

ANNUAL REPORT



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY · 1987—1988

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report

For the Year Ending June 30, 1988



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TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

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President

WILLIAM M. BULGER

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DIRECTOR AND LIBRARIAN

ARTHUR CURLEY

Foreword

As the accompanying report of the director makes clear, in fiscal year 1988 the Boston Public Library made substantial progress toward the goal of restoration and revitalization. That such progress was made is due to the leadership of the director, Arthur Curley, and to the diligent efforts of the Library's staff. It is really through the constant work of hundreds of women and men who, day after day, carry out the Library's mission of free public library service, that the Library earned *Boston Magazine's* citation:

Boston Magazine is pleased to honor the Boston Public Library as Best Revamped Local Resource. In recognition of quality and excellence. Best of Boston, 1988.

As always, I am most grateful for the support and cooperation of my colleagues, Mr. Bulger, Mrs. Gaines, Mrs. Luthin, and Mrs. Goodwin, who care for, protect, and defend this wonderful institution.

Kevin F. Moloney
President

Assembling the highpoints of the year for this annual report reminds us of an observation Charles Lamb once made about the year's end: "I never hear [the bells which ring out the Old Year] without a gathering up [in] my mind... of all the images that have diffused over the past twelve month." This gathering up of old images for FY87/88 is marked by several positive words: progress, innovation, staff vitality, community involvement. The Library moved forward in a campaign spirit—a campaign to raise funds for readying the Library for the next century; a campaign to put a library card into the hands of every child; a campaign to adopt state-of-the-art technology for library processes and services; and a continuing campaign to revitalize the resources and services of our world-class institution.

In the sections which follow, citations of events, activities, or services in individual units are simply examples of activities frequently duplicated in other departments. It is hoped that this record of the Boston Public Library for FY87/88 will generate pride in Bostonians and determination in Library staff to continue its record of service.

Research Library

With marked purpose and vitality, the Research Library staff moved forward on all fronts, at administrative and direct public service levels, giving attention to the overall mission of the Library coupled with the specific goals of the Library as a major research center. Staff participation in important broad library activities included program planning, collective bargaining, numerous task forces, and problem solving meetings. Targeted for full attention within the Research Library agenda were assignments related to the McKim building restoration, preservation, organization and servicing of special collections, expansion of electronic systems, special projects, and staff development. Activity centered on virtually everything from caricatures and comic books to stained glass windows, from treasures of the past to futuristic handling of information by miniscule electronic chips.

Looking ahead to the McKim restoration, staff concentrated on planning for shifting of materials and for remote storage, also planning

for future expanded services including Sound Archives, Special Collections, and a Map Department. In preparation for the physical moves mandated by the restoration, virtually thousands of cartons of gifts were examined, their importance assessed, and processing priorities determined.

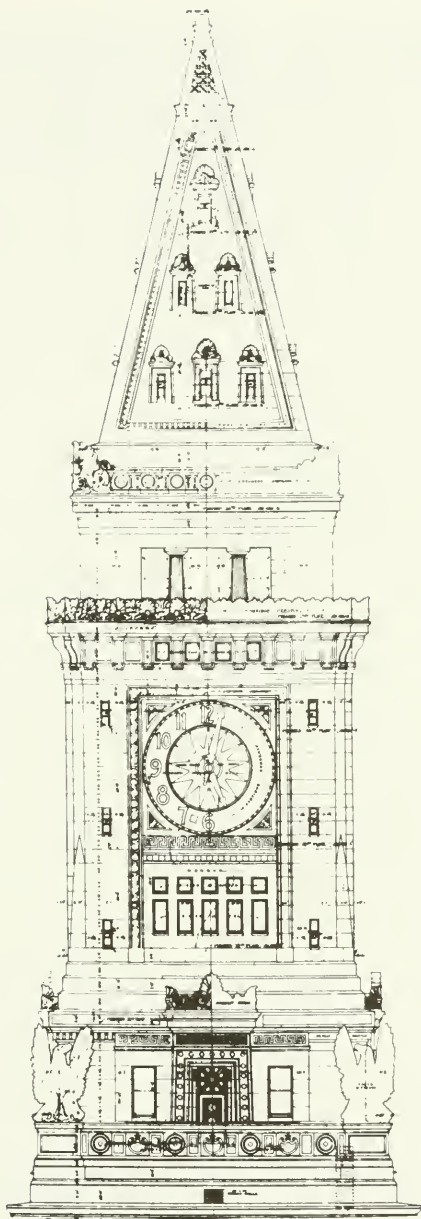
Preservation efforts this year concentrated on newspapers, re-binding or microfilming selected reference works, and continuing education of staff in preservation. In efforts to make specialized Research Library collections more accessible, Research Library staff, part-time summer workers, and volunteers continued organization of the Joan of Arc, Jordan, Laning Humphrey collections, and the Reilly, Loefler, Coletti, and Ely papers.

Other projects included sorting a backlog of sheet music, preparing radical newspapers for microfilming, work on Seamus Heaney publications and two Russian collections of drama and classics, and listing of Peronista pamphlets. Additional projects dealt with international government documents, publications of small presses, and interpretation of the Library's holdings in sports and city records.

Reference departments and collections were heavily used. A total of 451,906 items were supplied in-house to users; 137,370 questions were answered. More items (231,833) were used by non-Bostonians, confirming the importance of the Library as a resource for the entire commonwealth.

Beyond the daily assignments of Research Library staff was the commitment to special projects often performed under grant or gift monies. Such a major activity was the continuation of newspaper preservation microfilming supported by a Higher Education Act, Title IIc grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This effort, cooperative with the state library and numerous public libraries, is dedicated to completing runs of newspapers and preparing them for preservation microfilming.

