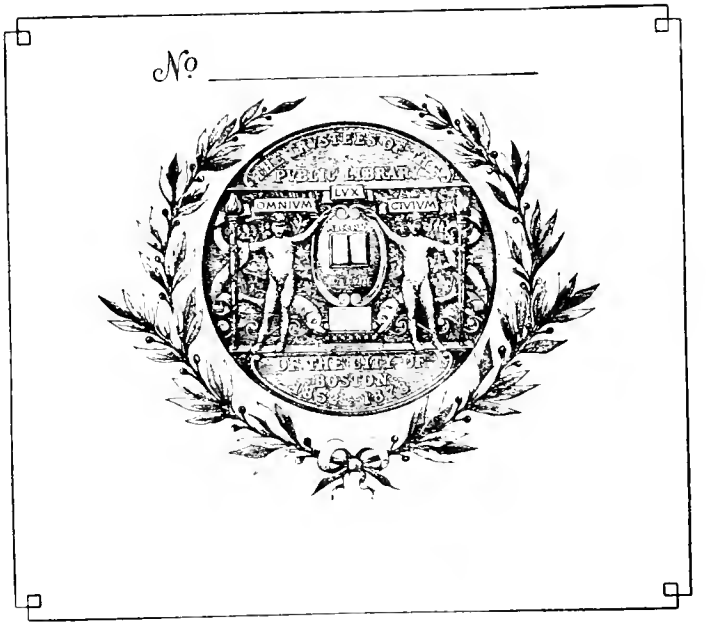
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THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 1 January 1955

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, John J. McCafferty, Sheila W. Pierce, Sarah M. Usher, Charles J. Gillis, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S CORNER

Another publication year has passed, swiftly but pleasantly. The year 1954 saw many important library events take place, so many that a recapitulation of them would fill many pages of this issue.

We cannot finish our editorial work, however, without mentioning the event of 1954--the Centennial Celebration. In May we settled down to our regular duties after a hectic round of dinners, parties, meetings, radio, TV and newspaper publicity, the Centennial Fair, and a very successful campaign for a staff gift.

Now, after most of us had relegated the Centennial to the happy past, we report that a Professional Staff Association group has been working diligently upon a Centennial project for many months--"Free to All", a musical revue. A staff effort of considerable proportion, the revue is of professional caliber, although the original book and lyrics, the entire cast and the members of the orchestra, are Boston Public Library staff members.

An exciting and memorable evening is in store for those attending the opening night, January 29. In addition, this will be the last opportunity to add to the Centennial gift, as all proceeds are to be contributed to the Centennial Fund.

As this column is the swan song of the present Publications Committee, may we extend our thanks to everyone who has worked for, or contributed material to, The Question Mark during the past year. We also wish every success during the coming year to the new Publications Committee.

Publications Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 29. "Free to All", New England Mutual Hall, 8:30 p.m.

January 31. S.L.A., Boston Chapter, B.U. College of Education, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at B.U. Faculty Club, 6:15 p.m.

PERSONAL NOTES

Transferred

Isabelle G. Finn, West Roxbury to Charlestown.

Mrs Rhea L. Freeman, Charlestown to West Roxbury.

Mrs Elizabeth F. Howard, from Jeffries Point to South End.

Mrs Patricia Iseman, Central Charging Records to Brighton.

Mrs Phyllis R. Kallman, South End to Jeffries Point.

Mrs Katherine L. Williams, Brighton to Central Charging Records.

Resignations

Mrs Francina C. Gelzer, South End, to remain at home

Mrs Shirley Waters, Adams Street, to remain at home.

Retirements

May L. Crosby, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, on December 31, 1954, after forty years of service

Rebecca Millmeister, West End, on December 31, 1954 after fifty-three years of service.

Married

Bernardine Grace, Uphams Corner, to Arnold Smokler, December 19, 1954

B.P.L.P.S.A. Annual Business Meeting, January 21, 1955
Reports of Committees
Election of Officers
Polls open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lecture Hall, Central. Don't forget to vote.

ENGAGEMENT

On Christmas Day Rita E. Susi, East Boston, became engaged to John A. Pennachio of Wilmington, Massachusetts.

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs Richard Waters have announced the birth of a son, Geoffrey, born on December 17. Mr Waters works in Open Shelf and Mrs Waters formerly worked in Open Shelf and Adams Street.

RETIREMENTS

May Crosby

May Crosby, who retired from the staff of the Library on December 31, after forty years in its service, is already very much missed by her co-workers. This is not only because of her cheerful and friendly personality, nor her capable and conscientious work, but also for what she represented in the library tradition.

Miss Crosby joined the library staff on November 16, 1914. At that time, while it was no longer exceptional for a young woman to earn her living, to obtain such a position pre-supposed a certain high level of character and intelligence, and to maintain it certified them. She entered the Cataloging Department after assisting with card work for a time, and held the position of Cataloger at the time of her retirement. Cataloging, particularly without the standardized aids now furnished by the Library of Congress, required real pioneer ingenuity. Such catalogers as Miss Crosby helped establish the standards which more recent members of the staff regard with such high respect.

During her years in the library, Miss Crosby enjoyed consistent good health, and in her vacation time travelled extensively, in Europe, South America, and the Orient. Her most recent long trip was to the West Coast. It has become almost a matter of course for staff members planning trips to compare notes and seek advice from Miss Crosby.

Her post-employment years promise to be extremely busy ones. She intends to spend much of her time typing manuscripts in Braille for blind readers. She has already done several of these in her spare time, including Thomas Merton's Seven-Story Mountain.

Miss Crosby's many friends on the library staff wish her well in the years ahead, which it seems will be fruitful and very enjoyable. They also hope she will not forget to come back frequently and report to them on her new activities.

Marjorie A. Brown

Rebecca Millmeister

On December 31, Rebecca Millmeister, Second Assistant at West End, retired after more than a half century of service in the Library. Most of her professional life was spent at West End. During those many years she was an unfailing source of help and friendship to both public and staff. She has seen literally thousands of children grow to adulthood and raise families of their own. She knew them all, and they in turn all knew her, and came to share with her the ups and downs of their lives. And for each, she always had a word of praise, encouragement, and hope. The same was true about her relationship with the staff. Toward each and all she was ever courteous and friendly, and many of her closest and dearest friends today are former colleagues at West End.

Rebecca Millmeister is that rare and fortunate human being who is forever young in heart. This precious quality has enabled her to laugh at the advancing years and to keep her mind and spirit ebullient and receptive to new ideas. Indulging her favorite hobby, travel, she has visited every corner of the United States, and almost every country on the face of the earth. On these travels she formed many lasting friendships and broadened her intellectual horizons, which make her the understanding and tolerant person she is.

Her many friends in the Library will miss her cheerful, stimulating presence. They wish her much joy and happiness in her new life, and they are sure that she will continue to find opportunities to help and comfort others.

To paraphrase a well-known quotation,

"None knew her but to love her,
None named her but to praise."

Nura Globus

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs Laura Cross Fletcher

Mrs Laura Cross Fletcher passed away at the Hahnemann Hospital on January 7. She was on the staff of the Boston Public Library from January 22, 1900, until her resignation on October 25, 1929. Beginning as an extra assistant at Central Library, she was successively in charge of Stations C and T, and from 1911-1916 was First Assistant at North End. At the time of her marriage to Alfred Fletcher in 1929, she was Branch Librarian at East Boston, a position which she had held for thirteen years.

Several of the present branch librarians were trained by her, and her interest in their success and in all the affairs of the East Boston Branch Library continued throughout the years. She possessed high ideals of service and loyalty, and although her active participation in Boston Public Library affairs ended a quarter of a century ago, those who knew her during her years of devoted service remember her with warmth and affection.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On Friday, January 21, the annual meeting of the Association and election of officers will take place. It will not be possible for each and every member of the Association to be present at the meeting but every member can and should vote. Absentee ballots are available through your staff representative and president. If you have any doubt about being able to visit the polls in the Lecture Hall from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. on next Friday, obtain an absentee ballot and return it in accordance with instructions by next Wednesday. Less than a handful of votes separated some of the candidates last year; many of the contests promise to be as close or closer this year. Your vote could be a deciding one; use it!

I feel that the incoming officers will be fortunate in being able to serve so fine a group as our Association. The Association is truly representative, comprising over 95% of those eligible for membership. I am sure that all the other members of the Association will join with me in expressing appreciation for the high degree of willingness to cooperate and assist we have experienced from individual members, staff representatives, committee members and chairmen, and from the Board of Trustees, the Director, and their assistance.

This spirit is being exemplified to the nth degree in the present preparation for producing the Centennial Musical Revue, Free to All, which seems more and more exciting as the big night approaches. Don't miss it. You will never forgive yourself.

B. Joseph O'Neil

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

How many pints of blood do you suppose would be needed if a disaster such as the Coconut Grove fire befell Boston? How many lives do you suppose would be lost because of a shortage of blood available for immediate transfusion?

Help to make sure that there would be no such shortage. Become a member of the City of Boston Employees Blood Donor Program by pledging a donation of a pint of blood. Call Mrs Wollent at Extension 244 for further details.

MEN'S HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Men's House Committee wishes to extend its thanks to all those individuals who so ably and willingly assisted in the planning and the carrying out of the Men's Annual Christmas Open House. Their contributions helped make the Party a big success, and we hope that future house committees will be able to share in our good fortune. Thanks again to all of you.

George Earley, Chairman

NEWS FROM NORWAY

The following excerpt from a letter received from Berit Lambertsen Fretheim, Terrak, Bindel, Norway, will be of interest to those who remember her so pleasantly from her work in the BPL a few years ago:

"It is so strange to think of it, now it is 4 years since I was in Boston. Still, I remember it all so clearly as if it were yesterday. I always look forward to getting news from the B.P.L. at Christmastime.

"For the time being, I am not in the library profession. After having finished my exams at the Library School, (on July 24) I married the Norwegian student I met in Boston, Arne Fretheim. He is a dentist now, practicing as a district dentist in the northern part of Norway in a State social program for dentists. He has to work here at least one year, in order to get his license for private practicing. But it is a rather good deal on the part of the dentists, and we like it very much up here. We live in a small community, about 500 people, most of them living by lumber trade. Our apartment is small, but nice, we think, although a little primitive. People are very friendly, and we expect to get a house of our own next year. That will be even nicer, of course. There is a lot of wind here, last Saturday even storm, but it is nothing like your terrible hurricanes, though."

GREETINGS FROM THAILAND

Below is a part of a letter I received from Fern Ingersoll, a former staff member who is now living in Thailand with her husband and baby:

Merry Christmas, Everybody:

How fast this year has gone! We came out here to Thailand last January to work together in a new "Fundamental education" center which trains teams of young Thais to help improve the lives of the village people. In May, the center opened and the finishing touches were put on our little three room cottage. Now the center is well underway, though there are occasional discouraging days among the many inspiring ones.

Berry is almost a year and a half old now. What joy she finds in everything, whether it's playing with her little friends, or trotting over to the library to create havoc among the cards Jay uses to keep a research file of the teams' experiences in the villages or among a display of pictures and pamphlets which Fern has made on rural libraries.

And now Christmas is coming! We've just arranged to have a little artificial tree sent up to Ubol as soon as they come into Bangkok. We tried to figure out how we could use a banana tree or a mango tree, but it seemed that they just wouldn't work. So now, with our tree ordered, it seems that some hot, sunny day, still a long way off, Christmas will surely come.

We have a few ornaments with us that we brought from the Christmas tree we had in France two years ago, and from America when Berry was there with Fern last Christmas. We're keeping our eyes open every day, however, for the brightly colored wooden elephants, buffaloes, and tigers, and the little fish made of palm leaves that will makes such gay Christmas ornaments.

We'll probably have to imagine a lot. We'll imagine that the piles of sand from the new roads now being constructed are snow banks. We'll imagine that the flames that leap out of our kerosene stove or our neighbor's charcoal stoves are flaming fireplaces. We'll imagine that the green mold on our clothes is Christmas decoration.

But we won't have to imagine everything. Our little house has so many windows to let in the cool breezes that the Christmas tree lights will be seen from outdoors no matter where we put it. The stars here are so bright when we sit out on our porch at night that it seems as though almost any one of them might be the Christmas star. The teachers sent here by Unesco and the World Health organization from Australia, Holland, the United States, and Finland, the three missionary families working in Ubol, and several of the Thai people here, will know what Christmas means.

The library will have a Christmas display using prints of great nativity paintings because we would like to share with the Thais the best of our traditions since we have been learning about Thai festivals and Buddhist ceremonies.

Chalum-si, our Thai cook, and Molee, who does the housework and looks after Berry while Fern is working in the library mornings, will help to make animal cookies for Berry to give to her friends. There'll be some to take to the four little girls of the missionaries. Then Berry will have to take a tricycle taxi, the way most people get around in Ubol, to deliver her cookies to the six children of Tong-In, our Thai librarian.

School and buffalo tending will be over for the Thai children by the time Berry gets home from cookey delivery, so probably her little friends will come running along the sandy road from their

thatched roof house just beyond the trees in front of ours. The play of these children is so happy, so undemanding, and to us, so almost unnaturally free from tears and shrieks. It really seems to be the spirit of Christmas.

We've tried to put just a little bit of these children into our wish to you for a Merry, Merry Christmas. .....

Please give my greetings to Miss Gordon and Mrs Wright when you see them--and Miss McManus--and everybody I knew in the B.P.L.

CONGRATULATIONS

Frederick Danker, Book Stack Service, son of J. J. Danker, Head Electrician, was awarded a John Harvard Scholarship on January 12. This scholarship is awarded to upper classmen for work of such excellence that they are deemed worthy of very high academic distinction.

CARE

Food Crusade packages--402 of them!--totaling $201 were ordered during our recent campaign.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to our many contributors.

Special Committee
for CARE

BOUQUET TO THE BPL

Below is the text of a letter received by President O'Neil in response to the Association's request for sponsors of the Musical Revue, FREE TO ALL:

Dear Mr O'Neil:

I believe that I am in tune with most of the people in the city when I say that we are very proud indeed of the Boston Public Library. Its accomplishments and its far-flung importance cannot be overstated.

Therefore we are pleased indeed to share with you some of the expense necessary for the promotion of your festival as of January 29th and to this end we enclose our modest check for $25, which I am sure will assist a very worthy cause indeed.

Sincerely yours,

TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

December 20, Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, West End, and Curator of Judaica, spoke on Literature of the Tercentenary at the Jewish Community Center of Belmont.

Three members of the staff have given talks at Simmons College recently: On December 7, Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children, spoke on Children's Librarianship; on January 4, Charles L. Higgins, Chief of General Reference, spoke on Reference Services; and on January 11, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Adults, spoke on The Role of the Library in Adult Education.

Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection for Home Reading Services, has talked on Books and You--on December 30 at the meeting of the Never Too Late Group; on January 6 at a dinner meeting of the Quota Club of Boston, at the Women's Educational and Industrial Union; and on January 13 at a luncheon meeting of Women Supervisors of Boston Post Unit, Branch 43, at Steubens Restaurant.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On December 31, in the afternoon, the staff of Cataloging and Classification (R. and R. S.) gave a surprise farewell party for May Crosby, whose retirement from the library service took effect on that day. Ice cream and cake were served in the Typing Room, and Miss Crosby was presented with a corsage of twin baby orchids.

*

Rebecca Millmeister, West End, who retired from the Boston Public Library on December 31, was guest of honor at a small formal luncheon at Hampshire House on Saturday afternoon, December 18. The staff presented Miss Millmeister with a turquoise-and-gold brooch with earrings to match as a gift. A special surprise was the presence of a photographer, arranged by Fanny Goldstein, so that each guest might have a pictorial memento of the occasion.

A more informal and impromptu party was the staff's last "au revoir" to Miss Millmeister at the branch on December 30 when Miss Goldstein played hostess to the entire staff.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

It was anticipated by the Committee that every unit in the Library would send in detailed writeups of the Christmas parties which, according to Dame Rumor, were given enthusiastically by and for staff members. There were parties inside library buildings and parties outside the fields of labor; there were luncheon parties, dinner parties, daytime parties, evening parties, open houses for the communities (Jamaica Plain, Phillips Brooks, South End--those, we know for sure!)--all held during the weeks immediately preceding the holiday. And then the surprise--only three writeups! So, here they are:

Christmas Tea

The Women's House Committee, under the chairmanship of M. Jane Manthorne, had made the Women's Lounge most attractive with gay Christmas decorations for the afternoon of December twenty-second when the annual staff tea took place there. The committee in charge, under the chairmanship of Mary M. McDonough, had seen to it that there was food aplenty and efficient corps of workers to prepare it and to dispense it. The staff had cooperated to the fullest by coming in such numbers that those who wanted a more or less quiet conversation with friends betook themselves to nearby corridors. The result?—"The biggest party ever".

The storm which came the day before prevented some of the alumni from returning, but others braved the icy sidewalks and were cordially welcomed: George H. Earley, Mrs Frances M. Kelley, Alice Hanson, Alice M. Jordan, William F. Quinn, Morris J. Rosenberg, William A. Swann, and Mary C. Toy.

Men's Open House

On Thursday morning, December 23, open house was held in the men's quarters in Stack 1, an event which has now become tradition and which is anticipated with keen pleasure by all. The same "silent hostesses" must have been in league with the men for there was food in abundance. The Men's House Committee, under the chairmanship of George E. Earley, had transformed the rooms into attractively decorated "party parlors". The same cooperation on the part of the staff kept the rooms filled to capacity. The features of the morning were the carols rendered on his recorder by Henry Bowditch Jones, and social dancing.

R. and R.S. Catalogers' Party

On Monday, December 20, the annual Christmas party was held. Under the leadership of Edward X. Casey, Chairman of the Committee, the staff departed from its usual tradition of holding the festivities in the department offices, and instead had luncheon in one of the private dining-rooms of Joseph's Restaurant, on Newbury and Dartmouth Streets. In these attractive surroundings, with a varied menu offered, they spent a most enjoyable hour. At its conclusion, a few remarks appropriate to the season were made by Richard G. Hensley, who was a guest of honor.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Audio-Visual Workshop, Chicago, Illinois, 1954. A pre-conference workshop on audio-visual materials and library education.
Chicago, Illinois, 1954

Audio-Visual Workshop, University of Southern California, 1953. Proceedings of the Audio-Visual Workshop, prior to the 1953 conference of the American Library Association.
Berkeley, 1953

Carnovsky, Leon, ed. International aspects of librarianship.
Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1954

Chicago Teachers College and Chicago City Junior College, Wilson Branch, Library. Staff manual.
Chicago, 1953

Cundiff, Ruby E. Manual of techniques in library organization.
Chicago, Wilcox and Follett, 1953

Des Moines, Public Library. Personnel handbook
Des Moines, 1953

Joint Committee on Standards for Hospital Libraries. Hospital libraries; objectives and standards.
Chicago, American Library Association, Hospital Libraries Division, 1953

Vollans, Robert F. Library co-operation in Great Britain.
London, National Central Library, 1952

Vormelker, Rose L. The company library; what it is and what it does.
Brooklyn, Engineers' Book Service, 1951

BRANCH NOTES

West End

The closing program in observance of Jewish Book Month was a reception to Eliezer Greenberg and Irving Howe, editors of the new anthology A Treasury of Yiddish Stories on Friday evening, December 17, sponsored jointly by the Boston Yiddish Culture Club and the Boston Public Library.

Both authors spoke on how the book came into being. Mr Greenberg gave a summary of the introduction to the book in Yiddish, presenting the historical, social, and religious backgrounds of this literature and the intellectual forces which shaped it. Mr Howe dwelt on the special problems faced by a translator--the selection of the story which reads best and then the choice of words which will most exactly express the spirit of the original text.

Ludwig Lewisohn, internationally-known author, added to the guests' words on the vitality of the Yiddish language and its literature.

John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, extended official greetings from the library.

*

Count Your Blessings was the theme of Miss Goldstein's New Year's Party held at West End on Wednesday evening, December 29, with many former members of the staff attending as hostesses. Even those guests who had shared many times in Miss Goldstein's feasts of good-will were amazed and delighted with the warmth and responsiveness of the dignitaries and ordinary folk who were sharing in these holiday festivities. Many B.P.L. staff members joined with local civic leaders, educators and social workers from Greater Boston, and the West End in particular.

Richard G. Hensley, Chief Librarian, Division of Reference and Research Services, extended greetings from the Library.

Mrs Arthur A. Shurcliff and her Beacon Hill bell-ringers furnished one of the highlights of the evening with their beautiful music.

Herbert B. Ehrmann, as chairman of its Committee, brought a brief message on the current observance of the Jewish American Tercentenary in which Miss Goldstein and the Judaica Collection of the Boston Public Library are taking an active part.

Surprise of the evening was the introduction of Dr Fritz Lipmann, winner of the 1953 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology for his discovery of "Coenzyme", as guest-of-honor. A more modest and charming man would be difficult to find. He especially endeared himself to his audience by his remarks on Boston and the West End.

The program which included a presentation of Israeli songs and of Yiddish dramatic songs, ended with refreshments and an opportunity to meet the special guests of the evening.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

Another year . . .

Another chance . . .

Join now

A. L. A.

"Your professional friend"

For application blanks,
see Sarah M. Usher
Office of Records, Files, Statistics

Sparkling Dialogue!

What about an Ad?

Have you bought Your tickets?

The supply is limited

Beautiful girls

B.P.L. Musical Revue

"FREE TO ALL"

Gigantic Cast

Bring your in-laws

Better buy Your tickets Now

Call Frank Bruno in the Patent Room

Bring your family

Bring your friends

Magnificent Music!

Are You a sponsor?

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 2 February 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

It seems that editorial subject-matter, like the weather, is a thing whose comings and goings do not admit of prediction or regulation. I was sure when I accepted the position as Chairman of the Publications Committee that when QM time arrived I would have great mouthfuls of things to say on a variety of subjects. Unhappily, the event proved false to the expectation and I found myself faced with a deadline and a blank mind simultaneously. I resorted to reading some old Question Marks to steal some ideas, but nothing there pleased me. I finally found the answer to my problem in some remarks made some years back by one of the early editors to the effect that the Soap Box contributions offer a rich field for editorial comment. There having been no Soap Box to speak of lately, I have chosen to apply this method somewhat liberally, and will call attention to a couple of hot numbers sent to the Soap Box for this issue. The two letters I refer to display what must be acknowledged, in the Committee's opinion, as a frame of mind characteristic of a considerable number of Staff members. It is not an active, rebellious spirit so much as a sort of smoldering, restive anxiety. There are so many rumors about vital subjects (especially the ogre REORGANIZATION. . .) that many people, aware of the uprootings and inconveniences that reorganization might inflict upon them and their livelihoods, have justifiable grounds for worry. Most of these stories are probably unreliable distortions that get worse as they pass from mouth to mouth, but the effect is nevertheless demoralizing. The obvious answer to the problem is getting more information to the staff. The more we know, the less we will have to speculate about.

* * * *

Speaking of information, we have had little material from the various branches and departments for this issue. It is difficult to get news about births, weddings, etc., and often such items are left out merely because we don't hear about them. Staff representatives are urged to keep us informed.

* * * *

FREE TO ALL, the big musical hit of the season, still has tongues wagging. This issue has a special section on the show. The lively co-operative spirit of the company and the generous, co-operative, happy spirit of the audience and patrons show that occasionally the Library does behave like one big happy family.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 17. M.L.A. Mid-winter meeting, Hotel Somerset.

February 19. Catholic Book Festival, New England Mutual Hall.

February 20-26. Catholic Book Week Fair, New England Mutual Hall.

February 25. Reception to new B.P.L.P.S.A. Officers and to the FREE TO ALL cast and company. (See back cover).

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs Phyllis R. Kallman, Jeffries Point, to remain at home.

Garth B. Henzler, Bookmobile I, to attend Boston University.

John W. Hoffman, Audio-Visual, to accept another position.

Mrs Norma Dalton Young, Book Stack Service, to live in New Jersey. Mrs Young has been on Military Leave.

Retirement

Mary E. Mulvaney, Assistant-in-Charge, Central Charging Records, January 31.

Transferred

Richard J. Waters, from Open Shelf to Dorchester.

Patricia O. Leonard, from Open Shelf to Bookmobile I.

Marriages

In Rome, Italy, on December 27, Laura V. Abate, Office of Division of Reference and Research Services, to Angelo Abate. Mr and Mrs Abate honeymooned in Spain for the month of January.

Birth

Announcement has been made of birth of a daughter to Mr and Mrs Roger Hunt on February 9. Mrs Hunt is on leave of absence from the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.

FREE TO ALL

FREE TO ALL, the Centennial Revue, was unveiled on January 29. It was warmly and generously received. The work that went into the show seemed worthwhile to the entire cast and company during those warm moments when the large audience so enthusiastically applauded their efforts.

We present for all the Staff to enjoy some of the congratulatory letters the Association has received concerning FREE TO ALL.

Frank W. Buxton
29 Sutherland Road
Brookline 46, Mass.

January 31, 1955.

Dear Mr O'Neil,--

Congratulations, unqualified congratulations to the Professional Staff Association on the "Free To All" musical revue. The performance glowed. It had a freshness, a spontaneity and a fondness of touch which were delicious--and all through it ran a truly wholesome quality.

Just as enjoyable as the performance itself was the obvious hearty enjoyment of all who had a part in it--and the pleasure of those not on the stage or in the orchestra who had a hand in the preparation of the revue was evident from their works. A most gratifying aspect to me, a humbled trustee, was the strong implication of a fine morale among the members of the Professional Staff Association. No disgruntled or perverse or caviling group could possibly have originated and organized and executed such an event. I think it is the best evidence I have ever seen in a long, long tenure as a trustee, of the admirable spirit of devotion and cohesiveness which characterizes the staff individually and as a unit.

I doubt that any other branch of the city government or any library department of any city could equal this accomplishment. I feel proud to be associated, even indirectly, with such a group.

Sincerely,

(Signed) FRANK W. BUXTON

Mr B. J. O'Neil,
President
B.P.L.P.S.A.

4 February 1955

Mr Frank W. Buxton
29 Sutherland Road
Brookline 46
Massachusetts

Dear Mr Buxton:

Your very gracious letter of congratulation was most heartwarming. We are all proud of the excellent spirit shown by the staff supporting and participating in the production of FREE TO ALL.

To make such an enterprise successful, we needed the good will and cooperation of the staff, of the Director and the administrative officers, of the many friends of the Library, and of the Trustees.

We should have been very hesitant about embarking on so ambitious a project, if we had not received encouragement and support from the Trustees, including the very substantial loan to help us with expenses until we could expect some revenue from the sale of tickets.

My successor, the new president of our Association, Mr Louis Rains, joins me in thanking you for your wonderful letter, and we would like to have your permission to publish it in The Question Mark so that all the staff would have an

opportunity to read and enjoy it.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) B. JOSEPH O'NEIL

B. Joseph O'Neil

Boston Public Library
Office of the Director

10 February 1955

Dear Mr Rains:

Since I had to be away from Boston for the days immediately following the production of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association's musical revue "Free to All" I did not have an opportunity immediately to send my warm congratulations upon the very fine production. It was an unusually interesting undertaking from beginning to end. That it came out so well is a tribute to all concerned.

As Director of the Library I can not think of any other undertaking which could have brought so thoroughly deserved tribute to so many individual members of the library staff. I am certain that a similar undertaking could not have been mounted in any other library in the country.

In addition to writing to you in your capacity as President of the Association I wish to salute you personally in your role of Production Manager also.

Hearty congratulations!

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) MILTON E. LORD

Director

To
Mr Louis Rains
President, Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

---

February 7, 1955

To the Cast, the Composer, Authors, Director and Producers of "Free to All":

On behalf of the Centennial Gift Committee, it gives me great pleasure to thank each and every one of you for the splendid performance of "Free to All". From beginning to end the undertaking showed how much thought and effort went into making it a finished, and enjoyable performance. Orchids to all of you!

And to all those who worked untiringly to make the fine program book such a financial success, thanks again.

All of us can well be proud of the many talented people on our staff and their willingness to give so generously of their talents. The Boston Public Library has reason to be proud of its employees and the contribution they have made to the Library's general welfare.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) ADA A. ANDELMAN

Chairman,
Centennial Gift Committee

Notice of Additional Sponsors

The following names were not included in the list of sponsors of FREE TO ALL either because they arrived too late or through omission:

Mr George F. Booth
Miss Emilia DeFerrari
Mr Sidney R. Rabb
A. Warren Stearns, M.D.
Mr Joseph T. Teahan
Miss Julia Zaugg

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On behalf of the newly elected officers and Executive Board I wish to convey our thanks for the confidence you, the members of the Professional Staff Association, have seen fit to place in us. We, in turn, pledge that we will do our utmost to carry out the objectives of our Association. The duties and responsibilities of the officers and Executive Board are outlined in the constitution, but the duties of the members, although not spelled out, are even more important. You are the Association and the Association is what you make it. It is the duty of the members to serve on committees when asked. It is the duty of the members to bring to the attention of the Executive Board, the committee chairmen, or the business meetings, any problem or project that lies within the scope of our objectives. It is your duty as members to attend

meetings, to present your views, and to vote on motions. Our Staff Association has been successful because it has been active. Let us all work together and insure continued success. End of lecture.

Speaking of working together, the Centennial musical revue, was an outstanding example of what cooperation can do. Too many people worked too hard to permit the singling out of individuals for special commendation. Thanks are due to the Trustees for lending us sufficient capital to enable us to get started. Thanks are due to the Administrative officers for enthusiastic support. Our thanks to the division heads, the departmental chiefs and branch librarians for cooperation in arranging working schedules. Thanks to all you anonymous individuals who helped with the correspondence and advertising solicitation. Thanks to our many generous friends and sponsors who made our production a financial success. Thanks to you who paid for and served the most welcome coffee at rehearsals. Thanks, of course, to the composer, the writers, the director, the cast, the orchestra, the stage manager and his assistants, the scenery designer, the production staff, the costume committee, the sound recorders, the photographers, and the make-up committee. Thanks to the custodians, the painters, the carpenters and the electricians for their cheerful helpfulness. Thanks to the enthusiastic audience whose friendly applause made the effort worth while. Thanks to all you kind people who sent kind expressions of appreciation to the Association. Most of all, thanks to you extra service personnel who gave so generously of your enthusiasm, talents, energy, and time. In a word, thanks.

Incidentally, although a final accounting cannot be made at this time, it appears that the proceeds from "Free to All" will be approximately fifteen hundred dollars.

Louis Rains

RICHARD SULLIVAN HONORED

The Greater Boston Book Review Club held a luncheon meeting at The Pioneer on Wednesday, February 9. This deviation from the Boston Public Library Temporary Conference Room as a meeting place was due to the fact that the group was paying honor to one of its most faithful members, Mr Richard Sullivan of Lawrence Public Library. A special guest at the luncheon was Mr Sullivan's bride-to-be, Mary Santaliquido of the Division of Library Extension. After a very satisfying luncheon and a pleasant social hour, the group repaired to a meeting room. Mr Sullivan and his bride were presented with an electric deep-fryer, on behalf of the group. An hour spent on current fiction--which is scarcely worth an hour--interrupted the festivities.

Best wishes go with Mr Sullivan and his bride as they take their vows on February 19 and then go to New York for a round of sight-seeing and theatre-going, including an appearance (as background) on Ed Sullivan's famous TV show.

Edna G. Peck

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETS AT BOSTON COLLEGE LAW SCHOOL

The New England Unit met at Boston College Law School on Saturday, January 19.

Although the weather was not favorable (cold and snow flurries) 80 members and guests were present. They were welcomed by Rev. John A. Tobin, S.J.

Mary Alice Rea spoke at length on plans for Catholic Book Week, February 20-26, and of the special feature, the annual Book Festival to be held in the New England Mutual Hall on February 19. The principal speakers will be Jacqueline Cochran and Mary Reed Newland.

Thomas V. Reiners, Chairman of the Unit, called attention to an article in the Catholic Library World, CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK, A HISTORY. It is interesting to note that this week, which has achieved national importance, was founded principally by members of the B.P.L. staff at the instigation of Charles L. Higgins.

The speaker for the afternoon was Rev. Martin P. Harney, S.J. of Boston College. His subject, Catholic traditions in New England, was an outline of the growth and development of Catholicism in New England from the days of the explorers, Champlain and Cabot, to the beginning of the 19th century. The talk, which was too short in the opinion of all, was interspersed with anecdotes and legends told as only Father Harney can tell them.

The members of the faculty who were present were most generous in showing and

explaining the different features of their beautiful new building.

After the meeting a social hour and luncheon was enjoyed in the college cafeteria.

Anna L. Manning

W. N. B. A.

A dinner meeting of the W.N.B.A. (Woman's National Book Association) was held at the Hotel Gardner on Thursday, January 27. Despite the howling winds and ten degree temperature both outside and inside the hotel (or so it felt) twenty-five hardy souls gathered to enjoy a social hour, partake of an excellent dinner and listen to Mrs Lydia Davis describe life in New Zealand as seen by a native.

Mrs Davis, who, with her husband Dr Tom, is the author of Doctor to the Islands, is a lady of rare charm, wit and vivacity. Assuming that her audience, being women of the several aspects of the book trade, knew about the Davis' recent experiences from reading Doctor to the Islands, she decided to talk about her life in New Zealand. Her descriptions, highlighted by many anecdotes of personal experiences, did not create the possibility that the Boston book field would be minus twenty-five members by a sudden exodus of those present to New Zealand. In fact Mrs Davis made Boston, even at a ten degree temperature, sound decidedly appealing by contrast with those supposedly sunny islands. In New Zealand socialism is carried to an extreme, which, according to Mrs Davis, "creates a worker's paradise but robs the people of individual incentive and takes from the crafts all creative impetus". The bleak picture which Mrs Davis painted of her native land was softened by the humor and understanding of her graphic descriptions.

The next meeting of the W.N.B.A. will be held on March 10. All women working with books, in any capacity, are invited to attend.

Edna G. Peck

YOU'LL BE SORRY

if you miss seeing the exhibit of decorative tiles currently being shown at Central in the main lobby. The Exhibits Office has done it again! Congratulations to them, and to E. Stanley Wires for lending the tiles.

TALKS BY STAFF MEMBERS

The twenty-sixth in the series of Pitcairn-Crabbe Lectures was delivered by Milton E. Lord, Director, Boston Public Library, on Friday evening, February 11, in the Stephen Collins Foster Memorial at the University of Pittsburgh.

The series is on the general topic of "Modern Education and Human Values". Mr Lord's lecture, under the title of Arsenal of Democracy, discussed the relationship of libraries to the general topic, treating of the human values to be found in the library as a complement to the formal educational process and suggesting some of the potentialities in the library that can affect all individuals as human beings in some manner or other soon or late.

*

Fanny Goldstein, West End, spoke on January 18, at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Business and Professional Women of the Boston Chapter of Hadassah, on False Messiahs in Jewish History, at West End; and on January 31, at the PTA of Temple Emeth, Malden, on The Jewish Child in Bookland.

*

Despite the bitter weather on January 17 a cold (physically) but cordial (emotionally) audience enjoyed a talk on current books by Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection (Div. of H.R. and C. S.). All available books on the list distributed by Miss Peck were circulated and many others. The favorable comments received at that time and in the following weeks makes a repeat performance a command for next year.

*

Edna G. Peck has reviewed books at recent meetings of two Friends of the Library groups--at Charlestown on February 3 and at Egleston Square on February 7.

LAND MARK FOR HUNGRY BOSTONIANS

One of the sager members of the staff who must go unnamed has pointed out that when they put the tiles back on the roof the Library will look like the world's biggest Howard Johnson's!

ALUMNI NOTES

Marjorie Ferris, formerly assistant in Open Shelf, has been appointed Librarian of the Wayland Free Public Library, effective January 1, 1955. Since leaving the BPL in 1946 Miss Ferris has been Librarian at the Harvard Law School Library.

Marianne Morse, formerly of Music, and more recently on the staff at Yale University Library, is the new Librarian at the Eastern Gas and Fuel Associates, 250 Stuart Street, Boston.

STAFF IN PRINT

Leonard J. Macmillan, Book Purchasing, editor of the Boston Chapter Bulletin of the S.L.A. has his editorial from the November 1954 issue quoted almost in entirety in the January 1955 issue of the national publication of the association, "Special Libraries".

Mary Alice Rea, also of Book Purchasing, has an article entitled Paris, Rome and Pakistan in the February 1955 issue of CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD.

B.P.L. IN PRINT

The December 1954 issue of the New England Quarterly has an article by Walter Muir Whitehill entitled "The Vicissitudes of Bacchante in Boston". This article, as the author points out, contains a much fuller account on the Bacchante-courtyard problem than will be found in his forthcoming Centennial History of the Boston Public Library.

*

The Sunday HERALD, rotogravure section February 13, included several photographs of members of the cast of FREE TO ALL. Don't miss it!

CARE SAYS THANK YOU

Thanks to our many contributors, 1954 was an outstanding year for CARE in the BPLPSA.

