geraldine Herrick to the Brighton region with district headquarters at the Brighton Branch Library; and Miss Linda M. Ivers to the Codman Square district with headquarters planned for the new Codman Square Branch. In other branch appointments Mrs. Yolanda

Rivas was named branch librarian at the Jamaica Plain/Connolly Branches; Mrs. Margaret Brown was appointed branch librarian at Charlestown Branch; Gaynell Mathson was appointed branch librarian to South Boston/Washington Village Branches; Rhoda Blacker, branch librarian at East Boston/Orient Heights was transferred to North End/West End Branches; Carol Coxe, branch librarian at Faneuil Branch was appointed to head Faneuil/Allston Branches; Worth Douglas was named branch librarian for Grove Hall/Egleston Branches.

Several department heads and other staff with long years of service retired this year: Ruth M. Hayes, coordinator of Children's Service, retired after more than fifty years of service; John Mealy, acting senior building custodian, retired after forty years of service; Evelyn C. Billman, branch librarian of Codman Square Branch, retired after forty years; Frances C. Lepie, branch librarian of Brighton Branch, retired after forty-five years; Clifford Fay, senior building custodian at Roslindale Branch, retired after more than twenty-five years; Mary Obear, book selection librarian in acquisitions, retired after almost forty years; Gildea Rossetti, reference librarian at Kirstein Business Branch, retired after more than forty years; Sarah Richman, branch librarian at Allston Branch, retired after fifty years; John Alden, keeper of rare books, after twenty-two years; Mrs. Lillian Gallagher, acting branch librarian at Parker Hill Branch, after more than thirty-five years.

In an important Research Library appointment William R. Lewis, former coordinator for Afro-American Programs and Services and branch librarian of Grove Hall/Mt. Pleasant Branches, was named coordinator of Social Sciences.

In honor of his seventy-fifth birthday, Sidney R. Rabb, member of the Board of Trustees since 1957, was honored by his family, friends, and associates of the Stop and Shop Companies by the establishment of the Sidney R. Rabb Fund for the acquisition of library materials of permanent value. Earlier this year another fund was set up in honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Esther and Sidney Rabb.

In recognition of another distinguished Bostonian, the trustees of the Library this year appointed John Cardinal Wright to the position of honorary curator of the Joan of Arc Collection. Cardinal Wright is now prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Clergy, Roman Curia at the Vatican.

Francis B. Masterson, a member of the Board of Trustees from 1946 to 1951 (and president in 1948) died on November 10 at the age of eighty. Mr. Masterson was a campaign manager for James Michael Curley in 1935, founder of the Catholic Guild for the Blind, past president of the National Shoe and Boot Corporation and vice-president of the National Association of the Shoe and Boot Industry. Mrs. Geraldine Beck, librarian of Parker Hill, died this year. Mrs. Beck had worked in the library for twenty-four years.

In a special ceremony on July 30, the City of Boston hosted a reception for city employees who retired between October, 1973, and June, 1974. Receiving certificates of recognition were twenty-two retired employees of the Library; and, for more than twenty-five years of service, thirteen employees received Revere bowls.

On May 28, at the ninth annual recognition ceremony for staff completing twenty-five years of service, Augustin H. Parker, president of the Board of Trustees, presented scrolls to the following staff: Marjorie Brown, Esther Jalonen, Rose Moorachian, and George Scully.

Several staff members were involved on committees or in leadership roles in professional associations; among them: Diane G. Farrell served as chairperson of the Committee on Library Services to Children with Special Needs and also as a member of the Committee on Intellectual Freedom (Children's Services Division, American Library Association); Irenemarie H. Cullinane served as a member of the Book Evaluation Committee and the Newbery-Caldecott Committee (C.S.D., A.L.A.); Jack Forman served on the Best Books Committee (Young Adults Services Division, A.L.A.) and the Reference and Subscription Books Bulletin Committee (A.L.A.); Suzanne Gray also served as a member of the Reference and Subscription Books Bulletin Committee. Y. T. Feng was a member of the Asian and African Committee

(Association of College and Research Libraries, A.L.A.) and Wilson Index Committee (Reference and Adult Services Division, A.L.A.). B. Joseph O'Neil served as director, Special Libraries Association, Boston Chapter. Mrs. Margaret L. Brown was elected vice-president of the Massachusetts Library Association.