Important in the Research Library's preservation activities this year was the Peabody and Stearns Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and carried out by the Fine Arts Department. Designated as a phased preservation needs assessment, the project dealt with more than 1,400 rolls of architectural plans. The material was assessed roll by roll for intellectual content, support, media, size, and condition. Other steps stabilized the material in temporary storage bags and created a microcomputer program to handle data. This project further enhanced the Library's remarkable holdings of architectural drawings. According to the entry in the *MacMillan Encyclopedia of Architecture*, Peabody and Stearns "was recognized as the most important architectural office in Boston from the death



Detail of the U.S. Custom House tower from a Peabody & Stearns drawing.

of H.H. Richardson in 1886 until World War I." Their architects were described as "virtually a dynasty... leaders of the profession." The Fine Arts Department also continued to organize the unique archives of the Connick Associates, renowned for stained glass.

Several major purchases added important research dimensions to the Research Library. Among them: nearly 2,000 Italian opera costume designs; several Irish items including pamphlets from Northern Ireland, microforms of Irish radical newspapers, Irish literature and poetry published during the last century, works by and about poet Seamus Heaney; several Russian collections including a cultural resources collection which provides, in English, descriptions of cultural resources available in many cities of the Soviet Union, and a collection of Soviet music and theatre. This year special emphasis was placed on foreign language materials, especially such oriental languages as Vietnamese, Thai, and Cambodian.

Staff was involved in selection of major purchases and held dialogues with publishers' representatives. An expedited procedure was developed for inspection of certain foreign and English language books before processing. Progress was achieved for an accelerated handling of all materials for the central library and branches by the determination of priorities in processing the full range of acquisitions—from best sellers to children's books and foreign language titles.

Community Library Services

This year was marked by forward motion, continuing the goals set forth in the plan to revitalize the Library. It was a time of needs analysis, planning, and action. Attention was directed to collections, services, plans, and staffing, application for grant support, cooperation with outside agencies, literacy, and shared efforts with Friends.

Benchmark accomplishments of FY88 included intensified efforts to recruit candidates for long-term children's librarian vacancies at Egleston Square, Washington Village, and Uphams Corner, and the branch librarian's position at Egleston Square; restoration and filling of the branch librarian position at Uphams Corner; reopening of Connolly and Parker Hill for Saturday service; elimination of meal-hour closings at Uphams Corner; official opening of the Access Center; barcoding of more than half of General Library books; new air conditioning in ten branches; completion of major capital improvements at Connolly Branch; starting of the first phase of major improvements and repairs for Hyde Park; and completion of final planning stages for capital improvements in 17 branches.



Facade of the Connolly Branch Library, restored inside and out.

By the end of the year, improved staffing and expanded service hours began to yield corresponding increases in library use: a 6 percent increase in circulation, a 22 percent increase in the number of programs offered, a 14 percent increase in program attendance, and a 3 percent increase in in-house use of library materials.

This year saw the introduction of the McNaughton Book Leasing Program. For adults who follow the current book review with emphasis on best sellers, the plan virtually eliminated the endless reserve lists for popular titles. Branches and General Library repeatedly described the impact on library use. Connolly Branch reported: "The McNaughton Book Leasing Program vastly improved our ability to obtain new best-sellers fast for our patrons. The news has spread and we are now seeing our regular patrons more often and they have told their friends. We hope to see this trend continue as we renew the plan for the next year."

Through grants and regular funding, foreign language and literacy collections were considerably expanded. Brighton Branch increased its book deposits in Russian and subscribed to a newspaper for its Russian community. General Library added Thai and Khmer to its foreign language collection which also offers Hmong, Lao, and Cape Verdean Creole in addition to works in French, German, Spanish, and other more commonly published languages.

Throughout the Library, wherever there are identifiable people speaking other tongues as their first languages, the Library has buttressed its resources for that group; Faneuil noted an increase in Vietnamese children; Codman Square keyed its activities toward Blacks, Hispanics, Haitians, and West Indians; Connolly, Dudley, and other branches responded to patron concerns over the effects of the Immigration Control Act with speakers and pamphlets; Adams Street noted a stable population of Irish heritage and built a successful National Endowment for the Humanities series around it.

Sharing center stage with the targeting of language/cultural diversity was the Library's attention to the literacy needs of users, or non-users. With an estimated 100,000 Bostonians impeded in the workplace and their personal lives by functional illiteracy, the Library directed vigorous efforts this year to teen and adult learners. A Library Literacy Committee spearheaded an investigation of such learners as well as sources of materials and possible funding. To buttress their readiness to deal with literacy, staff attended several workshops and conferences, gaining exposure to traditional and innovative approaches to reaching adult learners through varied formats including songs, chants, and poems.

Several branch and central projects focused on the needs of adult

learners. Jamaica Plain offered visits and library tours for a small group taking English as a Second language instruction at the Adult Learning Program, Jamaica Plain Community School. Codman Square collaborated with Odwin Learning Center, which teaches medically-oriented courses to recent immigrants in preparation for positions as medical technicians or aides. Dudley Branch is establishing a literacy center on its second floor.

In a "Library Collaboration for Literacy" Grant project funded by the Board of Library Commissioners, Parker Hill and Brighton Branches joined forces with the Family Learning Center at Boston University. The project is utilizing microcomputers to support adult learning, has created videotapes on children's reading, and will publish in the near future a book of original writings by adult learners. Other funded literacy projects are listed under Gifts and Grants.

Young Adult Services

Imagination and innovation marked the Library's activities for teenagers. The Young Adult Department offered its annual summer workshop in creative writing with author Ellen Emerson White critiquing young people's original writings. The department introduced "Sneak Previews," in which teens read new books before they are added to the collection. The Young Adult Department also sponsored a major exhibit in the General Library lobby, "Teens as Community Resources," comprising photographs of Boston young people involved in community projects, a graphic demonstration that individuals can make a positive impact on society.