We have received word from the CARE organization that the "Food crusade" packages are available for an indefinite period. At present all our funds are being used for this purpose. Let us endeavor to help the needy as effectively in '55 as we did in '54.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CARE

RETIREMENTS

Mary E. Mulvaney

On Thursday morning, January 27, Mary E. Mulvaney was the guest of honor at a coffee party in the Women's Lounge at the Central Library. This party was not only an expression of appreciation of Miss Mulvaney's long years of service, it was also a demonstration of the genuine affection which the staff both at Central and in Branch Libraries have for Marie.

For fifty years she had served the Library faithfully and loyally in Book Stack Service, and in Registration—later Central Charging. No detail in her day's work was too trivial for her care—no task was too difficult. The most characteristic feature of her make-up was cheerfulness and friendliness. Miss Mulvaney had a pleasant word for everybody.

At the Party, John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian, (Div. of H. R. and C. S.), made a presentation on behalf of Miss Mulvaney's friends of a wishing well, whose tiny bucket contained a gift of money. Miss Mulvaney accepted it with graciousness and spoke of her happy years in the Library and of the many friends she had made.

Three of Marie's cousins were present and were happy to join other friends in the enjoyment of Irish bread, coffee cake, doughnuts and cookies. Coffee and tea were poured by the Misses Swift, Picciulo, Cufflin, Zaugg, Munsterberg and Toy.

We will all miss Mary Mulvaney, even though we have not seen so much of her hidden away in the new department. Our best wishes go with her in her retirement and we hope that soon, and often, she will find time to visit us.

WEDDINGS

On Saturday, February 12, Mary Kenny, Personnel, became the bride of Richard McNamee, at a nuptial Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Roslindale. A reception at Ripley Hall, Dorchester, followed. Mr and Mrs McNamee are now on a wedding trip to New Hampshire.

BEST WISHES TO SOME FRIENDS OF OURS

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Edward Muir on the arrival of son, Charles, on January 17. The newcomer is the third son in the Muir family. Mr Muir is working at Central with the Great Books Foundation.

Best wishes to Joan MacInnis, employed at the Coffee Shop, who was married on Saturday, February 12, to Ralph Reddy, at Sacred Heart Church, North Quincy.

A.L.A. MID-WINTER MEETING

There were some 1,300 people in attendance and the mornings, afternoons, and evenings were given over to innumerable meetings of divisions, sections, boards, round tables, and committees, as well as to meetings of the council itself.

At the three meetings of the Council, a great number of reports of definite interest were presented. For the first time reports of the activities of the divisions were made by the President of the Divisions to the Council at a public meeting.

The first meeting of the council was presided over by John S. Richards, President-elect. The nominating committee's report was quickly accepted. The finance committee's report contained a recommendation of closer accounting and integrating of the finances of all A.L.A. units. The committee found that the budget was eminently satisfactory and that the balance was anticipated in all accounts except in the publishing budget. A report on the work on Notable Books of 1954 was made by Grace W. Gilman who pointed out that the 1954 list was the shortest ever compiled. A report of the Photoduplication and Multiple Copying Methods Committee was submitted to the council emphasizing that the committee was offering a guide, not a set of standards, since the establishment of standards was pretty much the concern of the American Standard Association.

A report of the activities and potential relationships of the ALA--NEA joint committee was made by Louise Galloway. The joint committee publishes a monthly list of "distinguished" books except in certain months. During the year, the joint committee sponsored the reprinting of a very useful out-of-print issue of the NEA yearbook, got out a pamphlet advising school administrators how to advise architects on what the library should be in a school. It got a favorable response to a recommendation that a librarian be given a place on the NEPC.

At the second meeting of the council reports were made by the Hospital Libraries Association, Association of College and Reference Libraries, and the Cataloging and Classification Division's work on the new edition of Dewey. Reports were also made by the Division of American Association of School Librarians, the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People, and the Public Libraries Division all reporting efforts of the immediate past and plans for the future.

The third council meeting was devoted largely to the United States Book Exchange and Radio Free Europe.

A open meeting of the executive council created great interest. In it a progress report on the survey of the A.L.A. by Cresop, McCormack and Paget was made. The survey showed how the original concept of the ALA of enlarging library service (1879) has now grown to include international implications and now touches upon the use made of and the usefulness of books as well as the promotion of libraries and librarianship. They found that the strength of the ALA seemed to be its broad membership throughout the profession, the wide interest among the membership and the alert conscientious leadership. They described as weaknesses, the exceptional complexity of the organization, the inadequate coordination of the Divisions to achieve broad ends, and the lack of clear cut internal organization along with some duplication.

They did speak very favorably of the growth of membership. They felt that the American Library Association should not live in any conflict with its divisions but should have purposes that went beyond. They felt that there was need of a statement of policies of organization and methods of sharing information. They felt that each unit should be strengthened by the definition of its scope, responsibilities and inter-relationships.

At the end of this presentation, suggestions were made from the floor. It was suggested that the survey be extended to include the problem of duplication of effort and overlapping organization at the state and local level as well as in the special library association. It was also pointed out that the A.L.A. might be considered to be carrying some burdens that should be met through support at the federal level of government. The surveyors indicated that these comments represented

new points of view that they might not be able to encompass within the time and means available for the survey.

John M. Carroll

Children's Library Association Division of Libraries for Children and Young People

At Midwinter board and committee meetings a number of specific plans and projects were discussed as completed or under way.

Plans for Philadelphia conference include the following:

CLA program meeting--Monday morning, July 4--speaker, Elizabeth Nesbitt, Associate Dean, Carnegie Library School.

CLA Book Discussions--Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Group I--A NEW LOOK AT THE OLD BOOK (criteria for re-evaluation; discussion of the new BOOKS WORTH THEIR KEEP LIST)

Group II--"SELLING" YOUR BOOK COLLECTION (introducing the "special" book, presenting book talks to children, using radio and TV)

Group III--ADVERTISING YOUR BOOK SERVICES (to schools, parents and other community groups)

Advance registration for the group chosen for the three days may be made to Virginia Haviland, Boston Public Library. Groups will be limited to discussion size.

At the Division board meeting, reports indicated the preparation of a number of valuable lists prepared by committees:

1. BOOKS WORTH THEIR KEEP--to be printed after discussion in Philadelphia. (Mary E. West of this library is on this CLA committee).
2. RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S BOOKS--current titles listed regularly in TOP OF THE NEWS, quarterly bulletin of the Division. Parallel listing, RECENT ADULT BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (Jane Manthorne is on this committee)
3. DISTINGUISHED CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 1954. To be published in the April ALA BULLETIN and March TOP OF THE NEWS (reprints to be available).
4. FOREIGN CHILDREN'S BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES, Rev. ed. 1954. (25¢ a copy).
5. CHILDREN'S BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR TRANSLATION INTO FOREIGN LANGUAGES.
6. Selection of titles for CARE children's book packages, and for packages of foreign children's books available for libraries in this country.
7. NEWBERY-CALDECOTT winners and runners-up selected by the Newbery-Caldecott Committee; to be announced on March 7.

The Chairman of the Children's Library Association reported on the approval by ALA Executive Board in an October session visited by her of three CLA projects: (1) the continuing plan for the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, to be presented every five years for a substantial and lasting contribution to children's literature; (2) the Survey Committee's proposal asking ALA to seek foundation funds for a survey of children's work; (3) the establishment of a scholarship fund for children's librarianship.

Virginia Haviland, Chairman
Children's Library
Association

Special meeting on ALA Conferences

During the past years there has been a growing concern about the ALA Annual Conference, about the number of meetings, the duplication of content, and the difficulty this presents for the member. At the request of the ALA Executive Board, the ALA Program Committee, on Monday evening, January 31, called together members of the ALA Executive Board; the Presidents of Divisions; the Chairmen of Boards, Committees, Joint Committees, and Round Tables; and the ALA Headquarters Professional Staff to discuss these problems. L. Quincy Mumford, ALA President, presided at this meeting. Among the panel members were: Flora B. Ludington, Past President; John Richards, President Elect; David Clift, Executive Secretary; and Emerson Greenaway, Librarian of the Philadelphia Free Library.

Three major questions were discussed:

1. What are the objectives of an ALA Annual Conference?
2. Conference mechanics (scheduling meetings, physical facilities, etc.)

3. What kinds of Conference program planning patterns might be considered for the future?

Following the panel presentations, questions and comments from the floor indicated that there were many diverse opinions concerning the patterns ALA should adopt. There were some who wanted fewer small group meetings and more general sessions. Others favored more small group meetings and fewer general sessions. There was considerable discussion also as to whether conferees expected to learn new techniques and methods or whether they were satisfied if they gained inspiration from the meetings and had an opportunity to meet and talk with other librarians. The plea was for fewer meetings. But when it came to deciding what meetings should be eliminated no one had the answer. However, there was general agreement that there should be a more concerted study of ALA Conferences and that at the Miami Beach Conference in 1956 ample time should be allowed for relaxation and sight-seeing.

Audio-Visual Activities

The Audio-Visual Board and the Audio-Visual Round Table spent considerable time in planning the Pre-Conference Audio-Visual Institute scheduled in Philadelphia on July 2 and 3. A series of small group meetings on many aspects of the audio-visual program in libraries will be of interest to school, college and hospital librarians as well as to adult, young adult, and children's librarians from public libraries. Showings of new films and a banquet on Sunday evening will be features of the Institute.

*

The Committee on Cooperative Film Service in Public Libraries is preparing a questionnaire to be sent to all Public Libraries engaged in any type of cooperative film service. This study meets an expressed need for information in this field. It is hoped that it will prove useful to existing cooperative agencies as well as to those planning to initiate this service.

The new catalogue of Films for Public Libraries attracted much favorable comment. This is an annotated list of some five hundred films recommended for Public Library purchase.

*

In accordance with the request from ALA Headquarters to keep program meetings at a minimum at Midwinter, the Audio-Visual Round Table held only a business meeting. In addition to Committee reports, announcement was made that evaluative film reviews would appear regularly in the ALA Booklist, beginning in the late fall of 1955. Plans are also underway for the preparation of two manuals--one on films which will include basic information on the establishment of Library film service, and on selection, evaluation, and utilization of 16mm films, and one on recordings.

*

As to be expected at Midwinter, many long hours were spent at Committee and Board meetings, but I came away from my first Midwinter Conference with a feeling of accomplishment, with new friends among the Library profession, a strengthening of old friendships, and an increased understanding of the ALA structure.

Muriel C. Javelin, Chairman
ALA Audio-Visual Round Table

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Adams, James T. Frontiers of American culture.
New York, Scribner, 1944.

Allen, Fred. Treadmill to oblivion.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954.

Bro, Margueritte H. Indonesia.
New York, Harper, 1954.

Costain, Thomas B. The white and the gold.
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1954.

Davis, Thomas. Doctor to the islands.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954.

Doss, Helen G. The family nobody wanted.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954.

Gilbreth, Frank B. Inside Nantucket.
New York, Crowell, 1954.

Koestler, Arthur. The invisible writing.
New York, Macmillan, 1954.

Lie, Trygve. In the cause of peace.
New York, Macmillan, 1954.

Maugham, William S. Mr. Maugham himself.
Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1954.

Maxwell, Elsa. R.S.V.P.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954.

Roth, Lillian. I'll cry tomorrow.
New York, F. Fell, 1954.

Runyon, Damon. Father's footsteps.
New York, Random House, 1954.
Vining, Elizabeth G. The world in tune.
New York, Harper, 1954.

Non-Fiction--Library Science

Leigh, Robert D. Major problems in the education of librarians.
New York, Columbia University Press, 1954.
Queens Borough Public Library, New York
Woodside does read!
Jamaica, N. Y., 1935.
Roos, Jean C. Patterns in reading.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954.
Smith, Helen L. Adult education activities in public libraries.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954.
Temple, Phillips L. Federal services to libraries.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1954.
Thompson, Anthony. Vocabularium bibliothecarii, English, French, German.
Paris, UNESCO, 1953.
U.S. Library of Congress. Subject Cataloging Division.
Classification. Class T: Technology. 4th ed.
Washington, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1948.

Fiction

Carroll, Gladys (Hasty). One white star.
New York, Macmillan, 1954.
Dinneen, Joseph F. The anatomy of a crime.
New York, Scribner, 1954.
Faulkner, William. A fable.
New York, Random House, 1954.
Gann, Ernest K. Soldier of fortune.
New York, W. Sloane Associates, 1954.
Gay, Margaret C. Hatchet in the sky.
New York, Simon and Schuster, 1954.
Hyman, Mac. No time for sergeants.
New York, Random House, 1954
Jennings, John E. Banners against the wind.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1954.
Lugt, Arie van der. The crazy doctor.
New York, Random House, 1954.
Marshall, Edison. American captain.
New York, Farrar, Straus and Young, 1954.
Seton, Anya. Katherine.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1954.
Steinbeck, John. Sweet Thursday.
New York, Viking Press, 1954.
Stone, Irving. Love is eternal.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1954.
Zara, Louis. Blessed is the land.
New York, Crown Publishers, 1954.

BRANCH NOTES

Mattapan

"Brotherhood" was the theme of the January meeting of the Friends of the Mattapan Branch Library held on Thursday, January 27. The speakers, Rev. Francis Fish, C. M., Chaplain of the New Carney Hospital; Rabbi Sidney Steiman, Temple Beth Hillel; and Rev. R. William Shaub, St Paul's Presbyterian Church, are all prominent clergymen in the Mattapan area. Each brought out the need for respecting one's fellowman and his beliefs. Using the Old Testament to illustrate his thesis, Rabbi Steiman indicated the essentially similar potentialities of all men as exemplified in the Biblical stories. The Rev. Mr. Shaub made the significant statement that fear is frequently the cause of prejudice, and the Rev. Father Fish emphasized that true brotherhood consists in being a brother to one's associates--not in talking about it. A question and answer period concluded the program, following which a coffee hour gave those attending opportunity for further discussion on an informal plane.

*

On Wednesday, February 9, sixty girl scouts, members of five troops in the area, together with their leaders met in the Children's Room for a demonstration and lecture on knot tying given by Edward Wolfre, leader of Boy Scout Troop 485. In this project evolved in conjunction with the library's observance of Boy Scout Week, Mr Wolfre was assisted by several members of his troop.

North End

On Tuesday evening, January 25, about 175 young adult sports enthusiasts filled the lecture hall for a "GALA SPORTS NIGHT" sponsored by the YOUNG ADULTS COUNCIL. It was the first time that an educational-recreational program of this type was ever attempted and the results were most gratifying. The purpose of the "GALA SPORTS NIGHT" was threefold: to acquaint the youngsters with outstanding local athletes, to

stimulate good sportsmanship and to familiarize the young people with books on sports and books by and about famous sports figures.

The program consisted of a panel on "Youth and Sports" with Tony Segadelli, a North End former athlete himself and now a recreation advisor for the Boston Park Dept., as moderator for the evening. Mr Segadelli also introduced eight outstanding local young adult athletes and two popular adult recreation workers from the district. The panel consisted of Joseph Costanza, often called "The Man Behind the Man Behind New England Sports News", Curt Gowdy's chief statistician at station WHDH; Fred Ciampa, sports editor of the BOSTON TRAVELER and Sam Pino, BU's star athlete and winner of the Lowe award as the "Most Outstanding Football Player of the Year 1954". Both Mr Pino and Mr Ciampa are former North Enders and they had many encouraging words to offer the youths interested in amateur or professional sports. A question and answer period ended the panel part of the program.

An informal social hour followed with the viewing of special exhibits, private sports-chats and autograph-hunting between the guests and the youth. The exhibits were prepared by the Young Adult Councillors themselves and winners of the Poster Contest were Councillors, Patricia Sasso and Connie Hornsby who prepared the Autumn Sports display and Nellie Danieli and Joanna Dellagona with their Spring Sports. Judges of the contest were special guests, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Pauline Winnick, Duilia Capobianco and Anne Twomey, a former Y.A. Councillor and part-time worker at North End. The entire program was under the direction of Young Adult Council Advisor, Linda M. Pagliuca and of the Branch Librarian, Mrs Geraldine S. Herrick.

South Boston

South Boston is proud to announce that the Spring issue of The Packet contains a feature section on the work of the Imagination Club including original drawings and poems made by the children. The Packet is an educational publication of the D. C. Heath Company, Boston, of professional interest to teachers. Ann Bowman is the editor.

*

On Saturday morning, January 29, the Teen Age Reporters Club made a trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum accompanied by the children's librarian, Martha C. Engler. The Reporters, a book review club for junior high school girls, thoroughly enjoyed the collection of antique furniture, art objects and fresh flowers, the high points being carefully explained by a guide provided by the museum staff. In preparation for this trip, the Reporters had read books from a specially selected list of titles on art, artists, mythology, and Bible stories.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

On January 24, 1955, a notice was sent, under the Boston Public Library heading, to all departments of the library regarding the forthcoming Communion Breakfast to be held by the St Jerome Guild on March 6 of this year. In the memory of this writer, activities of non-professional associations which have no direct connection with the library have never before been announced by means of an official library bulletin. Several staff members, representing a wide and diversified range of opinion and interests, have questioned the wisdom of sponsorship of denominational groups by either the library administration or the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. Would it not be best for all non-library groups

to be required to give notice of their activities by means of their own official bulletins only? In this instance the St Jerome Guild is certainly a group worthy of the support of those staff members qualified to join it. But is it not unwise to establish a practice which may lead us into difficulties when unworthy organizations seek similar library endorsement? And, meanwhile, would it not be better to emphasize the unity rather than the diversity among our own members?

Dear Editor:

A look at the names and address of the new Examining Committee reveals how far the B.P.L. is progressing in the matter of metropolitanization. Twenty of the forty-four members of the committee do not live in Boston. It would be good if we could draw as freely upon the treasuries of our suburbs for our support as we do upon their citizenries for our inspection. Incidentally, for all this remark may be worth, in eighteen years on the staff here, I (personally) have never been talked to by an Examining Committee member.

Eamon McDonough

To the Soap Box:

The further swelling of the Staff's Centennial Gift by the proceeds of "Free to All", according to what one can ascertain from hearsay, should bring the amount of that gift to about nine thousand dollars. That is a lot of money, and very likely one of the very largest single contributions made to the Centennial Fund. Which leads to the question, "Yeah, how about that Centennial Fund?" Yeah, how about that Centennial Fund?

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Month by month the number of Boston Public Library staff members is dwindling, dwindling, dwindling. According to the Personal Notes in the QM for the past few years back in 1951, seventy-nine new members joined our staff; in 1952, seventy-seven; in 1953, fifty-three. Since January 1954, on the other hand there have been fifty-five resignations and ten retirements, but, as we all know, not a single replacement. During the same period, funds for extra service have been slashed to small bits. By now many of our departments are critically understaffed. In some units one person is trying today to do the work which two people performed a few years ago. In some branches, I understand, the person in charge often finds herself with two rooms or even two floors to cover over a period of hours. Rush hours leave the reduced staffs of all open departments completely exhausted.

Apparently there is as yet no end in sight regarding this lamentable situation. Meanwhile both staff morale and the physical health of many people is being impaired. Wouldn't a word or two of thanks, given in public, to the overworked be in order at this time? Certainly an expression of appreciation for extra effort expended by department heads and assistants alike might help literally drooping spirits.

Might we not have a report, too, on what progress--or lack of it--is being made in regard to overcoming City Council resistance to hiring new employees? If our administrators would explain to us their plans for meeting this emergency, I am sure we would be even more willing to pitch into doubled assignments as long as necessary.

B. Gertrude Wade

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 3 March 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Take a look at the February 15 issue of Library Journal in which there is an interesting cartoon dramatically pointing up the plight of the San Francisco Public Library. The situation shown there is hardly peculiar to San Francisco. We have much the same problem here at the B.P.L. and there are probably dozens of municipal libraries throughout the country which are similarly fixed. Ours is not a question of budget cuts--as San Francisco's apparently is--but one of budget inadequacies. Boston enjoys, or better, suffers from, a unique position among large American cities, in that the city proper contains only a third of the metropolitan population. Because of this unusual situation the central city has to maintain many facilities which are used by non-residents and residents alike--often at much greater expense to Boston, and at considerable savings to the governments of neighboring cities and towns. This is a problem that needs straightening out--if only from a sense of fair play.

* * * *

Economy is apparently the watchword these days--in municipal matters at least--and after reading Dean Swift recently we have arrived at some modest proposals of our own to help out in the matter of economy here in the Library Department, as follows: (1) that the Library buy no more new books until all the books we have are worn out; (2) that the Library replace no furniture, equipment, etc., until all the furniture, equipment, etc., we have are worn out; and (3) that the Library replace no Staff members until all the staff members we have are worn out.

* * * *

Is State Aid like the weather--something that everybody talks about but nobody does anything about? We'd like to try to settle this question, or at least to talk about what is being done in this direction, in next month's issue. Individual librarians and Library Associations on all geographical levels have traditionally longed for the day when extra-municipal support could be counted upon. Other states have actually enacted such legislation, and it is not unlikely that more are about to follow suit. Active work is being pushed here in Massachusetts, and we hope to have some information on this important topic for you in the April issue.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Patricia O. Leonard, Open Shelf

Mrs Virginia J. Spencer, Cataloging and Classification (Div. of H.R. and C.S.), to accept a position in the library of Mount Holyoke College.

Mrs Marie A. Walsh, Book Preparation, to remain at home.

Retirement

Elizabeth B. Boudreau, Chief, Information Office, retired on January 25, 1955.

Transferred

Mrs Dorothy B. Clark, from City Point to South Boston

Mrs Mary E. Obear, from Bookmobile II to Bookmobile I

Pasquale A. Vacca, from Bookmobile I to Bookmobile II

YOUNGER GENERATION

Mr and Mrs George E. Earley have adopted a baby girl, Elizabeth, born February 10, 1955. Mr Earley is Reference Assistant in General Reference.

Announcements have been made of the following births:

Mr and Mrs Frank Donahue, a son (Mark Edward), on February 26. Mrs Donahue (Dorothy) is a former assistant at Charlestown and late at South Boston.

Mr and Mrs Samuel Maloof, a son (Edward Joseph), on March 2. Mrs Maloof (Mildred Fischer) is on leave from Jamaica Plain.

Mr and Mrs Joe Hartin, a son, on March 7. Mr Hartin is employed in the Shipping Room at Central.

Mr and Mrs George Hulme, a daughter, on March 8. Mr Hulme is in Printing.

VISITORS

Hideo Nakane, Tatsuo Yoshida and Joseph Yoshioka, all from the National Diet Library, Tokyo, Japan.

John Purdie, Librarian, Clydebank, Scotland.

With the International Relations Board of A.L.A. formed for the U.S. State Department:

Mrs Anniki Aro, Lauritsala, Finland
Madhet Adel Kazam, Cairo, Egypt
Pieter J. van Swigchern, The Hague, Netherlands
S. F. Santiapillai, Jaffna, Ceylon
Mrs Stella Xefiouda, Athens, Greece
Mrs Graciela Bellucci, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Mrs Esther R. D. de Ramirez, Montevideo, Uraguay
Velia Silva, Managua, Nicaragua
Elvia B. Blasquez, Mexico City, Mexico
Luz Maria Uribe-Ortiz, Mexico City, Mexico
Beatriz Tavano, Rosario, Argentina
Isaura Salazar, Panama, Panama
Benjamin Godoy, Guatemala, Guatemala.

(This group made the B.P.L. a stop on its tour of U. S. Libraries on February 21. Next month a second team will be coming under the International Relations Board auspices.)

CONGRATULATIONS

Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children, has been selected by the New York Herald-Tribune as a judge of older girls' and boys' books for its Spring Book Festival.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the regular monthly meeting of the Executive Board on February 7, 1955, a motion was made and carried that the President write a letter to the Director requesting information about the "plan for reorganization of the Library Department" as reported in Joseph Keblinsky's column "At City Hall" in the Boston Sunday Globe of January 16, 1955. In accordance with the instruction of the Executive Board, the following letter was sent to the Director:

February 16, 1955

Mr Milton E. Lord, Director,
Boston Public Library,
Boston 17, Massachusetts

Dear Mr Lord:

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board of the BPLPSA, the attention of the Board was drawn to an item which appeared in the Boston Sunday Globe of January 16, 1955. In the column AT CITY HALL mention was made of the proposed reorganization of the Library Department.

Since this was the first mention, either in the public press or otherwise, that any of the Board had seen of such a reorganization plan, it was suggested that I write to you and ask if you had any information you could let us have concerning the proposal. It was the feeling of the Board that since such a plan might vitally affect the staff, it would be the duty of the Board to gather as much information as possible and pass it on to the membership.

I would be most grateful for any assistance you can give us in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) LOUIS RAINS
Louis Rains
President

In reply to our letter the Director invited the Executive Board to meet with him on Monday, February 28. At this meeting Mr Lord informed the Executive Board that there would shortly be submitted to the Mayor a report on the Library by the Mayor's Citizens Committee on Municipal Finance, that he had not yet seen the final report, and that until the Mayor released it and sent it to the Trustees he was not at liberty to discuss it.

On the 3rd of March most Boston Newspapers carried news items concerning the closing and consolidation of several Branch Libraries. With the consent and approval of the members of the Executive Board, except one who could not be reached but who later expressed approval, the President sent the following letter to the Director:

3 March 1955

Mr Milton E. Lord, Director
Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston 17, Massachusetts

Dear Mr Lord:

Since our letter to you dated 16 February 1955, asking for information concerning the news item that appeared in the Boston Sunday Globe of 16 January 1955, the Boston papers of 3 March 1955 have carried news items concerning the same subject. Therefore, the Executive Board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association would appreciate your bringing to the attention of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library the following statement:

In view of the fact that information concerning the proposed closing and consolidation of several branches of the Library has appeared in the newspapers of 3 March 1955, the Professional Staff Association Executive Board wishes to transmit to the Board of Trustees their concern that information which is of such vital importance to the staff is first made known through the public newspapers rather than through direct communication with the staff.

The Staff Association does not intend nor imply any criticism of any plans which would result in better library service to the public. It is the belief of the Association that the morale of the staff depends to a great extent on its being kept informed of major policy changes in order to avoid disquieting rumors.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) LOUIS RAINS
Louis N. Rains
President

At the regular monthly meeting on March 10, the Executive Board voted unanimously to publish this correspondence in The Question Mark. Any reply which may be received in answer to our letters will also be published in the issue of The Question Mark immediately following receipt.

*

We regret that due to an unfortunate series of events involving those concerned with the financial business of "Free To All" the final report on the Centennial Musical Revue has not been completed.

Copies of the BPLPSA constitution incorporating the new amendments will soon be ready for distribution.

The inevitable call for annual dues will go out just as soon as the Treasurer has completed his work in connection with the Centennial Revue.

Committee Reports

The following is a brief digest of some of the Association Committees' Reports:

Treasurer's Report

Balance, January 21, 1954—$702.19
Receipts------$553.89
Expenditures-- 592.73
Balance, January 21, 1955--$663.35

The Membership and Hospitality Committee reports that as of January 21, 1955 there were 433 members representing 95% of the employees in the bibliothecal services.

The Staff Library Committee spent $330 for 87 books and $70 for Library Science material.

The CARE Committee turned over $310.50 to CARE.

The Centennial Gift Committee reports a balance on hand of $7,689.58.

Louis Rains

M.L.A. COLLEGE GROUP ADDRESS

The talk before the College Group of the M.L.A. was given by Lyman H. Butterfield, who edited the Adams papers. Mr Butterfield's talk, curiously enough, was entitled "The Adams Papers". The papers are held in a trust which is the property of the Adams family, and are in such a state of confusion that no one really knows the richness of the holdings. To date papers of original drafts of letters have been uncovered which were formerly neglected because they were labeled "Copies"; also a copy of a treaty of the United States not in the possession of the State Department, and a full account of a neglected but important phase of American history, the Freeze Rebellion, have been found.

The papers are being placed on microfilm for the benefit of scholars. The editorial expense is being underwritten by Time, Inc., and subsequently such material as is selected will be published in Life, as was done with the Churchill and Truman papers. It is interesting to note that while the universities hesitated to embark upon such a task, Time has sufficient confidence in the interest of the American people to finance it. Selected material will later be published in book form by the Belknap Press and Harvard University Press.

In brief, the papers consist of diaries, family letters, non-family correspondence and miscellaneous material, much of which will be left in microfilm form. The diaries are prodigious, due to the fact that all members of the family kept extensive diaries and wrote about each other. At one time three generations were writing lengthy comments on conversations and correspondence. The men were all faithful correspondents, and influenced their wives. In fact, it was said that to become a letter writer all one had to do was to marry an Adams. The family kept not only all letters received, but also such items as account books, legal notes, petitions, broadsides, literary notes and all drafts on such correspondence. The diaries will be published, as well as some family and other correspondence. However, much of the memoranda which John Quincy Adams appropriately called "rubbish" will appear only on microfilm.

Gerald L. Ball

ST JEROME GUILD

In spite of the quite inclement weather on Sunday, March 6, nearly 150 staff members and friends attended the First Annual Communion Breakfast of the St Jerome Guild at 10 A.M. at the Hotel Lenox. Members and friends had attended the 9 o'clock Mass at St Cecilia's Church and received Holy Communion in a body. Monsignor Charles R. Flanigan, formerly an assistant in the Branch Catalogue Department, was the celebrant of the Mass, and welcomed the Guild and congratulated the members on the occasion of its inauguration.

After breakfast had been served, James P.J. Gannon, President, as toastmaster, presented John J. Connolly, Assistant to the Director, and Chief Executive Officer, Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Board of Trustees, James M. Connolly, Vice-Chairman of the Examining Committee, and Francis B. Masterson, former member of the Board of Trustees, each of whom addressed the gathering briefly.

A letter from the Most Reverend Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, giving his greeting and blessing to the Guild, was read by Mr Gannon. A letter from Milton E. Lord, Director, and Librarian, an invited guest, expressing his regrets and good wishes, was also read by the toastmaster.

Mr Gannon noted that the St Jerome Guild was to be comprised entirely of members of the staff of the Boston Public Library. Members of the Program Committee who will meet with the President and the Spiritual Director of the Guild, Monsignor Flanigan, were appointed by the President as follows: Mrs Margaret Butler, Periodic and Newspaper, Bernard Doherty, Binding, and Gerard Hottleman, Book Purchasing.

Mr Gannon then introduced the principal speaker, Monsignor Flanigan, who explained the ancient origin of the Communion Breakfast, and outlined the purposes of a Guild, emphasizing that its primary purpose should be spiritual, but that it should also include social and cultural aims as well.

After his talk, Monsignor Flanigan remained to chat with those who had worked with him in the "old days" and to meet the newer arrivals.

B. Joseph O'Neil, Secretary

MISS KIRKUS COMES TO TOWN

On Thursday, February 17, the Book Selection Department, Home Reading Services, had an unexpected call from the lady whom "they cut and paste." Virginia Kirkus, who was in town for the American Booksellers Association Meeting at the Sheraton Plaza, dropped in to check on her services to the Library. After a pleasant chat with the Book Selection staff she visited Ye Olde Coffee Shoppee, the ideal place to find one and all who might want to meet this charming lady who is only a name to most of the staff. Duly fortified she then visited the Open Shelf and Audio-Visual Departments and appeared to be properly impressed with these modern additions, new since her last visit to the Library.

Edna G. Peck

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Time: Six o'clock Saturday evening, February 26
Place: The Toby House
Occasion: Surprise Party for Wilma Lyons, Book Stack Service
Reason: Miss Lyons left to enter Nurses Training

By devious methods Miss Lyons was persuaded to accompany one of her friends to the Toby House for dinner. Upon arrival, she was greeted by four other friends from the Book Stack Service who had gathered there to wish her "Good Luck" in her new career. Miss Lyons was presented with a corsage of petite pink carnations and a number of other gifts from the members of her department. After a dinner consisting of roast chicken, potatoes, vegatables, dessert and coffee, the party came to an end with the wish extended to Wilma, that she find luck and happiness in her new career as Wilma Lyons, R.N.

Miss Lyons had already had another pleasant surprise party in her honor on February 22 when some of her friends gathered at Kevin O'Brien's house for an evening of fun and dancing. Highlight of the party was the attempt by some of the boys to learn the Charleston. Wilma received two record albums as a gift from those attending.

CC&N'S Rides Again

The suave and svelte section of the Epicure Department of the Chowder, Chatter and Marching Society descended like a plague of locusts on the Continental Restaurant in Saugus on the evening of February 21. A most delicious repast of punch and cook— oops, wrong meeting-- a variety of very appetizing dishes was devoured by the intrepid gourmets and gourmettes. (You really must try their anchovy ice cream with hot mayonnaise sauce.) The conversation, which started out brilliantly enough, positively sparkled after the first round of tomato juice. Merry quips, witty retorts, gay repartee and, oddly enough, several hot rolls flew back and forth across the festive (cliché) board. All present pronounced, with slight differences of accent, the session an outstanding adventure in fine fressing.

And, while we are in the mood, let us remind all you gnetle readers that the annual picnic will be rolling around come June 17. Of course, if June 17 is pleasant, warm and sunny, the picnic will be postponed until the next cold and rainy day. Oh, I'm telling you, we are a good group. Qualifications for membership in the Society will be discussed in our next bulletin.

STAFF ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We have received a number of Staff Publications recently (from the Cincinnati, Brooklyn, Milwaukee and Vancouver, B.C., public libraries...) and have enjoyed looking them over. One of the most attractive is the Vancouver, B.C. Public Library's Viewpoints--a very nice piece of work. One interesting item from Viewpoints is about the Medical Services Association (Canadian for Blue Cross): "..the cost per month is $1.26 for single employees, $3.78 for married. Married women are treated as single.."

Oh, yeah?

RETIREMENT

Ethel M. Hazlewood

A coffee hour was held in the Women's Lounge on Wednesday, March 2, in honor of Ethel Hazlewood who retires on March 31. Miss Hazlewood has been in the Library Service for almost forty years. She is a graduate of Smith College and came to work here in the Catalog Department in 1915. During many of her early years she worked from time to time at a number of Branch Libraries and on Sundays and evenings in some of the Reference Departments at Central. For almost thirty years she has been in charge of Branch Cataloging.

Miss Hazlewood will be remembered as a lady in whom many fine qualities are combined. She was pleasant and friendly to those who came into contact with her; was a capable and conscientious worker; and enjoyed the genuine respect of people who knew her. Her relations with her own staff were especially harmonious--it was really a "happy department".

The party, from 10:30 until noon, was extremely well attended as literally hundreds of staff members dropped in to pay their respects to Miss Hazlewood, and to have a chance to see old friends, notably such Alumni as: M. Florence Cufflin, Annie J. Daley, Mrs Margaret C. Donaghue, Mrs Minerva Elliott, Chester Fazakas, Katherine J. Gorham, Edith Guerrier, Alice E. Hanson, Alice M. Jordan, Mrs Kitty McGarr, Mrs Anna Pepi Lima, Rebecca E. Willis.

Light refreshments were served by Edna G. Peck's very capable and very hard-working Committee members. John N. Carroll, Chief Librarian, Div. of H.R. and C.S., on behalf of friends on the staff, presented Miss Hazlewood with a wallet and a gift of money, for which she made at that time very warm remarks of gratitude to those within hearing. In addition we reprint her letter of March 6 addressed to the Staff members who were so kind to her:

14 Maxfield Street
West Roxbury
March 6, 1955

Dear friends far and near:

This is a little thank-you note for all of you very nice people who gave me that wonderful party on Wednesday morning, March 2.

It is a happy task to express to you all my deep appreciation for your kindness and to assure you that I shall always remember the festive occasion.

It was grand to talk with so many of you and to receive your many good wishes. In case some of you are interested in what I plan to do with the quite unexpected stupendous contents of the handsome wallet which you gave me, it may buy a Hi-Fi which I have been wanting, or it may be used for LP recordings. I still can't believe in my good fortune, nor can I thank you adequately.

Please do drop in to see me if you are out my way. I'd like to keep in touch with my Library friends. Thank you all again so very much.

Gratefully and cordially,

(Signed) ETHEL M. HAZLEWOOD

*

On March 10, Miss Hazlewood was treated to another party, this time when she was guest of honor at luncheon at the Sheraton-Plaza. The entire staff of her department attended and presented the retiring Chief with a gift of money as a goodwill gesture and as a testimonial to many pleasant years of Association.

*

Thank You

The Committee responsible for the coffee hour given for Ethel M. Hazlewood, in honor of her forthcoming retirement extends cordial thanks to all staff members, retired and otherwise, who so generously and graciously gave of their time, talents, and money to make the occasion a happy one.