This year has been a period of achievement and recognition for personnel and others identified with the Boston Public Library. Awards, citations, or prizes were presented to: Y. T. Feng, assistant director, honored by the YWCA for outstanding achievement in the field of public service; Karin Fredrikson, library aide at Roslindale Branch, first prize winner in the contest sponsored by the General Henry Knox Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Masons for her essay on Henry Knox; Kathleen B. Hegarty, coordinator of Adult Services, honored by the Crisis Prevention Intervention Committee of Boston Public Schools for her contribution to Boston as chairman of the Bicentennial Committee of the Brighton Historical Society; Mildred Kaufman, branch librarian at Roslindale Branch, who received a Citation of Appreciation from the Polish Veterans of World War II, Post 19, Boston, "for her efforts in presenting to the people of this city the history and tradition of Polish people." Virginia Haviland, former readers advisor for children and presently head of the Children's Book Section at the Library of Congress, was awarded the prestigious Regina Medal by the Catholic Library Association for her outstanding work in service to children. Rosalyn Warner, retired children's librarian, was thanked in an official resolution by the Boston City Council for her years of service to the city as tutor, librarian, and hospital volunteer. Frank B. Maher, trustee, received a Citation of Merit award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for his "consistent worthy leadership as an ideal businessman and his ability to upgrade civic and human endeavor."

Three artists among the staff were exhibitors in the sixth annual, City Art Festival at City Hall: Mark Chadbourne, Audio-Visual Department (acrylic paintings on canvas); Gregory Hill, Resources and Processing (black and white photographs); Karen L. Ulehla, Fine

Arts (portraits and metal relief landscapes). To six staff members went partial scholarships. City of Boston awards toward a master's degree in public management: Robert Cushing, Mary McNeil, and Catherine Riva of General Library Circulation and Shelving; Patricia Murphy, Faneuil Branch Library; John Barrett, General Library Readers and Information Services; Joseph Fitzpatrick, Bookmobile Services.

Several staff members were involved in important teaching/lecturing/special project assignments. Diane G. Farrell, regional children's services librarian for the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System, addressed a Children's Services Board meeting at the American Library Association on intellectual freedom and selection of materials for children. Her talk was published in ALA's *Top of the News* for April, 1976. Mona Wasserman, children's librarian at Egleston Square Branch, represented the Library at a Community Resources Fair sponsored by the Emergency Schools Assistance Act. She exhibited materials and spoke on ethnic resources. Jean Gootkind, children's librarian at Charlestown Branch Library, lectured on "Serious Themes in Literature for Very Young Children" at Boston State College. Carol Schene, young adults librarian, General Library, taught a course in literature for young adults at Bridgewater State College. Irenemarie Cullinane, children's literature specialist, General Library, served as coordinator for the *Boston Globe* Horn Book Award Committee. Ann Curran, systems librarian, served as chairperson for the working party on Bibliographic Name Authority Files, a committee which is part of the advisory group on National Bibliographic Control. Theresa M. Cederholm, Fine Arts Department, did special research related to the *Architectural Periodical Index* at the British Architectural Library in London. Euclid J. Peltier, coordinator of Audio-Visual Services and Marcia A. Zalowitz of the Audio-Visual Department participated in the seventeenth annual, American Film Festival in New York.

Staff members shared their expertise in radio and television interviews this past year: Marjorie M. Gibbons, supervisor of branches, spoke on "The Irish in Boston"

on WBZ radio; Irenemarie Cullinane participated in a discussion on sex education on Channel 56's "New England News Scene"; Barbara Jackson of General Library dressed up as a witch and told Halloween stories for an appearance on the same TV series; Irenemarie Cullinane also appeared on the Channel 7, 6 o'clock news with Jackie Adams, describing special Library events for children.

Several journals and books were marked this year by contributions from Boston Public Library staff. Rose Moorachian, young adult specialist, General Library, accepted chairmanship of the committee which writes the monthly "Adult Books for Young Adults" column of *School Library Journal*; Jane Manthorne, coordinator of Young Adults Services, served on the committee preparing the eleventh edition of the H. W. Wilson *Senior High School Catalog*; Suzanne K. Gray, coordinator of science, and Marilyn Philbrook of the Science Reference Department had reviews of science films published in *Science Books and Films* of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Yolanda Rivas served as guest columnist for "Make Your Points" in the February issue of *School Library Journal*; three staff members held key responsibilities in the Neighborhood History Series booklets published by Boston 200: Marjorie Gibbons commented on community history in Roslindale in the Roslindale booklet; Paula Todisco assisted in preparing the North End booklet; Kathleen B. Hegarty served as co-editor of the Brighton history. Staff from both the Children's and Young Adult Departments contributed to the *Ethnic Studies Resource Manual* published by the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission.

This enumeration of events, programs, and activities within the Boston Public Library testifies to the continuing support of city authorities, the Board of Trustees, and the staff — all deeply appreciated.

PHILIP J. McNIFF
Director, and Librarian.