In other programs targeting teens, Parker Hill called on Ted Thomas, Director of Youth Services, City Mission Society, to conduct a poetry workshop. The branch also hosted Larry Johnson, sports cartoonist for the *Boston Globe*, and a drug enforcement agent of the Department of Justice who described how a "drug bust" is planned and executed. Brighton offered courses to teens in library instruction; Jamaica Plain presented a staff member from *Teen Line*, who described that hot line for teenagers. Branches also scheduled film series for young adults—from horror films to teen themes.

In an important literacy initiative, the Young Adult Department of General Library pursued a teens as tutors project which included acquisition of materials and training of tutors from Copley High School under a grant from "Teens as Community Resources."

Children's Services

A dynamic range of programs was featured throughout the Library system in reaching out and bringing in young people. The activities fostered creativity, action, involvement, observation, and—of course—reading. Children's librarians reached children in a multi-directional approach—in school classrooms, in parks and playgrounds, and within the library.

In a sampling of the activities which compelled the attention and delight of young people, children at Adams Street played BOOK BINGO; Charlestown sponsored Creative Drama during the summer; Brighton held After School Stories and Films; Egleston, Faneuil, Fields Corner, and Jamaica Plain held Toddlers Story Times; Hyde Park held an all-day Trick or Treat; Lower Mills and North End sponsored Puppet Shows; Codman Square and Fields Corner held animal programs featuring guests (human and animal) from the MDC Traveling Zoo and Franklin Park; Egleston Square featured thematic Pirates Day and Detectives Day, also a Teddy Bear Picnic; North End held Story Hours for Mothers and Toddlers, and West Roxbury conducted Pajama Story Hours. Book-related craft programs were frequent: kitemaking and



Discovering the world of books.

collage design and mask construction at Egleston; origami at Connolly, Native American crafts at Faneuil, and Monster Masks at Codman Square. All this indicates that much imagination is operative in reaching young ones, aided by lively marketing language!

Four branches (Charlestown, Dudley, Fields Corner, and South End) continued the Reading Is Fundamental program under the sponsorship of H.P. Hood Company, Digital Equipment, Fidelity Investments, and B. Dalton Booksellers respectively. In the nationwide series, children are encouraged to have fun reading and to choose books for their own personal libraries.

Access Center

For many years the Library has offered service to disabled patrons in various ways: book deposits to nursing homes and hospitals, a branch within City Hospital, provision of large-print collections, and readers advisory service to patrons with special needs. This year saw the first targeting of the needs of the disabled by allocation of funding, staff, space, collections, programming, and technology. On October 7, 1987, the Access Center for Disabled People opened on the Concourse level of the General Library under the direction of Kathleen Hegarty, Staff Officer for Special Programs and Services.

Focusing initially on the blind and visually impaired, the deaf and hearing impaired, and those with physical disabilities, the center will expand its services to others with special needs in the near future. The center has been funded by three grants under the Library Services and Construction Act Title I, administered through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The Access Center offers a collection of more than 9,000 titles in large print and a thousand talking books on disks and cassettes. Special technology offers visually impaired patrons the capability of transforming library resources into a format they can use. The staff of the center works in close contact with community specialists in service to the disabled and attends relevant seminars and conferences. Development of programs has accelerated this year since the October opening. Among the programs offered: "Black Deaf Heritage," "Deaf Culture in Japan," and "Signed Stories by Deaf Story Tellers." Hearing-impaired children learned how puppets are made through a demonstration by puppeteer Claire DiMeo and enjoyed a sign-interpreted performance of "Puss in Boots."



Mayor Flynn cuts the ribbon for the formal opening of the Access Center for Disabled People. From left are Library Director Arthur Curley; Michael Scully, father of the late Susan Scully, who served on the Boston Commission on the Affairs of the Handicapped; Mayor Flynn; Charles Sabatier, Executive Director of the Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities; Kevin Moloney, President of the Library's Board of Trustees; the late Pete Cernada, East Boston community activist; and interpreter Randy Meyers.

Programs and Exhibitions

The Library made an impressive impact this year in exploring ideas and events through dynamic programming and exhibitions. Major attention was accorded the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution throughout the Library with exhibitions and programs directed to patrons from children to scholars. The Rare Book Department offered a foreign approach to the great American document with presentations by consuls general from France, the Netherlands, Canada, and Mexico. Other programs called upon local political figures and educators to deal with various aspects of constitutional history and rights of political bodies, victims, and women. Two plays on the Constitution were offered at West Roxbury Branch by sixth graders of St. Theresa's School.

Themes of programs and exhibitions in branches and the central library were as broad as the Library's book collections. Current issues and concerns—immigration, drug use, financial planning, health crises including AIDS—were highlighted again and again. Yet time-honored

cultural experiences were not neglected. Both in the Research Library's specialized departments and in branches, music and art were remembered. South Boston and Brighton Branches held their annual art shows; Jamaica Plain conducted several artist-centered programs; Parker Hill held a workshop in Black Music; Lower Mills offered "Silent Destiny; A Musical History of Women Composers"; Dudley Branch featured presentations by artists Curtis Corbin and James Reuben Reed; Parker Hill displayed the works of Dianne Zimbabwe and Theodore Harris; Hyde Park exhibited paintings by the Hyde Park Municipal Building Art Class—the list is a compelling tribute to creativity in the community and in the Library.



Opening of "Drawings from Boston" exhibition: artist Henry Schwartz with Keeper of Prints Sinclair Hitchings.