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE

Madeline D. Holt
Jean B. Lay
Evelyn Levy
Esther Lissner
Mary M. McDonough
Sarah M. Usher
Edna G. Peck, Chairman

NEWS FROM SAN FRANCISCO

The following quotation from a message to the San Francisco Public Library Staff Association from its newly-elected president seems to me to be something which Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association members might read with interest and profit (N.B. $2.00 annual dues!):

"The Staff Association is that organization that bridges the gap between home and work, through which each voice may be heard, by which we better working conditions, substantiate evidence for higher compensation, and raise our morale. There is none among us who is required to work at the San Francisco Public Library. We do so because we reap certain benefits and achieve desired goals culturally and materially. It is our way of contributing our bit to society and to ourselves. This is our choice. We can make it a pleasant period in our lives or we can allow it to be a 9-6 affair. Second to home, we spend most of our time here. Minus the job, the time at home might not be as pleasant as it is, possibly because of the job's existence. We expend much energy in maintaining our homes, wherever or whatever they are. Does it not follow that we should expend some energy in making our second home, the library, in all its ramifications the place we want it to be and the Staff Association the kind of organization of which we can be proud? We shall hardly build any buildings, although other similar associations have spearheaded drives for money to do so, nor will we guarantee a 20 hour week and six months vacation. We will prove through the Association that we can have fun together, acknowledge each others talents, sympathize with and try to alleviate our mutual problems.

"No outsider can make the Association an effective unit. The Administration can't do it nor can your Executive, Salary Standardization or Social Committees. The task lies with each member. If the constitution is faulty, only you can change it; if we have the wrong officers, your vote can change them; if a project is proposed with which you disagree, suggest a different one. Our aim is to serve the greatest number and those who wish to be served. If you are a non-member because of some policy you dislike, don't remain outside and criticize unfavorably, become a member and change it constructively. The two dollars per year will send none of us scurrying for the aid of public welfare. Paying dues, however, is not enough. We need your time, some of your energy, your talents and your ideas. If you feel that you do not benefit, find out why and make it an organization from which you can benefit."

From STAFF SPECTATOR, February 1955

SARAH M. USHER

BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

A very enthusiastic audience attended Aviation Night on Tuesday evening, February 8. Angelo Alabiso, Public Relations Director at Logan International Airport, was Chairman of the Program. He spoke of the many opportunities in aviation for high school graduates and stressed the very important requisite, the ability to speak and write correct English. Gloria Goltz, airline stewardess at Northeast Airlines, completely captivated the young adult audience of boys and girls with her charming personality and even more charming appearance as she discussed requirements, salaries, and experiences of an airline hostess. George Brennan, President of the Aero Club of New England, talked of the personal qualities which determine acceptance into airlines, such as tact, sincerity and sense of humor. Following each speaker was a question period in which the genuine interest of the audience was apparent. The program ended with two appropriate films, A GREAT DAY FOR FLYING and MR BARNABY GOES FLYING AT NIGHT.

On Thursday, February 17, the Yankee Doodle Club, a group of 4-7th graders, presented a program entitled "Pageant of America."

Their first sketch was performed complete with original costumes. In it each of the children represented a famous American historical, legendary, or literary character.

This was followed by a movie, "Pony Express", an episode from American history.

The highlight of the program was a square dance, complete with blue jeans and neckerchiefs, and a very capable (and audible) sixth grade caller.

The final presentation consisted of singing, led by Mrs Colarusso, of the club's theme song, "Yankee Doodle" and "Sacramento", after a few explanatory phrases about each by one of the children.

All of the boys and girls then proceeded up to the Children's Room and examined books about pioneer children, American folklore, and famous Americans, which had been put on display.

South End

Thursday evening, February 24, was a festive occasion. Friends from India and the Philippine Islands graciously accepted the invitation of the Library's Thursday Night Teen Club to speak informally to the group about their homeland. Arcadia Impelido spoke about the Philippines, while Dr Sukidhankar, Lakshini Malladi, and Jitendra Jha told about India. The club members and the library staff were very much interested in learning about schools, family life, customs, food and dress. The ladies were indeed charming in the beautiful costumes of their respective countries.

The Story Hour corner of the Children's Room was attractively arranged for the occasion, with chairs grouped to lend a cosy living room atmosphere. Pictures and books about the two countries were displayed, along with a special exhibit on the Philippines on loan from the Children's Museum, Jamaica Plain. Cookies and punch were served to close a most enjoyable evening.

South Boston

The Teen Age Reporters Club visited the Egyptian Gallery of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday, February 24. They were accompanied by the Children's Librarian, Martha C. Engler. A member of the Museum staff, Eleanor Randall, provided a most interesting commentary on the tour. Previous to the visit, the club members had read books about the Museum and Ancient Egypt.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the contributor and to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

The failure of the Powers that be to make appointments this year has, to put it mildly, reached ridiculous proportions. There certainly must be a point where economy stops and niggardliness begins. If adequate library service to the public is to be maintained, there will have to be something done about replacing staff members who retire or resign from the service. It would appear that failure to make appointments is either an admission that the Library was formerly terribly overstaffed, or a decision has been made to curtail library service.

The shortage of trained personnel has certainly made itself felt in several areas of which I have personal knowledge. It is an injustice to those of us who remain to have to assume the burden of increased work loads occasioned by the lack of assistants. Is it fair that professional staff members are forced to shelve books and perform many other non-professional tasks?

Dear Soap Box:

During the past week I observed two members of the staff slip on the floor of the Stack IV corridor. If memory serve me right, I recall a bit of verse in the Soap Box some time back calling attention to the hazardous conditions that exist in the same area. Cannot something be done t correct this situation before serious injury occurs? I should think that unpolishe floors would be preferable to unsteady librarians.

CARE

What can a dollar buy? Materially, about 28 lbs. of food. Physically, nourishment for some very hungry people. Spiritually, hope for many who have experienced much of the harshness of life, and little of love. And to you who have given to CARE, the blessings of those who remember the needy.

Contribute to CARE now!

Special Committee for
CARE

Talks by Staff Members

On March 1, Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults, spoke on Audio-Visual Programs and Techniques in Public Libraries as a part of the three-week training program conducted by Simmons College, School of Library Science, for the group of foreign students on tour of United States Libraries.

On March 3, Mrs Javelin also spoke to the Home and School Association of the Sarah Greenwood School on the Library's services to parents.

VISITORS

Dr Bruno Sauer, Chief, Department of Humanities and Geography

Dr Fritz Skurnia, Chief, Department of Natural Sciences and Technology

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BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

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Louise K. Murphy	Cataloging and Classification, Division of Home Reading and Community Services
**Helen Schubarth	Accounting

* Representative of the Boston Public Library Building Service Employees International Union, Local #409, (AFL)

** Representative of other groups not represented in the Association or the Union.

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Elvira Lavorgna, Chairman	Fine Arts
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Daniel Kelly	Audio-Visual
Mary McNamee	Personnel
Marion MacWilliam	Fine Arts
Faith Minton	Book Stack Service

Personnel Committee

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Geraldine S. Herrick	North End
Gerard Hottleman	Book Purchasing
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B. Joseph O'Neil	Periodical
Irene Wadsworth	School Issue

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Sheila W. Pierce	Central Charging Records
B. Gertrude Wade	Book Selection, Division of Home Reading and Community Services
Robert C. Woodward	History

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Emilia Lange	Print
Rose Moorachian	Uphams Corner
George Pahud	Music
Sarah Richman	Mattapan

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Irene Wadsworth	School Issue

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Bradford M. Hill	Periodical and Newspaper
Priscilla S. MacFadden	Fine Arts
Thomas J. Manning	Exhibits Office
Pauline A. Walker	West Roxbury
Pauline Winnick	Open Shelf
Representing Quarter Century Club	
Mrs Grace M. Cannon	Accounting
Daniel W. Sheeran	Binding
Representing Employees Benefit Association (now disbanded)	
Frank P. Bruno	Science and Technology-Patent Room
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Representing Arnavets	
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**Michael C. Langone	Bindery
Louis M. Ugalde	Rare Book
Insurance Committee	
Harry Fletcher, Chairman	Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services

* Representative of the Boston Public Library Building Service Employees International Union, Local #409 (AFL)

** Representative of other groups not represented in the Association or Union.

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Louis Polishook, Chairman
Abraham Snyder, Special Advisor

Catherine MacDonald
B. Joseph O'Neil

Publicity Committee
Helen Sevagian, Chairman
Mary M. Burns
Josephine A. Waldron

Patent Room
Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services
Personnel
Periodical and Newspaper

Information
Mattapan
Office of Records, Files, Statistics

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 3 April 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

Throughout the twentieth century, the function of the American public library has been expanding in many directions. Today the librarian is expected not only to supply reference materials and "the right book to the right person at the right time" but also to help expand the horizons of our public by means of children's story hours, motion pictures and other visual aids, young adult councils, discussion groups and the provision of lecture halls for the use of various community groups.

It should go without saying that such a widened program demands a staff larger than the minimum numbers needed to carry on ever-essential floor and desk work. But here in one of this country's oldest and largest public libraries, we are rapidly reaching the point where a shortage of staff will inevitably force us to retrogress to nineteenth century library concepts because of sheer lack of numbers rather than lack of desire to serve our patrons adequately. Already many department heads find it necessary to spend hours covering the desk or even shelving books. They are finding it impossible to attend meetings of committees, including those upon which our branch book selection is based. In their spring planning of next year's activities, they are faced with the realization that in many cases it will be necessary to drop both relatively new projects and some programs which have long since become traditional in their communities. During recent months many branch activities have been made possible only through the willingness of professional and non-professional workers alike to donate their own time - as well as their own money, in some cases. Since these assistants do not receive the remuneration accorded workers in older, established professions, a continuing acceptance of such generosity is unthinkable since it established a precedent dangerous to our profession as a whole and keeps these staff members from outside activities which could broaden their own interests and outlook.

What, if anything, can we do about this situation? Isn't our first and most legitimate means of approach a united request that our administrators meet with the Professional Staff Association to explain why the situation has arisen and what we are expected to do under these circumstances. Today the shortage is critical; tomorrow it may be fatal to our reputation among libraries. What are you going to do about it?

* * * *

Since the first issue of the Question Mark, back in 1946, the Office of Records, Files and Statistics has done all of the work involved in the preparation of stencils and in assembling the QM. This month due to the loss of a member of her staff, Miss Usher is no longer able to carry on with this work, and the Publications Committee is taking over. The Committee wishes, on behalf of the Association, to thank Miss Usher and her staff for the cheerful and co-operative spirit that they have always shown in helping turn out the Question Mark.

* * * *

In the February issue, one of the Soap Box correspondents closed with the query, "Yeah, how about that Centennial Fund?" A call to the Treasurer's Office at City Hall got the answer. The present level (April 12, 1955): $49,067.72.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Dorothy L. Dodworth, North End, for reasons of health.

Catherine M. Doherty, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, to accept a position in the Civilian Personnel Office, First Naval District Headquarters, in the Fargo Building.

Wilma A. Lyons, Book Stack Service, to enter nurse's training.

Mrs Janet B. Schlein, Brighton, to remain at home.

Mrs Deidre B. Smith, Central Charging Records, to remain at home.

Mrs Susan E. Trunfio, Audio-Visual, to remain at home.

Retirement

Ethel M. Hazlewood, Chief of Cataloging and Classification, HR&CS, retired on March 31, 1955 after forty years of service.

Transferred

Mary Z. Lynch, from Central Charging Records, Division of Home Reading and Community Services to Book Stack Service, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Births

To Mr and Mrs Girard D. Hottleman, on on March 25, a son, Girard David, Jr. Mr Hottleman is in Book Purchasing.

To Mr and Mrs Michael Venezia, on March 30, a daughter, Nancy Marie. Mr Venezia is in Book Stack Service. Mrs Venezia is the former Patricia Wilson of Egleston Square.

To Mr and Mrs Charles R. Meehan, a daughter, on March 26. Mr Meehan is in the Teachers' Department.

Belated announcements:

To Mrs Janet B. Schlein, Brighton, on February 4, a son.

To Mrs Hollis Smith (the former Deidre Barry Smith, Book Stack Service) on February 13, a daughter, Christine Louise.

* * BON VOYAGE * *

We understand that some 45 members of the staff are off to Europe this summer. To conserve space we are hereby offering a blanket BON VOYAGE TO ALL.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On March 24, 1955 your president and several of the past presidents of the Association were invited to meet, one at a time, with members of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Examining Committee. During my talk with the Sub-Committee, I was afforded the opportunity to present my views on what I considered to be the major morale problems confronting the staff at this time. I am happy to be able to report that the members of the Personnel Sub-Committee were were well informed and apparently concerned with such major problems as the number of vacancies, curtailment of extra-service, delay in permanent appointments for qualified members of the staff and the promotion system. It would appear that the members of the Personnel Sub-Committee had read several issues of the Question Mark - an additional reason why members should avail themselves of the opportunity to express their feelings in the Soap-Box.

In connection with the question of permanent appointments, the Executive Board has requested of the administration a statement of policy to clarify the situation and explain why such appointments have not been made.

No final report on proceeds of the Centennial Revue as yet since there are still a few bills to be paid and one account receivable to be collected. However, the final figure will be within a few dollars of $1740.00.

The annual dues of 50¢ per member are now due. Please pay your dues to your staff representative who will forward the money together with the names of the members to Mr. William Casey, Treasurer, Open Shelf Department. New membership cards will be issued as soon as the necessary records are made.

Louis Rains

ACRL NEWS

Mr. Charles L. Higgins, Chief, General Reference, is one of two candidates for election as Director of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, a Division of the A.L.A. His opponent is Mary N. Barton, Head, Reference Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

WHITHER STATE AID?

In preparing some remarks on State Aid here in Massachusetts, I encountered some interesting information in the American Library Directory. (N.Y., Bowker, 1954. 20th ed.) I thought that they might make interesting reading, for they indicate with all the cold authority of the statistic a picture of library service here as it compares with such service elsewhere. First of all there is a table of volumes per capita in public libraries in those states which furnish this information:

1.	4.8	Vermont
2.	3.9	New Hampshire
3.	3.39	Maine
4.	2.7	Massachusetts
5.	2.0	Rhode Island **
6.	1.9	Connecticut
7.	1.8	Wisconsin
8.	1.8	Wyoming
9.	1.72	Ohio
10.	1.63	Minnesota
11.	1.6	Indiana
12.	1.59	Montana
13.	1.5	Iowa
14.	1.5	New Jersey
15.	1.49	California
16.	1.4	Nebraska
17.	1.35	New York
18.	1.34	Missouri
19.	1.3	Oregon
20.	1.27	Utah
21.	1.26	Colorado
22.	1.2	Delaware
23.	1.1	Michigan
24.	1.0	Idaho
25.	1.0	Kansas
26.	1.0	South Dakota
27.	1.0	Washington
28.	.9	Illinois
29.	.82	Maryland
30.	.69	Florida
31.	.69	North Dakota
32.	.65	Georgia
33.	.61	North Carolina
34.	.59	New Mexico
35.	.58	Louisiana
36.	.56	Arkansas
37.	.43	Virginia
38.	.4	Alabama
39.	.38	Mississippi
40.	.35	Kentucky
41.	.3	West Virginia

** My own estimate. Rhode Island figures are incomplete.

Note that the New England states rank first to sixth - that the South definitely dominates the other end of the scale - that the middle of the list has no distinct regional flavor.

Next I compiled a list of per capita expenditures for public libraries, again, for those states for which this information is given, as follows:

1.	$2.10	Massachusetts
2.	1.84	California
3.	1.71	Ohio
4.	1.55	Michigan
5.	1.51	Minnesota
6.	1.51	Wisconsin
7.	1.50	New York
8.	1.47	Connecticut
9.	1.32	Missouri
10.	1.29	New Jersey
11.	1.28	New Hampshire
12.	1.15	Wyoming
13.	1.14	Indiana
14.	1.11	Maryland
15.	1.07	Oregon
16.	1.00	Utah
17.	.96	Iowa
18.	.95	Illinois
19.	.89	Montana
20.	.85	Colorado
21.	.84	Nevada
22.	.77	Vermont
23.	.72	Louisiana
24.	.70	South Dakota
25.	.65	Nebraska
26.	.57	Georgia
27.	.56	Florida
28.	.55	Kansas
29.	.46	North Carolina
30.	.44	South Carolina
31.	.43	Alabama
32.	.40	Texas
33.	.38	North Dakota
34.	.36	Arkansas
35.	.35	Kentucky
36.	.34	New Mexico
37.	.34	Virginia
38.	.31	Tennessee
39.	.30	Mississippi
40.	.24	West Virginia

Lo, Massachusetts leads all the rest, and by a sizeable margin. In fact, if I remember certain A.L.A. recommendations correctly, this is a figure some 40% over what that organization calls "satisfactory" support. For the moment, however, let's look at a third table, one which gives actual state-aid figures - the figures in parentheses are per capita grants.

1.	New York	$2,156,036	($.144)
2.	Georgia	500,000	($.146)
3.	Michigan	362,025	($.056)
4.	North Carolina	350,000	($.086)
5.	Ohio	320,000	($.04)
6.	Maryland	269,184	($.117)
7.	Vermont	237,830	($.628)
8.	Pennsylvania	206,000	($.02)
9.	Missouri	200,000	($.05)
10.	Tennessee	200,000	($.064)
11.	Mississippi	119,300	($.054)
12.	Louisiana	84,000	($.031)
13.	Arkansas	80,000	($.042)
14.	Virginia	72,500	($.021)
15.	Alabama	72,298	($.024)
16.	South Carolina	70,000	($.033)
17.	Rhode Island	20,000	($.025)
18.	New Mexico	18,100	($.025)
19.	Connecticut	17,250	($.009)
20.	Maine	12,724	($.014)
21.	New Jersey	10,000	($.002)
22.	Delaware	6,350	($.02)
23.	New Hampshire	1,500	($.003)

Two things are noticed here - less than half the states give aid - and even though some of the total grants look impressive, they do not, with one exception (Vermont), substantially alter the amount of money spent per capita for the support of public libraries. Without state-aid, Massachusetts still spends far more than any other state, with or without such help.

Is such a situation not likely to jeopardize the chances of getting money from the Commonwealth? It may appear reasonable to most of the legislators who are to make the ultimate decision in this matter that Massachusetts libraries do not need state-aid. It will be the profession's problem to convince them that this is not true.

[Lack of time and space make me call a halt at this point. In next month's QM we will try to have more on specific action already taken, or being taken in Massachusetts.]

John McCafferty

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

American Library Association.
Membership directory. 1954.

Institute on Public Library Management, 5th, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, 1953. The public library building. Madison, Bureau of government, University of Wisconsin, 1953.

Manley, Marian C.
Handbook for library trustees.
New York, R. R. Bowker, 1955.

New York. Public Library.
Books for the teen age.
New York, 1955.

Simmons College, Boston. School of Library Science. Books and publishing lecture series. 1953-4.
Boston, 1954.

Tauber, Maurice F., ed.
Technical services in libraries.
New York, Columbia Univ. Pr., 1954.

The Staff Library Book Selection Committee will welcome suggestions or recommendations for purchase of professional and general material. Staff members wishing to make such suggestions may send them to the Committee Chairman, George Adelman, General Reference.

LIBRARY PLACEMENT EXCHANGE

The Personnel Office has subscribed to a new semi-monthly publication entitled Library placement exchange, which began publication in Washington, D. C., in March 1955. It is sponsored by Foster E. Mohrhardt, Librarian of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. This publication lists positions open and positions wanted in the Library profession on a national basis. As copies are received they will be posted on the Staff Bulletin Board in the Central Library Building.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On Monday, March 28, Miss Catherine M. Doherty, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, who is so pleasantly identified as one of the "Sailors on the Town" in the recent production FREE TO ALL, was guest of honor at a farewell luncheon at the Darbury Room. Miss Doherty left the Library the next day to begin work in the Civilian Personnel Office, First Naval District Headquarters, at the Fargo Building. She was the recipient of several gifts from her many friends throughout the Central Library, whose good wishes go with her to her new position.

RETIREMENT

On Wednesday, April 13, friends of Miss Elizabeth B. Boudreau, Chief of the Information Office, Emeritus, gathered to honor her at a coffee party at the Women's Lounge, Central Library Building, from 10:30 until noon. The party was well attended as many of Miss Boudreau's well-wishers dropped in to say hello to her. Miss Boudreau had been away from Central for some time due to an unfortunate accident which incapacitated her. When she resigned from the Library service on January 26 of this year she was with the Library for thirty four years. Among the alumni who stopped by were Mesdames Ethel M. Hazlewood, Alice M. Jordan, Catherine C. Kelly, Frances M. Kelley, and Marjorie Martin, and Messrs. Chester A. S. Fazakas and Harry M. Bradstreet. On behalf of those attending, Mr. John J. Connolly presented Miss Boudreau with a gift consisting of a bouquet of money and a book.

The committee which arranged this party was headed by Miss Helen H. Sevagian, Information Office.

IN THE MATTER OF SLIPPERY FLOORS

Last month in the Soap Box, there was an anguished cry about the slippery floor in the Stack Four Corridor. Since that time there have been at least three accidents in that same area. One of these was rather serious, involving a fractured hand, and a long absence from work. We are told that steps are being taken to rough up this treacherous surface somehow so that in the future people may venture into that part of the world with more composure. In view of all that has happened, we cannot resist reprinting a contribution to the Soap Box in the July, 1952 issue of the Question Mark. This was a collaboration of the Dolly Sisters of Doggerel, to wit:

A Lot of Gloss is a Dangerous Thing

or

WE WAX POETIC

O, lately when the doctor comes
A-knocking at our door
The answer always seems to be
"I slipped in Ol' Stack Four"
From ankle sprains and black-
And-blues our dignities are sore
And all because there has to be
A gloss upon the floor.

REFRAIN:

A gloss upon the floor
A gloss upon the floor
As time goes by our ranks may be depleted
more and more
But be that as it may, there's still
a gloss upon the floor.

Clare O'Toole
and
Sheila W. Pierce

Statistic:
How many librarians are there?
There are 55,749, of whom 49,355 are women and 6,394 are men.
(Stat. Abstract, 1953 p.198)

However, in some cases its still a man's world, since:
Of the plumbers in this country -
There are 293 875 men and only 1,480 women!
(Stat. Abstract, 1953 p. 201)

A SHORT ESSAY ON CANDLEPOWER

The April 1955 B.P.L.News carries a glowing account of the new lights in the main staircase at Central. These new fixtures consist of a "magnificent spherical luminaire" and several little luminaires, which do a wonderful job of lighting up the stairs and the P. Puvis de Chavannes paintings.

It is a good and fitting thing that the Hall be well lit, but it is more important and salutory thing that Bates Hall be better lit, if an editorial opinion may be inserted here. Bloodshot-eyed patrons will no doubt soon be going out into the Chavannes Gallery to read.

We suggest you take a look some evening at the remarkable difference in lighting in these two places.

BRANCH NOTES

Despite bad weather, over a hundred people attended the Tenth Annual Open House at East Boston. The Library had a festive air with its Hobby Show on display in both the Adult and Children's Rooms. Embroidered tablecloths, wax candles, china painted dishes, woodcarvings, autograph and bookplate collections, pencil sketches and watercolors were but a few of the many hobbies represented. A very striking feature was the large stained glass screen which, set up against the windows, filled the Adult Room with warm colors as light streamed in during the afternoon.

Miss Duilia Capobianco, Assistant-in-Charge, opened the program in the Lecture Hall with a brief introduction. Guest speaker was Mr Leslie B. Whelan, Manager of the Joseph H. Barnes Evening School Center, who spoke on Recreational Education in East Boston. Then followed the musical portion of the program, Highlights were the violin solos by Angelo Alabiso, and selections by Matilda Cerulli, soprano, and John Guazzerotti, bass-baritone.

Refreshments were served in the Children's Room. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Mattapan

During the Passover holidays, the Mattapan Branch featured a display appropriate to the season, loaned by Hecht House. The Exhibit, arranged by Eva Joseph, Director of the Junior Department Program, consisted principally of handicraft prepared in the Arts and Crafts Shop, by the children working under Mr Sam Midman, Instructor. As an example of mural and clay work, one section of the display case was occupied by a three-dimensional scene made up of clay figures against a background suggesting Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs. The scene was most appropriate for the Passover season, showing the Jewish slaves at work on the huge pyramids, begging their masters to have pity on their wives and children. Other murals, completing the Passover Story, depicted the coming of the plagues upon the Egyptians, Moses leading his people from bondage, and the present-day commemoration of this event. Illustrated explanations of the Passover Service, including a discussion of the significance of the Seder Plate together with a beautifully wrought Seder Plate and Passover "Becher" completed the display most effectively.

North End

On Thursday, April 14, Dorothy Dodworth, former Children's Room Assistant at North End, was honored at a luncheon party given by the staff at Girc's Restaurant in the North End. At the party she was presented with a gift of crystal imported from Murano, Italy. Miss Dodworth recently resigned to devote her time to creative work in art and children's literature.

BON VOYAGE to Mary L. Dennison, who will sail from Boston on April 28, for a visit to France and Italy, on the S.S. New York of the Greek Line.

West End

The Judaica Department assisted in the Passover Exhibit at Jordan Marsh Company this year. It lent several rare Hagaddahs, special books used for the Seder services, which tell the story of the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt; it lent paintings, both traditional and classic, by Jewish artists, telling the story of the holiday. The exhibit was shown at Jordan's from March 22 through April 5.

Awarding of prizes for the essay contest sponsored by the Branch took place at a special program in the Lecture Hall, on March 15. Children of grades 4 to 8 at St. Joseph's school participated; the topic: MY PATRON SAINT AND WHAT HE MEANS TO ME. Judges were Msgr. Timothy J. O'Leary, Superintendent of Parochial Schools in the Archdiocese; Mr. Patrick F. McDonald, President, Trustees of the BPL; Dr. Cecilia McGovern, President, Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women; and Mr. John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian, HR&CS. Mr. Carroll brought as his guest Miss Jeanette Fritsche, of UNICEF, who was visiting Boston.

Msgr. O'Leary, addressing the children and their parents, stressed the value of worthwhile books, such as lives of the heroes of the Church, as guides for living.

There was also an address by Msgr. Francis Lally, editor of the Pilot, who drew attention to the fine co-operation between library and school, and the vital role of the Nuns in channeling children's reading, and encouraging written expression

of their ideas.

Miss Mary A. Reardon, artist and writer, discussed, with several examples from her own work, the process of preparing illustrated children's books.

Mr Patrick F. McDonald, President of the Trustees, then spoke, emphasizing the democratic character of what he terms "the public's library," and the role of the Trustee as the representative of the citizen in determining library policy. As Chairman of the Board of Judges who gave so generously of their time and effort in reading and grading the essays, Mr. McDonald also presented the prizes.

Refreshments were served to a large gathering of children, parents, and a few grandparents.

The greetings and good wishes of Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, were conveyed by Mrs. Veronica Lehane, Children's Librarian.

BUSINESS BRANCH SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The Business Branch this month is observing its silver anniversary. On May 7, 1930, the door of the then new building at 20 City Hall Avenue was opened without fanfare by Mrs. Mary Watkins Dietrichson, first Business Branch Librarian. By noontime, business was brisk and has continued so ever since. In 1955, Mrs. Dietrichson kindly obliged by once again opening the door, but this time for a publicity photograph.

The building, with furnishings, was presented to the city of Boston by Louis E. Kirstein, outstanding merchant and trustee of the Boston Public Library, as a memorial to his father Edward Kirstein. The need for a business library had been recognized as far back as World War I, when the Boston Chamber of Commerce advocated the bringing together of such a collection. Today, the staff wonders, between phone calls, how Boston ever transacted a day's business without it.

The growth in reference work is reflected in the increase in telephone calls, from an average of 12 a day in 1930 to as many as 200 in 1954. The number of patrons has risen from about 500 to 1000 a day, and the book collection from 8,000 to 40,000.

In 1930, back runs of financial services, periodicals, and directories were eagerly accepted to stock the empty shelves. In 1955, with three floors instead of two, we are hard pressed for shelf space. The extra floor was acquired in 1940 when the general branch on the third floor was closed. Today much time is spent in weeding out out-of-date material, the emphasis being always on what is current.

The Business Branch has had only two Branch Librarians in its quarter-century of service. Mrs. Dietrichson organized and headed it until 1947. She was succeeded by Mrs. Dorothy M. Lovett, who resigned in September 1953. Since then, Rita M. Desaulniers has been carrying on as Assistant-in-Charge.

The other day a businessman from St. Paul, Minnesota, stopped in between planes to settle an argument. It seems our fame had spread to St. Paul, and he turned naturally to us. Reference letters from all over the country, addressed to the branch by name, attest to its fame.

This is in large part due to the standards set by Mrs. Dietrichson who would go to unusual lengths to track down needed information, and taught her staff to do likewise. Today the present staff strives, if it does not always succeed, to carry on in this tradition.

Winifred F. Root

ARNAVETS OFFICERS 1955-1956

Commander - Samuel Green
Vice-Commander - Henry F. Barry
Adjutant & Quartermaster - James P.J.Gannon
(21st term)
Chaplain - Charles L. Higgins
Officer of the Day - Thomas J. Daly
Trustees - William Di Rosario
John T. Kylo

STAFF IN PRINT

Mrs. Phyllis L. Barclay, Children's Librarian at Uphams Corner, had an article entitled "Film Selection for Children's Library Programs" in the January 1955 Wilson Library Bulletin.

DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES DUES

Association dues (50 cents) are now payable! See your staff representative!

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

Since the Soap Box has frequently accorded space to me for comments on situations which were, in my opinion, unjust, I would like to ask the privilege of using space to cite and express my appreciation for the rectifying of one situation which over several years caused conflict. Remember in "the good old days" when holidays fell on your day off and you "lost" that day? The comforting thought was advanced that it "would all come out in the wash" and equalize itself over the years. But that didn't help any when, for instance, your day off, year after year, was on Thursday - and Thanksgiving kept popping up annually on Thursday. So inconsiderate of Thanksgiving.

Now working schedules of weeks in which holidays occur are based on number of hours worked, thus everyone is treated alike. "That is a good thing." (1066 and all that by Walter C. Sellar and Robert J. Yeatman - 827 S46t)

Edna G. Peck

To the Soap Box:

Our family paper here is beginning to deserve the extravagant claim made in an advertisement of the NEW YORKER - nearly everybody reads the QUESTION MARK. Our bright young man who wrote a letter complaining about never having spoken to any member of the Examining Committee, was called to such a talk the very next week. At the interviews conducted by the subcommittee of the Examiners, the QUESTION MARK was mentioned as the best place to air grievances, and a copy of the paper was in the hands of the subcommittee at one of the meetings.

The subcommittee's interviews with the President of the Association and 4 ex-presidents are a step in the right direction. That our morale is ailing, in slings, and on crutches, is no longer a rumor started by troublemaking staff members, but a fact now obvious even to outsiders. It is encouraging to find public spirited citizens getting themselves interested in our affairs, but they will have to listen a lot longer to a lot more people. And even then the causes will be very hard to determine. It is tempting to have recourse to the devil theory, to blame one administrator, one Trustee, or one employee; but the chief cause, to my mind, is the same as the one given by Plato ages ago, that no social organism, be it a state or a Library can really be well run until philosophers are kings. It is no dark secret that there has been a lamentable lack of philosophers on all our summits. I tried to remedy the situation last year by offering myself, against my instincts, for such a summit position (see my "jello" letter last year), but I didn't get the job. I took it in good part, and I suggest that a good many of our difficulties here will get righted if more of us have recourse to LAPIRISMO, that new word not yet in any dictionary, but which will surely get into the dictionaries. I found it on page 8 of the March 28 issue of the New York Times.

Harry Andrews

(Ed. Note: LAPIRISMO, a new Italian word from the name of Florence's Mayor La Pira, who believes that Christian love can conquer all of man's problems.)

To the Soap Box:

It would be interesting to know how many large libraries in the United States are open to the public on Easter Sunday. Our library is closed on Good Friday and other lesser holidays. Why is it kept open on Easter Sunday?

Curious

To the Soap Box:

Bildad's friend once moaned "How long, O Lord, how long?" or words to that effect. As the "no personnel replacement" program continues, the staff joins the moan of Job. As retirements and resignations pile up, and the staff becomes more depleted daily, we wonder how much longer this can go unchecked. The present vacancies are much too near the hundred mark for comfort. If just overworking the remaining staff members were the solution, there are few of us who are not willing to be overworked; we have been for years; we are used to it. But an overworked, tired staff is but one of the by-products of this diotum. The major tragedy is the fact that the services to the public are being curtailed or entirely abandoned. New areas of service, long needed if the citizenry is to be adequately served, are being abandoned before they have been given sufficient opportunity to test their merit; other services long proved invaluable are being curtailed. Is the Staff Association going to make a study of this deteriorating situation and present a plan of possible action to the Trustees - or do we just "fade away" like old soldiers until there is no staff left and the empty buildings echo with past activity and the public have only stone statues to serve their unending demands?

Edna G. Peck

To the Soap Box:

Have you noticed how bright and shiny our Open Shelf Department looks after its spring cleaning? Or how promptly worn-out bulbs are replaced? Or how efficiently building repairs are being made where needed? If you've ever slipped on the highly polished wax corridor of the Stack Four level, you may be glad to note, too, that something is being done about that situation. Naturally we all miss Mr Quinn, but it is reassuring to know that he has such a fine successor. Thanks, Mr Danker, for a job well done!

B. Gertrude Wade

To the Soap Box:

Annually a "situation" is created which tends to accentuate religious and racial differences and to cause tension among staff members. In one year staff members of the Jewish faith were granted more than five days in which to observe their religious festivals. Staff members of the Christian faiths (and of the Jewish faiths since the Library is closed) are granted only from twelve noon Good Friday. Services in most Christian churches begin at twelve noon Good Friday. Unfortunately most staff members are still too material to be transported from their Library posts to the churches of their choice, often located miles away, within seconds. Also many Christian churches have services on Maundy Thursday evening but staff members scheduled to work on that evening cannot go irrespective of how much they might wish to attend. It is not the granting of time for religious services, rather the inequity of the situation that is disturbing and especially so when the observances coincide as happens this year.

Since this ordinance comes from outside the Library it may be that nothing can be done to rectify the situation. Surely those who issue such directives must realize the inequities they create. If not, should they not be informed? There may be no solution, but may I suggest one, guaranteed to eliminate inequities and to be 100% unpopular? Allow all staff members of every creed the privilege of taking time off for the necessary observance of religious holidays - the time to be taken from pay or vacation. I may be underestimating the spiritual calibre of my associates, but I suspect that under these conditions, even when the religious observances coincide, there would be sufficient staff members to man the guns and to keep the Library open for routine services on all religious holidays.

Edna G. Peck

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MAY 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 5 May 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

Not too many months ago, readers of the Question Mark were likely to encounter expressions of dismay and complaint when they turned to the Soap Box page. As the Editor's Notes of February, 1955 put it, "a sort of smoldering, restive anxiety" pervaded the staff. We should certainly congratulate ourselves this month on our good fortune. The recent decisions of the Trustees should go a long way toward quieting the minds of those who were anxious about the growing number of unfilled vacancies on the staff and the curtailment of extra service. Needless to add, those on the staff who will be qualified for permanent appointments or salary increases will be particularly pleased.

It is perhaps enough that we express our gratitude to those who populate the summits where decisions such as these are made for righting situations which have gone long unattended. It may be that we should content ourselves with the improvements and not inquire as to the reasons which made the improvements necessary. Enough then it shall be that we will welcome: replacements where they are needed, extra service where Department Heads must shelve books and type order cards, appointments to the Permanent Service where they have been earned, and increases (i.e. in salary, one may assume - although administrative language can be remarkably ambiguous) in accordance with established procedures and merit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Boston Public Library
Professional Staff Association

MAY BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, May 20, 1955 at 9 a.m.

All Association members who can possibly do so are urged to attend this important meeting.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs Rhea L. Freeman, West Roxbury, to teach in the Newton Public Schools.

Mrs Elizabeth M. Svirsky, Central Charging Records, to remain at home.

Retirements

Beatrice M. Flanagan, Chief, School Issue, retired on April 30, 1955, after forty-four years of service.

Jean B. Lay, Cataloging and Classification, HR&CS, retired on April 30, 1955 after thirty years of service.

Gertrude E. Leufgren, Hyde Park, retired on April 30, 1955, after forty-two years of service.

Transferred

Jean Bates, from Bookmobile II to Mattapan.

Mrs. Mary M. Burns, from Mattapan to Bookmobile II.

Elizabeth C. Dowling, from Dorchester to Parker Hill.

Mrs. Joyce P. Ellis, from Bookmobile I to City Point.

A. Phyllis Freeman, from Mattapan to Codman Square.

C. Marjorie Groves, from Mt. Bowdoin to Mattapan.

Elizabeth Kornachan, from Parker Hill to Hyde Park.

Katherine I. LaMontagne, from Roslindale to Mt. Bowdoin.

Mrs. Bernadine G. Smokler, from Uphams Corner to Phillips Brooks.

Mrs. Christine J. Umano, from City Point to Bookmobile I.

* * * * * * *

BIRTHS

Christopher Neal Carroll, son of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Carroll, born April 27, 1955.