Table 1. Circulation

BOOK CIRCULATION

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Central Library	1,047,926	1,122,148	1,160,023
Kirstein Business Branch*	6,997	4,525	—
Adams Street	78,549	77,383	70,204
Allston	36,677	35,857	38,307
Brighton	109,403	105,912	97,347
Bookmobile Service	160,581	129,072	178,286
Charlestown	43,004	44,677	48,239
Codman Square	41,258	35,566	31,843
Connolly	38,397	39,433	37,646
East Boston	33,966	37,526	40,844
Egleston Square	25,066	28,004	31,833
Faneuil	35,373	35,940	37,347
Fields Corner	90,879	90,604	90,475
Grove Hall	28,336	31,795	32,251
Hyde Park	95,647	101,682	104,046
Jamaica Plain	52,619	52,387	53,822
Lower Mills	39,084	36,754	33,202
Mattapan	34,551	31,308	30,046
Mt. Pleasant	17,342	13,078	14,276
North End	25,582	28,214	28,093
Orient Heights	29,031	28,614	26,077
Parker Hill	31,641	27,226	25,978
Roslindale	110,895	100,088	97,722
South Boston	74,164	72,681	71,730
South End	31,708	31,138	28,855
Uphams Corner	50,245	51,736	58,123
West End	53,755	56,656	57,048
West Roxbury	127,411	129,400	137,752
Hospital Library	22,067	20,127	19,533
Multilingual Library	17,043	24,821	22,246
Total, Branches	1,373,693	1,368,607	1,364,885
Total, Entire Library	2,589,197	2,624,352	2,703,194

*Ceased circulation of materials, May, 1975.

NON-BOOK CIRCULATION

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Films and film strips	36,414	40,012	44,445
Recordings	121,329	139,560	141,177
Totals	157,743	179,572	185,622

VOLUMES SENT ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Interlibrary loans	14,924	15,625	24,222

Table 2. Growth of the Library

BOOKS

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
General Library :			
Volumes added	156,128	148,699	148,328
Volumes withdrawn	6,376	16,561	27,544
Total on hand	1,445,079	1,577,137	1,697,921
Research Library			
Volumes added	71,164	103,943	86,297
Volumes withdrawn	568	110	16
Total on hand	2,182,736	2,286,649	2,372,930
Total book stock	3,627,815	3,863,786	4,070,851

NON-BOOK MATERIALS

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Films	5,416	5,623	6,206
Filmstrips	577	577	577
Recordings	179,371	196,787	206,939
Cassettes	11,945	14,352	16,638
Lantern slides	14,884	14,884	14,884
Negatives	2,130	2,130	2,130
Pictures	426,426	426,426	426,426
Postcards	133,805	133,805	133,805
Prints and drawings	56,897	57,559	57,859
Projected books	178	178	178
Microcards	11,843	11,851	11,851
Microfiche (sheets)	237,719	268,522	317,369
Microfiche (reels)	58,157	73,881	79,922
Microprints (boxes)	3,919	1,140	4,216
Aperture cards	10,151	10,151	13,130

Table 3. Cataloging Statistics

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Volumes processed	227,292	252,642	289,888
New titles cataloged	52,002	71,769	74,104
Original cataloging	11,518	14,518	16,564
NUC cataloging	6,272	5,341	13,015
LC cataloging	32,572	61,998	42,560
Rare book cataloging	1,640	1,912	805
Films	400	259	611
Recordings	7,481	9,381	7,650
Cassettes	5,054	2,407	2,286

Table 4. Binding

	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Volumes bound	54,500	57,200	63,194



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Table 5. Library Expenditures

	Fiscal 1971	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976
Salaries and Wages:			
City Appropriation	\$6,011,006 00	\$6,321,752 00	\$6,600,361 00
Eastern Regional Public Library System	153,556 87	161,320 00	526,695 00
Trust Funds Income	383 80	—	—
Total	\$6,195,116 67	\$6,736,572 00	\$7,127,056 00
Books and Other Library Materials:			
City Appropriation	\$1,036,525 00	\$1,125,101 00	\$1,153,599 00
Eastern Regional Public Library System	775,323 77	740,167 00	706,109 00
Trust Funds Income	119,433 00	97,359 00	99,315 00
Library Services and Construction Act	82,183 72	290,257 00	144,906 00
Library of Last Recourse	112,226 01	142,229 00	442,229 00
Total	\$2,155,991 50	\$2,395,113 00	\$2,246,458 00
All Other Expenses:			
City Appropriation	\$1,281,336 00	\$1,196,025 00	\$1,110,330 00
Eastern Regional Public Library System	129,135 50	139,121 00	138,191 00
Trust Funds Income	33,020 87	—	1,411 00
Library Services and Construction Act	15,116 58	1,006 00	—
Total	\$1,656,118 32	\$1,636,152 00	\$1,582,985 00
Grand Total	\$10,113,647 12	\$10,817,837 00	\$10,956,499 00