In General Library, too, attention to exhibitions was lively and disparate. Among the exhibitions: "Along the El, Contemporary Photos of MBTA's Elevated Orange Line and Washington Street Corridor"; "Vaults of Memory: Jewish and Christian Imagery in the Catacombs of Rome"; "Save Life on Earth"; and "My Mommy Drives a Wheelchair."

Throughout the year the Research Library opened its treasures and special collections to public view. Among the exhibitions sponsored by the Print Department were a retrospective of works on paper by Nina Bohlen; a historic view of Copley Square; watercolors by Varujan Boghosian from the collections of John D. Merriam; the art of Boston's distinguished Black artist Allan Rohan Crite; pastels and charcoal drawings by William Shattuck; and a remarkable gathering of works by Boston artists titled "A Salute to Boston." Among its exhibits the Rare Book and Manuscript Department offered a major showing of illuminated manuscripts, "Treasures at the BPL," and "Nathaniel Bowditch, 1773-1830" in remembrance of the pioneering American scientist. In other displays, the Research Library showed "Man's Best Friends," "Blacks in American History," "Women in Science," "Russian Musical Nights," "Happy 50th Tanglewood," and "Caldecott Medal Books."

This year the Research Library considerably increased program outreach activity. Among the major programs: the Music Department cooperated with the Finzi Society of America and the Boston Concert Opera in arranging lectures. The department also sponsored concerts by the Huntington Chamber Orchestra and cellist Luis Leguia. The Science Reference Department participated actively for some 76 hours at the Inventors Weekend, a notable opportunity to distribute flyers and discuss conducting a patent search. A Women in Science program featuring Dr. Martha Thomas proved to be a worthy program prototype but needed a greater publicity effort to attract attendance. The Fine Arts Department joined the Society of Architectural Historians/New England in sponsoring a lecture by Robert A.M. Stern, "Architecture: History and Public Policy."

The Rare Book and Manuscripts Department reflected its significant holdings in several programs. Inviting much public attention and pleasure were a program, reception, and exhibition on the comedian Fred Allen, featuring *Boston Globe* columnist Robert Taylor, author of a biography of Boston's renowned cerebral radio wit. The annual Dwiggin's Lecture, co-sponsored with the Society of Printers, was delivered by Dietmar R. Winkler. Other lectures featured Quebecois writer Jean Caron, the Browning Society, and four consuls general from Mexico, Canada, the Netherlands, and France on the impact of

the U.S. Constitution on their nations. In addition to several impressive exhibitions and receptions honoring artists and collectors, the Print Department presented the annual Wiggin Symposium, "Three Worlds of Art." Repeatedly authors brought thier messages to Library stages, among them: Jeremy Bernstein, Justin Kaplan, Julius



As program center, the Library brings delight and information to thousands of patrons.

Lester, Jonathan Kozol, Annie Dillard, Arthur Miller, Rumer Godden, and Kurt Vonnegut.

Many programs and activities including discussion groups and parents series were repeated as regular, ongoing activities. Fourteen branches conducted periodic adult book discussions. The General Library inaugurated the "America Lives" book series which attracted a diverse audience for weekly afternoon and evening sessions of spirited analysis of novels which illustrate the American experience. General Library also sponsored a popular series titled Brown Bag Seminars which offered lectures on such current concerns as interaction in the workplace among customers, employers, and others; conflict resolution; retirement planning; and reading the financial pages.

The popular Never-Too-Late series, geared to patrons over 60, prospered in Central and five branches.

Probably the most frequent component of programming was the film, presented in a wide range of formats—by theme, actor, form (animation, documentary), national origin, award winners. The Library's feature film series, "Cary Grant: the Paramount Years," was awarded the 1987 Best Film Series Award by the Boston Society of Film Critics.

Ethnic-centered programs and exhibits continued to focus on the rich heritage of the city's plural populations. The annual February observance of Black History Month included lectures by Dr. Antonio F. Holland of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri; C. Vincent Haynes, jazz historian; and James Reuben Reed, artist, Northeastern University. Other Black history observances included story hours, craft demonstrations, slide and dramatic presentations. Among other ethnic observances: Bernard Wax, Director of the American Jewish Historical Society, lectured at Brighton Branch on Jewish community history from 1649 to the present; Parker Hill co-sponsored an exhibit with the Puerto Rican Festival of Boston of 12 masks made in Puerto Rico; the Central Library children's room conducted bilingual story hours in English and Chinese as well as programs on writing Chinese, using chopsticks, and constructing Russian-style disappearing paper boxes; at Charlestown Branch a former journalist for Latvian ex-patriot newspapers loaned his collection of newspapers for exhibition.

Significant in the 6,945 programs held in the Library this year was the cooperative support from local educational/cultural/business/government agencies and organizations. The Library provided staff, programming, and exhibit space in addition to bibliographical support; the "outside" agencies offered the expertise and talents of lecturers and performers. To name a few of the legion of cooperative

groups: Massachusetts Historical Society, Harvard Bookstore Cafe, American Cancer Society, National Park Service, Boston Red Sox, Gallaudet University, Family Services of Greater Boston, Lowell Institute, The Finzi Society, Shearson Lehman Brothers, Visiting Nurse Association of Boston, and several colleges and universities.

Demonstrating the importance and impact of joint programming in the Library and community was the program offered by Associated Grantmakers of Massachusetts. Titled "Meet the Donor," the series brought together representatives of funding agencies for panel discussions in six branches.

Emphasis on programs in this report has been somewhat lengthy—and for good reason. The program component of the Library's outreach exemplifies the vitality, the energy of the staff who does the planning and the community members who take part. Several years ago when the Library accepted the mantle from the National Endowment for the Humanities as a "learning library," it described itself as a true people's university, a place where citizens expand their knowledge, a place of ideas in ferment. In FY88 the learning library continued its role as a free university with a welcome mat at the threshold.