Deborah Rahilly, April 8, 1955. Deborah's father, Maurice "Moe" Rahilly, has many friends in the B.P.L. dating back to the years of his service in Audio-Visual, Periodical, and General Reference.

Twins, Elizabeth Ann and Daniel J. Ahern were born May 3, 1955. Their mother Shirley Borden Ahern worked in the History Department.

WEDDING

Thomas J. Nolan, Jr., formerly of the Periodical & Newspaper Department, was married to Miss Doris M. MacLeod, at the Church of the Holy Family in Rockland. After a wedding trip to Canada and New York State, the couple will reside in Rockland.

BEST WISHES FOR SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Mrs. Laurelle Cole, who has been in the hospital for an operation, and who will be at home convalescing for several weeks before returning to work.

LOST AND FOUND

The following articles may be claimed in the Personnel Office:

1 silver earring - modern design
1 gold earring - single pearl, drop hoop
1 silver earring - center brilliant and surrounding brilliants
1 lipstick - Dorothy Gray
1 white silk scarf
1 silver rosary crucifix and one bead
1 key - Independent Lock Company, No. L1054B (found in the Men's Smoking Room)
1 key - Curtis Key Company, No. P2

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

The McGill University Library School of Montreal, Canada, visited the Library on May 10. Professor E. C. Astbury and Lecturer Mrs. V. Coughlin accompanied the 22 students to Boston. Mrs. Wright welcomed the visitors to the Library in the morning, following which they were taken on a guided tour of the Central Library Building and the Bookmobiles by Mr. Edward X. Casey and Mr. Paul V. Moynihan. At the end of the tour they were served coffee and doughnuts in the Women's Lounge and were given the opportunity to meet the Chief Librarians and the Supervisors who for three quarters of an hour answered their many questions. In the afternoon, Mrs. Andelman escorted our Canadian visitors by bus to the Adams Street and Egleston Square Branch Libraries.

Other visitors included:

Mr. Carlos A. Castano, Consul of Colombia.

Mr. Ernesto Galliano-Meneburu, Chief of the Cpyright Office and Secretary-General of the National Library, Santiago, Chile.

Mrs. Maruja Pelaéz de Johnson, Medellin Pilot Library Project, Colombia.

Miss Alcira Ruiz-Larré, Librarian, Central Library, University of Caracas, Venezuela.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Ass'n of College and Re.
ACRL monographs, no. 12, Library co-operation in the British Isles, by R. T. Esterquest. Chicago, 1955.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore
Reference Books. 3d ed.
Baltimore, 1954

Library literature, 1955
New York, H. W. Wilson Co., 1955.

Trautman, Ray
A history of the school of Library Service, Columbia University.
New York, Columbia, 1954.

U.S. Library of Congress. Subject Cataloging Division.
Subject Headings; a practical guide, by D. J. Haykin.
Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1951.

Wilson, H. W., publishers
Standard catalog for high school libraries. Supplement 1955.
New York, 1955.

Wilson, H. W., publishers
Standard catalog for public libraries. Supplement 1954.
New York, 1955.

THE STAFF LIBRARY
AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION

Free circulating libraries were developed relatively late historically. A major factor causing this lateness of development

was the fear that people might not return what they had borrowed. Despite this fear libraries came into being, anyway - as we know. But the fear proved to be a well-grounded one, as we also know. And one of the librarian's basic duties is to protect his book collection, to seek out and point he finger of scorn at book-non-returners. Which brings us t the embarrassing situation promised above. We have a staff library, a convenience that many library staffs do not have. It seems that we guardians of the books in the use of this, our own little library, are worse offenders than the general public in this matter of returning books. There are upwards of two hundred books on the Staff Library missing list! It's a small library, but there are those of us who love it, and its privileges may have to be withdrawn unless we can learn to use it properly. Let's get the books back and not have to send Mr. Carpenter after them. While were at it, we would also appreciate a little more attention to the proper checking out of staff library material.

Staff Library Committee

Library Men Honor a Library Lady

On Thursday, May 12, Mrs. Grace B. Loughlin, Chief, Open Shelf, was taken to lunch by members of her staff and by friends and Open Shelf Alumni. The surprise send-off party was held at Salmagundi's and one unusua l aspect of it was that the party consisted of fourteen male members of the Library staff and Mrs. Loughlin. Later in the day the entire Open Shelf staff presented Mrs. Laughlin with a gift to help her enjoy her trip.

Mrs. Loughlin sails for Europe on the Ile de France on May 18th.

A Note of Thanks to a Staff Member

We take pleasure in quoting the following letter recently received by a member of the staff. It seems to reflect favorably not only on the individual who received it but also upon the reputation of the Library and its staff as a whole.

> "I wish to express my thanks for your comprehensive memorandum. I am delighted with its completeness and the information that it furnished will, with my notes on the subject, enable me to finish the sketch I had in mind. I take pleasure in acknowledging this practical demonstration of the ability of the Library to find the right answer provided the inquirer knows what he wants, and is fortified with the good fortune of knowing whom to ask.
>
> With sincere assurance of my appreciation of your prompt and kindly interest, I am
>
> Very truly yours,
>
> John A. Murphy

CARE

Receipts and letters from recipients of CARE packages come in from time to time. We recently received one from Vietnam, a fine long one, in excellent handwriting, but, unfortunately, it was untranslated. We are sure, however, that it surely said a heartfelt "thank you". This and many other letters assure the Association of the gratitude of those who receive our gifts. We urge you to keep supporting this program, no matter how small your contributions may be. The excellent value, CARE Food Crusade Packages, at 50 ¢ are still available, and our CARE funds are being used to purchase these packages

Walter Bluhm
Care Committee

STATE AID - CONTINUED

As we were saying - Massachusetts spends more per capita - $2.10 - on public libraries than any other state, perhaps a dangerous sounding remark to air while discussing this subject, but there are a couple of tag-on considerations to think about in this matter. In the first place not all states can claim 100% library service, as Massachusetts can. The per-capita expenditure table of last month, however, was arrived at by dividing the entire population into the money spent. In some states 20%, 30%, 40% even 60% of the people have no public libraries (cf. South Dakota). Bringing library service to all the communities in those states will raise average expenditures considerably.

The second thing to remember about the high figure here is the handsome support given libraries in certain cities and towns

(such as Boston, Brookline, Winchester and Milton) where expenditures run to about $4.00 per person. In addition to these there are many other communities where library support runs three dollars or more. Unusually good library budgets in these places are most responsible for that $2.10 figure.

Let's talk about state aid legislation now. In the post-war period there has been actually only one attempt at such legislation. This occurred in January, 1947, when the B.P.L. Employees' Local Union No. 731, A.F.L., filed a bill seeking a measure of state aid. This bill was being discussed before the Ways and Means Committee of the State Senate with interested parties in attendance, and there was evidence of disagreement between members of the Library profession who were present. Because of this, the Ways and Means Committee suggested that the bill be withdrawn with an eye to further discussion of the matter among library circles and to preparation of a bill that would be more acceptable to everybody interested.

Accordingly, in October, 1947, there was a committee set up under the joint sponsorship of the State Library Commissioners, The B.P.L. Union and the Massachusetts Library Association, which was composed of a number of people in the library field, and which was to undertake a thorough study of all aspects of the library situation in Massachusetts. During the remaining months of 1947 and all through 1948 these people were busily engaged in preparing data. In January, 1949 it was held by those directing this work that the great bulk of the preparatory labors were out of the way, and that if all went well, there would be a bill before the legislature at its next meeting (January, 1950). As we all know, there was no such bill brought forth in 1950, nor has it been brought forth since then. There has been, this year, a meeting with the Governor in this matter, and the Governor has set up a Commission to study the matter further, whatever that means.

The end result of all this is that eight years after the ill-fated bill of the B.P.L. Union was submitted, and seven and a half years after the Committee was set up, nothing has happened.

Apparently, not many people on this staff or in the library profession generally throughout the state are very upset by this remarkable history of inaction. One is almost tempted to wax impudent about the whole thing and suggest that the state aid movement take one of the two following possible courses: (1) that its achievements be inscribed on a suitably mounted plaque and that the plaque be placed in the Abbey Room, where they seem to be collecting dead dreams these days, or (2) that it display some signs of life, and push vigorously toward real action. The planning stage seems to have lasted an awfully long time.

Meanwhile it is pleasant to sit back and plan what to do with our share of the money when it is made available. A program as generous, proportionately as New York's state aid would give B.P.L. enough money each year to build at least one and perhaps two of those proposed branches. Which is an interesting observation.

Bon Voyage

On Tuesday evening, May 17th Mrs. Grace Loughlin long-time member of the Adult Book Selection Committee was the guest of that Committee past and present at the Town Lyne House in Lynnfield. The pleasure of the excellent food was enhanced by the beautiful sunset on the Lake (Suntag) as each succeeding minute seemed to accentuate the splendor of the hour by the constant changes in the colors and reflections. Between courses Mrs. Loughlin "found" an envelope containing a token ift to be used for the purchase of something extra special on her forthcoming trip to France and Italy.

E. G. Peck

BIRTH

Dr and Mrs Walter Cotter have announced the birth of a son, David, on April 25.

RETIREMENTS

Jean B. Lay

Jean B. Lay retired from the Library Service on April 30, 1955 after twenty-four years as a member of the staff of the Branch Department and later of the Branch Catalog - except for short periods spent in branches.

In honor of this occasion, Miss Lay was guest of honor at a coffee party in the Women's Lounge on Wednesday, May 11th. Flowers fresh from the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Keswick (Branch Issue); breads fresh from the ovens of Edna G. Peck (Book Selection), Louisa S. Metcalf (Open Shelf), and Geneva Watson (Branch Librarian, Emeritus)--supplemented by other tempting foods; waitresses and pourers cordial and eager to serve; a committee busy and untiring behind the scenes--all these helped to make this party a happy memory, not only for the guest of honor but for all who attended.

The highlight of the morning was the presentation by John M. Carroll of a wishing well (decorated by Mildred R. Somes, Book Preparation). Close examination of it revealed that it was not green moss which clung to the old oaken bucket but instead green bills given to Miss Lay with the good wishes of her associates. The short speech of thanks, delivered in an easy, gracious manner and in a refreshingly humorous vein, delighted all who heard it.

And they included "Family"-- Mrs. Hazel Gormley, Helen Pease, and Nancy Poole from the Pioneer, and Mrs. Harriet S. Hemenway and Edith Wadsworth; and B.P.L. Alumni--M. Florence Cufflin, Minerva Elliott, Chester A. S. Fazakas, Beatrice M. Flanagan, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Alice M. Jordan, Sara A. Lyon, Mrs. Florence Stanley Sturges, Geneve Watson, and Rebecca E. Willis.

It is her graciousness of manner, her friendliness of spirit, and her rare sense of humor which will help Jean Lay to enjoy the years of leisure which are ahead of her. As she continues to travel, to attend concerts, the opera, and the theater, and enters into the many areas of service open to those who have leisure time to share their talents with others, her many Library friends wish her long life, good health, and great happiness.

Sarah M. Usher.

Note of Thanks

The Pioneer
Boston
May 12, 1955

To My Library Friends:

How kind of you to give me that delightful Coffee Hour! I enjoyed every minute of it and hope you did, too. The gift, the book, the flowers-- all were wonderful. But more than these I appreciate the friendliness and the many kindnesses you have always shown me. My thanks to each one for a very happy day.

Sincerely,
JEAN B. LAY

BEATRICE M. FLANAGAN

On Wednesday, May 4, friends of Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan tendered the retiring Chief of School Issue Department a farewell luncheon at the Hotel Vendome Dining Room. As a testimonial of their well-wishes the guests presented Miss Flanagan with a gift of money. The following exprosses Miss Flanagan's thanks.

Dear friends:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the lovely luncheon party given me on May fourth. It was the source of much pleasure to greet old friends and recall happy and memorable instances in the past. My retirement cannot help but be a happy one, knowing that I have so many well-wishers.

Since some of you were not able to be present at the luncheon to receive my personal thanks, I wish to gratefully acknowledge your part in the generous gift presented to me.

My retirement promises to be a busy one, but I hope to go on seeing all of you at other such pleasant occasions in the future.

Sincerely yours,
Beatrice M. Flanagan

MISS BOUDREAU SAYS THANK-YOU

Dear Helen,

While the party spirit is still with me, I am writing this brief note. It was a wonderful party!! The best part

of it all was the good wishes extended by my many friends, some of whom were not present. The pretty bouquet has found a permanent place on the TV set, and the memory book I shall always treasure.

Please extend my deep appreciation to everyone who participated. If you will send me the list of names, I shall write directly to each member of the committee.

As for the rest of my friends, perhaps later I can write the Odyssesy of Boudreau in Retirement. I miss my colleagues and the good old BPL.

Best always,
Elizabeth B. Boudreau

GERTRUDE LEUFGREN

The staff of the Hyde Park Branch Library entertained Miss Gertrude Leufgren at a luncheon at the Hi-Da-Way on Saturday afternoon May seventh. Miss Leufgren was retiring after forty-four years of service in the Library. After a delicious lunch, during which the staff reminisced about events which had taken place at the branch over the years, Miss Leufgren was presented with a gift and a corsage of cimbidium orchids. Miss Leufgren spent her entire career at Hyde Park Branch and her many friends will miss her.

****

BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM

General Administrative Notice, 1953-No. 114 is quoted below for the information of members of the staff:

"To Members of the Staff:

The Mayor's Blood Donors Program in which City of Boston employees are urgently requested to participate remains on a continuing basis. Donors must have passed their 18th birthday and not have reached their 60th birthday. Minors must have signed permission from parents or guardians.

Blood donations may be made at any time by appointment at the American Red Cross Blood Center, 314 Dartmouth St., Boston. Blood Donor cards may be obtained in the Staff Hospital. Four hours will be allowed to individuals whose appointments are scheduled in working hours.

It is understood that City of Boston employees and their families while in any Massachusetts hospital will be furnished without charge, such blood as may be needed in whatever amounts are available.

John J. Connolly
Assistant to the Director,
and Chief Executive Officer

24 November 1953"

At present the Blood Donor Center is open for taking blood donations on Tuesday and Thursday from 2 PM to 7:45 PM, and on Wednesday and Friday from 11 AM to 4 PM.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

In a notice issued by the Director on 9 April 1951 and entitled Appeal Procedure for Bibliothecal Employees, there is provided under the "Panel Method" that "each year there will be constituted a panel of ten individuals to serve for one year beginning on May 1st", and that "the bibliothecal employees (acting through their formal organization or organizations comprising a substantial majority of their number) may name five individuals (and an alternate for each).

Accordingly the Executive Board of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association has authorized the naming of five individuals (and an alternate for each) to serve on this panel until 30 April 1956. The following persons have indicated their willingness to be members of the panel:

Dorothy Becker, Central Charging Records.
Alternate: Geraldine Herrick, North End
M. Jane Manthorne, Open Shelf
Alternate: Grace Marvin, Approval Room
William Lewis, History.
Alternate: Wanda Cariani, Science and Technology
M. Florence Connolly, Fine Arts.
Alternate: Euclid Peltier, Audio-Visual
Rose Moorachian, Uphams Corner.
Alternate: Pasquale Vacca, BookmobileII.

We urge all who can possibly do so to attend the May business meeting on Friday morning, May 20th at 9:00.

Louis Rainn

President

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 31st Annual Conference of the Catholic Library Association met in Milwaukee April 12 to 15th, 1955. Five members from the New England Unit were among the 500 present.

The theme of the Conference was Living the Later Years.

The President Rev. A. Homer Mattlin, S. J. of Loyola College, Chicago elaborated on the theme by pointing out that leisure time is resulting from shorter working days and early retirement. He said that libraries by themselves or in cooperation with other groups should stimulate reading, discussion meetings and workshops among adults. Libraries must develop good reading habits among young people - habits which will carry them through the leisure hours in later years.

The founder of Marillac House in Chicago, a home for the aging, conducts a group on Thursday afternoons, very much like our Never-too-late group. She has found that a program of storytelling, pictures, and poetry is enjoyed immensely by these lonesome old people.

Another speaker suggested an idea for broadening library service. His thought was for specialized libraries in different parts of a city--an art center, a dramatic center, a scientific center, with books, discussion groups, exhibitions and opportunities for creative work.

All the speakers stressed the necessity of encouraging children to read at an early age and pointed out the need for more elementary school libraries.

The C. L. A. Conference in 1956 will be in Boston, and all with whom I talked, whether from New Jersey or Texas or Oregon were enthusiastic in the choice of Boston and expressed a firm desire to attend.

Miss Mary Alice Rea is in charge of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1956 Conference.

An added item of interest was the choosing of St. Peter Canisius as the patron of the Catholic Library Association.

Anna L. Manning

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Eamon McDonough reports that he will propose at the May meeting the Association's endorsement of the following law.

"That Section 3 of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1878 be amended as follows--by striking out in lines 17 to 21 the sentence beginning, 'And annually thereafter' and substituting for it the following:

'The trustees of the Boston Public shall be elected biennially at the regularly scheduled municipal elections of the city of Boston from among the citizens of Boston.'"

SOAP BOX
(Supplement)

To the editor:

The month of May is always welcome for there the fat robins are bursting with song, the tulips sprinkle the landscape with riotous color and the long night of winter gives way to daylight saving. This May, however, something new has been added--robins, tulips, sunshine plus General Administrative Notice #35 makes this an unusually hopeful spring.

E. G. Peck

To the editor:

Many people have spoken or written to me about the letter in the April Question Mark relative to the granting of time for the observance of religious holidays.

Some of these comments have led me to believe that I did not make my point clear in the original letter and thus left it open to misinterpretation.

I am not against those to whom the time is granted--I am against the policy of unequal distribution of privilege, that policy by which privileges for similar observances are not granted to those of all religious faiths. It is policy not people with which I take exception.

E. G. Peck

BRANCH NOTES

Jeffries Point

Rosalie Tutela, an extra assistant at the Jeffries Point Branch was the winner of the Sears Roebuck Foundation Leadership Award of $800. East Boston High was chosen this year to receive the award for one of it's seniors. The scholarship award will be presented at a dinner at a dinner at the Hotel Somerset on May 31.

North End

The Branch played host to several well-known musical personalities on April 26 when the Young Adults council presented its final large-scale educational-recreational program for local youth, "PLATTER CHATTER".

Several local "disc jockeys" and three young recording artists delighted a large, enthusiastic audience of North End young people. The panel, which was moderated by Bill Sherman of WMEX and the Boxton Post, consisted of Bob Clayton and Ray Dorey, Ed Penney, John Scott, Larry Welch, and Jay McMaster. The discussion was based on questions prepared by the Councillors and covered many phases of recorded music with special emphasis on the currently controversial "new sounds" such as the "rhythm and blues" recordings.

Mr. Al Natale, former North End resident and well-known name band musician, Miss Pat Dale, young singing co-star of the "Pat and Ray" shown on station WHDH and WBZ-TV singing star, Miss Cindy Lord, spoke briefly about their careers and also of opportunities in the musical fields for young people today.

Among the special guests at "PLATTER CHATTER" were Miss Barbara Cotter and the members of the Young Adults Council of Connolly Branch, Miss Grace Alfe and Miss Duilia Capobianco of East Boston Branch, and several young radio and recording personalities from the North End district.

A highlight of the program was a special exhibit prepared by the members of the North End Youth Council. The book display captioned "OF MUSICAL NOTE" featured many books and pamphlets on the various facets of popular music to career and music appreciation handbooks to biographies of famous musical people.

The purpose of this special program was to stimulate a keener understanding of popular music among young people, to introduce them to the men behind the records being played on the air, and to familiarize the local young people with the Library's collection of many books by and about musical people well-known to all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Miss Geraldine D'Amico, extra assistant who was recently awarded a Fellowship in the Department of Zoology at Wellesley College. Miss D'Amico is at present a senior at Emmanuel College.

The Young Adults Council was cited on Sunday, May 8, 1955 in the Boston POST in a special feature article for their work in promoting better community relationships among young people in the district. It was the first time that such a group has been featured in the POST's series, "TEENER OF THE WEEK".

Miss Mary L. Dennison, Adults Assistant at North End was tendered a Bon Voyage Party by the staff on Monday, April 25. She was also presented with a gift, a traveler's alarm clock. Miss Dennison left on the Greek Line's S. S. New York from Boston on April 28, for a trip to Europe. She plans to tour Italy and France and hopes to visit many historical and cultural spots in Italy. Miss Ellen C. Peterson, formerly Branch Librarian at North End, and Miss Dorothy Dodworth, former assistant, were among the guests who came to honor Miss Dennison at the Bon Voyage Party.

Parker Hill

On Sunday, May first, Miss Elizabeth M. Kernachan, Adult Librarian at Parker Hill was guest of honor at a colorful tea given by Miss Mary A. Hackett, Branch Librarian, at her home in Jamaica Plain. Miss Kernachan has recently been transferred to the Hyde Park Branch after twelve years of service at Parker Hill.

The entire full-time and part-time staff was present as well as special guests - Mrs. Frances Holland, sister of Miss Kernachan; Mr. Raymond E. Lundborn, Senior Building Custodian, and Mrs. Lundborn; and Mrs. James O'Neill, former children's Librarian at Parker Hill, and now Branch Librarian at Phillips Brooks.

Miss Kornachan was presented with a lovely Dellia Robia Madonna plaque as a gift from the entire Parker Hill staff. Delicious refreshments were served. Along with the many farewell wishes of GOOD LUCK, there was much enjoyment by all of Miss Kornachan's delightful sense of humor, which made it easier for the staff who indeed feels it will miss a loyal colleague and friend in the Parker Hill community.

West End

The Saturday Evening Girls, a former North End Branch Library group, held their meeting at the West End Branch on Saturday afternoon, May 7, in the form of a strawberry festival.

Following the business meeting, Miss Goldstein talked briefly on the Tercentenary of the settlement of the Jews in America and reviewed the twenty-second anniversary of the Burning of the Books in Germany on May 3, 1933, spotlighting the gift of the entire set of the Talmud known as "The Talmud of the Last Remnant" published in Nurnberg, Germany less than a generation after the infamous book burnings.

She a lso called attention to the fact that the Boston Public Library had recently acquired the 35 volume edition of the Talmud in English, published by the Soncino Press, which is one of the great scholarly achievements of this generation. Miss Goldstein displayed various one-volume editions of the Talmud especially edited for the layman.

The last volume of the S. E. G. News, the Cherry Tree edition, was distributed at the meeting.

STAFF NOTES

Round-robin letters, always something entertaining to create, are a welcome relief from boredom, especially to an invalid. West End recently conjured up such a letter to the joy of Mrs. Lehand, its recipient, who is recovering from an automobile accident.

A nine-year old patron of the West End Children's Room wanting to send her best wishes to Mrs. Lehane, the Children's Librarian, pasted a picture on a piece of paper and scribbled a verse beside it. From this small beginning grew a round-robin greeting that snowballed in size until it was 13 inches high and 35 feet long.

The children wrote personal messages and rhymes and drew pictures or clipped them from magazines to illustrate their sentiments. Members of the staff added some epic poetry and appropriate prose.

Mr. Jacques Moon, former West End employee, doing graduate work at Harvard, is again going to Greenland, land of the midnight sun, to work as a government geologist.

Mr. David Goldman, also a former West End Branch alumnus, now a graduate student at Harvard Business School, recently married Miss Anne Salvin of Chestnut Hill.

QUOTATION

"This Benson woman - what was she like?"

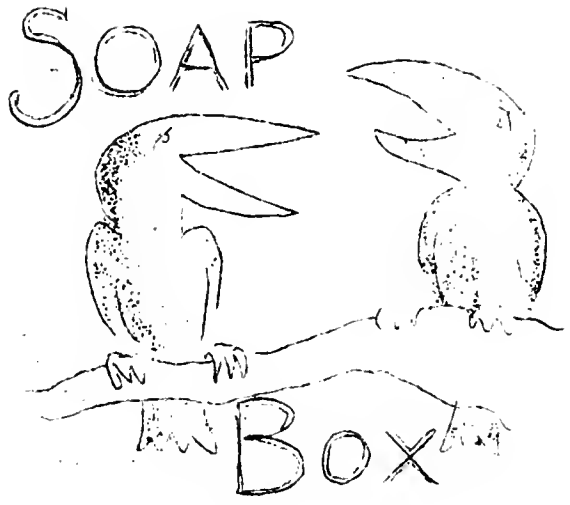
"She was nice," said Stella. "But of course she was a cataloguer."

"Cataloguer?"

"You're not a librarian. You wouldn't understand what that means. But I gather when people go to Library School - I never did, I'm just a junior - most of them suffer through cataloguing, but a few turn out to be born cataloguers. Those are a race apart. They know a little of everything, all the systems of classification, Dewey, Library of Congress, right down to the last number, and just how many spaces you indent each of them on a typed card, and all about bibliography, and they shudder in their souls if the least little thing is wrong. They have eyes like eagles and memories like elephants.

"With that equipment," said MacDonald, "she might really have spotted something for the F.B.I."

(From: Bond, R. T., ed. Famous stories of code and cipher. New York, Rinehart, 1947. p. 87.... QL696.C9)



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld fron publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

There once the shadows shed their night
On masks of marble, seeming mourners
The corridors are crammed with light
Which floods the former,furtive,corners.

But in the reading rooms about,
Where students spend their study hours,
The darkened shadows creeping out
Impunge all light like thunder showers.

J.J.H.

To the Soap Box:

On reading the April 1955 Question Mark, I wish to state that Miss Peck's letter concerning the observance of religious holidays was offensive not only to staff members of the Jewish faith, but to many non-Jews as well.

Few individuals will argue the point that time off should be given impartially for the observance of religious holidays, whether it be excused or charged to pay or vacation. But for Miss Peck to question the "spiritual calibre" of her associates--that is too much!

She professes to be concerned about accentuating religious and racial differences. I can think of no better way to accomplish this end than by writing a letter of this nature, for since its publication, such differences have been emphasized to a greater degree than before!

INDIGNANT

To the Soap Box:

The granting of days off for the observance of the Jewish holidays emanates from the office of His Honor the Mayor, who is not of the Jewish faith. It seems that a most appropriate admonition to anyone challenging such decisions would be to "Go fight City Hall!"

Abraham Snyder

To the Soap Box:

Miss Peck's letter of last month ignores the background of religious observances and toleration. Before the Protestant Revolution religious feast days commonly were observed publicly, and such celebration was enjoined by the Church for holy days of obligation.

Even after the Revolution many Protestant countries observed some of the feast days as public holidays and do to this day. However, the small sect of Protestant dissenters who founded this state considered the celebration of holy days as Romish and consequently evil.

When the Catholics first came here they discovered that, there being no Protestant holy days of obligation, the prevailing culture was not in sympathy with such celebrations. Catholics were expected to work just as their colleagues did.

At first from economic considerations

and latterly either from timidity or overweening delicacy towards the prevailing culture, the Church authorities have excused Catholics from the obligation of abstaining from servile works on most of the holy days of obligation.

Into this watered-down Christian culture has come a group of people, who have shown time and again that despite personal economic loss and social discomfortthat they will celebrate those days which they consider holy to God. True, many of them, also affected by the secularism of the day, have fallen by the wayside as woefully as ourselves. Nevertheless, the group has shown a desire to make public celebration of religious feasts and such is a tenet of their faith. In recognition of this fact and following the democratic process of majority deference to minority feelings, the mayor has granted time off to people of the Jewish faith.

Insofar as I know, this excused time was not asked for by any member of the Jewish faith. If any large segment of any other faith had shown an equal desire to celebrate properly the holy days of their faith, the mayor would undoubtedly make equal provision for them.

Eamon E. McDonough

To the Soap Box:

Miss Peck's suggestion concerning the use of vacation for religious purposes might prove very useful as a measure of the sincerity of the religious beliefs of all concerned. (Catholics would then be obliged to take time off on holy days of obligation. If I am wrong, the Archbishop can correct me.) However, such a rule might be interpreted as further evidence of the growing tendency in some quarters to secularize this country.

In view of the alarming shortages of help, I would suggest, also, that all this year's conventionaires attend the conventions during their vacation periods. Inasmuch as some have indicated their willingness to take days for religious observance as vacation, I am sure that the same fine, cooperative spirit will be shown in the matter of library association conventions.

Eamon E. McDonough

FALDERAL

There's lighting for the ceiling
And lighting for the hall,
Lighting for the courtyard
And the murals on the wall,
But lighting for the reading rooms?
Later - or maybe not at all.
The budget won't allow it,
Besides you may be moving
In a year or two or ten,
So what's the use of improving
Lights that may be outmoded then?

There's lighting for the ceiling
And lighting for the hall,
Lighting for the courtyard
And the murals on the wall,
But lighting for the reading rooms?
That wouldn't be bibliothecal
'Twould just be falderal.
It's only temporary;*
Not an emergency* you know,
In such, we always must go slow.

There's lighting for the ceiling
And lighting for the hall,
Lighting for the courtyard
And the murals on the wall,
But lighting for the reading rooms?
Well - maybe in the Fall,
But it seems so non-ancillary
That we may be forced to call
It something quite subsidiary.
In the meantime, brethren,
Better half a foot candle
Than no foot candle at all.

* Definitions from Webster

Emergency - an unforseen combination of circumstances calling for immediate action.

Temporary- lasting for a time only; existing or continuing for a limited time; not permanent; ephemeral; transitory; as temporary relief; a temporary situation.

LUCIFER WEAKEYES YOKUM

We ask you now to turn to page 7, where there are additional Soap Box letters, received too late for insertion here.

M. L. A. ANNUAL MEETING

June 9, 1955

Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts

"Meet and Eat" in the Governor's Mansion

Morning Session: 10 o'clock

Dr Robert Leigh, Acting Dean of Columbia Library School, will speak on the very important subject of STATE AID for libraries.

Business Meeting.

Luncheon Speaker: To be announced

Afternoon: Tour of Village.

See you there!!

Sarah M. Usher, Chairman
M.L.A. Public Relations
Committee

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE FIFTH ANNUAL

BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

TO BE PRESENTED IN THE

WIGGIN GALLERY - CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY TWENTY SEVEN, 1955 AT 8:00 O'CLOCK

THE SPEAKER WILL BE

EMERSON GREENAWAY

DIRECTOR, FREE LIBRARY of PHILADELPHIA

Dr. Greenaway, who before coming to Philadelphia, had served as Director of the Enoch Pratt Library of Baltimore, and of the Worcester Public Library, is considered one of the foremost experts on large public library administration. In addition to the posts mentioned above, Dr. Greenaway has also served as a consultant in Public Libraries for UNESCO, from 1947 to 1950. Dr. Greenaway's lecture will be entitled:

"THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

THE FREE LIBRARY IN TRANSITION"

Dr. Greenaway's remarks, dealing with a library of the size of the Free Library of Philadelphia, should be of especial interest to members of the Association.

AFTER THE LECTURE, REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED, AND AN OPPORTUNITY OFFERED TO MEET DR. GREENAWAY AND TO ASK HIM QUESTIONS.

Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee
Louisa S. Metcalf
Dorothy F. Shaw
Gladys R. White
Sarah W. Flannery,
Chairman

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 6 June 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

Another June is come, another year has passed and another Examining Committee's Report has been submitted. This year's report has arrived - how shall we put it? - not without comment. For specimens of this comment, more qualified, incidentally, than any we could ever muster here, we respectfully suggest that the reader glance later into the Soap Box where some of our more eloquent and experienced contributors have come through beautifully.

We felt that one of the most provocative remarks in the entire report was that concerning a strong recommendation of the previous Examining Committee which had gone unheeded. The matter in question was the leasing of desirable space in a city-owned building for Federal use while branch library quarters in the same building were unsatisfactory. Previous Examining Committees have objected, the Report says, but the situation has continued for many years and "tends to make members of the Committee feel that their work of visiting libraries and making suggestions has not great influence."

It is not right that the Examining Committee should have to entertain such sentiments, but it is the way of the world. All of us have at one time or another felt pretty much the same thing. Nothing injures a man's (or a committee's) pride more than indifference to what was lovingly executed, was hopefully presented - and indifference is the sort of treatment that is less likely to stir a man (or a committee) to an open fight than to dispirit and silence them. We appreciate the fear they have expressed - it is the fear of all who have had opinions or done a piece of work. No one among us wants to feel that what he has done "has not great influence."

* * * * *

After the approved fashion of crusading newspapermen we recently made so bold as to conduct a telephone interview with City Councillor Frederick C. Hailer, whose remarks about our roof and our forty-six proposed recruits were quoted in some of the papers after last week's City Council meeting. Councillor Hailer had the following questions put to him: (1) Did he think the new roof was needed? (2) Was he aware that the forty-six appointments were provided for in the budget already in effect? and (3) Did he object to the appointment of more new staff members to bring the staff back up to the size (647 members) that it had in January, 1954?

To the first question Mr. Hailer replied that he did not object to the idea of a new roof. He said that he and the other Councillors felt that the Library is one of the city's greatest architectural works, and should be kept in good repair and appearance. However, he, and they, felt that there were more important needs at the moment, and that the proposed cost of the roof was prohibitive. If a more reasonably priced substitute for expensive tile could be found, without, of course, harming the building's appearance, Mr. Hailer thought that it should be used. To the second question he replied that the number of staff members called for by the budget had been made clear to him. His answer to the third question was that he, and in his opinion the other Councillors as well, would not question or object to an increase in the number of staff members. He pointed out the legislative, not administrative function of the City Council in its dealings with the Library, which the Council regards as an especially independent structure, being such a highly specialized activity. After this brief question-and-answer period, Mr. Hailer expressed his cordial best wishes to the Association and acknowledged the importance of such organizations among employees of the various city departments.

PERSONAL NOTES

Resignations

Mrs. Doris M. S. Brimmer, Codman Square Branch Library - To move to New York.
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Good, Central Charging Records - To move to Maine.
Catherine Hannon, Codman Square Branch Library - To attend college in the fall.

Retirements

Katherine J. Collins, Binding Department, retired on May 31, 1955 after thirty-three years of service.

Births

John and Louise (Miraldi) LaFontaine announce the arrival of daughter Laura (8 lbs. 9 oz.) on June 10. Mrs. LaFontaine is on leave of absence from Supervisor's Office, Division of Reference and Research Services.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cataldo announce the birth of daughter Mary Grace, on May 21. Mr. Cataldo is employed in the Stock & Supply Room.
Vincent and Susan Shelvin Trunfio announce a daughter, Michele Susan, on April 19. Mrs. Trunfio is on leave of absence from Audio-Visual Department.

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

Mr. Ernest H. Clark, Librarian, University of Malaya, Singapore.
Professor Takimo Kaigo, Dean, Department of Education, Tokyo University.
Miss Isobel Sunio, Librarian of the Normal School, Philippines.
Miss Lucille N. Tsai, USIS Library, Kaohsiung, Formosa.

NEWS OF PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

It seems that every time the post of Librarian in a large university library comes up vacant nowadays a history professor is called upon to take over. Whether this is only a temporary phenomenon or a lasting departure from the good old-fashioned way of getting ahead in librarianship (i.e. by being a librarian) is difficult to say - who knows, next year they may be appointing chemists or lawyers when some of the fatter library posts are being filled. At any rate, the situation bears so close resemblance to that of Sir Joseph Porter in Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore, who stuck to his desk and never went to sea, but got to be the ruler of the Queen's Navee, that the following adaptation of his famous song is offered for the staff's edification, with, of course, humblest apologies to the shades of the original author. . .

When I was a lad some time I pass'd
As a junior instructor in a hist'ry class.
I gobbled up whole volumes of archival lore.
Memorizing dates until my brains grew sore.
And I did all this so skilfullee
That now I am Director of the Libraree -
  Yes, I did all this so skilfullee, etc.
* * *
As junior instructor I gained such fame
That all the University soon knew my name
And to show that I subscrib'd to academic creed,
I wore a leather-elbow'd jacket made of tweed.
And I flunked dull students so relentlessle
  That Lo! I am Director of the Libraree!
  Yes, I flunked dull students, etc.
* * *
Professor's rank was my next advance -
I looked for self-aggrandizement at every chance.
And lest my meteoric rise meet some sad sli
I made sure that I had a paid-up membership
In every paedogogical societee
And thus became Director of the Libraree.
  Yes, in every paedogogical, etc.
* * *
I lectur'd far, symposium'd wide;
I left no road to my success untried.
I always spoke well of the President's wife
And I led a most exemplary and pious life.
Just see how they've rewarded me,
By making me Director of the Libraree!
  Yes, see how they've, etc.
* * *
So Librarians all, wherever you may be,
If you ever want to be a great success like me -
Then take this wise advice - Don't be a foo
And waste your time by going to Library Sch
But infiltrate by way of teaching historee
And you may be Director of a Libraree!
  Yes, infiltrate by way of teaching histor
  And you may be Director of a Libraree!
* * *

B.P.L. IN PRINT

Commentary for June, 1955 contains an article by James Rorty entitled "The Attack on Our Libraries" in which B.P.L. is mentioned at some length.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Bainbridge, John
Garbo.
Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1955

Bishop, James A.
The day Lincoln was shot.
New York, Harper, 1955

Buck, Pearl
My several worlds.
New York, Day, 1954

Davis, Elmer H.
Two minutes till midnight.
Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1955

Fadiman, Clifton
Party of one.
Cleveland, World Pub.Co., 1955

Hanson, Lawrence
Noble savage.
New York, Random House, 1955

Lindbergh, Anne
Gift from the sea.
New York, Pantheon, 1955

Lippmann, Walter
Essays in the public philosophy.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1955

Murchie, Guy
Song in the sky.
Cambridge, Riverside Press, 1954

Peale, Norman V.
The power of positive thinking.
New York, Prentice-Hall, 1955

Rice, Grantland
The tumult and the shouting.
New York, Barnes, 1954

Salisbury, Harrison E.
American in Russia.
New York, Harper, 1955

West, Rebecca, pseud.
A train of powder.
New York, Viking Press, 1955

Non-Fiction -- Library Science

Association of College and Reference Libraries. ACRL monograph, no.13
Library - instructional integration on the college level.
Chicago, 1955

Esdaile, Arundel J.K.
A student's manual of bibliography.
3d rev. ed.
London, Allen & Unwin, 1954

Indiana Library Association
To the county line; a manual on county library extension in Indiana.
Indianapolis, 1953

* * * * *

Maxfield, David K.
Counselor librarianship.
University of Illinois Library School Occasional papers, no.38.
Urbana, Ill., 1954

Sloane, William
Children's books in England & America in the seventeenth century.
New York, King's Crown Press, Columbia University, 1955

Who's who in library service. 3d ed.
New York, The Grolier Society, 1955

Wilson, H.W., firm, publishers.
Fiction catalog. Supplement 1951/53
New York, 1954

Fiction

Angoff, Charles
The sun at noon.
New York, Beechhurst Press, 1955

Basso, Hamilton
The view from Pompey's Head.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1955

Forester, Cecil S.
The good shepherd.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1955

Hobart, Alice T.
Venture into darkness.
New York, Longmans, Green, 1955

MacInnes, Helen
Pray for a brave heart.
New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1955

Marquand, John P.
Sincerely, Willis Wayde.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1955

Patton, Frances G.
Good morning, Miss Dove.
New York, Dodd, Mead, 1954

Quoirez, Francoise
Bonjour tristesse.
New York, Dutton, 1955

Roberts, Dorothy J.
Launcelot, my brother.
New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1954

Van der Post, Laurens
Flamingo feather.
New York, Morrow, 1955

Yourcenar, Marguerite
Memoirs of Hadrian.
New York, Farrar, Straus and Young, 1954

EXCHANGE CORNER

We clipped the following from Northwestern University Library Staff Newsletter: Information Please Almanac lists all kinds of abbreviations of academic degrees, but neither BLS, MALS or DLS, or equivalents (All Library Science degrees). It does, however, contain one reference to our profession. It reads: "Colors of Academic Degrees. Library Science: Lemon."

RETIREMENTS

Katherine J. Collins

Miss Katherine J. Collins, Forelady in the Binding Department, retired after 34 years service on May 31,1955. Miss Collins entered the library service on July 21, 1921 and was appointed forelady on Nov. 1, 1929.

On May 17 friends of Miss Collins tendered her a birthday and farewell dinner in Steuben's Vienna Room. As a testimonial of their well wishes, her friends presented her with a gift of money and a morocco-bound book with the autographs of her many library friends.

Miss Collins is also a fifty year member of Local 56, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, and for that occasion was honored at a bookbinder's dinner on February 12.

Her many library friends wish her long life, good health and great happiness.

James P. Mooers

Beatrice M. Flanagan

On April 30,1955 Beatrice M. Flanagan retired from the library after forty-eight years of service, eighteen as a Branch Librarian and seventeen as Chief of the School Issue Department.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to call her boss and friend will never forget her and the qualities that made her special - rare understanding of human nature, a realistic attitude toward life and work, resolute fairness,boundless generosity and courage, and a cheery optimism that produced a spontaneous flow of good spirits.

Presenting her with a parting gift from present and former staff members in a loving cup inscribed TO A CHAMPION BOSS, May McDonald aptly expressed all our feelings when she said that the cup brought to mind an Oscar and the awards for which they are given:

Best Performance - Her performance as a boss has been unequalled.
Best Supporting Role - She gave us her support at all times and was a prop when we needed a prop.
Best Direction - Her direction was superb and for all of us who needed it she imparted that sense of direction
Best Design - Her design for living, in and out of the library, was a thing to be admired and copied.
Best Music - She leaves us with a song in our hearts because of having known and worked with her.

May summed it up by saying that Miss Flanagan wins all the awards - the difference being that all the other Oscar candidates have to compete whereas she has always run so far ahead of the rest of the field she has no competition.

We wish her the best of all good things in her retirement.

IJW

School Issue Honors Miss Flanagan

In honor of her recent retirement from the library Miss Beatrice Flanagan was given a farewell party on Saturday afternoon May 21, by present and past staff members of School Issue Department. Afternoon tea was served to about forty people in the Candlelight Room of the Sherry Biltmore Hotel, some of the guests coming from as far away as New York, New Jersey and Vermont. Many others, great distances away, sent greetings. Miss Flanagan was presented with a white orchid corsage and a unique gold loving cup inscribed 'To a Champion Boss', inside of which was a gift of money. She was also given a huge framed tribute in verse (done by a former 'extra') to her outstanding qualities of good humor and friendliness. It was a very jovial gathering, one which will be pleasantly remembered for a long time, partly because of the many pictures taken by a professional photographer friend of Miss Flanagan's.

THE PRINT DEPARTMENT

The current exhibition in the Albert H. Wiggin Gallery is "Recent Acquisitions".

In view of the interest shown in the Boston Art Festival, the staff may appreciate seeing what is being produced in the world of print making.

A number of outstanding prints in the exhibition are by rising young artists of France and reflect today's emphasis on imagination.

Works by some of the earlier French masters are included, and the ever-popular lithographs by Stow Wengenroth are also to be seen.

The current issue of one of our national pictorial magazines features the work of Marc Chagall depicting scenes of the Old Testament. Part of a complete set of etchings of the Old Testament by this same artist are displayed in one of the show-cases, and another set of Old Testament wood engravings by Fritz Eichenberg are included.

The pièce de résistance of the exhibition is a drawing by Jean-Louis Forain, done as a study of his world-renowned etching "The Return of the Prodigal Son".

It will be worth while to make a trip to the upper regions of our Italian Palace to see the exhibition, and it seems safe to say that almost everyone will see something which will give him pleasure.

From: Mrs. Muriel C. Javelin, Secretary
Film Council of Greater Boston
Boston Public Library
Boston,17, Mass.

The Film Council of Greater Boston held its Fifth Annual Film Festival at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel on May 14,1955. Fifty-five films from the many submitted had been selected for Festival showing by five Selection Committees--(1) Adult Education, (2) The Arts, (3) Classroom, (4) Religion, (5) Industry—(a) Public Relations and (b) Safety.

Among the registrants at the Festival were representatives from a variety of industries, including film producers, film distributors, and dealers in audio-visual equipment, librarians and educators from public and parochial schools, other private schools and colleges.

From nine to ten o'clock in the morning the festival audience enjoyed the coffee hour and viewed the audio-visual exhibits. By ten O'clock the screenings were under way. Each viewer rated each film individually on its own merits. The balloting was extremely close in many instances which indicated that the films were worthy Festival choices.

Presiding at the Festival luncheon was Council President, Alan F. Lydiard. Right Reverend Timothy F. O'Leary, Dept. of Education, Archdiocese of Boston, offered the invocation. Mr. Paul Radar was the luncheon speaker. Mr. Radar chose as his subject, A New Approach to Educational Filming.

* * * * *

BOSTON DRAMA WORKSHOP

A Summer Theatre group has been organized by members of the library staff, led by Paul J. Delahanty, of Branch Issue, and Ruth V. Sherry of Allston Branch. The group will present a series of five plays this Summer in the parish hall of the Arlington St. Church. Each play will run for two nights, and a new play will be presented every other week, beginning July 5th and 6th.

Among other members of the group, which will be known as the Boston Drama Workshop, are Miss Faith Minton, Book Stack Service; Jeremy Hughes, Bates Hall Ref.; Joseph Bondi, formerly of Central Charging; and Mrs. Constance Delahanty, formerly of Book Stack Service.

Plays to be presented will include: "Bell, Book and Candle" by John Van Druten; "Outward Bound" by Sutton Vane; and an original play by Mr. Delahanty titled "The Judgement of Joan".

The entire series will be staged and directed by Mr. Delahanty.

For information regarding tickets and reduced rate season subscriptions, please contact Mr. Delahanty at the Branch Issue Department.

MORE BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Gurnett, Jr. are the parents of a son, Edward F. Gurnett I born on May 26, 1955, the third child and first son. Mrs. Gurnett is the former Julie Manning of Rare Book Department. The proud godparents are Bill and Margaret Butler.

Mr. and Mrs. James P. J. Gannon also announce the birth of a son, James Patrick Gannon, on May 26, 1955. Mr. Gannon is in the Binding Department.

CHILDREN'S ROOM NEWS

Children's Section, Open Shelf Department

In honor of Miss Dennis' beautiful exhibit of dolls in the library, the girls were invited to bring their dolls to story hour on May 24th. Even our story tellers, Mr. and Mrs. John Cronan and Mrs. Margaret Powers, had dolls to illustrate the stories told. Among the children's dolls were guests from as far away as Puerto Rico, Africa, Austria, Scotland, Spain and Poland. Of course they were dressed in their best and very well behaved indeed. The boys who came were as interested and listened as delightedly as the girls. Each child went home with a list of books about dolls.

ORCHIDS TO MISS DOHERTY

If you were in the Central Building on June 9, 1955, we're sure you noticed Miss Bessie L. Doherty, Assistant in Charge of Branch Issue. She was the lady with the orchid. On that Day Miss Doherty was honored with a luncheon at Joseph's Restaurant by the members of her department. The occasion commemorated Miss Doherty's fiftieth year in the Library's service. After a pleasant lunch, her friends presented her with gifts of jewelry and perfume.

BRANCH NOTES

Mattapan

Miss Theodora Sooff, Branch Librarian, is recuperating at her home 149 Kittredge Street, Roslindate, after three weeks spent at Pratt Hospital.

Two former members of the Mattapan Branch were feted at a luncheon held at Dinty Moore's on May 21, 1955. The honored guests were Miss A. Phyllis Freeman, now at Codman Square Branch, and Mrs. Mary Mehlman Burns on the staff of Bookmobile II. As her gift, Miss Freeman received a red wallet; Mrs. Burns was the recipient of a dainty nylon blouse.

Present at the party, besides members of the staff, were two former Mattapanites Mrs. Nancy Stipurko Kiernan, and Miss Helen Connell of Neponset Branch.

South Boston

The members of the Teen Age Reporters Club of South Boston wound up the year's activities with a party held in their honor in the Children's Room of the Branch. Book quiz games and refreshments were enjoyed by all present. The club members surprised Martha C. Engler, Children's Librarian in charge o f activities, with a beautiful corsage of spring flowers. During the past year the Teen Age Reporters visited the Central Building of the Boston Public Library, Mrs. Jack Gardner's Fenway Court and the Egyptian Gallery of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, after having prepared themselves by reading from a list of specially selected books on the place to be visited.

West End

Professional interest

The account of an interesting experiment conducted at West End last Spring appears in the May issue of "Junior Libraries." How the children in the Spring Festival Reading Club decided on their own list of Honor Books is described in the article "Young Readers Know What They Like", by Veronica M. Lehane, Children's Librarian .

Miss Fanny Goldstein was one of three national judges for the awarding o f the Jewish Book Council of America's Isaac Siegel Memorial Juvenile Award for the best Jewish Juvenile published during the current year. Nora Kubie was recipient of the award for her book "King Solomon's Mines", published by Harper.

In accordance with her usual custom, Miss Goldstein went to New York to attend the National Jewish Book Council annual meeting on May 17, where the awards were made.

Staff notes

Miss Veronica Lehane, Children's Librarian at West End, has returned to work after a prolonged illness due to an automobile accident.

Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian at West End, Miss Ethel Kimball of Allston, and Miss Minna Steinberg of Central Cataloging Department will fly to Europe on July 7 - objective: Israel. They will tour Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Italy and Greece, flying from Greece to Israel where they will spend twelve days. Flying back by way of Naples,

Nice, and Madrid, they will return to the States for Labor Day. En route they expect to meet many distinguished people in addition to the usual sight-seeing and the busman's holiday of visiting libraries abroad.

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

As I enter in the portal
And glance up at the stair
The sight I see is sad enough
to raise up every hair!

Three brazen-hued excrescences
Obscure the marble's view
Giving horror to the many
To support the shaky few.

Still, Progress must go on, they say
Though horrid to the sight
And the bones that don't get broken
May resign us to the blight???

AN ENEMY OF PROGRESS
C. O'Toole

To the Soap Box:

Since the Soap Box has been more than generous in allotting space when I wished to "let off steam" regarding conditions which I, in my limited concept, thought to contain the seeds of unjustice, discrimination of inequities, I should like to take this opportunity to note two recent incidents which seem to evidence a forward look.

First, the recent notice stating that library aid beyond the original five grants now in operation for several years, has been expanded to include a wider range of recipients was indeed welcome. Certainly any staff member, irrespective of position, who due to his (or her) affiliation with the Boston Public Library is required to attend professional conferences, or who as the chairman of an American Library Association committee is required to be present at any given conference should have his expenses paid. Surely if anyone needs an assist, it is the President of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. His (or her) presence at national conferences brings essential inspiration and added information relative to staff organizations, by contact with members from other organizations from all parts of the country and from attendance at SORT meetings. The recent action, a most commendable one, puts the Boston Public Library more in line with other large libraries in this respect. Congratulations to those responsible.

Secondly, we now have a public telephone in our staff quarters - and is it welcome! By now, it is so much at home that I understand it has already been "out-of-order."

Lest we become complacent with our many acquisitions, how about starting a drive for the installation of a stamp machine? That too can get "out-of-order" and keep the telephone from being lonesome.

Edna G. Peck

To the Soap Box:

The marble foyer ablaze with light,
Exhibit cases, gleaming brass and tubes
fluorescent;
Through the corridor to the right,
The Newspaper Room twilit by yellow
incandescent,
The dim and antique, 19th century
Periodical Room,
Studies in dingy, cavernous gloom.
Purblind.

To the Soap Box:

Would someone please explain to me why certain Assistants-in-Charge have been granted generous increases in pay in recent months, while others are still on the payroll with merely a $50 increase? I should like to know on what basis this discrimination is made.

To the Soap Box:

The Examining Committee's Report makes very interesting reading this time, particularly the section submitted by the subcommittee on Personnel. It is a strong and outspoken statement, and pinpoints relentlessly the one major step necessary to steady the Library back to normalcy and sense. It is time the Library was given back to its lawful Director. Except for the professional bellyachers, and those who profit from disturbances, most members of the Staff now see to what near disaster the Library was brought by irresponsible interferences in direction. It is true the Director has made some large mistakes, and some people have been pushed around, including me. But any fair observer of the over-all picture will concede that he has had the future interests of the whole Library always in his sights, and that he wanted us to take that place among the great libraries of the world which is rightfully ours. In the process he too often contented himself with a card-index knowledge of the Staff, forgetting that we are a flesh and blood family, 600 strong, with special talents pearled in us by attrition and time, and idiosyncracies engendered by disappointment and age. Six hundred is a negotiable number, and twenty years are long enough for any manager to have learned how best to dispose the human assets in his charge, to put round pegs in round holes, and how not to be over tender, at the Library's expense, with Squares. All the same, the most constant and intemperate critics have been actuated by the basest of motives, and in the immemorial custom of their kind, they have borne false witness.

The members of the Examining Committee have exhibited responsible citizenship of a very high order, and I hope the Staff will express its appreciation.

Harry Andrews

To the Soap Box:

Below is a copy of a letter which I have sent to Rt. Rev. Edward G. Murray. Similar letters were sent to Dr. Leon Medalia and Mr. Paul Buck. Since the matter concerns the staff, they may be interested in reading the letter:

Right Reverend Monsignor:

I have just finished reading the report of the Sub-Committee on Personnel of the Examining Committee of the Boston Public Library. The report mentioned the interviews with members of the staff of which I was one. I am rather startled by some of the conclusions. I trust that nothing I said led to these conclusions.

For example, the report says, "None questioned the equity of its (the examination system's) operation." On the contrary, Monsignor, I most definitely do question it. But, if you will recall, your group asked me what I thought was the most important morale problem and trying to keep first things first, I told you the shortage of help, which we discussed at length. As I was leaving, I also indicated that there were innumerable other problems which I would be glad to discuss with you ad nauseam when you weren't so pressed for time. None of you indicated any interest in any further discussions. Therefore, I gathered you were not interested in any morale problem that might concern the Administrator's attitude to the staff.

Apparently my assumption was correct, for you spend your entire report on one facet of morale, the Trustees' attitude toward the Administrator and at that either misunderstand or distort the problem. I am keenly disappointed in your committee. I am making public to the staff this letter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(signed) Eamon E. McDonough

Dear Editor:

When I read General Administrative No. 30, 1955, I too shared the perplexity of the members of the City Council. I could not see how the trustees, even if they managed to squeeze half a year's pay for 46 people out of the present budget, intended to support those people in 1956, inasmuch as the personnel budget of the Library has been on the decrease since 1953.

Then I thought to betake myself to the present budget as it appears in the Mayor's presentation to the City Council on February 7, 1955. Sure enough, there was the personnel budget figure of $2,600,000 based on a total of 600 positions. Apparently the trustees were in a position to fill 44 jobs since January 1, 1955. Knowing the acute shortages that existed on the staff, they have sat idly by and will do nothing until July 1, 1955. How cruel and cynical they must be! What is the money that has been saved to be used for?

DISILLUSIONED

To the editor:

It has been said that there was, and that there is now, a certain and definite indication that all, and even the entire amount that was believed to have been made up from previous possibilities could not have been so arranged, at a time when other actually active incidents of passivity were pressing for perusal, unless factors heretofore unrecognizable, though in reality equally as important, as more noticeable negative influences were forced by their very nature, as that may be, to activate, at least in small identifiable way, the unconscious currents, which in all probability though not essentially of necessity, seem to lead the trend toward that which in the past had been referred to - but not defined as merely motivating forces.

DISGUSTED

The pleasant part about typing up this last Soap Box item was the complete freedom from worry about leaving out a word or two. We hope that none will suspect a waggish note in putting DISGUSTED's remarks immediately before the President's Notes for this month's issue. It is no suggestion of kinship, but merely the cold result of the accident of format.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The response to our letters asking Congressmen from Massachusetts to support the Library Services Act (S. 205) has been mos encouraging. The replies we have received to date indicate that this legislation will receive very close attention from our Congressmen, and that several Representatives will be active in support of the Act when it reaches the House. May we urge that you write to your Congressmen from your home districts asking their active support of this pending legislation

The June issue Of the ALA BULLETIN includes several items on the Library Services Act, including a chart showing the actual amounts of money to be allotted to each state and territory.

The decision of the Trustees to allow an additional grant toward the expense of attending the ALA convention to your President is indeed gratifying. It is our belief that this gesture was made in recognition of the many positive contributions the staff has made to the Library and to the library profession, and, therefore we extend our thanks not only to the Trustees but, also, to all our members, past and present.

There has been some small tumult and shouting about a statement contained in the Examining Committee's Subcommittee on Personnel Report. In referring to the examination system the statement was made that none questioned the equity of its operation. Frankly, I don't know just what the Subcommittee meant by that statement, but it is not a phrase that I would have used to describe what I had to say when I met with the Subcommittee. However even though there may be a misstatement of fact, the Report should be granted a passing mark for coming to grips with the problem of the administrative control of the Library.

We congratulate the Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee under the capable chairmanship of Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, for having arranged such an interesting meeting. Mr. Greenaway rightfully takes his place among the honored list of Hartzell Memorial Lecturers. We also thank the Entertainment Committee for the most welcome refreshments.

LOUIS RAINS, President

THE FIFTH ANNUAL

BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

MAY 27, 1955

On the evening of May 27, 1955, the fifth annual Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Emerson Greenaway, Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Dr. Greenaway's topic was the recent history of the Philadelphia Library, and was entitled "The Philadelphia Story: the Free Library in Transition". The story specifically was the history of the recent and current re-organization of the Philadelphia Library system, and it was received by a group of some eighty Boston Public Library Staff Association members and friends. The Association was pleased to have as its guest, among those present, young Mr. Drew Hartzell, the grandson of Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell.

Doctor Greenaway easily qualifies for a place on the growing and imposing list of Hartzell Memorial Lecturers. His record at Worcester and Baltimore before going on to Philadelphia is well known to the entire Library Profession. Since coming to Philadelphia he has done a noteworthy job as well.

The topic was one of obvious interest in a Library of our size, and Dr. Greenaway's easy and friendly manner of delivery made the talk even more interesting to those present. Everywhere he stressed the human side of administrative problems encountered in the revitalization and redevelopment of the Philadelphia Library's resources. The problem involved was considerable, too, as he pointed out, what with multiple interlocking trusteeships and complex relationships between the Library and the city government. The government of our Library by its Board of Trustees seems a simple arrangement indeed when compared with Philadelphia's. Perhaps most interesting was Dr. Greenaway's account of the recruiting of new staff members to enlarge the staff and provide new vitality; of the establishing of new departments and services; and of adaptations of existing building space for all these innovations.

All those members of the Staff Association who attended the Hartzell Lecture and who are planning to attend American Library Association Conference at Philadelphia can look forward to stopping by and seeing at first hand the many sweeping changes that Dr. Greenaway has instituted at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Once again the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee is to be commended for a job well planned and well executed. They are particularly to be congratulated on the choice of their lecturer for this year. Dr. Greenaway's talk was particularly appropriate.

May we also congratulate here the Entertainment Committee of the Staff Association for having provided the very welcome refreshments which were served at the conclusion of the Lecture.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JULY 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 6 July 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

Staff morale is more than the maintenance of a favorable relationship between an administration and a staff. It requires more than good working conditions and it goes further than adequate promotional plans or salary scales. Morale is essentially entwined with the individual's specific job and the efficiency with which he, or she, is permitted to do that job.

Here at the Boston Public Library if the day ever came when everyone was content with his working conditions, that promotions and their plans were not panned and that salaries satisfied all, there would still be some of us discontented because of some obviously impractical procedure which creates confusion and sometimes invites dishonesty. Each division, department and individual task is subject to a different complaint but all of us should be concerned with a registration and charging system which is supposed to keep track of the library's books.

What is wrong with this system?

It starts with registration where it is possible for a borrower to obtain a temporary library card, good for one transaction, without any kind of identification. This "one transaction" may involve the charging of books or records or both. Of course few people would resort to stealing library materials by giving false identification, but some do. And often the unrecoverable book is out of print and irreplaceable. The incidence of this type of book loss has had an increment of approximately two hundred percent since the inception of the present regulations.

The next thing wrong is the mobility of transaction cards. These cards often are lost, misplaced or delayed in transit by both the public and the staff and consequently an overdue notice is sent to a borrower who has returned the book. Such a notice does not foster public good will.

Another complaint from the public is that one cannot tell from the library card how many books are charged out. Parents, especially, reiterate this complaint for it is impossible for them to keep track of their children's obligations to the Library without making a periodic search of their premises.

We realize that it is not the Association's business to meddle with administrative decisions - but, this new charging system has long caused a considerable amount of irritation to both staff and public.

* * * *

In this issue there is a revival of an almost-forgotten section of the Personal Notes column - "New Employees". We welcome our new arrivals and hope that "New Employees" will flourish as a QM regular, keeping pace with "Resignations" and "Retirements".

* * * *

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Laura M. Bondi - Director's Office (formerly part-time in Information Office).
John J. Brauer - Central Charging Records.
John J. Daley - Open Shelf.
Ann M. Flaherty - Bookmobile I (formerly part-time at Washington Village).
Phyllis E. Glaserer - Codman Square.
Mrs. Dorothy M. Hanna - Tyler Street Reading Room.
Margaret A. Hewey - South End.
Mrs. Aloma C. Jackson - Central Charging Records.
Mrs. Catherine N. Lewis - School Issue.
Anne D. Mason - Uphams Corner.
Mrs. Mildred F. Picone - Cataloging and Classification, HR & CS (formerly part-time at Roslindale).
Richard F. Regan - Central Charging Records.
Mrs. Elaine R. Sherer - Mount Bowdoin.
Rita R. Taddonio - Roslindale.

Transferred

Mrs. Lucia S. Faulkner - from Memorial to Mount Pleasant.
Marjorie Gibbons - from Washington Village to Memorial.
Mrs. Bette V. Pinckney - from Mount Pleasant to Bookmobile I.
Mrs. Dorothy S. Rosen - from Lower Mills to Brighton.
Mrs. Christine J. Umano - from Bookmobile I to Lower Mills.

Resignations

Eleanor L. Jewett - Director's Office.
Mrs. Helen M. Smith - Central Charging Records.
Marcia F. Hale - Book Stack Service - to be married.

Retirement

Flora A. Ennis - Central Charging Records, retired on June 30, 1955 after fifty years of service.

Engagements

Catherine T. Duffy, Book Selection (HR & CS), to Louis R. O'Halloran, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services.
Mary J. Brady, Office of Division of Reference and Research Services, to Mr. Philip F. Frazier of Newton.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Jose de Rivas-Micoud of New York City announce the birth of a daughter, Diana Alexia Eda, on June 4, 1955. Mrs. Rivas-Micoud is the former Margaret Macdonald of the Director's Office.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. F. Sullivan of Corning, New York have announced the birth of a daughter, Catherine Ann, on June 8, 1955. Mrs. Sullivan is the former Helen Pappas of the Information Office.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Cronin have announced the birth of a son, Robert Francis, Jr., on May 25, 1955. Mrs. Cronin is a former part-time member of the Information Office staff.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Karpeles announce the birth of daughter Ruth Sharon on June 16. Mrs. Karpeles is the former Helen Beeman of Personnel.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Weinberg announce the birth of a daughter, Amy on June 3. Mr. Weinberg is a member of the Patent Room staff.

VISITORS

Mr. S. Ramabhadran, Delhi, India.

Mr. S. Das Gupta, Delhi, India.

Mr. K. R. Desai, Ahme Sabad, India.

Mr. S. Bashiruddin, Delhi, India.

Dr. B. V. R. Rao, Bangalore, India.

Mr. A. N. Sharma, Delhi, India.

VISITORS (cont.)

Dr. Jose Moncado Moreno, Caracas, Venezuela.

Mr. D. C. Sarkar, Hawrah, India.

Mr. P. C. Bose, West Bengal, India.

Mr. J. S. Anand, New Delhi, India.

Mr. B. C. Banerjea, West Bengal, India.

Mr. A. Moid, Karachi, Pakistan.

Mr. Noto Soetardjo, Djakarta, India.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Staff Organizations Round Table business meeting was held at Convention Hall at 8:30 AM, Wednesday, July 6, 1955, Mrs. Alpha Myers of the Public Library of Newark, New Jersey, presiding. Present as delegates from the Professional Staff Association were Harry Andrews, John M. Carroll, Elizabeth Wright, Veronica Yotts and Louis Rains.

After the reports of the officers and committees were read and accepted there was a general discussion of two proposed amendments to the SORT constitution. The first of these would extend the term of office of members of the Steering Committee to three years, with these members being elected each year, as against the present two year term, in an effort to provide experienced leadership and to insure continuity of activities. The second proposed amendment would enable the Steering Committee to request the resignation of any of its members who, six months after election, would not or could not accept the responsibilities and duties of office. The Executive Board of the BPLSA had considered these two amendments at the June meeting and, considering them to have merit and logic, had instructed the delegates to vote yes on both. The adoption and rejection of these amendments will have to wait on receipt of mailed ballotts.

The next order of business was the election of six new members to the SORT Steering Committee. The successful candidates were Le Moyne W. Anderson of the University of Illinois Library, Marion B. Appleton of the Seattle Public Library, Ruth A. Brennan of the St. Louis Public Library, Dorothy L. Day of the Louisville Public Library, Margaret L. Jacobs of Enoch Pratt Free Library, and Helen J. Maunu of the Cleveland Public Library.

Of the staff associations represented at this meeting only four, including Boston, had a delegate whose expenses had been paid wholly or partially from funds made available by the Trustees of the libraries.

The program meeting of SORT was held on Thursday, July 7, at 2:30 PM. The featured speaker was Mr. William T. O'Rourke, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, who spoke on employee participation in administration. Mr. O'Rourke's talk was friendly, amusing, and informative. The gist of Mr. O'Rourke's talk was that there cannot be too much democracy in staff-administration relationships. Mr. O'Rourke also stated that he received the same impression from his participation in a group discussion at the pre-conference meeting of the Personnel Administration Workshop. Another gentleman who had attended the workshop stated that he had not received the same impression. Still another gentleman rose to state that he agreed with Mr. O'Rourke's statement.

Following Mr. O'Rourke's talk was a panel discussion during which administration-staff relationships in libraries of various sizes was discussed. The gist of the discussion was that the staff should be consulted by the administrators on matters of mutual concern, and that the staff should be kept informed of policies and objectives.

During the conference I had the opportunity to talk to many people who were interested in staff organizations. The one question that was most frequently asked was "Does the Boston Public Library

Professional Staff Association limit its membership to professional librarians?" The best answer I could think of was that the word "Professional" in our name was more descriptive of our aims than of limitations in eligibility for membership.

In an effort to learn how other staff associations functioned and operated I tried to ask the people I met some appropriate questions. Almost invariably the tables were turned and I found myself answering questions. I was forced to the conclusion that the for this is because we are considered to be among the leading and most progressive of the staff organizations and that others look to us for guidance and leadership. In the light of this I suggest that we should re-appraise ourselves rather frequently to insure that this position of leadership which we must have earned in the past is equally merited in the future.

Louis Rains
President

RETIREMENTS

On May 4, seventy-five friends of Miss Flanagan honored her at a luncheon at the Hotel Vendome. Mrs. Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor in the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, reminisced most pleasantly of early working days she had shared with the guest of honor. John J. Connolly, Assistant to the Director and Chief Executive Officer, presented Miss Flanagan a billfold containing a tangible expression of appreciation for her long and fruitful years of service for the library from her many friends throughout the system.

Sharing the festive occasion were several BPL alumni who were welcomed cordially: Misses M. Florence Cufflin, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Alice M. Jordan, Clara L. Maxwell, Margaret I. McGovern, Katherine S. Rogan, Elizabeth P. Ross, Mary M. Sullivan Rebecca E. Willis, Margaret C. Donaghue, and Messers. Chester A. S. Fazakas and William F. Quinn.

****

Flora A. Ennis

On June 21,1955, after more than fifty years in the library's service, Flora A. Ennis walked out of the Boston Public Library a free woman.

For most of those fifty years Miss Ennis held the position of Fine Clerk in charge of mail work for the (then) Reference Division, performing her duties with the care and attention to detail that characterizes everything she does. Anyone who has watched her work can well believe that fewer books were kept overdue in her day for, when aroused, the baleful eye with which she fixed the erring public struck terror to the strongest heart. That cool, questioning glance, so familiar to public and staff has passed but the insouciant smile that always followed it remains, surviving numberless "lost book" reports, "found lost book" reports, and the thousands of fines sentenced upon a reluctant public.

A perfectionist with a sense of humor, concientious without being boring, Miss Ennis will always be remembered with affection by the people who worked with her.

On June 21,1955, Flora A. Ennis walked out of the Boston Public Library a free woman and when she did the library lost an outstanding personality. It will probably survive but it will never be the same.

On Thursday morning, June 16, one of the most pleasant affairs of the year took place. A coffee hour was given in the Ladies' Lounge in honor of Flora A. Ennis who retired June 30. The coffee (made by Mrs. Keswick of Branch Issue) was delicious and all manner of viands made their appearance-and disappearance, since the several varieties of doughnuts and bread were very popular with the guests. The guest of honor looked even more charming than usual as she received the good wishes of her many friends on the present staff of the library

and many other former staff members who came in especially to see her. The staff's gift of money, in a white billfold inscribed with her name, was presented by Mr. Carroll, whose presentation speech couldn't have been more fitting or appropriate. Those present agreed that it was a wonderful party for a wonderful person , and as Miss Ennis accepted in her usual gracious style the re eated good wishes of her friends, the party ended with everyone concerned feeling pleased with themselves. The committee in char e of this affair did a wonderful job and deserve congratulations.

Central Charging Records

The staff of Central Charging Records has received some interesting letters from Katherine LaBonte Williams, who is travelling in Europe with her soldier husband.

Kay flew from Logan Airport on May 27th with the best wishes of all her friends at CCR. Prior to her departure, a luncheon was held at the Copley Plaza and the staff presented her with an attractive blouse.

Kirstein Business Branch

On June 24, three members of the staff at Kirstein Business Branch attended the ordination of a former staff member, Frederick Powers, in Providence, Rhode Island. The morning ceremony took place in the Cathedral of St. John (Episcopal). After the ceremony, the staff members took advantage of the opportunity to greet Rev. Powers. On July 1 Rev. Powers took up his duties as curate at Trinity Church, Newport, Rhode Island.

ALA PRAISES QM

This year, as usual, copies of QM were passed out at the ALA Convention and all readers praised it highly and sent congratulations to the BPLSA.

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

At the recent convention in Philadelphia many of the speeches were original and inspiring, provoked thought and started discussions. But inevitably there were others that were pedestrian, overlong, and dull. Such speeches do violence to your mouth muscles at the time you hear them, and the memory of them when you get back to your hotel room causes the pen to indite a short ode on:

BOREDOM

Nor Death, nor plagues, nor war
Can outfight this Western disease.

It grinds the spirit into soft decay,
And hurls our topmost pride,
Civilization,
Into the crushing arms of sinewy
barbarism,
Which has heard from Spengler
That our decline is due,
And their ascendancy.

Harry Andrews

A.L.A. CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS 1955

The 74th annual conference of the American Library Association was held this year at Philadelphia, from July 3 - 9. There were approximately 4,000 registrants (twenty-six from BPL).

Convention Hall, happily air-conditioned, was the scene of most of the activities. The three general sessions and most of the other meetings were held here, and the exhibits booths, numbering over a hundred were set up in the basement of the building--publishers and library equipment and supplies manufacturers offering the latest in books and furnishings for libraries.

John S. Richards, Director of the Seattle Public Library who had served as First Vice-President and President-Elect in 1954-55 succeeded retiring President L. Quincy Mumford.

The three general sessions were on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. These were devoted to the main theme of the Conference - Libraries in the Life of the Nation. Speakers at the three sessions were the Hon. George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State; Victor Reuther of the C.I.O.; John A. Stephens, Vice President of U. S. Steel; and Jonathan W. Daniels, North Carolina editor. Each spoke of the importance of libraries to his own particular sphere of activity - to the Nation, to Labor, to Business and to the Rural Areas.

The other meetings and discussions generally were held at the Convention Hall, at Philadelphia hotels and at the University of Pennsylvania.

It is hoped that some of the staff members who were in attendance at the A.L.A. Conference and hwo want to pass along news on certain developments will write them up for use in August's QM, as has been done in recent years. Time hardly permits such coverage in the July issue.

The Conference next yaar will be held at Miami Beach, Florida. This seems a wondrous move in view of the fearsome temperature at northerly Philadelphia this summer But air-conditioning and the cool ocean will no doubt help a great deal.

The theme of A.L.A.'s meeting this year may have been Libraries in the Life of the Nation, but the main topic of conversation was the HEAT!

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

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Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila M. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman.

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Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

The July Editor's Notes contained certain emotional remarks about registration and the charging of books hereabouts. We planned to go on in this vein, if interest seemed to warrant it, but found that what comment there was - none of it written, incidentally, but only offered in passing- came entirely from people who do not work in those departments most vitally concerned with this matter. We hoped that some of the people from Central Charging Records, for example, might have something to say. But they did not, and we feel that perhaps we should abandon further attention to this problem until, or unless, it seems to bother somebody.

* * * * * * * * *

Summer time, and the living is easy - except when you have to make up an issue of the Question Mark from such a pitiably small body of contributions as has trickled in this month. We are forced to do everything but write our own letters to the Soap Box in order to fatten up this issue. We realize that vacations and the terrible heat and complacency all conspire to cut into our pep, but we've hoped for more co-operation. It almost gives us the idea that the staff is not interested - something we'd rather die than admit. So, staff representatives, send us your gossip; poets, send us your verse; the welcome mat is out. Please help us. We are trying to give you an interesting and entertaining staff publication. Your contributions are not merely desirable - they are essential!