National Endowment for the Humanities

In continuance of the dynamic educational series supported by NEH, the Library sponsored several lectureships in branches this year. Designed to provide college-level courses without the admission/financial requisites of college, the NEH programs were eclectic and provocative. Evaluations of the courses point out that for the most part the meetings did not fill the halls but reached thoughtful adults committed to expanding their knowledge and ideas. The lectures listed here reflect the contributions of experts from local colleges and universities.

"Inventing Ireland and Other Memories of the Future."
Padraig O'Malley, University of Massachusetts Boston.
(Adams Street and West Roxbury)

"Women in American Films." Robert G. Goulet, Stonehill College. (Brighton)

"Playing Games: A History of Sports in Boston." John Powers, *Boston Globe*. (East Boston)

"New England Women Writers." Deborah Rosenthal, Massasoit Community College. (Fields Corner)

"Charlestown: The Making of an Urban Village." Thomas N. Brown, University of Massachusetts. (Charlestown)

"Art and Commitment; the Black Literary Tradition from Native Son to The Color Purple." Joyce Mobley Corrigan, lecturer on literature and drama. (Dudley)

"At Home in America," Myrna Kaye, Museum of Fine Arts, (Hyde Park)

"Artists of the Harlem Renaissance, the Gift of Black Folk." James Reuben Reed, Northeastern University. (Parker Hill)

"Moral Dilemmas in Modern Medicine," Dr. Michael Grodin, Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health. (Roslindale)

"A Salute to South Boston's Ethnic Communities." Five South Boston speakers: Rev. Arthur Liolin; Algirdas Budreckis; Prof. Thomas H. O'Connor, Boston College; performance by Krakowiak, Polish Folk Singers of Boston. (South Boston)

"The Wayward Stroke," lectures on Post Impressionism. Aileen Callahan, Boston College and Regis College. (South End)

"Five Court Trials in the History of Boston." Alan Rogers, Boston College. (West End)

"By the People, For the People, Folk Art in America." Gilian Wohlauer, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Publications

Since its beginnings the Boston Public Library has served as a publishing house, developing and printing booklists, catalogs, and books. This year the Library published several specialized departmental items describing collections or services. Highlighting the Library's international juvenile collections and programs, the staffs of the General Library Children's Department and the Alice M. Jordan Collection created "The Whole World in Their Hands: An Idea Checklist for Librarians Serving Youth."

Publications on Black Americans—and Bostonians—received particular attention this year. "Spin a Soft Black Song" was built around young people's books. "Black Is..." a popular, handsomely designed annual list of current adult fiction and nonfiction with Black themes went to press once again in time for Black History Month observances. Mindful of the constant demand for activities with emphasis on the



19th-century German illustration from *Richter-Album* as it appeared in "The Whole World in Their Hands."

Black experience, General Library this year put together "Black America: A Program Resource Guide."

The Library's major release of the year resulted from the creative efforts of 27 poets, members of the Poetry Club of Dudley Branch Library headed up by Adults Librarian Olive Knight. Designed by Rick Zonghi, head of Graphic Arts, with an introduction by Luix V. Overbea of *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Poets on the Horizon* contains original verse on a remarkable range of themes, emotions, and poetic styles—from "Street Life" to "Old Comb" to "The Aging Process" and "Vintage Wino." The book promises to be the catapult for many events and possibly other publications to come. Already special programs and receptions as well as readings by the poets themselves have been scheduled.

In the annual compilation of current books which is distributed to Women's Club chapters throughout the state, the staff of General Library once again produced a thematic booklist, "Booking Around," for the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs.

For many years the Library published a widely distributed *BPL News*. In the period since its discontinuance, the need for a newsletter has been reinforced by the development campaign. As a result, this year the Library launched *The Boston Public Library Newsletter*, Summer 1988, an elegant, two-fold illustrated vehicle "to provide readers with the latest information about activities throughout the library system."

Technology

The Library continued its technological applications to systems and services this year. The Metro-Boston Library Network (MBLN), an automated circulation/on-line catalog system linking the Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Malden, and Newton Public Libraries, entered into a contract with Data Research Associates (DRA). In the year ahead the automation will proceed in phases: first circulation, then public access catalog. Once implemented, the new computer system will enable the Library to examine circulation and renewal policies to make them more sensitive to the public's needs.

Appropriate wiring for installation of multiplexers and modems for the system commenced throughout the branches. In preparation for barcoding books for the system, branch staff concentrated on "weeding," pulling from the collections materials worn or outdated. By the end of FY88 the General Library announced that more than 400,000 items had been barcoded. This year also saw the beginning

use of telefacsimile machines in a few branches and offices. The Interlibrary Loan Department received a state grant to fund a telefacsimile network in the Boston subregion which provided for acquiring 14 FAX machines for the Boston subregion and two for Boston Public Library branches. The goal of the project is to increase accessibility to Boston's vast serials collections for patrons in the suburbs. Through its FAX machine, Kirstein Business Branch will make possible the transmission of business journal articles to libraries of the Eastern Region.

Several other Library units have expanded their services through state-of-the-art tools and machines. Since its opening in October 1987 the Access Center has put into action several devices effective in aiding the visually/hearing impaired. Use of the Research Library's vast microfilm holdings was facilitated this year by the purchase of an opaque microfilm enlarger/printer.

The Government Documents Department received a major bibliographic reference tool, a CD ROM (compact disk, read only memory) *U.S. Government Publication Catalog*, by which the public can view on a monitor data related to government publications since 1976 (updated monthly). A laser jet printer, also acquired this year, makes it possible for public and staff to print out the data they have rapidly retrieved on the CD ROM.