* * * * * * * * *

We could call this item "Hot News from Some of the Branches", for it seems that at a recent meeting in Central the talk got around to, of all things, the heat, and it was pointed out that in several of the Branch Libraries there are no refrigerators. This news, coupled with the now historic fact that this summer has been the hottest in Boston's history, prompts the suggestion that money be found somewhere for the purchase of these needed refrigerators, which must seriously be considered necessary in places where people bring lunches to work.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Virginia A. Dalton - Central Charging Records (formerly of Central Charging Records, part-time)
Evelyn M. DeBassio - Book Stack Service.
Paul J. Delahanty - Hyde Park Branch Library (formerly part-time, Branch Issue Department)
Rita A. Farina - Hospital Library Service.
Marie T. Hutchinson - Brighton Branch.
Barbara A. Jordan - Cataloging & Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services (formerly part-time in this Department)
William J. Lee - Kirstein Business Branch
Sebastian C. Lima - Book Preparation Department (formerly part-time Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services)
Richard E. Lyons - Open Shelf Department (formerly part-time)
Gerard J. Mahoney - Central Charging Records

New Employees (Continued)

Joan P. Morris - Science and Technology Department (formerly of Book Stack Service)
David F. Morrissey - Book Purchasing Department (formerly part-time, Branch Issue Department)
Patricia M. Nolan - Book Preparation Department.
Mrs. Sadie M. Rotondo - Codman Square Branch Library (formerly part-time, Bookmobile II.
Francis M. Taylor - Open Shelf Department (formerly part-time Catalgoing and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services)

Transferred

Mrs. Rosemary D. Colarusso - from Washington Village Branch Library to School Issue Department)
Mrs. Margaret W. Haverty - from Jamaica Plain Branch Library to Brighton Branch.
Mrs. Patricia C. Iseman - Brighton Branch Library to Jamaica Plain Branch Library.

Resignations

Mrs. Janice G. Hunt - Office, Division of Home Reading and Community Services - to remain at home.
Anne D. Mason - Uphams Corner Branch Library.
Mrs. Patricia A. Norton - Book Preparation Department - to remain at home.
Richard F. Regan - Central Charging Records.
Margaret M. Sarsfield-Central Charging Rec.

* * * * * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

Miss A. Frances Rogers

On Monday August 7, 1955, Miss A. Frances Rogers, Chief of the Registration Department, Emeritus, died at the Pioneer Hotel. We can think of no more fitting memorial than to repeat now the remarks made by her long-time friend and associate Marie E. Mulvaney, on the occasion, a little more than four years ago, of Miss Roger's retirement.

* * * *

On Tuesday, March 27, 1951, Miss A. Frances Rogers, Chief of the Registration Department, left her desk to join those former members of the staff who, after years of unstinted devotion to duty are now enjoying the leisure and freedom of retirement. Her plans had been made quietly, as was characteristic of her. However, this in no degree lessened the deep feeling of regret her retirement caused those whose work had brought them in contact with her. They knew well that they would miss her not only as a person, but also as a most skilled administrator of her complex department, with its constant revision of records and flow of information back and forth between every charging unit in the system. Her own departmental staff knew that in her they had lost a "boss" who didn't depend on bossing to run her department, but who kept their well-being constantly in mind, who concerned herself with their problems, and shared their work load with them.

Miss Rogers entered the service of the Library on November 27, 1903. She worked briefly in the Book Stack Service, then known as the Issue Department, and was soon transferred to the Registration Department, where she became First Assistant in 1911. In 1920 she was appointed Chief of the Department.

As Assistant-in-Charge of the Registration Department in 1919, Miss Rogers handled the details of the last complete re-registration of card-holders. When she joined the Department it had a staff of five. In 1951, it had grown to eleven. Her knowledge of Boston geography, her phenomenal abiblity to decipher handwriting, and her patient unscrambling of complicated name changes, charging errors, and duplicate registration records were but a few of the talents she had developed over the years that made it possible for her to perform wonders in the eyes of the staff and the public.

* * * *

To all who knew Miss Rogers, her death came as a shock because she always had a certain aura of strength and indestructability about her. Several members of the staff, when told of her death, remarked that they had seen her only last week, or last month, and said that she did not seem to have changed a bit since her retirement.

At her funeral at the church of Our Lady of Victories, Saturday, August 13, a large number of her friends, including many members past and present of the Library Staff paid their final respects to Miss Rogers.

* * * * *

After ten years in the library's service, Margaret M. Sarsfield resigned from Central Charging Records on July 12 to enter a convent of the Dominican Order.

Mrs. Mary Ryan

On August 4 Mrs. Mary Ryan died of a coronary thrombosis at the Harley Hospital, where she was recuperating from an operation. Her sudden death came as a great shock to her many friends.

For the past ten years Mrs. Ryan had been employed in the Buildings Department, and for the past few years she presided over the Ladies' Lunch Room. Her pleasant smile and cheerful handling of the many emergencies which occur in the lunch room has long made her a favorite with the staff. Mrs. Ryan will be sorely missed by all who knew her. We extend the condolances of the staff to her family in their great loss.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The August doldrums appear to have caught up with us with the result that there seems to be nothing to report this month. However, there is something, as yet unofficial, you may wish to think about and, if you have any ideas and suggestions, tell us about them. It has been suggested that the Staff Association sponsor an institute on improving reading speeds and correcting reading faults. It appears at this time that such a program would have to be paid for by the individuals participating. So, please, if you are interested let us know, and if there appears to be sufficient enthusiasm for such an institute it may be possible to have a special meeting of the Executive Board to take action on the matter. Just to keep the record straight, we did try to call a special meeting of the Executive Board to consider the suggestion but what with vacations, illness etc. it was not possible to round up a quorum.

Louis Rains

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Kinne (the former Anne E. McCarthy of the South Boston Branch) announce the birth of a daughter, Anne Louise, born July 13,1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Conlon announce the birth of a daughter on Aug.8,1955. Mrs. Conlon is the former Mildred Frances of the Business Office.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Casey announce the birth of a son, Thomas Edmund, on July 21 in Hopkinsville, Ky. Mrs. Casey is the former Rita Doherty of Book Preparation.

PRINT DEPARTMENT

The following excerpt of a letter from the Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) in Washington which was received by Mr. Arthur W. Heintzelman Keeper of Prints, should be of interest as well as cause for pride to BPL staff members.

"Dear Mr. Heintzelman:

...

Your work in bringing together European and American artists, organizing exhibitions here and abroad is a sound approach to international friendship and understanding.

One of the continuing Communist themes is that America has no culture. The exchange and exhibition of prints and other similar projects carried on by the Boston Public Library are important projects that counter such distortions of our cultural heritage.

Thank you again for your cooperation and your continuing interest in the work of the U.S. Information Agency.

Sincerely yours,

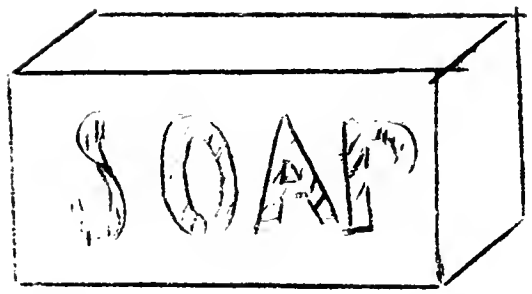
(signed) Theodore C. Streibert
Director

CATALOG DEPT. (R & RS)

Travel Notes

Miss Minna Steinberg, serials cataloger in the Reference and Research Catalog Department, left New York by plane on July 6th for a nine weeks' tour of Europe and the Near East. Miss Steinberg was accompanied by Miss Fannie Goldstein of the West End Branch.

Miss Esther Jalonen of the Reference and Research Catalog Department sailed from Boston on the steamer New York on June 25th, for a five weeks' tour of England, Scandanavia and Finland.



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Dear Editor:

Rumor, that ugly-tongued hag, has it that a chief has already been selected from outside the institution to fill a vacancy as head of one of our specialized departments. I hope it's not true. Not that I have any objection to the infusion of new blood. We're not as inbred as all that. But this particular position has not yet been announced as open to competition. (July 1 and all that, you know.)

I would hate to think that the competition from outside the library was more generously treated than that inside. Which brings to mind a sore point. In any other library that has competitive examinations, e.g., Philadelphia, all persons applying for a position, whether from inside or out, are subject to the examination requirement. But in this institution, if I read our promotional qualifications aright, a person from outside may be equated by experience, (as if any experience outside could ever be the equal of the rich experience of working for this institution) without an exam while someone from inside is subject to the exam.

In other words, if a member of the staff were to resign, walk down the street, turn his hat around and come in and apply, he might very well, on the basis of experience, qualify without an exam for a position, which, if he had remained, he could only qualify for by taking an exam.

This is patently ridiculous and it would seem that the only intelligent solution is to ask the incoming applicant to submit to the same examination procedure as those already on the staff.

THE OWL CRITIC

To the Soap Box:

Gripes about the food served in the coffee shop are heard continually around the library. Of course, if one doesn't like eating therein, one can always go elsewhere, but it really is convenient having our own cafeteria right in the building. Assuming that the coffee shop personnel are doing their best and that their best just isn't very good, I suggest that a committee be appointed, composed of staff members who have knowledge of food preparation and of how food should taste, for the purpose of giving advice and counsel to the personnel of the coffee shop.

GASTRITIS

To the Soap Box:

What do the editors of the Question Mark mean by criticizing the BPL charging system? Arn't they aware that the Trustees of the library spent hundreds of dollars sending several high-ranking members of the staff on a junket to out-of-State libraries in order to observe and to assimilate their new methods, and thousands of dollars putting their ideas into operation? Do they imply that this was a scandalous waste of the taxpayers' money? Or do they mean to suggest that our administration is riddled with incompetence?

There is nothing wrong with our new charging system. The fault lies with

the people who operate it. There is nothing so involved or complicated about the system that any red-blooded, average, American genius could not master the method in a few short years of apprenticeship. The mere fact that there are more unrecoverable books, that there is a rapidly multiplying file marked CONTROVERSIAL CASES (CC in official jargon), that there is a rapidly increasing number of irate patrons, that there are more gray hairs in the departments affected by the system, does not constitute a ligitimate case against our imposing array of apparatus, files, spools, needles and riddled cards. After all, missing books are always with us. Furthermore, with the overcrowding of book shelves so prevalent throughout the building, the system seems to offer a brilliant solution. We can certainly discount that old recurring nightmare that has everybody returning all his books at the same time.

Do the bold editors have a ligitimate and constructive alternative to offer? Until they do let such impudent attacks be silenced! To think of criticizing this system is one of the most unheard-of ideas I have ever heard of.

Oooo, Am I Indignant.

To the Editor:

Arn't the new lights in Bates Hall facing the wrong way? Maybe we could hang them upside down. They light up the ceiling just fine, but we're still walking around in the dark.

BLINDED

To the Soap Box:

Congratulations to the editors of QH. We in the Branches would often miss the news of births, weddings and the complaints at Central if we didn't have the Question Mark coming in every month. And these days it seems to be more interesting than ever.

To the Soap Box:

I often wonder as I pass through the vestibule just what kind of person Henry Vane was. Did he, in real life, prove such an "old reliable" as he is in his sculptured state to the many who set themselves down to rest upon the base of his statue? I have seen old ladies and old men sit down to regain their breath, tired girls relaxing with their shoes off, little children (just trying it out) and once a dog (don't know his reason).

Could some one of our History majors, with a few spare moments, write in and enlighten me?

An Inquiring Mind

To the Soap Box

I don't know how the Registration system works in Central, but in my branch we have no quarrel with it. I suppose there is room for dishonesty in the system but we find that very few members of the public take advantage of it. And we find, too that it's much pleasanter to give a borrower a temporary card than to tell him he must wait fifteen days before taking out one book. Needless to say, our patrons like this system, too.

I'm sure the problems others are having with this procedure will straighten out in time. After all, our system is still young.

HOPEFUL

LATE FLASH

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Delahanty announce the birth of a son, Robert Paul, born August 17 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Mrs. Delahanty is the former Connie Wilson of Book Stack Service. Mr. Delahanty is the Young Adult worker at Hyde Park Branch.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 9 September 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallanan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade, Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman.

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

There appeared in last month's issue a letter which many staff members felt should not have been printed. Perhaps no letter in any Soap Box ever caused such a violent reaction. When the contribution arrived (after the Publications Committee meeting) the first reaction was to put off inclusion, on one pretext or another. In discussing the matter, however, it was quite properly pointed out that notwithstanding a frankness only narrowly falling short of cruelty, the letter still represented the legitimate opinion of a dues-paying member and could not be disregarded. The situation was extremely ticklish, and we hope that the decision arrived at (to print Gastritis's letter) may be looked upon kindly, for we could not very well refuse to accept a contribution merely because we did not agree with it.

The upshot of all this has been a very flood of letters from others who have flown to the Coffee Shop's defense. This stout support, which we knew would come, made a little easier our decision to let Gastritis speak. Our collective generosity is predictable, you know, and was an important solace in last month's editorial agony.

To those who objected, then, our apolicies; to those who answered, our thanks. It all turned out to be a controversy, didn't it, and controversies are good, clean fun. This month's Soap Box may seem a trifle repetitious, but you'll have to admit that it's good and indignant.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

John E. Alden, Rare Book
Joan M. Bianchi, North End
Arden M. Brook, Book Stack Service
Jane C. Cohen, West Roxbury
Mrs Irenemarie Cullinane, Washington Village
Mrs Donna M. Graves, Personnel Office
Alice G. Hoag, Adams Street
Audrey V. Jewell, Cataloging and Classification (HR and CS)
Maria A. Mechini, Office of Records, Files, Statistics
Barbara H. Rogstad, Uphams Corner
Clairanne Wyman, Charlestown

Transferred

Mary E. Connor, from Brighton to Allston

Married

Ellen M. Murphy, Book Stack Service, to David L. MacDonald, August 15, 1955

Resignations

Mrs Phyllis L. Barclay, Uphams Corner, to live in New York
Cornelia W. Dorgan, Rare Book, to continue studies for doctorate
Isabelle G. Finn, Charlestown, to enter book store business in Chestnut Hill
James G. Griffin, Book Stack Service, to accept another position
Barbara A. Jordan, Cataloging and Classification (R and RS), to return to college
Mrs Helen B. Karpeles, Personnel Office, to remain at home
Mrs Anne M. Kinne, South Boston, to remain at home

Faith T. Minton, Book Stack Service, to return to college
Margaret M. Sarsfield, Central Charging Records, to enter convent

Births

Arlene, the new daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Murphy, and neice of Mrs Rosemary Corcoran, made her appearance on August 17. Her mother is the former Kay Melavin Murphy of the Business Office.

Mr and Mrs James Kenneally of 1487 Washington Street, West Newton, became the parents of a son on September 5. Mrs. Kenneally was Louise Fogarty and a member of the Washington Village, Uphams Corner, and Codman Square staffs in turn. The new member of the Kenneally family has been named Stephen.

A son, Harold Gunnar, was born on July 29, to Mr and Mrs Harold M. Kelley of Milton. Mrs Joyce Kelley was formerly an assistant in the Cataloging and Classification Department (R and RS). The Kelleys have a four-year-old daughter, Caroline.

Engagement

Miss Elaine Hanson of Kirstein Business Branch is engaged to James Raitt, of Philadelphia, Penn. Mr Raitt is a student at the Harvard Medical School. A spring wedding is planned.

VISITORS

Miss Furuzan Olsen of Ankara, Turkey

On Fullbright Scholarships:

Maria Soledad Plá, Librarian, Barcelona, Spain
Palmyra Mouteiro, Geography teacher, Brazil

MRS JAVELIN TO WORK WITH ALA

Mrs Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults, has been granted a one-year leave of absence from the Library dating from September 1, 1955 in order to serve as one of two Consultants on the A.L.A. Library-Community Project organized recently under a $200,000 grant from the Fund for Adult Education.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

In last month's issue of THE QUESTION MARK we requested an expression of opinion from the membership regarding a suggested Association sponsorship of an institute on improving reading speeds and correcting reading faults. To date we have received but one response. It is the opinion of the Executive Board that such a course could be considered for inclusion in the Training Program.

Mr. William Casey, our Treasurer, reports that the Association accepted contributions to the American Red Cross Flood Relief Drive in the amount of $386.50.

The Executive Board has instructed the President to write to the Mayor and the City Council requesting that they consider and adopt for the City an insurance program similar to the one recently adopted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr B. Joseph O'Neil, Pensions Committee, informs us that the bill provides that each State employee may obtain contributory group life insurance for $2,000, accident insurance for $2,000, and hospitalization, medical and surgical insurance by paying one-half the premium with the State paying the other one-half. The details of the bill are set forth in House Bill 2980 which was signed into law by Governor Herter on 3 August, and forms Chapter 628 of the Laws of 1955. We thank Mr O'Neil for gathering the information and passing it along to the Executive Board.

The executive Board voted that the President make known through this column that they go on record as being quite convinced that the Coffee Shop is being operated as efficiently as is possible under existing conditions. The remarks made in the Soap Box in last month's issue were much too vague to permit specific replies. Catherine MacDonald, Chairman of the Concession Committee, will publish a reply stating the position of the Concession Committee in this matter in the Soap Box of this issue. Miss MacDonald and her committee enjoy the full confidence and support of the Executive Board.

The Library Services Act is due to reach the floor of Congress during the next session. Members are urged to speak to their Congressmen while they are home and ask them to give this legislation their active support when it comes up for a vote.

LOUIS RAINS

EXHIBIT DRAWS PRAISE

Bouquets to Mary F. Daly, Statistical, and George Scully, Exhibits Office, for their respective contributions to the excellent exhibition Business in a free enterprise economy currently on display in the Main Lobby of the Central Library

building. The selection of materials, especially that relating to Historic and notable Boston firms, and the informative backgrounds, carefully designed, demonstrate the vast amount of thought, time, and effort these two persons spent in planning and assembling the exhibition.

STAFF MEMBERS ABROAD

At the International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centers to be held in Brussels, the Boston Public Library will be represented by four staff members. They also represent the American Library Association according to a letter from David H. Clift, Executive Secretary, who states in part, "On behalf of President Richards, it gives me pleasure to inform you of your appointment as an official Representative of the American Library Association to the International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centers to be held in Brussels from September 11 to 18, 1955, as well as to the Third International Congress of Libraries to be held concurrently. The American Library Association's Delegate to these meetings and the head of the Association's delegation will be Douglas W. Bryant, Chairman of the American Library Association International Relations Boards." The Boston Public Library staff members attending these meetings are Robert P. Giddings, Music Cataloger, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services; Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children; Margaret A. Morgan, Branch Librarian; and Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection. The latter three are from the Division of Home Reading Services.

Following the Congress in Brussels, Miss Haviland, Miss Morgan and Miss Peck will go on to the International Congress of the International Board on Books for Young People, to be held in Vienna. At both Brussels and Vienna Miss Haviland officially represents the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People of the American Library Association. At a general assembly meeting of the Vienna Congress, on September 23, Miss Haviland will deliver a lecture on The Comic book problem in the United States.

Preceding and following meetings in Brussels and Vienna the ladies expect to do a bit of sight-seeing in various European countries. Mr. Giddings also has plans "to enlarge his world horizons."

CARE FOOD CRUSADE PROGRAM

The Care Food Crusade Program now offers either 100 lbs. (average) of food for institutions, or 17½ lbs. (average) for families for only $1.00. This food is government surplus, and recipients may not be designated. The CARE Committee, however, will request that the funds be used for institutions as far as it is possible, in countries and communities where our help is most needed, since this will put our money to the greatest possible use. It is hoped that everyone who can will take part in this fine program.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CARE

MR APPEL'S ODDYSEY

We are happy to present in this month's QM a report from our old frient Richard G. Appel, Chief of the Music Department, Emeritus, and more recently, extensive traveler. These notes are culled from a recent letter to the Music Department.

Putney, Vermont
July 19, 1955

We returned from our adventurous and exciting trip last Friday. Nothing we saw out west was as gratifying as the Vermont landscape. More unique, yes, and more publicized, but also more commercialized. There were five cars with four or five occupants in each that started in our cavalcade on Saturday, June 11.

The trip was a sudden inspiration occasioned by an announcement by Professor C. Wroe Wolfe over WGBH that a few vacancies existed on his projected geological tour. A few major highlights of the U.S. were the goal of our trip, and I did not expect that Mrs Appel would take me up when I jocularly raised the question. She not only took me up but actually was the life of the party, which consisted of some undergraduates, and members of his adult education extension courses.

In a trip of some 8,000 miles, spending thirty nights in thirty hotels, motels, or out-of-doors, with meals mostly by the wayside, our cavalcade made newspaper fame, when one car got detached in a traffic mix-up but was reunited with us by state police cooperation.

After reaching Harrisburg, we proceeded through the seven tunnels through the Pennsylvania mountains to Pittsburgh

(where our first separation occurred) to Zanesville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Columbia, Mo., to Denver and Boulder, and to the Rocky Mountain National Park. Here we got our first glimpse of snow-capped peaks. From here we went south to Carlsbad Caverns. An air-conditioned hotel was a pleasant respite from the heat of the plains. We then proceeded to the Petrified Forest and Sand Dunes, and to Iron Canyon with its astonishing switchback descent, through occasional tunnels with peep-holes out into the canyon.

Next we went to Grand Canyon and to Salt Lake City where I renewed an old acquaintance with Professor David Shand, who once assisted us in the Music Department, while he was acquiring his Doctor's degree at B.U. He has become an important figure in the musical life of his city as a successful teacher and conductor. He showed us some of the important buildings and entertained us in his handsome home.

Next, to Yellowstone, with its freak fountains, bears, buffaloes and tourists, one of whom, I'm told, tried to get a bear into his front seat next to his wife to get a $64 picture. One bear actually slapped his paw into our half-opened window - the picture of our frightened photographers might be more shocking than that of the bear. Then on to the Snake River, the Black Hills, the Bad Lands with their unforgettable sculptures, Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, and finally Niagara.

Two unforgettable musical experiences were ours - one was hearing the singing of the birds early one morning in a veritable oasis of a motel whose proprietor, by irrigating the place, transformed it with trees and shrubs which attracted songbirds without number. The other was the music in the bar room of our hotel, which consisted of two pianists improvising on a piano on a theme without a single modulation and with scarely any variation. This was the lowest experience we had in a trip where we saw peaks 14,000 feet high and where we crossed continental divides 8,000 feet high.

The only non-geological feature was the Passion Play performed at Spearfish in a natural outdoor amphitheatre. I am haunted not so much by the vaunted natural features as I am by the four cathedral-like gas stations at each four-corners, where the purest gasoline is dispensed by the most courteous, tall, good-looking attendants I have ever encountered, whose first concern is to clean your windshield and then fill your tank. Soft drinks left our lips unslaked.

For tempo and accent the Texan is unmatched. Friendliness is universal with just a little superiority to "Yankee larnin".

The Library staff would be more than gratified by the use to which I put the glasses which they presented to me on my retirement last May. Rarely have such handy small binoculars seen such stupendous views in so few days!

While I would not recommend such a strenuous (though comparatively inexpensive) tour to even my dearest enemy, I can wish nothing better than their listening to Professor Wolfe's program, or even persuading him to make a telecast of this expedition! His scholarly observations and good natured imperturbability were indeed exemplary.

With best wishes and kind regards to all, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

RICHARD G. APPEL

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Cataloging and Classification Department (R and RS)

On August 24 Robert Giddings left by plane for a six-weeks' stay in Europe. Mr. Giddings will attend the Music Librarians' Conference in Brussels, and in addition will visit England, Denmark, and Spain. His fellow workers in the Department presented him, prior to his departure, with four English pounds, which they trust will be well spent.

BRANCH NOTES

Mattapan

Here is a postcard we received from one of our extras - at camp for the summer, but still thinking of us.

LIBRARIANS' LAMENT

Under her arm, the "Library Journal",
"Anne of Green Gables", and "Love is
Eternal";
On her way home from one more busy day;
Wait 'till tomorrow - there'll be ----
to pay.

It's quieting down the hullabaloo,
Charging for books that are way overdue,
Whipping the extras to pleading submission,
'Till they crawl on the ground with an air
of contrition.

From Abbot to Zweig, from zero to nine,
She feels all the authors just creep up
her spine.
Hail, O librarians, so well-read and noble.
I much prefer books - but I'll still take
George Gobel!

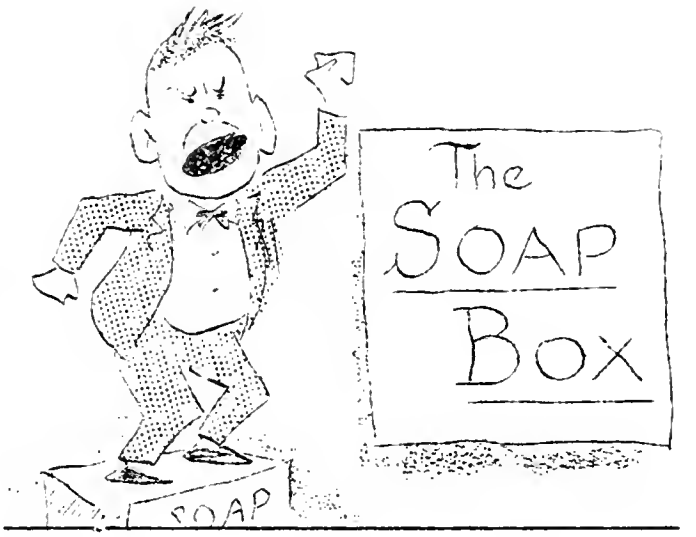
-by Stephen Klass
Mattapan Branch

Uphams Corner

On June 24, the staff tendered a dual farewell party to two members of the Children's Room, Mrs Phyllis L. Barclay and one of her assistants, Mrs Bernadine Smokler. The dinner was held at the "Sea and Surf" on the Worcester Turnpike, with variations of sea food making up the main part of the menu. Two small cakes, prettily decorated with "Good Wishes" were presented to the guests of honor before the party ended.

Mrs Smokler left the Library in July to remain at home awaiting the birth of her first child. The remembrance gift presented to her was the prospective heir or heiress' first spoon and fork.

It would almost seem a premature party for Mrs. Barclay, since she did not leave the service until August 20. Her gift was another piece of "Sea-life", a cigarette lighter, which completes a set of crystalware started some time ago. Mrs Barclay has rejoined her husband in New York. Her new address is: Mrs James F. Barclay, 137-01 83rd Avenue - Apt. 6F, Kew Gardens Long Island, New York



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Dear Editor:

It is now four months since Administrative Notice No. 30 made it clear that the Director may fill vacancies up to the number provided for in the 1955 budget. This presumably would include vacancies that might occur after that notice. Yet a number of titular vacancies which were on the books and provided for in the 1955 budget plus a number of others which have since occurred remain unfilled. It was my understanding at the beginning of this year that the Trustees were delaying these appointments. But it is apparent from the notice of May 9, that the decision is now the Director's. Now, what is the excuse for the delay?

EAMON MCDONOUGH

To the Editor of the Question Mark:

At the final ALA General Session in Philadelphia, the speech by the incoming President, Mr Richards, was necessarily, a stock-taking, backward-glance, forward-view sort of thing, and not very exciting. But on that very hot evening it was like a jet of conditioned air to hear him characterize the activities of a West Coast superpatriotic snoop, whose list of dangerous authors included Dorothy Canfield and Pearl Buck, as "gangsterism". Some days before, at an Audio-Visual session, I had seen the film showing this foolish woman hold up book after book which she was agitating to have removed from public library shelves. She was a ridiculous person, and overstated her case, and like all such fanatics was long on passion and very short on knowledge and common sense. I was discussing this picture with a couple of BPL'rs in a Philadelphia street a few days later, and I was surprised to hear one of them say that the picture was spoiled for him because the commentator, Mr Murrow, was not impartial, but was holding the woman up to ridicule by mentioning the Canfield and Buck names but omitting Lattimore, who was also on the list. The film plainly showed the whole cascade of the titles on her list, and since in his commentary Mr Murrow could mention only a few, I thought it quite natural on his part to mention only those names which would immediately show to what lengths that hysterical frump carries her campaign.

In this continuing fight which libraries today are engaged in to preserve their traditional independence from harassment by pint-sized fuhrers and ersatz Savonarolas, people like Mr Murrow and Mr Richards are of course not neutral. Are you? I am not neutral, and I wouldn't give a Philadelphia token (it's attenuated in the direction of invisibility) for any person accepting pay as a public librarian who was.

HARRY ANDREWS

To the editor of the Question Mark

Dear Ed:

After the plaint in the last issue bemoaning the dearth of contributions to the staff organ I should like to present for the consideration of the staff two proposals which may prevent The Question Mark from going the way of the Boston Transcript and the New York World.

The first proposal is a somewhat drastic one which I can only justify on the grounds that desperate situations often call for harsh remedies and in these trying times we must all be willing to sacrifice ourselves for the general welfare. The entire editorial board must be summarily dismissed from their positions. With regard to the mechanics of the actual dismissal a military type ceremony would be the most effective and also the most dramatic.

The members of the association are assembled in a hollow square about the fountain in the courtyard; while Frankie Myers plays a slow roll on his drum the president of the association, resplendent in the regal uniform of the Chowder, Chatter and Marching Society, steps forward, takes the pencils from the editorial board and dramatically breaks them over his knee one by one. Next, the editor's green eyeshade is rent in twain and as the drumbeats increase in intensity the entire board is frog-marched through the stacks to the cheering strains of the Rogue's March. At the conclusion of this tasteful ceremony a new board could be drawn by lots from the assemblage.

After the new board is established in office a campaign could be launched to revive the interest of the staff in their periodical. What I had in mind was an essay contest on the subject How I Would Run the Library, Why We Should Have Heat Relief in the Winter When It Is Cool Enough to Enjoy It. The format isn't important as long as definite action is taken to prevent the Q.M. from going into a decline.

WILLIAM T. CASEY

To the Soap Box

Apparently Gastritis is not aware that the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association has provided a Concessions Committee which receives suggestions, complaints, praise, etc., concerning the Coffee Shop. It would seem to have been in better taste if Gastritis had first sought a member of the Committee to make his grievance known rather than embarrassing the concessionaire and his employees through using the public medium of the Soap Box.

Considering the facilities which are available, the quality of the food which

is served, and the reasonable prices which are charged, the members of the Concessions Committee feel that the concessionaire is doing a good job under most trying conditions. It is believed a large proportion of the staff of the Library have this same opinion.

However, if Gastritis wishes to make his complaints more specific, the Concessions Committee will be happy to hear from him and to try to correct any difficulty. For his information, the names of the members of the Concessions Committee are listed below.

Catherine T. Duffy
Book Selection Department, Division of Home Reading and Community Services
Sumner Fryhon
Buildings Department
Michael C. Langone
Binding Department
Louis M. Ugalde
Rare Book Department
Catherine M. MacDonald, Chairman
Personnel Office

Dear Editor:

No doubt Gastritis's outburst of last month was meant as humour but I'm afraid it fell flat. The staff of the coffee-shop has no need of defense. The difficulties that beset them are those encountered in any place that must have short-order cooking in a physically limited area. Given the kitchen of the Sheraton-Plaza and commensurate prices I'm sure that they could feed us like the gourmets we are. In the meantime, I'll settle for a cheese-burger handed to me with a warm friendly smile.

EAMON MCDONOUGH

To the Soap Box:

No one would suspect, looking around at all the contented, happy faces that there was so much indigestion grumbling around inside! It isn't often that I am inclined to burst into public print but, seriously I can find few words to express my gratitude for all the friendly courtesy and the good lunches I've eaten down at "Sam's".

KATHLEEN WOODWORTH

To the Soap Box:

I would like to take exception to the letter in the Soap Box, August issue, under the signature "Gastritis".

If the B.P.L.P.S.A. is to be responsible for the operation of The Coffee Shop, let's do it with dignity and not with pseudonymous attacks on the personnel. Where would the association find people more kind, courteous and interested than Mr. and Mrs. Adelstein. The girls come and go as is inevitable with young people; but when Joan left, the staff expressed what they thought of her in a very tangible manner. We still miss her. As for Mary, I am constantly amazed and gratified at her helpfulness and her genuine interest in trying to give each person what they want.

The Coffee Shop has not the space and is not equipped to serve full-course dinners. Anyone wanting such meals can go to the Ritz Carleton, the subsidiary of Locke-Ober, or the more humble Sheraton Plaza, all within walking distance of the Library. How the personnel of the Coffee Shop, with the limited facilities and the restricted space in which they work, are able to serve the food they do, is beyond comprehension. They are always willing to try every concoction anyone suggests, even my silly old cheese salad which revolts everyone-including them-except me.

I wonder who "Gastritis" would suggest to serve on the Committee "for the purpose of giving advice and counsel to the personnel of the Coffee Shop." I cannot think of many staff members who would consider themselves qualified to act in that capacity. And they don't need advice and counsel" - they are doing a good job under very difficult conditions - what they need is a bit of appreciation for all they have done and are doing for the staff.

(Isn't there a standing Committee of the B.P.L.P.S.A. entrusted with the smooth running of the Coffee Shop?)

Without taking refuge in a saccharine pseudonym, I think I shall sign myself what I always have been and always will be as long as I remain on this spinning sphere.

EDNA G. PECK

Dear Editor:

I would like to say that it most likely is not the coffee-shop food that disagrees with "Gastritis", but more likely a case of disagreement with life in general. I feel that the Coffee Shop has been a boon to the employee of the BPL, and that the people who run it and work for it bend over backwards to please us. It seems to me that if anyone has a complaint, he or she could tell Sammy or Dotty seriously, or at least could have mentioned a specific gripe in their letter, instead of condemning the whole work of the coffee Shop. If Gastritis were here in the days before the Coffee Shop, when we had to go farther to fare worse on relief or lunch times, they might be in a better position to appreciate the Coffee Shop.

So once more I say, "Gastritis" sounds more like someone with chronic "Gripeitis" to coin a phrase, and perhaps he or she should try the Ritz?????

(CLAIRE O'TOOLE)
"Wrathful", that is.

To the SOUP Box:

In this examination-happy library why not extend the examination system to the personnel of the Coffee Shop? Is it sound reasoning to expect that just anybody can fry an egg or put a tea bag in a cup of hot water? Of course not!

We could have qualifying exams on Water boiling, Bread buttering, etc., and promotional exams on The Sandwich as an Institution, Salad Plate I, Salad Plate II, etc.

Once we get this program rolling we might get the Trustees to grant a scholarship for study at Fannie Farmer's Cooking School. Just imagine the menu about five years from now: pate de foie gras, crepe suzettes, chocolate covered oysters. Let's everybody get in back of this program and work, work, work!

A. Seltzer

A.

L.

A.

invites you to join!

If you have been with the B. P. L. a long time and have put off joining or if you are a newcomer to the staff, A. L. A. is waiting to welcome you into its ranks. Won't you join now and share in the work of this important professional association?

Application forms may be obtained in the Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

SARAH M. USHER
A.L.A. Membership Committee

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 10 October 1955

Publications Committee: John J. Hallahan, Sheila W. Pierce, B. Gertrude Wade
Robert C. Woodward, John McCafferty, Chairman.

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue is the swan song for 40% of the Publications Committee, since exactly that considerable proportion, including the Chairman, terminates its connection with B. P. L. before the October issue's appearance. Those who are leaving wish B. Gertrude Wade, who is taking over as Chairman, all their best, and envy her the job that will be hers a few months hence. Just think, the December issue will complete Q.M.'s tenth year. What a mark that could make on the nation's literary horizon! Imagine, if you can, a Q.M. anthology - a Tenth Anniversary Album - a dazzling parade of a decade of wit and wisdom, both verse and prose. Ten years of epistolary wrath in the Soap Box where sassy con and prudent pro are ever locked. Ten years of blow-by-blow accounts of teas, luncheons, and picnics; of the bacchanales of our more abandoned members, of the chaster doings of our less abandoned. It has been all mankind in epitome, in fact, affording pettiness in very nearly equal measure with magnanimity, and, we hope, a more frequent refinement than a dross.

The lesson that this chronicle can teach cannot go hidden, it must be scattered broadside through the land. Let that great store be drawn upon, Editor - anthologize! Let December's effort be done in Baskerville on finest vellum and bound in decent cloth - damn the expense! Let it flood the nation's bookstores, find each home. Let every child learn lisping from its lines, let every gaffer nodding by the fire have it to cheer his ever-shortening day. Let every chaste milkmaid have it by her stool; each honest 'prentice lad, a copy on his bench. The world cries out its need; we cannot say it nay. Miss Wade, go to your meeting with Destiny!

* * * *

After this spiritual sort of advice, we now offer a more material kind -- be sure to read the President's Notes and look on the Staff Bulletin Board for information concerning a new hospitalization insurance plan.

JOHN McCAFFERTY

Library Conferences--European Style

An informal report, with colored slides

Wiggin Gallery, Central Library

Friday, October 28, 1955, 8 p.m.

Virginia Haviland . . . Margaret A. Morgan . . . Edna G. Peck

DON'T MISS IT!!!

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Ronald J. Arigo, Central Charging Records.
Robert P. Goldman, Central Charging Records.
Cornelia M. Harrington, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services.
Mrs Ethel L. Heins, Bookmobile I.
Mrs Gene S. Kupferschmid, Jeffries Point.
Mary J. McGah, Business Office.
Thomas T. McLaughlin, Book Stack Service.
John J. Parker, Central Charging Records.
Mrs Mary V. Quercia, Book Stack Service. (formerly in the department)

Transferred

John J. Brauer, from Central Charging Records to Audio-Visual.
Mrs Joyce P. Ellis, from City Point to West End.
Mrs Beatrice P. Frederick, from Dorchester to Tyler Street.
Marjorie M. Gibbons, from Memorial to Washington Village.
Mrs Dorothy M. Hanna, from Tyler Street to City Point.
Mrs Anne P. Kearney, from Washington Village to Lower Mills.
Mrs Veronica M. Lehane, from West End to Uphams Corner.
Mrs Bette Pinckney, from Bookmobile I to Dorchester.
Mrs Christine J. Umano, from Lower Mills to Brighton.

Retired

Mrs Katherine C. McGrath - Housekeeper, Buildings Department. Retired as of September 30, 1955 after 30 years of service.

Resignations

Mary J. Brady, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, to be married and live in Springfield, Massachusetts.
John J. Hallahan, Open Shelf, to accept the position of Librarian at Norwalk, Connecticut.
Marie T. Hutchinson, Brighton, to return to college.
Mrs Louise M. LaFontaine, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, to remain at home.
John McCafferty, General Reference, to accept a position with the Watertown Arsenal Laboratory Library.
Maureen T. McCarthy, Book Stack Service, to accept another position.
Mrs Janet R. Quint, Allston, to remain at home.
Mrs Bernardine J. Smokler, Uphams Corner, to remain at home.

Engagement

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Monica Harrington, Cataloging and Classification, (R and RS) and John McCafferty, General Reference. A May wedding is planned.

Births

Born to Mr and Mrs Sebastian Lima, on August 26, a son, Mark. Mr. Lima is a member of the Book Preparation Staff.

SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NOTES

The Special Services Committee has received discount cards from Chester A. Baker, Inc., 545 Boylston Street. The cards are available from Robert Woodward in History and entitle the bearer to a 10% discount on cosmetics and to a free sample of shampoo.

At the same time the Committee announces to the staff that the Cokesbury Book Store, 577 Boylston Street, offers a 20% discount to Library Staff members. The Cokesbury Book Store offers greeting cards and stationery, as well as books.

VISITORS

Dr Prospero M. Mella Chavier, Subdirector, Library of the University of Santo Domingo, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic

El Sayed Mahmoud El-Sheniti, Assistant Librarian, UNESCO Fundamental Education Center, Sirs-El-Layyan, Menoufia, Egypt

Muhammad Rakib Hossain, Assistant Librarian, USIS, Dacca, Pakistan

Ysuf Iskander, President, Egyptian Library Association

Rustam Sutan Palindih, President, Library Association of Indonesia

Georg Prachner, Vienna, Austria

Ahmad Shuja, USIS Library, Lahore, Pakistan

BPLPSA WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

John J. Daley, Open Shelf
Frank J. Donovan, Book Stack Service
Rita A. Farina, Hospital Library Service
Dorothy H. Hanna, Tyler Street
Richard E. Lyons, Open Shelf
Joan P. Morris, Science and Technology
Francis M. Taylor, Open Shelf
Michael J. Venezia, Book Stack Service

RETIREMENTS

MRS Katherine McGrath

On Tuesday morning, September 27, in the Women's Lounge, a coffee hour was given in honor of our Housekeeper, Mrs Katherine McGrath, who retired on September 30.

Mr Francis X. Moloney, Assistant to the Director, In Charge of Business Operations, addressed the guest of honor and well-wishers with a warm message so appropriate for thirty-two years of faithful service, and then presented Mrs McGrath with a billfold containing the staff's gift of money in appreciation of cheerful cooperation and friendship throughout the years.

Sharing the festivities were Anna Sheehan, sister of Mrs McGrath and two close friends, Mary McCarthy and Lillian Conway. Several BPL Alumni who were welcomed cordially by many library friends were Misses Flora A. Ennis, Jean B. Lay, Mrs Frances M. Kelley, Mrs Catherine Cronin, Mrs Hannah Hennessey, William F. Quinn.

A delicious repast was enjoyed by all and it was a wonderful party which concluded with good wishes from everyone.

* * * *

The following letter from Mrs McGrath was received shortly after her retirement party. We reprint it here so that all the staff may see it.

Dear Friends,

I wish to express my deep thanks to all of you for the delightful party you gave me on my retirement. The arrangement was perfect, the flowers and refreshments were lovely. Also I wish to thank all who joined in the gift presented to me, it is so useful and attractive.

I shall always appreciate your thoughtfulness and cherish happy memories of your kindness. Again, thanking you, I am

Sincerely,
KATHERINE McGRATH

There's no time like the present

Why not join A.L.A. now?

Contact: Sarah M. Usher
Office of Records,
Files, Statistics

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is with a sincere feeling of regret that we note the departure from the service of two members of the Publications Committee, John McCafferty, the chairman, and John J. Hallahan. These two worthy gentlemen carry with them to their new careers our very best wishes and our thanks for their outstanding contributions to THE QUESTION MARK.

B. Gertrude Wade, Book Selection, (HR and CS) has graciously consented to serve as chairman of the Publications Committee for the remainder of the year. Two new members of the committee are Pearl Lewis, General Reference, and Felicia Langdon, Audio-Visual.

There was a preliminary hearing before a committee of the Boston City Council on Thursday, October 13, in the City Council Chambers on the adoption of an insurance plan for the Employees of the City of Boston. This proposed legislation is set out in detail in Chapter 760 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Acts and Resolves, 1955, a copy of which will be placed on the bulletin board in Central. In essence, the plan calls for group life in the amount of two thousand dollars, accidental death and dismemberment insurance in the amount of two thousand dollars, coverage of not less than an estimated sixty percent nor more than an estimated eighty-five percent of the average of all hospital bills, and surgical and medical benefits of not less than a standard two hundred dollar surgical schedule nor more than a standard three hundred dollar surgical schedule with provision for in-hospital medical coverage. The hospitalization, surgical, and medical benefits would provide coverage for the employee, his spouse, and unmarried children under nineteen years of age.

Many representatives of the various city and county employees' organizations were present to go on record as being in favor of the principles embodied in the proposed bill. Among those representing the employees of the Boston Public Library who spoke at the hearing were Samuel Green, Frank Moran, James Gannon, and your president. Either there were no opponents to the bill present or they were too timid to speak in view of the overwhelming favorable reaction to the measure. As further hearings are held and as more details are ironed out

we will try to keep you informed of what is happening. If you, in turn, have any questions and comments you would like to have brought to the attention of the City Council, please let us know about them.

LOUIS RAINS, President

WEDDING BELLS

On October 12 at a Nuptial Mass at St. Margaret's Church in Dorchester, Mary J. Brady of the Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services became the bride of Mr Philip Frazier of Newton. Mary was a beautiful bride in her full-length gown of Chantilly lace and nylon net. Her finger-tip veil was set off by a crown of pearls, and her flowers were white roses and carnations.

Following the wedding a luncheon and reception were held in the Empire Room of the Hotel Vendome. Music was provided by Frankie Myers and his orchestra. Library guests included members of the staff of Mary's former department, the Cataloging and Classification Department, and of her office.

Mr and Mrs Frazier will make their home in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

* * * *

Anne B. Doherty of Charlestown became the bride of Daniel W. Kelly of Audio-Visual at St. Francis de Sales Church, Charlestown, on September 17. The bride wore a lovely satin gown embroidered with seed pearls, and her Cathedral length train was adorned with billowy nylon tulle. She wore a Juliet cap and veil, and carried a cascade of white roses and stephanotis. Patricia Doherty was maid of honor and Vincent D. Kelly was best man. Two four-year olds, Anne's niece and Danny's nephew, served as flower girl and ring bearer. Two Doherty brothers and three Kelly brothers were ushers. A reception at Chickland in Saugus was highlighted by Frankie Myers' music and a harmonious vocal rendition of "Those Wedding Bells Are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine" by the five Kelly brothers. Among the guests were Audio-Visual and Charlestown staff members.

Mr and Mrs Kelly spent their honeymoon in the White Mountains.

* * * *

Margaret L. Mahoney, Information Office, was married to John W. Morrison at Sacred Heart Church, Cambridge, on September 25, 1955. Peggy wore a gown of peau-de-soie with lace and a chapel length train, and a fingertip veil crowned with a tiara of seed pearls. She carried a bouquet of white roses and stephanotis. The bride's five attendants, in ballerina length gowns of crystalette, in the lovely jewel shade of garnet, carried cascades of pale yellow carnations entwined with ivy. Among the bridesmaids were Shirley Gildea, Information Office, and Catherine Duffy, Book Selection Department. A reception was held at Robin Hood's in Wayland.

After honeymooning in upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Canada, Mr and Mrs Morrison will reside in Watertown.

* * * *

On Sunday, September 4, Rita Evelyn Susi, of East Boston, became the bride of John A. Pannacchio, of Wilmington, Massachusetts, at St. Lazarus' Church in Orient Heights. The bride wore a double gown of ice-blue Skinner satin covered with Chantilly lace, and a five-yard train which glistened with sequins and seed pearls. An ice-blue crown and fingertip veil completed her outfit. She carried a spray of white orchids and stephanotis. Miss Susi was given in marriage by her father and was attended by her sister Mary as Maid of Honor. After the wedding a reception was held at the Sherry Biltmore. Many Library staff members attended. The bride and groom then left for a three weeks honeymoon in Miami Beach, Florida.

* * * *

On September 17, Margaret Mary Cronin of Hyde Park, Massachusetts, was married to Thomas Joseph Aglio, at the Church of the Most Precious Blood in Hyde Park. Tom recently left the Library after nine years as an extra assistant.

The bride wore an imported Chantilly lace gown with a chapel length train of ruffled tiers, and a fingertip illusion veil with a crown of pearls. She carried a prayer book with butterfly orchids.

Among the ushers were Brendan Connell and Thomas Mulcahy who worked with the groom in the Periodical Department.

After a reception at the Sherry Biltmore, the couple honeymooned in Bermuda. They are now living in Albany, New York, where Tom is Medical Social Worker for Albany Hospital Clinic and the Albany Medical Center Clinic.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

In honor of her forthcoming marriage, thirty-three of her friends attended the luncheon shower held for Mary J. Brady, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, at Eddie Davis's on October 3. On her arrival, Mary received her corsage, a baby pink orchid encircled by pink roses.

After lunch, her Office presented Mary with a Swedish Crystal pitcher. Members of the Cataloging Department chose as their farewell gift a lamp with gold base and white shade of modern design. The Office of Home Reading and Community Services gave Mary a brass magazine rack. Six multi-colored cordial glasses completed the array of gifts.

* * * *

Members of the Lower Mills staff met at Joseph's on October 1 to honor Mrs Dorothy Rosen, who has been transferred from Lower Mills to Brighton. The pleasant atmosphere, coupled with good food and friendly conversation, all combined to make it a happy occasion. Mrs Rosen was given a luncheon set, plus the best wishes of the staff for future success.

At the same time, the staff welcomed Mrs A. P. Kearney, who has come to Lower Mills as Assistant in charge of Children's Work.

* * * *

CC&MS Bulletin - A gala farewell dinner party in honor of John Hallahan and John McCafferty was thrown by the black tie and satin slipper set of the Chowder, Chatter and Marching Society. To the best of my memory the festivities were held at Pete Charlton's Steak House on the evening of Tuesday, October 11, but my recollections are just a little bit hazy and I could be mistaken. It was a sad occasion to begin with, but, as usual, good food and the juice of the grape soon had little tongues babbling away as merrily as could be, and the prattle actually became quite maudlin before the last guest was poured out the door. It really was quite a nice dinner party in honor of our departing comrades, and everybody was greatly shocked when it was discovered that the honored guests had not been invited.

* * * *

MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

President Eisenhower's State-of-the-Union Speech of January, 1954, expressed the hope that a series of state conferences on education, culminating in a national conference, might be held in order to arrive at "the first national stock-taking of our public schools". Massachusetts held such a conference on September 8-11 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. From the conference forty delegates to the national meeting were to be chosen.

Six topics were designated as areas for discussion and study:

(1) What should our schools accomplish?

(2) In what ways can we organize our school systems more efficiently and economically?

(3) What are our school building needs?

(4) How can we get enough good teachers and keep them?

(5) How can we finance our schools, build and operate them?

(6) How can we obtain a continuing public interst in education?

The Conference was called by Governor Herter, and approximately 2,000 men and women took part in its activities. Of these about a third were educators, the rest laymen - businessmen, parents, members of veterans', labor and civic organizations, etc. From BPL three representatives were sent: Mrs Beatrice Frederick, Mildred Kaufman and Pauline Winnick. They were to cover children's, adult, and young adult work, respectively, but they found that instead of taking notes on matters of interest to them, they actually found themselves initiating the subject of libraries and library service. It is felt that the results of their efforts in the several sections were reflected in the summary of the conference. Although librarians have long felt that theirs was an educational calling, little, if any, attention was given to libraries, certainly not in the planned agenda of the program. In fact, little consideration had been given to libraries on or off agendas. Unlike the numerous organizations which sent people to the conference, organi-

zations in some cases only remotely related to education, the professional library associations were conspicuous by their absence. Organizations like the C.I.O., the N.A.M., and the Children's Medical Center were represented, but there were less than a dozen library personnel present, including the three from B.P.L. At the beginning of the conference there was read at a general session a telegram from the trustee's group of the M.L.A. expressing the hope that the conference would give some consideration to the matter of libraries.

Most of the participants in the conference were preoccupied with urgent problems, such as increasing school population with its concomitant need for more school buildings and teachers, the prospects of larger school costs and higher taxes, a sales tax, and federal aid. The problem of libraries - school and public - with the need for greater appropriations to meet the increased demands of an increasing population had not been brought to their attention, while the matter of adult education in an increasing adult population was a new concept to the majority of the participants. They listened attentively, asked searching questions of the B.P.L. representatives, and made a few recommendations which found their way into the final summary. However, it is interesting to note that the results of the discussion show translation into school programs rather than public library programs.

What implications did the conference hold for libraries? In a sense, what concerns the schools must concern the libraries sooner or later, directly or indirectly. Statistics, then, on the increasing school population during the next decade are of grave concern to libraries also. For every 100 persons in the nation's classrooms today, there will be 121 in 1960, and 136 in 1965. Colleges expect an 18% increase in attendance within a decade. Remembering that school population is also potential library population, librarians might well scrutinize the following facts concerning education in Massachusetts: In the public elementary grades 1-6 there has been a 30.5% increase in school population in the last decade. The cost per pupil for school libraries has risen from eleven cents to thirty-seven cents in the ten years between 1944 and 1954. The average school cost per pupil has risen from $132.28 to $307.55 in the same period. Quoting from the booklet prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Education, "When it is considered that the peak years in the number of births did not begin until 1946, it is evident that the schools of Massachusetts have not yet felt the full impact of the high birth rate." By 1960, one can expect a 20.4% increase over 1954 in the number of public school pupils.

Problems of acquiring professional personnel and of offering adequate salaries are not peculiar to the teaching field alone, but must be faced by libraries also. Suggestions offered for attracting competent teachers are also practical for recruiting librarians. Suggestions for the efficient use of school personnel and school buildings are applicable to the library field, especially in the matter of sharing specialists and experts among small units. The problem of obtaining a continuing public interest in education is also of interest to the library. The aims and purposes of schools and libraries are so closely allied and so often identical that successful procedures used in obtaining public interest in education merit consideration for libraries. Noteworthy is the work of the National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools in increasing lay interest in education. As Mr Roy Larsen pointed out, the key to good schools is citizen responsibility at the local level. Schools are just as good as people want them to be. As librarians, we might borrow the phrase and substitute the word "libraries" for "schools".

Dr. Franklin P. Hawkes of the Massachusetts Department of Education made a rare but welcome reference to libraries when as a discussant at a general assembly, he spoke of libraries and recommended that money for school libraries be allocated in the school budget. Again, at the general session for organizing schools more efficiently, reference was made to libraries when Mr. Davis urged that more use of school libraries be made by educators.

Among the recommendations made in the summary of discussions distributed at the closing general session, the following are especially pertinent to libraries:

"One desirable achievement should be to develop the school-child to the fullest extent of his interest and God-given abilities. Better school libraries are needed to stimulate such growth."

"Extended adult education programs are much needed today."

"State encouragement of library extension in communities is an issue that should be studied in a future conference."

"State aid must furnish a larger share of the support for schools."

"All business and other groups should be mobilized to work with professional educators in an effective public relations program designed to bring home to the public that it has an important stake in public education."

"Public libraries should more effectively publicize school work and accomplishments."

"Channel 2 should be utilized and supported."

"Beginning salaries for teachers should be further increased in Massachusetts, since low salaries are one of the factors responsible for teacher shortage."

The conference was serious business, without social sidelights. Although many issues were left unsolved, and although the program seemed too pre-arranged, the conference was worthwhile. The value of the Amherst meetings lie not only in the recommendations to be forwarded to the White House Conference, but also in the stimulation and encouragement of the participants to return to their local communities to spur greater positive action.

THE STAFF IN PRINT

Readers of the PILOT, weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, have no doubt noticed the new column entitled "Boston's Reading", which has been appearing monthly since the issue of April 23, and consists of brief reviews of current best-sellers. The reviews are prepared by members of the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association, many of whom are on the staff of B.P.L. Staff members whose capsule reviews have been printed in the PILOT include: Anne Armstrong, Children's Section; Gerald L. Ball, Book Purchasing; William T. Casey, Open Shelf; Martha C. Engler, South Boston; Anna L. Manning, Teachers; Paul V. Moynihan, General Reference, and Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing.

POET'S CORNER

Boston in September,
  Winds the mildest east,
Sunlight to remember,
  Every ray a feast.

*

Gentle, bracing air,
  The CHARLES shimmers bright,
Proper COPLEY SQUARE
  Chortles with delight.

*

Hurricanes forgotten,
  The floods an evil dream,
Frets are all verboten,
  The Lord is on the beam.

HARRY ANDREWS

(Ed. Note: The contribution above was just a moment too late for September's issue.)

Birds like whirling streamers,
  Frisking in the sky,
Grey and white and gleaming,
  Joyously up high.

Gracefully together,
  Streaking to the right.
Quick to left together,
  Sweeping out of sight.

Who the expert trainer?
  Taught them all that grace?
Who the deft explainer,
  Showing each his place?

I sometimes think that freedom
  Is all too dearly bought,
Since we must chart direction,
  And give each step its thought.

My freedom I'd surrender,
  On any autumn day,
To act in all that splendor,
  In such heavenly ballet.

HARRY ANDREWS

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Colette, Sidonie G.
  The Vagabond. New York, Farrar, Straus and Young, k955.

Viertel, Joseph
  The Last Temptation. New York, Simon & Schuster, 1955

Non-Fiction - Library Science

A.L.A.
  Training needs of librarians doing adult education work. Chicago, A.L.A., 1955.

Fussler, Herman H.
The function of the Library in the modern college.
Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1954

Geer, Helen T.
Charging systems.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1955

Library Literature, June 1955
New York, H. W. Wilson Co., 1955

London. University. School of Librarianship and Archives.
Cataloguing principles and practice.
London, Library Association, 1954

Osborn, Andrew D.
Serial publications, their place and treatment in libraries.
Chicago, American Library Association, 1955

Rothstein, Samuel
The development of reference services through academic traditions, public library practice and special librarianship.
ACRL Monograph no. 14
Chicago, Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1955

Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Africa, Ibadan, Nigeria, 1953.
Paris, UNESCO, 1954

BRANCH NOTES

Neponset

A party was held on Monday evening, October 10, for the twenty-two members of the Summer Reading Club who had read at least ten of the books listed in the Your Hit Parade booklet. The parents of these club members were also invited to the party which they seemed to enjoy as much as their children.

After the guests had been welcomed with a few appropriate remarks, the party began with an interesting and beautiful movie in color about Finland, called Wings to Finland. Tyyne M. Saari told about her wonderful vacation in Europe last summer where she visited eight different countries. She had an interesting display of artistic objects, textile, ceramic, china, and wood, which she had picked up during her sojourn in Finland, and had now arranged on a shelf among the children's books.

Before the refreshments of delicious home-made cookies and tonic were served the guests, Miss Saari awarded the coveted Summer Reading Club certificates to proud recipients, along with colorful bookmarks.

West End

Three Travellers in Search of a Title

The adventures of the Three Musketeers of fame and romance had nothing on the three B.P.L. musketeers who traveled abroad this summer, namely Minna Steinberg, Cataloguing and Classification (R and RS), Ethel Kimball, Connolly, and Fanny Goldstein, West End.

From July 6 to September 2, they virtually flew through Europe and Israel, visiting England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Israel, the French Riviera, and Spain. Native dishes and native hosts did much to destroy the caloric charts of the fair ladies; the treasures of world-famous libraries were open for their inspection and pleasure.

A visit to the John Rylands library in Manchester, England, proved a memorable one. The librarian of the Bibliotheca Ambrosiana in Florence was a figure out of a story book. For the Fathers of this world-famous library, salaries are unknown. The staff is made up of members of the clergy, who of course are not paid for their services.

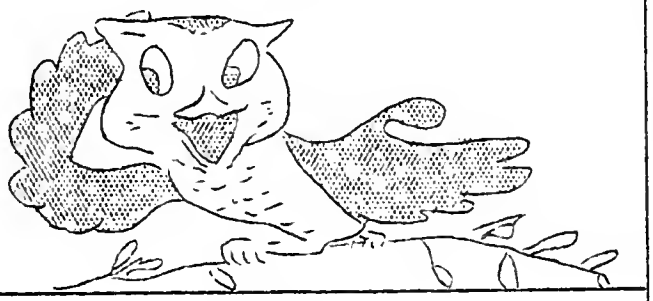
The Reverend George Schlicte, of the North American College, went out of his way to enrich the program, which included a Papal Audience and visits to the catacombs, with special emphasis on the recently discovered Jewish catacombs, which as yet are unknown except to archaeologists and scholars.

In Athens they met the indomnitable Chief Rabbi Barzilay of Greece, who outwitted the Nazis by destroying all Jewish registers and records of Athens; then fleeing to the mountains, where he channaled an underground movement to rescue the Jews.

The city of Haifa gave a municipal reception where Miss Goldstein spoke of the Tercentenary of the Jews in America. From here Miss Steinberg nearly brought back a husband, but Miss Goldstein unwittingly muffled the romance.

Many and happy were the experiences,

enough to serve as material for a book by the three B.P.L. musketeers who at present are in search of a title. If the budget permits, and the time warrants, and the book shelves of the library allow it, maybe sometime after a return engagement these three musketeers may produce a book. Who knows?....



SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor:

Increases in pay as a result of the passing of examinations have been announced. These increases will have the result in some instances of bringing close to the Step III salary level some relative newcomers to the Staff. This is good and all of us are glad that the system provides so liberally for new people.

But these same reises will also remind other members of the Staff that the gap in salary between relative newcomers and experienced people such as "assistants-in-Charge" is now very narrow in some cases. This is particularly true with respect to the position of some "assistants-in-charge" who, for a reason which has never been divulged, are not receiving much more in salary than the maximum of Step III (to which they would be entitled in any case even if they had not been designated "assistants-in-charge"). All the duties and responsibilities of a chief are theirs except the reward--cold, hard cash!

Why is progress so simple and unimpeded for large groups on the one hand while, on the other hand, it is made so difficult for certain selected individuals? What is the basis for discrimination among assistants-in-charge?

To the editor of the Soap Box:

A very unfortunate event connected with the services to the public occurred this month. Two very able and willing young men resigned from the system because their talents and capabilities went unrecognized in this Library. These men have ambition and the desire to move ahead, and they felt that in order to do more important work they had to leave this Library. I can speak of one of these men, John McCafferty, from first-hand knowledge of working with him. He was always one of the first people to reach for the telephone when it rang or to jump up and help a member of the public. He answered all inquiries courteously and--what is more important--intelligently. He not only knew the answers to most of the questions but he could give you the background material in a great many cases. His knowledge is immense and we all marvel at his memory. I always felt that if I didn't know the answer to an obscure question and I knew that it would take a while to hunt for the answer, I could ask John and get the answer immediately. Perhaps one of his greatest services was acting as interpreter for many of the foreign population which visited the Library. The many patrons who came to the reference department wanting information, and not just a book, would have gone away much less satisfied if they had to struggle expressing themselves in English and then stating their problem. John has the ability to converse fluently in many foreign languages. In a department where six out seven attended library school it seems truly unfortunate that the seventh individual should be held back for not

finishing library school training when his abilities more than adequately filled in all the gaps left by all the others in the department. John also took active part in the Professional Staff Association - as editor of The Question Mark he spent many hours of his own time preparing each issue since he was too busy doing reference work to do anything for The Question Mark during working hours. In a department where the morale is never too high, we shall miss John for his good-humored attitude which kept us going on an even level. As for those of us who have worked with him, we feel that he will make an ideal administrator. Personally I regret that he will never be an administrator in the Boston Public Library.

A Colleague

WASHINGTON AT DORCHESTER HEIGHTS

On Saturday, September 17, at noon, Mayor John B. Hynes officially opened the 325th anniversary of the founding of Boston by unveiling the painting of Washington at Dorchester Heights, by Emanuel Leutze, in the lobby of the Central Library. Frank W. Buxton, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, accepted the gift for the Library. The painting has been hung temporarily in the Venetian Lobby on the second floor of the Central Library.

This ceremony was the first in a series of events to commemorate the anniversary of the historic occasion. A group of citizens headed by Harry J. Blake, Boston wool merchant, planned the celebration.

The painting, which stands ten feet high, was commissioned by a Boston family in 1852. It remained in the possession of that family for three generations until it was purchased by the gifts of citizens and school children of the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Since the Boston Public Library is the home of the famous Washington medal, the Boston Art Commission decided that it would be fitting for the painting to be placed here.

In the painting General Washington is standing on the summit of Dorchester Heights, the present South Boston, watching the British Army sailing out of Boston for Halifax, Nova Scotia. The face of Washington is an exact reproduction of the famous Gilbert Stuart portrait which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts.

The artist was born in Germany in 1816. At the age of sixteen, Emanuel Leutze came to the United States and settled in Philadelphia. After having completed the famous painting, Washington Crossing the Delaware, Leutze returned to his native land.

Do you still

C A R E ?

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Professional Staff Association

Library Conferences

European Style

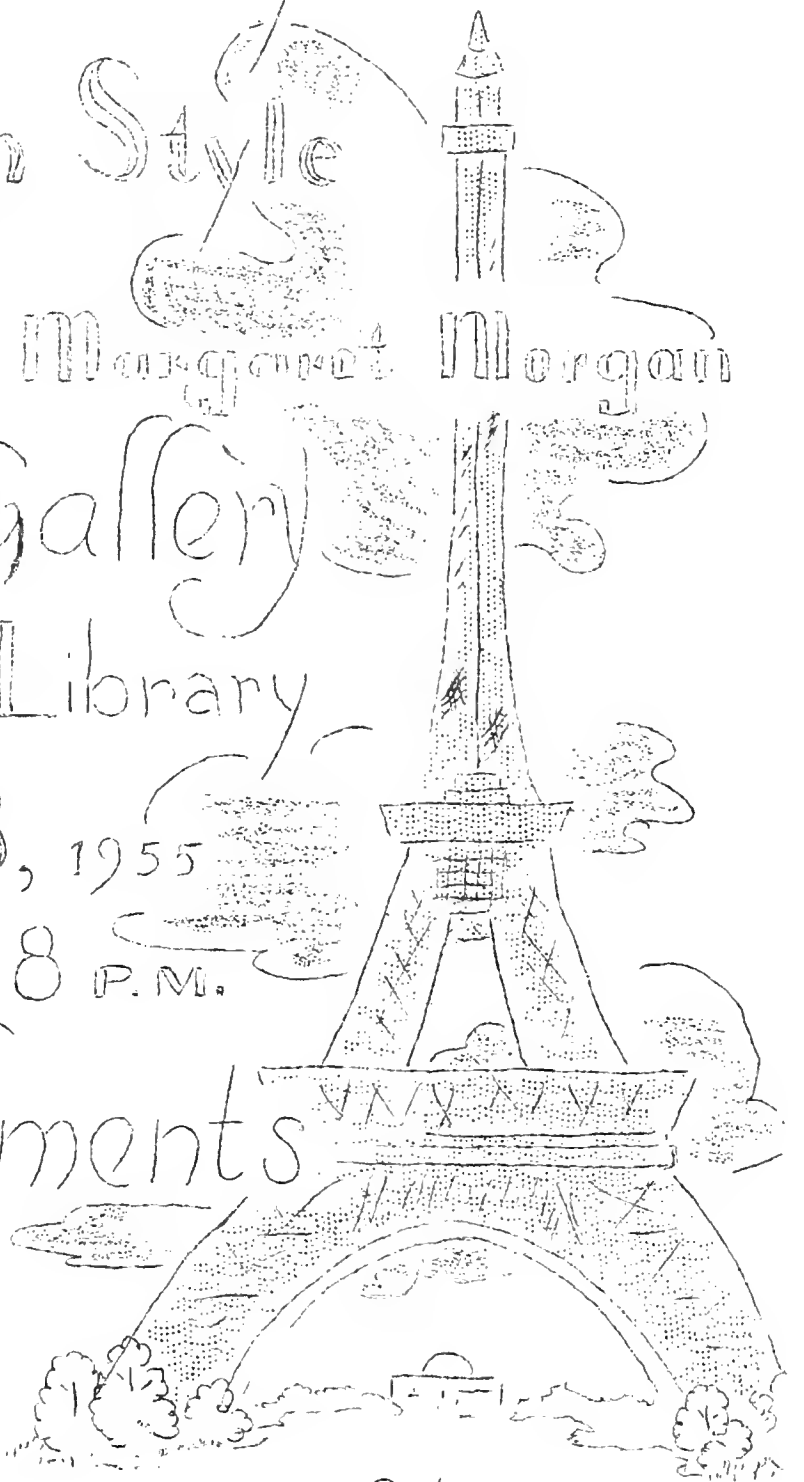
Virginia Haviland
Edna G. Peck

Margaret Morgan

Wiggin Gallery
Central Library

October 28, 1955
Friday 8 P.M.

Refreshments



Program Committee
Albert Brogna
Iphegenia Fillios
B. Joseph O'Neil
Irene (w)adsworth
May McDonald, Chairman.

Oct. 19, 1955.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 195

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 11 November 1955

Publications Committee: Felicia J. Langdon, Pearl G. Lewis, Sheila W. Pierce
Robert C. Woodward, B. Gertrude Wade, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITOR'S NOTES

Recent letters in the Soap Box, conversations in the Coffee Shop, and rumors in the corridors all seem to indicate a common trend of thought these days. Most of us are at least puzzled--if not deeply troubled--by the fact that our promotional system, a controversial item at best, has apparently broken down altogether. Despite the fact that we have many vacancies throughout the library, no titular appointments have been made since August 4, 1954. Those who passed promotional examinations in June of that year or in 1955 are thus still in waiting for the promised rewards of their labors. Meanwhile many capable assistants-in-charge toil on at what they years ago supposed would be a "temporary emergency job" doing the work of department heads with neither the salary nor the recognition which an administrative position should demand.

In any big group of employees, new faces come and go, but at present we seem to be losing at an all too rapid rate tried and true staff members as well. Is this simply a result of the lack of opportunity for advancement within our ranks or is it, in part, a symptom of the uneasiness we all feel?

There must, of course, be some reason for the present situation. Undoubtedly the over-all view of this large institution held by our Director and our Board of Trustees is a very different view from that of an individual staff member confined mainly to one department or one division of the library. It has been said (a rumor, of course) that there is action pending to overhaul the entire examination system under which we now function and to replace it with something entirely different. Others say that the proposed closing of certain branch libraries and the building of new ones will change our library picture so drastically that promotions at this time would place some staff members in positions which would soon cease to exist. We are, you see, the victims of many conflicting stories.

What is the truth? If the total personnel picture from an administrative view were described to us, many seeming inequities would be explained, I am sure. Why can't the staff meetings which we once had with the Director be reinaugurated? An opportunity to discuss some of the problems currently troubling us should boost our morale 100%.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 18. B.P.L.P.S.A., business meeting, Lecture Hall, Central Library, 9 a.m.

December 1. M.L.A. Winter meeting, Hotel Somerset, Boston.

December 2. B.P.L.P.S.A, dance and card party, Lecture Hall, Central Library, 8 p.m. to 12 m. Admission, 99¢.

December 5. S.L.A. Monthly meeting, Boston College School of Law.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs Vivian D. Troutman, Jeffries Point
Joan V. O'Brien, Book Stack Service
Mrs Donna M. Graves, Personnel
Marie Ann T. Orth, Personnel
Joan M. Cottier, Adams Street
Catherine M. Hannon, Brighton (formerly employed in the branch libraries)
Mrs Anne C. White, Book Stack Service (Mrs White was a former employee of this department)
Ellis P. Batchelder, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services
Mrs Leslie A. Vance, East Boston
Jacqueline M. Coutu, Cataloging and Classification Department, (R and RS)

Transferred

Mrs Gene Kupferschmid, from Jeffries Point to West End
Jeanne Fitzgerald, from Book Stack Service to Open Shelf
Helen E. Colgan, from West End to Washington Village
Mrs Rita S. Pennachio, from East Boston to Central Charging Records
Alice G. Hoag, from Adams Street to Connolly
Julia Lenzi, from Adams Street to East Boston

Resignations

Evelyn M. DeBassio, Book Stack Service
Arthur L. Lindsay, Exhibits Office, to accept a position with the Christian Science Publishing House
Mrs Louise F. Kenneally, Codman Square, to remain at home

New Arrivals

On November 4, 1955 a second son, Richard Wallace, was born to Mr and Mrs Frank Myers. Mr Myers works in Book Stack Service; Mrs Myers was the former Carolyn Wallace who worked at the Supervisor's Desk and in the Director's Office.

ALUMNI NEWS

Muriel Figenbaum Robinson, formerly of the Print Department, has returned to the United States with her husband and daughter, Carolyn, after living for two years in Auckland, New Zealand. The Robinsons are now living in Needham.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

All of the children's librarians heartily applaud Virginia Haviland's charms as a hostess. On November fifth and sixth she was "at home" to them in her apartment in honor of Jennie D. Lindquist, editor of the Horn Book Magazine, on the occasion of the publication of her Golden Name Day, one of the most delightful children's books of the year.

MRS MARGARET E. LEWIS

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Those of you who did not attend the Association meeting on October 28 missed a most interesting and entertaining evening. A report of the meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue so we shall not infringe on someone else's territory but shall confine ourselves to expressing our deep appreciation to Miss Peck and Miss Haviland for their kindness in sharing with us some of their trip abroad. Our thanks, also, to the Program Committee under the chairmanship of May McDonald, and to Genevieve Moloney and the Entertainment Committee.

A committee of the City Council held another hearing on the proposed insurance plan for city employees on Friday, 4 November 1955. The planning is still in the preliminary stages but the city administration is compiling the necessary data on which to base negotiations with the insurance groups. A full report of this proposed legislation will be made at the November business meeting and an opportunity will be afforded those present to ask questions.

We hope that there will be a large attendance at the November 18 business meeting. There are several proposed amendments to the Constitution to be discussed, and the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee will be announced. In connection with nominations we quote from the By-Laws, "nominations from the floor of candidates who are present and accept the nomination shall be entertained at the November meeting."

Be sure to keep the evening of Friday, December 2, open for the gala dance and

card party being planned by the Entertainment Committee. Judging from preliminary plans the occasion will be a memorable one.

LOUIS RAINS, President

STAFF IN PRINT

Have you seen the October 15, 1955 issue of the Library Journal? Anyone interested in books for children or young adults will want to read the overall evaluation there of the fall publication in the children's field by Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children; of picture books and books for youngest readers by Mrs Mary C. West, Children's Librarian, Open Shelf; and of adult books suitable for young people by Jane Manthorne, Young Adults Librarian, Open Shelf.

FALL MEETING, PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

On Friday evening, October 28, in the Wiggin Gallery, the Staff Association presented Edna G. Peck and Virginia Haviland, who spoke on the subject Library Conferences--European Style. Louis Rains as President of the Association greeted members and their guests and turned the meeting over to May McDonald, Program Chairman. She then introduced the speakers.

Miss Peck spoke first--her part of the program being highlights of the trip and the Conferences in general. With her usual wit and discernment she described the cities--Brussels and Vienna, the people, those who attended the conferences with them, and the social gatherings to which they were invited. Miss Haviland told about the organization of the conferences, the countries represented and some contributions different representatives made. The first conference was in Brussels where The International Federation of Library Associations had their third meeting and where the new International Association of Children's and Young People's Librarians was formed. In Vienna, at the Congress of the International Board on Books for Young People, Miss Haviland read a paper on Problems of Comic Books in the United States. Miss Haviland attended both Conferences as representative of the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People of A.L.A.