A young expert in information retrieval.

As one of ten libraries in the nation to participate in an experimental trial of CASSIS (Classification and Support Information System), a CD ROM system developed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Library's Science Reference Department this year received from that office a personal computer, printer, and CD reader. For six months the department studied and summarized patron reaction to the system. The results were significant: "skyrocketing use of patents," lines of students waiting to use CASSIS.

Computer database searches in the Science Reference Department continued in great volume and quality, a total of 2,756 searches. The databases searched are broad with the heaviest use among trademark and medical data.

By the conclusion of FY88 six Research Library Departments were performing data searches and CD ROM products were in three departments.

Buildings

Building needs of branches and the central library gained considerable attention this year in terms of both planning and execution. The Buildings Department responded to the pressing needs of plants and grounds in painting and plastering, replacement of broken glass, roof repair, carpet cleaning, furniture refinishing, fence repair, ground maintenance, and removal of graffiti. In response to the fire at West Roxbury Branch, the staff of Buildings joined the Public Facilities Department in restoring the damaged basement and first floor levels.

Numerous capital improvements under the management of the Public Facilities Department were in phases ranging from planning, design development, or bidding. They included installation of security systems, building secure storage rooms and ramps for handicap access, roof repairs, and heating and electrical repairs. A major project was the restoration of the Connolly Branch Library as part of "Rebuilding Boston," Mayor Flynn's five-year capital improvement plan, prepared by the Office of Capital Planning. A special celebration for the "new look" of the branch is scheduled for the fall.

Another building event was the ground-breaking ceremony on March 26 for the addition to the West Roxbury Branch. Enthusiastically attended by city and Library officials and community residents, the event promised an addition with expanded space for seating and collections, a special separate area for teenagers, handicap access, and appropriate enhancement and adaptation of the present building to the addition.

This year the Library embarked on a historic, innovative special service which impacts positively on the community and the Library. Developed by the Honorable Julian T. Houston of the Roxbury District Court and Angela Ferrario of Associated Day Care Services, with architectural and financial support committed by the Public Facilities Department, the plan will utilize adapted second-floor space at Dudley Branch Library for drop-in child care for individuals conducting court business.

The restoration of the Research Library was the centerpiece in the year's attention to buildings. Designed by architect Charles Follen McKim, the structure in recent years has been identified as the McKim building, with its adjunct structure by architect Philip Johnson called the Johnson building. Hailed as one of America's most beautiful buildings, a "palace for the people," the McKim building took some 17 years to build. In the 93 years since its opening in 1895, the Library has undergone many adaptations of interior spaces to the needs of library functions—and few modernizations. Increasingly antiquated systems and damage by leaks, dust, and pollutants have exacted their toll.

The Trustees recognized the pressing mandate for renovation and moved into action to restore and renovate the people's palace. Awarding the contract to the firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott, Inc. in 1985, the Trustees saw the restoration as a five-year project proceeding in three phases:

Phase I: restoration of entrance hall, grand staircase, Chavannes Gallery, and Venetian and Pompeian lobbys; relocation of Government Documents Department on basement level along with restrooms and major mechanical/plumbing work; new staircase leading from beneath the grand stair to the basement. On the ground floor—north side—a bookstore, information center, spacious exhibition/lecture areas, and possibly a tearoom. Design development drawings for Phase I were completed in FY88, followed by substantial attention to working drawings.

Phase II: the junction between the McKim and Johnson buildings will include a key new connecting stairway and revised elevator. The Microtext Department will be relocated directly off the ground floor stairway, and the Newspaper Room will be renovated. On the second floor, the Abbey Room will be converted to a reading room. New centers for photoduplication and periodical/bibliographic reference will be created with the Elliott Room and the catalog modified to an electronic facility.



The elegant lamp above the grand staircase in the McKim building gets a shine.

Phase III: will complement north side exhibition area on south side, restore and enhance the courtyard, continue restoration of Bates Hall and the Abbey Room; create new office space; and on the third floor, expand the space for the Library's special collections, Music, Fine Arts, and Prints.

Serving as project designer for the McKim restoration is Daniel Coolidge. In his presentation of design development plans to the Trustees, Coolidge noted two paramount design themes which he followed in his "respect for the ghost of McKim": respect for the past and retention of the flexibility of use.

Down the years the city of Boston has provided funding for maintenance and capital projects such as the McKim restoration in budget allocations and loan orders. A major infusion of funding for the Boston Public Library—and public libraries across the commonwealth—took place this year. Senate President William M. Bulger, who serves as Vice President of the Trustees, introduced the Public Library Improvement Act which will direct \$45 million in state funds to the support of local and regional public libraries. Commended by library organizations for his commitment and action, Bulger described the legislation as a means to "help us preserve, foster, and

expand the Commonwealth's free public library system for years and generations to come."

The Campaign for the Library

On October 18, 1986 the Library embarked on a major private sector fundraising effort for the restoration of the McKim building. Other goals include revitalizing the community library system, strengthening Research Library resources, and utilizing new technologies systemwide.

Intensive planning for the fundraising effort is taking place under the direction of Tess Cederholm, Development Officer. A handsome case statement for the campaign was completed this year. Entitled "Campaign for the Library," the booklet will be used as a tool for soliciting contributions from chief executive officers of corporations.

Development activities are being guided professionally by the Robert J. Corcoran Company. Also under contract for The Campaign is Jonathan L. Barkan of Communications for Learning for the design and production of graphics and audiovisual materials. In the production stage for campaign use are a brochure and an A-V cassette featuring prominent individuals describing the influence and services of the Library.

To date the central work of the campaign has been a preparatory, behind-the-scenes operation: research of data on possible donors and the creation of files, historic and contemporary, of key people with ties to the Library. A campaign leadership committee, a citizen group of about 10 people, will soon be named.

Especially propitious for fundraising is the fact that FY88 has already yielded many contributions even though there has yet to be an official start of The Campaign for the Library with leaders and publications and databases in place. Last year's significant pledge of \$1,000,000 from the Boston Globe Foundation obviously provided the inspiration and support for the Library's historic strong step toward the next century.

Gifts and Grants

In addition to the splendid gift from the Globe Foundation, other gifts in monies and materials were extensive in FY88—from private citizens as well as the government, corporations, and foundations. Thanks to such support, the Library was empowered to move beyond budgeted

acquisitions, services, and projects. Here enumerated are the most major gifts and grants. Virtually hundreds of other donations, important to the Library's total work, have been gratefully acknowledged and recorded in departmental reports.

Gifts

Dorothy Abbe (for cataloging Dwiggins collections)	\$ 70,000.00
The Boston Globe Foundation	200,000.00
<i>The Boston Globe</i>	2,500.00
Junior League of Boston	30,000.00
Estate of Herman Loeffler (for organization of political papers)	20,000.00
Donna and Scott Ryburn	7,500.00
Frederick E. Weber Charities	5,000.00
I. J. O'Connor with match from John Hancock	1,380.00
Other gifts	5,587.50

Gifts in Kind

- Mrs. Merle Shera through the Oregon Art Institute:
 136 etchings, drawings, lithographs by American artist Thomas Handforth
- Richard Young:
 51 photographs by Bradford Washburn
- Duncan MacPherson, political cartoonist of the *Toronto Star*:
 200 pieces of finished art by the donor
- Mrs. Margaret Moody:
 1,418 musical items including books, pamphlets, reference works, record albums, souvenir programs, periodicals, etc.
- Constance Kantor:
 11 cartons of art books which belonged to her father, art collector Samuel Glaser
- Stephen Andrus of the former Impressions Workshop:
 several thousand prints, business records, library materials, engraved woodblocks, etched copper plates, ephemera, storage cabinets, and shelving
- Robert Severy:
 restoration of 8 art works valued at \$4,050
- Robert Severy:
 more than 8,000 photographs which the donor took himself of Boston streets and neighborhoods
- Esther Heins:
 25 copies of her book *Flowering Trees and Shrubs* valued at \$750

Mark Twain bronze by sculptor Bruce Kueffer
 8,064 recordings for Sound Archives from several donors
 Other gifts (books, serials, pamphlets, manuscripts, puppets) totaling 26,359 items

Grants

Boston Arts Lottery for publication of <i>Drawings for Boston</i> catalog	\$2,500.00
Board of Library Commissioners for cooperative Brighton Branch/Parker Hill Branch/Boston University intergenerational program on adult literacy	\$49,537.00
Gateway Cities for acquisition of materials for ages 3-21 whose primary language is not English	\$75,000.00
Commonwealth Literacy Commission: core collection for adult literacy resource centers	\$3,000.00
U.S. Department of Education: central collection of materials for adults in literacy programs	\$25,000.00
Board of Library Commissioners: computer equipment software, and personnel for Access Center	\$19,830.00
National Endowment for the Humanities for assessment of preservation needs of 1,000 rolls of Peabody & Stearns architectural drawings	\$66,307.00
Fidelity Investments/Digital Equipment/ B. Dalton/ and H.P. Hood grants for Reading Is Fundamental programs at Fields Corner/ Dudley/Charlestown/ and South End	\$19,000.00
Teens as Community Resources: for training of Copley High School students as volunteer tutors	\$4,000.00
18th Century Short Title Project	\$3,000.00
U.S. Department of Education for preservation microfilming of newspapers in BPL and other collections	\$210,000.00

Grants for Automation

LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act)	382,857.00
LSCA	336,857.00
Commonwealth	484,189.00
Commonwealth	500,000.00
Commonwealth	450,000.00
Commonwealth (Telecomm)	107,610.00
Total Automation Grants	\$2,260,799.00

Friends and Volunteers

Many events of FY88 can be attributed to the various branch-centered Friends groups as well as the Citywide Friends established last year and the Associates of the Boston Public Library. These groups directed their efforts, always in furtherance of Library goals, in many directions from fundraising to program support and public relations, book sales and open houses. To cite a few of their efforts:

At Brighton Branch, Friends raised funds with a book sale and culture auction and funded, in part, the annual Arts Exposition.

Charlestown Friends supported programs by psychologist Mary Lou Randour on women; a cooking demonstration on foolproof biscuit making; and lectures on Ireland's literary places and Boston Harbor.

In Hyde Park, Friends inaugurated this year an annual Friend of the Year award, the first honoree Margaret Geraghty.

Lower Mills Friends co-sponsored several programs including Adventures in Literature with Prof. Robert White of Dartmouth College; puppet performances for children; and the popular series MURDER INK!

Several Friends groups sought and received grants for branch programs and beautification of grounds, among them: Hyde Park and Brighton received Boston Arts Lottery grants; Jamaica Plain, Parker Hill, and Connolly Branches received grants from the Greenspace Alliance for landscaping.

Volunteers also played a part in advancing the service goals of the Library, in organization of collections, and public relations. A major injection of funding for volunteer activity came this year from the Junior League of Boston to establish a training program for guides and to assist in special events. A grant in the amount of \$30,000 will support a corps of volunteers in a three-year project. League members

have been researching and developing training materials for the guides and plan to begin recruitment by this fall.

Among Library departments, both Prints and Fine Arts have worked effectively with volunteers. In the Print Department, volunteers researched data on American artist Thomas Handforth and preserved the Library's holdings of Handforth prints. Interns in the Print Department worked on the collection of living artists with ties to Boston and the collection of Joseph Pennell. As Keeper of Prints Sinclair H. Hitchings noted, "One key to the success of the Boston Public Library in a changing world is its close ties to Boston-area colleges and universities." Already noted in this report are the cooperative programs, including NEH lectureships, achieved by such ties.

In Fine Arts, too, volunteers helped considerably, "plugging away" in the indexing of artists, craftsmen, and the gift photographs from Robert Severy.

Staff

Staff members contributed positively to Library objectives of building collections and expanding services, making automation operational, increasing their expertise through attendance at seminars and conferences, and accepting professional leadership roles.

Four staff members contributed suggestions to the Boston Works Smarter Program, and their suggestions received funding for the benefit of the Library.

Catherine M. Coyne, Children's Librarian at Adams Street Branch, suggested child-size chairs for pre-school story hours.

Walter E. Newman, paper conservator in the Rare Books and Manuscript Department recommended the purchase of an ultrasonic encapsulator which encloses rare fragile manuscripts and documents in a clear polyester.

Rockymarie Weaver, Children's Library Specialist, proposed a fiction-finding, game-like system for children to find stories fitting their age and interest.

Barbara Wicker, Branch Librarian of Hyde Park, advocated the purchase of a typewriter exclusively for public use.

Two Boston Public Library leaders with more than 70 years service in their careers were memorialized by the establishment of funds in their names:



This restored Dennis doll shows actor Joe Jefferson in his interpretation of Rip Van Winkle.

Ruth M. Bleecker, Curator of Music at the time of her death, was remembered by a fund to augment holdings in the Allen A. Brown Collection.

Veronica M. Lehane, a leader in the Library's youth services for more than 50 years, was remembered in a fund built around one of her special strengths, storytelling.

Several annual programs also memorialized staff who contributed years of professional service to the Library.

Thomas Flanagan, author of *The Tenants of Time*, delivered the Francis Moloney Lecture.

Paul M. Wright, Senior Fellow at the McCormack Institute of Public Affairs, lectured on former House Speaker John W. McCormack in the annual Marjorie M. Gibbons Memorial Lecture.

North End Branch marked the fortieth year honoring Mary U. Nichols with a particularly festive books award program—exhibits, awards ceremony, a puppet play by North End youngsters, and attendance by members of the Nichols family.

In acknowledgment of her estimable contributions in restoring the Library's Dennis Doll Collection, friend of the Library June P. Kibbe was designated by the Trustees as Honorary Curator of Dolls and Dioramas. In delightful demonstration of Kibbe's skills in restoration, the Research Library this year exhibited a compelling assemblage of real and fictional character dolls from the Dennis Doll collection—from Albert Einstein and Yul Brynner to Alice in Wonderland!

It is appropriate to conclude this annual report on a people's institution with tributes to everyone who makes the Boston Public Library a special library: friends, volunteers, staff, patrons, the Trustees who "do their homework" with remarkable dedication, and city officials who give proud support to our learning center, our people center!

Arthur Curley
Director and Librarian

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LIBRARY RESOURCES:

General Book Collections	
Volumes.....	6,003,396
Special Collections	
Rare Books and Manuscripts.....	1,225,272
Prints.....	1,148,400
Patents.....	9,000,167
Maps.....	325,706
Government Documents.....	2,545,282
Musical Scores.....	99,486
Periodicals	
Current Subscriptions.....	16,436
Non-Print Material	
Audio-Recordings.....	305,963
Films & Other Projected Visuals.....	12,812
Pictorial Works.....	519,326
Microforms.....	3,717,453
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	24,919,699

LIBRARY USE:

Visitors.....	2,403,497
Programs.....	6,945
Program Attendance.....	207,444
Items Borrowed.....	1,817,969
Volumes Consulted.....	984,974
Reference Inquiries.....	1,135,341
Photocopies.....	1,412,360

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Library Expenditures	FY86	FY87	FY88
A. Salaries and Wages:			
City of Boston.....	\$8,279,133.00	\$10,801,626.00	\$12,761,847.00
Eastern Regional Library System.....	823,012.00	935,092.00	1,077,009.00
Library of Last Recourse.....	1,253,028.00	1,813,619.00	1,680,000.00
Other State Aid.....	0.00	0.00	300,000.00
Federal Grants.....	0.00	0.00	119,897.00
Total Salaries	\$10,355,173.00	\$13,550,337.00	\$15,938,753.00
B. Books and Other Library Materials:			
City of Boston.....	\$1,107,012.00	\$1,905,858.00	\$2,285,688.00
Eastern Regional Library System.....	1,707,743.00	1,769,741.00	1,425,033.00
Library of Last Recourse.....	1,318,035.00	1,968,261.00	1,837,681.00
Other State Aid.....	281,498.00	339,746.00	216,236.00
Trust Fund Income.....	182,409.00	192,449.00	231,707.00
Federal Grants.....	0.00	477,947.00	554,888.00
Total Books and Other Library Materials	\$4,596,697.00	\$6,654,002.00	\$6,551,233.00
C. All Other Expenses:			
City of Boston.....	\$2,634,584.00	\$2,994,820.00	\$2,934,251.00
Eastern Regional Library System.....	688,100.00	628,464.00	657,994.00
Trust Fund Income.....	36,695.00	90,689.00	34,304.00
Federal Grants.....	0.00	2,649,592.00	202,702.00
Total Other.....	\$3,359,379.00	\$6,363,565.00	\$3,829,251.00
Grand Total (A,B,C).....	\$18,311,249.00	\$26,567,904.00	\$26,319,237.00

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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