These two stimulating talks were followed by a showing of beautiful colored slides which Miss Haviland took throughout their trip. This pleasant and rewarding meeting ended with refreshments--cider, doughnuts, and cookies.

MARY A. HACKETT

FOREIGN CONFERENCES

Four members of the staff of the Boston Public Library, among more than thirty representatives from the United States, attended in Brussels, September 11-18, the Third Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations. In addition to general sessions, Robert Giddings, of our Catalog Department in the Reference and Research Division, had as a special concern meetings of the International Association of Music Libraries. Edna G. Peck, Margaret Morgan, and Virginia Haviland attended meetings of general public library interest.

General sessions drew some 1200 from over thirty countries for consideration of the theme, The Tasks and Responsibilities of Libraries and Documentation Centers in Modern Life. Smaller groups paralleled this theme in their discussion of four major problems as outlined by Douglas Bryant (Harvard University Library) who is Vice President of IFLA. These were (1) bibliographies; (2) international flow of materials; (3) use of materials in countries that seek assistance; (4) standards.

Two meetings of the group organizing the International Association for Children's and Young People's Librarians touched on the need for children's library service in every public library; the great need for sharing experiences in training children's librarians; the need to know each other's distinguished books and to stimulate their translation and wider diffusion; the need for an international bulletin for the sharing of such experiences and knowledge. It was stimulating here to meet one's counterparts from other countries, to hear about new developments and outstanding publishing. The new board for the association is headed by Johanna Wolff of the Hague, one of the prime-movers in the organizing; board members include those sent as representatives of their countries.

Miss Peck, Miss Morgan and Miss Haviland went on from Brussels to the third congress of the International Board on Books for Young People, a group organized by Jella Lepman, Director of the International Youth Library in Munich, which met in Vienna September 19-23. Its over one hundred members, from thirteen countries--librarians, publishers, authors, illustrators, booksellers, psychologists, educators and cabinet ministers--met to consider the theme Book and Picture (Buch und Bild, in the conference language). Prepared papers discussed the meaning of pictures to children, problems of illustrating, international picture books (an illustrated lecture by Mrs Lepman) and comic books. The last subject, one of consuming interest abroad, filled a morning session and came up in other meetings as well. Professor Spitta of Hanover gave an illustrated talk on the meaning of comic book themes and subjects. He was followed by the paper requested of Virginia Haviland on Problems of the Comic Books in the United States, attempting to outline methods of control tried in this country and to present the librarian's view that books and library service for children must be promoted as a remedy. The final meeting of the congress included brief reports from representatives of each country on their own children's books and library development. The Hans Christian Anderson international book award for children's literature, to be given for the first time in June 1956, is of wide interest as a project of this group.

In both Brussels and Vienna the informal meetings with individuals was delightful and significant. Such opportunities occurred in pleasant extracurricular gatherings for sightseeing, dining, and music. There was general friendliness, sincerity of interest, and first-hand consciousness of needs and problems, as awakening to those with well-developed library services as to those in countries with underdeveloped service. We became aware of the paralleling of concerns with those of UNESCO in its library development program, as brought out by Luther Evans, Director General of UNESCO, who spoke both in Brussels and in Vienna.

EIGHTH ANNUAL ALUMNAE TEA

The weatherman must truly have been in sympathy with the idea of an annual tea to bring together retired branch librarians and their supervisors, for Saturday, October 22--in vivid contrast to the torrential rains of the week before--was as beautiful an autumn day as the most critical could have wished for. That was the day on which Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, entertained old friends and colleagues at her home in Brighton for the eighth consecutive year. The largest group ever to attend was made up of: The Misses Ames, Cufflin, Flanagan, Hazlewood, Jordan, Maxwell, McGovern, Rogan, Ross, Watson, and Willis; and Mesdames Andelman, Donaghue, and Lyon. Sending regrets were: The Misses Albert, Morse, and Sullivan; and Mesdames Bailey and Pitman.

The same catering group which has served at all of these parties was in charge of the refreshments. Beautiful colored slides taken in Europe this summer when three of its number--Misses Peck, Haviland, and Morgan--vacationed there were shown as Miss Peck gave some of the highlights of the trip.

After Miss Guerrier had blown out the candles on the birthday cake which bore the greeting, "Happy 85th birthday", she promised that, if the wish came true, she would tell the group what it was when they come together again in 1956.

SARAH M. USHER

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

B I G B A R G A I N

If you join A.L.A. in the remaining weeks of 1955, you will be a member in good standing through December 1956.

Do it today!

Contact: Sarah M. Usher
Office of Records, Files
Statistics

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETS AT STONEHILL COLLEGE

The New England Unit met at Stonehill College, North Easton, on a rainy Saturday, October 15.

Mary Alice Rea, Chairman, presided and announced plans for the Annual Catholic Library Association Conference to be held in Boston in April, and urged the cooperation of all, particularly for Public Library Day.

Sister Bernadette Marie of New Bedford had arranged a most interesting and instructive program and the 80 members attending were well repaid for coming long distances in such bad weather.

Fortunata Caliri, Instructor at Lowell State Teachers College, presented a paper on the oriteria of book reviewing.

Brasill Fitzgerald talked on Literature and Reverend James Sheehan, President of the College, talked on Science and the Library. Reverend James Gorman, Superintendent of Schools of the Diocese of Fall River, is an enthusiast of school libraries. Every high school in the diocese has a library, with an especially appointed librarian, and every school is a member of the Catholic Library Association.

Mary Reeves, Dean of Women, and Elizabeth Tautges, Librarian, furnished a luncheon which was served by the girl students.

ANNA L. MANNING

FIRE CONTROL CENTER MOVES

On October 31, the Fire Control Center in the Central Library building was moved into newly-assigned quarters in Stack 1, near the Blagden Street elevator and staircase, and opposite the "men's suite". In this room, approximately 12' x 16', freshly painted, modernly lighted and ventilated, are concentrated the materials for the proper functioning of this unit of the Library, which has for one of its vital duties responsibility for the safety of Library personnel in times of fires or other disasters.

Blueprints of the Library's buildings, a signal board for the various alarms and sirens, etc., are all there. Why not drop in and inspect them?

EVENTS AMONG THE CATALOGERS

The fall meeting of the Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers was held on Saturday, October fifteenth, in Providence, Rhode Island. After a guided tour of the Providence Public Library, the group met in the library's auditorium to hear Stuart C. Sherman, Associate Librarian, Providence Public Library, speak on the problems in planning a new library building. The second speaker, Adelaide B. Lockhart, formerly Assistant, General Reference, Boston Public Library, and now Management Research Assistant to the Associate Librarian, Yale University Library, described the first year of the Yale Subject Heading Experiment, the purpose of which is to find out who uses subject headings and with what frequency all-inclusive, general, and specific headings are being used.

ESTHER E. JALONEN

ROUND TABLE OF LIBRARIANS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

On November 3, the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults held its meeting at the new Winchester Square Branch Library in Springfield. In the morning the members were conducted on a tour of the building and the new bookmobile. Later at the luncheon, which was served in the church dining room next door, Miss Wickersham, Associate Director of the City Library, talked on interesting sidelights of the new Branch which was erected through the bequest of Annie Curran, a lifelong resident of Springfield.

After a brief business meeting, at which Mrs Newsome of the Brockton Public Library was selected chairman pro tempore of the Book Review Committee, the group returned to the Library. There, they heard the attractive Dr Sliepcevitch, Director of Health Education at Springfield College, talk about the mental, physical, and emotional problems of the teens. She has had a great deal of experience with young adults as Supervisor of the Youth Center at Anaconda High School, Montana, and as Director of Health and Social Director at Western Montana College of Education.

The "Helps for Better Displays" offered

by Barbara Seasons, following Dr Sliepcevitch's talk, were of immense value. Miss Seasons, a former member of the art department of the Springfield Library and now an art teacher at Forest Park Junior High School, stressed simplicity of design and the importance of "line" in making posters. Unusual color combinations, free form figures, and an uncluttered effect make the display eye-catching. She suggested odds and ends such as string, wallpaper, tinfoil, shells, cotton, to add attractiveness; and recommended a flomaster pen which dries immediately and wax for plywood instead of glue because it can be removed easily from bookjackets, etc. She illustrated what she suggested and the group was impressed.

A coffee hour followed in the children's story hour section which, by the way, is equipped with every convenience for serving buffet to a large group such as the eighty or so present.

BARBARA C. COTTER, Chairman
Round Table of Librarians
for Young Adults

ARMED FORCES RESEARCH LIBRARY

The October meeting of the Boston Chapter of Special Libraries was held at the new Quartermaster Research and Development Center on the shores of Lake Cochituate, Natick. The Center is very impressive with its massive modern buildings, housing facilities for research and development in chemicals and plastics, dispensing and handling equipment, environmental protection, mechanical engineering, pioneering research, and textile, clothing, and footwear. In short, it is the responsibility of the Center to conduct such research and development as is necessary to meet the needs of the Armed Forces and to make the American soldier the best equipped and most efficient fighting man in the world.

It was a source of great pleasure to all to meet Sir Hubert Wilkins before the buffet dinner in the Cafeteria. His charming wit and humor was evidenced further when he addressed the group in the Auditorium about receiving thought forms from the air sans equipment of any kind. It was only at the very end of his talk that the audience realized he was joking.

Dr A. W. Harvey, director of Development, spoke in detail about the activities at the Center. Of particular interest was the Climatic Research Chambers, where weather conditions can be created comparable to that of the tropics and the arctic, where clothing and equipment of all kinds can be tested weatherwise. One of the outstanding pieces of equipment that has been developed is a mobile bakery unit weighing some five tons and producing 18,000 pounds of fresh bread in one day—sufficient bread rations for 32,000 troops. This particular unit was in operation in Korea.

Dr Harvey's talk was supplemented by a film of the Command's activities. Among other things the film showed the volunteer enlisted man being used in the various research projects, such as troops on skiis, climbing Mt Washington with full packs in heavy snowfall, setting up tents in high winds, testing the buoyancy and ability of sponge rubber-like materials in uniforms to keep a soldier with full pack afloat in deep water.

The technical library of the Center consists of some 12,000 bound volumes of scientific books and periodicals, 2500 unbound volumes, and more than 75,000 published and unpublished research reports. Special emphasis is on periodicals because this material is the most current. The library receives 500 leading scientific and technical journals regularly. The Staff is made up of technically-trained librarians whose job is to get whatever information is requested from whatever source possible. Inter-library loan plays a tremendous part in the library program.

It was an enjoyable evening, and also very enlightening.

* * * * * * *

DO YOU CARE?

Last year the staff gave very generously to the CARE Food Crusade Program during the Christmas holidays. This year CARE is again making its appeal for help. Let us not forget the needy as we call to mind our own blessings.

Special Committee for CARE

* * * * * * *

WHAT'S THAT AGAIN?

One of our avid readers while burrowing into the back files found this statement in Harpers Weekly, May 19, 1888, p.361, as part of an article describing the new library building to be erected in Copley Square:

"The arcade seen in the illustration extends along all four fronts, and is of course the greatest feature of the design, and a source of floods of light for the interior. Light also enters from windows opening on an inner court, which has an area of 100 x 135 feet. Probably few public buildings have been given an ampler supply of light."

No editorial comment

ARNAVETS GET TOGETHER

On the evening of November 14, highlighted by a pre-dinner social hour, 50 members of the ARNAVETS sat down to a magnificent steak dinner at the beautiful and well-appointed 40-40 Club in Roslindale. This dinner is the traditional annual meeting of the Library's Service Veterans for the purpose of partaking of good food and the exchange of witticisms of the day. At the conclusion of the dinner, brief remarks were made by the ARNAVETS' officers and were well received. And with Frank Myers parting warning, "If you are driving home tonight, make sure you have a car", echoing in our ears, the members went their merry ways at about 9 o'clock.

SAMUEL GREEN

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Book Stack Service

Mrs John Koster has just returned from a trip to the Pacific Coast, the Gulf States, and a week of sunshine in Florida.

Teacher's Department

From our viewpoint the most important person in this library at present is George Washington. Visitors from far and near inquire about him and stand in silent admiration before him. The members of our staff have become quite adept in describing the background and in explaining that Washington is looking toward Roxbury from whence his supplies are coming instead of toward Boston Harbor or Castle Island where his enemies are entrenched.

Perhaps when the picture is hung over the History Department, there will not be so many questions.

BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

On Monday evening, October 24, the first program sponsored by the newly reorganized Friends of the East Boston Branch Library was held in the lecture hall of the library. What Does the Future Hold for East Boston? was the subject of the forum and panel discussion.

After a brief introduction by Duilia Capobianco, Assistant-in-Charge, and Salvatore Basile, President of the Friends, the program was turned over to Arthur Miranda, Vice-President of the Friends and President of the East Boston Board of Trade, who was moderator for the evening. Guest panelists were Thomas E. McCormick, Director of Planning, City Planning Board; Alexander S. Beal, member of the State Airport Management Board and industrial realtor; Louis Doodlesack, President, Byron Drug Company; and Ralph A. Voto, Merchant.

Mr. McCormick spoke of urban redevelopment as it affected East Boston. Mr Beal stressed the importance of real estate to a district and emphasized the need for assertion on the part of the people. Mr. Doodlesack considered the importance of the highway in future planning. Mr Voto, representing the views of the small merchant, discussed the lack of better living quarters and blamed this condition for the decrease in population within the last ten years. When the speakers had finished, a question period followed. This became a very lively and stimulating session and was terminated after forty minutes because of the lack of time. However, the questions continued during the social hour which followed. Everyone--panelists and public--seemed reluctant to leave. The program was an evident success and proved the need for similar programs in the future.

DUILIA CAPOBIANCO

Jeffries Point

Saturday, October 29, found thirty-one youngsters excitedly awaiting Story Hour in an atmosphere of ghosts, black cats, witches, and grinning jack-o'-lanterns. The adventures of "Georgie", "Teeny Tiny" and "Horace the Happy Ghost" were enjoyed by all. After a spirited game of "Hide the Old Witch", played with a beanbag shaped like a witch's hat, each child received a treat of Hallowe'en candies.

Both the Adult and Children's Rooms have been brightened by a display of art work from the three local schools. These colorful paintings and drawings have received much favorable comment from our patrons. An announcement of the exhibition was made over station WLYN on "The East Boston Hour."

Tyler Street

The Puppet Group is rehearsing for a Christmas Puppet Show to be given December 12 at 3:30 P.M. Two plays, "The Boy of Nazareth" and "The Christmas Angel", are to be presented under the able direction of Ann Sullivan. The club, which has a membership of ten boys and girls, is most enthusiastic about its hand puppet project.

West End Branch

On Saturday morning, November 5, the members of the Hit Parade Summer Reading Club ended their activities with a party held in the lecture hall at the library. The children took this opportunity of telling Mrs Lehane, now children's Librarian at Uphams Corner, goodbye, saying that they hoped she would be happy at her "new library". They then welcomed Mrs Ellis to West End and Miss Goldstein was thanked for the many post cards she sent to the club during her travels in Europe.

Then, everybody settled down to listen to an account of those travels--"Beef eaters" guarding the Tower of London, the Pope blessing a multitude at the Vatican in Rome, a play under the stars at the amphitheatre of the Acropolis in Athens, a children's village in Israel--the club sat spellbound. Afterward there was a scramble to see the pictures Miss Goldstein had brought with her.

Mrs Lehane then assisted Mrs Ellis in awarding reading certificates and other special awards to the children. These awards provided another thrill: Miss Goldstein had brought medals, blessed by the Pope, from the Vatican which were given to Catholic club members. The recipients were delighted with them. The Jewish winners received books as awards.

A series of charades from favorite books were acted out by the children, the audience having to guess the names of the stories. The party concluded with refreshments.

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing nor more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Every autumn we are faced with an enormous problem: how to spend the remainder of the book budget before the close of the fiscal year. To meet this problem, the work of several Central departments is doubled. Doubled and

tripled Book orders flow from the Selection Departments down to Book Purchasing; while huge quantities of new books inundate the Cataloging Departments and Book Preparation, finally reaching our Shipping Department for distribution. Overtime Saturday and evening work inevitably becomes a necessity on someone's part. As a member of one of these autumnly overworked departments (where, incidentally, no overtime work done is ever paid for by the library) I'd like to raise one question. Why is the opportunity to carry home six days pay per week instead of five at this time of the year not made available to all staff members instead of just to those who happen to work regularly in Book Purchasing, the Branch Catalog, Book Preparation, the Business Office, and the Shipping Department? Shouldn't others take a turn at carrying this extra load--and sharing the profits?

B. GERTRUDE WADE

CONGRATULATIONS

To Hope Brown, Children's Assistant at Parker Hill, who appeared on WGBH - TV, Channel 2, Monday, November 14, at 5:30 on the Come and See program sponsored by the Eliot-Pearson School of Tufts University, of which Miss Brown is a graduate. Miss Brown described various types of books for use with small children and concluded with a retelling of one of "Curious George's" adventures.

POSITIVELY? WELL, NO!

Mr Carpenter is sharing with us one of the best of many notes which come to him in connection with his work:

Dear Mr Carpenter:

During the sweltering summer I had occasion to reply to you regarding the missing Picture of Dorian Gray, catalog No. W6722 p i (Mat. Br.). I averred at that time that my wife returned the book, as I had left it on top of her pile of stuff that she was returning. However, like a reasonably prudent creature, I also searched the places where sacred public property might get lodged, i.e., under the couch, on the sloppy book shelf, etc.

Lo and behold, last week, after many moons had undergone their protean changes, while rearranging furniture and collecting stuff to store in the cellar--my wife was on a mighty crusade to shatter a furniture fixation and would not endure another mañana--the heinous volume revealed itself on the book shelf! (It took a rewriting of this letter for me to assume the stoic mental posture of a soldier and confess the locus delicti.) To tell you the truth, I had been looking for a yellow-covered book, and I was confident about what I was looking for, as I had held the book in my hands for several hours and had cogitated about the plight of Mr Wilde's volatile artistic temperament in a stiffling pharisaical atmosphere. I found that the book was black-covered. You can imagine my chagrin. I had preened myself that I knew the quirks of the human mind, that I was versed in optical illusions, autosuggestion, and Sacco--Vanzetti.

Well, I told my wife that I must confess to Mr Carpenter right away, but with the pragmatic rascality of her sex she mentioned the big fines and suggested we let sleeping dogs lie. But then, what can you expect from an individual who will fill her mental vacuum with the beatific vision of a mermaid and sea weed pattern of costly Wall-tex on her dingy bathroom walls, instead of, like me, assailing the bleak heights of Magic Mountain?

We have the book on hand and are prepared to take our medicine, but please, Mr Carpenter, don't make it too bitter for us poor Pinocchios.

Self-effacingly yours,

Mr Carpenter's Answer

Dear Mr _____

We are glad to learn from your letter dated the 8th that, not only do you have a good wit, but our "Picture of Dorian Gray" as well.

Will you therefore, proceed to our Mattapan Branch Library, and obtain peace of mind by parting with $.56 for "being a bad boy".

If I have occasion to use your letter to cheer some fellow worker in need of a laugh, or in my "memoirs", I am sure you

will not object; providing I do so sans your name and address.

Let me thank you for your explanation and let me assure you that we are awaiting with great "excitement" the return of Dorian Gray.

Yours sincerely,

ALBERT A. CARPENTER

A Second 85th Birthday Party

On Saturday, November 5, Edith Guerrier Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, was guest of honor at a luncheon in celebration of her 85th birthday. Held at the Hotel Beaconsfield, the hostesses were SEGers who came from as far away as the state of Oregon to honor their former leader. This group which was organized at the North End Branch Library and derived its name from the day of the week on which it met--Saturday Evening Girls--has been loyal for more than a half century to the Library as an institution and to the outstanding library leader under whose guidance they received inspiration.

IN APPRECIATION OF CARE

Dear Sirs:

Often times during a person's life time, there occur many unexpected and unaccountable things. Thus even to me. One very rainy day, while I was sitting alone near the fireplace whose fire had burned out, there was a sudden knock at my door, and the mail-carrier brought me something which I did not expect. It was a package from you. As soon as the children (my grandchildren) saw it they snatched it up and kissed it, because we had nothing to eat. They are three little orphans (aged 6 to 9 years), one is unable to see, that is to say he is blind and they are asking me for food, who am 79 years old. For this reason I was very glad, and as a white haired old man I thank you.

I hope you will be able to continue your philanthropic activities, so that you can heal other wounded hearts like ours. Again I thank you and send best wishes. I am finishing this with my greetings.

KONSTANTINE SOTI DAVID

Mytelene, Papado Gera (Greece)

M.L.A. HIGHLIGHTS
December First Meeting
Hotel Somerset

9:15 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Panel: A PANEL ON PERSONNEL
Speakers from the Forbes Library, Northampton, Worcester and Fitchburg Public Libraries, City Library Association, Springfield, and the General Electric Company, Lynn

11:00 a.m. Business Meeting

11:15 a.m. Section meetings

Public Library Group
BOOKMOBILES--ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES
Speakers from Boston and Lynn public libraries, City Library Association, Springfield, Framingham Town Library, and the State Regional Center, Pittsfield

College Library Group
SOME ASPECTS OF LONGFELLOW AND LONGFELLOW RESEARCH
Speaker: Edward Wagenknecht

Institutional Librarians
HOSPITAL LIFE IN INDIA
Speaker: Dr Gertrude J. Smith

Round Table of Children's Librarians and Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults
CAROLINE M. HEWINS LECTURE ON LAURA E. RICHARDS
Speaker: Mrs Ruth Hill Viguers

Music Librarians
THE NEW MUSIC LIBRARY AT HARVARD
Speaker: Dr Randall Thompson

1:00 p.m. Luncheon
A WINDOW ON RED SQUARE
Speaker: Frank W. Rounds, Jr.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Lecture Hall, Central Library Building

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1955 8:00 P.M. - 12:00 M.

Music by Frankie Myers' Orchestra

Refreshments and Prizes

ADMISSION 99¢

ALL ARE INVITED . . . . COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Entertainment Committee

Genevieve Moloney, Chairman

Mary Ellen Brigante
Frances Landrigan
Pasquale Vacca
Richard Waters
Jean Watson

Please Post

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1955

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume X, Number 12 December 1955

Publications Committee: Robert P. Giddings, Felicia J. Langdon, Sheila W. Pierce, Robert C. Woodward, B. Gertrude Wade, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

TO EVERYONE---A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Appropriately enough at this season of the year the Staff can rejoice that it has been found possible to hold meetings of the Staff with the Director. After an interval of over two years it is certainly welcome to have this opportunity to learn with some degree of assurance what our administrators are--and are not--planning to do at this time with regard to the building program, the book budget, improvements in the Central Library building, appointments, and uniform treatment of assistants-in-charge. For those who have been waiting a year or two for, and earned advancement to, the fourth or fifth step levels, this should be a season for special rejoicing. All of us should be grateful that it is possible to sense the measure of positive action that is being taken to vitalize the work of the staff and the services of the Library.

*

The past year has been one which saw old problems such as the shortage of staff and the congestion of space intensified; it also saw a most welcome increase in the appropriation for books and a start toward the filling of vacancies. It is apparent that the Staff can take pride in a job done well in spite of some critical problems. Certainly we can look forward hopefully to 1956. The presentation at the Staff Meetings, coming in the same week with the issuance of the Comments by the Officers of the Library on the Recommendations of the Examining Committee of 1954-1955, suggests that the ensuing year should see some long neglected problems receive attention. It is a long step in the right direction when it is officially recognized that certain needs exist--such as modern lighting at the book level for Bates Hall. In this new spirit, it can be hoped, 1956 will be a year of improved service to the public.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 22. Annual Christmas tea, Women's Lounge, 3-5 p.m.

December 23. Open House in Men's Lounge, 10-12 a.m.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Frank G. Saunders, General Reference
John J. Spicer, Rare Book

Transferred

John J. Brauer, from Audio-Visual to Central Charging Records
Marjorie M. Gibbons, from Washington Village to City Point
Robert P. Goldman, from Central Charging Records to Audio-Visual
Tyyne Saari, from Neponset to Washington Village
Christine J. Umano, from Brighton to Neponset
Mrs. Ethel L. Heins, from Bookmobile I to Uphams Corner

Linda M. Ivers, from Uphams Corner to Charlestown
May C. McDonald, from Charlestown to Bookmobile I
Mrs. Barbara E. Coffey, from Book Selection, (R and RS), to Cataloging and Classification, (R and RS)

Resignations

George Adelman, General Reference, to accept the position of Librarian with the Office of Naval Research in Boston
Mary L. Gilman, City Point, to be married
Pearl G. Lewis, General Reference, to accept a position as Associate Librarian in the Engineering Library at M.I.T.

ENGAGEMENTS

Connolly is bursting with pre-Christmas good tidings because of the engagement of Barbara E. Cotter to John F. Travers of Arlington. Mr Travers is teaching in Boston and is studying for his doctorate in education at Boston College. June twenty-third is the day!

*

Anastasia Efthemeou, Print, has become engaged to John Krupa from Detroit, Michigan. A June 9 wedding is planned.

A NEW POTENTIAL LIBRARIAN

William T. Casey, Open Shelf, and his wife Julia, are the very proud parents of an eight-pound daughter, born at 12:09 P.M. on Tuesday, November 29. Terese Anne has two sisters.

VISITORS

Goffredo Petrassi, Italian composer, in Boston on the occasion of the premiere performance of his Fifth Concerto for Orchestra, commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra for its seventy-fifth anniversary.

Professor Yoshio Tsuge, Chief Architect, University of Tokio.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr Daniel Koury, Music, who recently conducted an orchestral evening at Emanuel College. On December 16, his Sonata for Clarinet and Piano will be performed by the Brookline Library Music Association.

To Miss Constance Tarquini, a part-time staff member at North End who was featured as "Teen of the Week" on November 13, 1955, in the BOSTON SUNDAY POST. A student at the Massachusetts School of Art, Miss Tarquini was lauded for her artistic skill as a constant winner in national scholastic art contests.

A FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR

A double feature, with one feature missing, was held in the Women's Lounge at the Central Library on Thursday morning December 8, when the Branch Librarians and Department Heads of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services met to honor Evelyn Levy and the former Mary Gilman. Miss Gilman, who left the service on November 18 to marry Benjamin Grosbayne, was at her new home in New York and unable to be present. Miss Levy, who leaves the first of the year to assume her new position as Assistant Co-Ordinator of Work with Adults at the Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, carried the ball very adroitly for both guests of honor.

The decorations and refreshments carried out the seasonal motif. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the occasion was the fact so many retirees returned to honor the guests. The two former supervisors under whom the guests of honor began their library careers, Edith Guerrier and Alice M. Jordan, were welcomed by their many friends and former co-workers.

John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian of the Division, graciously presented Miss Levy and Mrs Grosbayne (in absentia) with tokens of the esteem of their fellow workers. Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor, accepted for Mrs Grosbayne, while Miss Levy replied for herself with her usual refreshing originality.

As the ladies assume their new duties in broader fields of activity, the best wishes of the entire B.P.L. staff go with them.

HELPFUL GIFT SUGGESTION
FOR LATE CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

Membership in the A.L.A.

See: Sarah M. Usher
A.L.A. Membership Committee
Office of Records, Files, Statistics

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the Executive Board meeting on Monday, 12 December 1955, the Board considered a communication received from the Director in connection with the presentation made to him by the President for the Executive Board on April 27, 1955. The Director explained the position of the Administration on the amount of increment granted to Assistants-in-Charge and asked for any help and suggestions that the Executive Board could make for taking care of the matter in an adequate and uniform manner. The Executive Board appointed a special committee composed of Margaret Butler, Sidney Weinberg, and Louis Rains to gather information and prepare recommendations. The committee will welcome any suggestions from the staff.

*

In view of the considerable number of new employees eligible for membership in the Staff Association, the Executive Board voted to accept dues paid since 1 November as payment for the remainder of 1955 and all of 1956.

*

Those of you who did not attend the dance and card party on December 2nd missed a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The Entertainment Committee under the capable chairmanship of Genevieve Moloney did a splendid job decorating the Lecture Hall, providing prizes and serving the refreshments. We received the customary enthusiastic cooperation from the Director, Mr Starr, the custodians and the extra service personnel. The proceeds from the party should add approximately seventy dollars to the treasury.

*

The Officers and Executive Board of the Professional Staff Association join with me in extending to all members of the staff, past and present, our heartiest wishes for a happy holiday season.

Louis Rains, President

M.L.A. LATE FALL MEETING

General Meeting on Personnel

December 1, the Association meeting at the Hotel Somerset, in Boston, convened with a Panel on Personnel. The panel members were: Lawrence E. Wikander, Moderator, Librarian, Forbes Library, Northampton; Edward B. Daniels, Director of Adult Services, Free Public Library, Worcester; Lucille Wickersham, Associate Director, City Library Association, Springfield; Roku Yasui, Specialist in Personnel Development, General Electric Company, Lynn; Ruth Hyatt, Librarian, Fitchburg Public Library, Fitchburg.

Actually the subject of the panel was recruiting for librarianship. Mr Daniels indicated that there were more positions than qualified people to fill them. School libraries are gaining, but are not giving back, professionally-trained librarians. This is primarily due to higher salaries, shorter hours, and longer vacations offered to school librarians. Mr Daniels believes that library schools are not getting enough applicants because the career of librarianship is not known or advertised. The shortage of trained people exists in college libraries as well. It was noted that at the A.L.A. Conference in Philadelphia this past summer there were 426 vacancies listed and only 26 applicants for these positions.

Miss Wickersham stated that the low birth rate in the 1930's has resulted in personnel shortages now in all fields. Lack of publicity for the profession of librarianship is reflected in particularly acute shortages in this field. Miss Wickersham believes that librarians themselves must advertise and publicize their profession. She went on to say that placement agencies cannot provide personnel to libraries for the following reasons: (1) irregular hours; (2) 5-day week without Saturdays off; and (3) no favorable answer to opportunity of meeting men. The question of recruiting outside New England is negatively answered because New England does not attract due to low salaries and high cost of living. Only an applicant who has a very personal reason for so doing will consider employment in New England.

It was refreshing to hear Mr Yasui since he was of another profession and could analyze the personnel shortage in the field of librarianship more objectively.

In the engineering world there are also shortages of trained personnel, but, he said, industry has tried to overcome these deficiencies by recruiting and publicizing the field--especially to high school students by offering scholarships and advertising good salaries and by training at company expense. Industry has carried its recruiting program a step further, developing the potentialities of current employees by providing opportunities for advancement and by determining specialties through courses likewise at company expense and providing tuition refund programs for night courses.

In General Electric Company, with good, up-to-date personnel records, no individual is neglected. Each employee is re-interviewed after one year of employment for purposes of two-way communication and morale. General Electric re-evaluates engineering projects so that routine work can be sorted and assigned to technicians, thus relieving engineers for professional work.

Miss Hyatt stated that not enough is being done to alleviate shortages in librarians. We are "making do" by appointing people with equivalences, by using, on part-time bases, library school graduates not available for full-time employment, and by training college graduates in in-service training programs. However, turn-over is so great that none of these methods is satisfactory for any length of time. Budgets in libraries do not allow for good in-service training programs. Department heads and supervisory officers are not trained for in-service training programs. Pre-professionals, that is, college graduates, to be trained through in-service training or library school courses, are the only answer in New England which holds no attraction for library school graduates. Actually, the employment of pre-professionals is a form of recruiting. Some colleges are attempting to give elementary fundamentals of library science through evening and summer courses, as Clark University and the University of New Hampshire have done.

Miss Hyatt believes that there are three groups which can recruit for librarianship: (1) American Library Association; (2) Library schools; and (3) Trustees and/or Friends of Libraries. The American Library Association has made some headway through the Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career but we are talking to ourselves. We have not painted a picture of national importance. The American Library Association has spent money on many projects to encourage use of libraries but has not recruited personnel to carry out these projects. Miss Hyatt feels that we need a big, bold, vigorous national program of recruiting with competent, experienced direction. Library schools should be more active than at present; trustees should encourage the career of librarianship; and local library associations should sponsor a recruiting program but at the national level.

To summarize, Mr Yasui's stirring slogan, "Something must be done and now!" indicated the sentiment of all those assembled at this meeting which had much importance to librarians as well as administrators and trustees.

Catherine McDonald

Public Library Group

This group had for its topic "Bookmobiles - Advantages and Disadvantages." John A. Humphry, Director, City Library Association, Springfield, was moderator.

Louise Day, Librarian, Lynn Public Library, spoke on a city Bookmobile. She said that housing units had been built in the outskirts of Lynn, resulting in many families with many children and a large school population. Since the schools have no school libraries, Bookmobile service was instituted for school visiting. The Bookmobile has a heavy schedule, getting books to children each week in their classrooms. Not many adults use the Lynn Bookmobile and it does not have evening service. The staff is greatly overworked and wishes it could do more. Lynn likes its Bookmobile and considers its operation very successful.

Francis P. Keough, Librarian, Framingham Town Library, spoke on the technical and mechanical specifications of a vehicle. Since Framingham has recently purchased a new Bookmobile, he was well qualified to speak on the subject. He said Massachusetts had 16 Bookmobiles varying in size from 900 to 4500 volume capacity and costing from $4,000 to $18,000. The large vehicles are used by most City libraries. They are 18 feet and up in length, have generators, files, more work space. Standards, as to size, should be set up before the purchase of a Bookmobile. Number of stops must be taken in consideration, and the possibility of increasing demands. Purchasers should: (1) Consider own community and maximum load to be

carried, (2) Consult available specifications, (3) Inspect other Bookmobiles in operation, (4) Consult Bookmobile builders, (5) Have own plans and specifications. The maintenance of a Bookmobile should also be considered. Town or city garage and maintenance service is good, if available. Bookmobiles can be serviced in good truck garages. A man driver, who can take care of minor repairs, is desirable. Cleaning, weekly washing, etc., can be done by garages.

Barbara Morey, Regional Librarian, State Regional Library Center, Pittsfield, spoke on rural Bookmobile service. She said that the Bookmobile is the only answer to rural library problems. There are three on her staff who not only circulate books, but are storytellers, catalogers and menders. The Bookmobile draws on all Branches of library service to try to get books on all subjects. It makes three or four trips a week and covers 9000 miles a year. It visits many one-room schools and tries to get to every town library during its hours open so that each library selects books it needs. They have no overdues, no rules, schedule is flexible, and they fill requests the next time around. They give book talks on care of books.

Mrs Ada A. Andelman, Supervisor of Home Reading Services, Boston Public Library, spoke on the book collection of a Bookmobile. She said it should have both adult and children's books. We should not limit the number of books per borrower, but, in many instances, Boston has had to limit easy and picture books to one per child. The collection should be well-rounded and should have some basic reference books, such as The World Almanac, dictionary, atlas, etc. Bookmobile circulation is greater than that at a branch library, maybe because of the austerity of Library buildings. The Bookmobile comes to the people; it is informal, friendly, and makes for good public relations. The minimum book stock carried should be 1,800; 4,500 in deluxe Bookmobiles. The Bookmovile should own its own collection, housed in a central location and three times the size of the vehicle capacity. There should be duplication of best sellers. Children's books must also be duplicated so that the borrowers at last stops have a chance to get these books. In buying books, the Bookmobile Librarian must consider that the Bookmobile is as many libraries as the stops it makes. Borrowers, however, accept the limitation of the collection and are encouraged to leave reserves for books desired. Bookmobile service is an assembly-line job and the staff must know the collection and keep it tidy and attractive.

Edith L. Mooney, Bookmobile Librarian, Worcester Free Public Library, spoke on staff scheduling. The Bookmobile in Worcester is on a five-day-week schedule. It goes to schools in the morning, schools and neighborhood stops in the afternoon, and neighborhoods in evenings, returning to Main Library at noon for lunch and in the evening for supper and change of staff. It can also supplement its book collection during this time. The Bookmobile operates all year except for one week at Christmas. Circulation is lowest this week and it is a good time for repairs. Two professionals and driver go out mornings, two professionals, driver and one page in the afternoon and one professional, driver, and two pages in the evening. The Bookmobile draws on regular library staff to help out in evening. Each staff member has a full day in library and one morning. The driver does a good part of the clerical work and the Children's librarian goes to most schools and busiest evening stops. The lines between professional and non-professional are crossed to give maximum service. There is constant activity on the Bookmobile. You are pushed about, it is noisy, ventilation and insulation are faulty, dogs come on to annoy you, etc. On the other hand, it is informal and you get to know the borrowers. The crowd of people waiting at a stop is rewarding. Bookmobiles have disadvantages, but the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. Bookmobile service is a successful library operation, increasing in popularity and being considered by more and more libraries in the State.

Julia J. Miller

Institutional Librarians

The Hospital Library Group was entertained by colorful slides on hospital life in India. Dr Gertrude J. Smith, Director of the Lily Lytle Broadwell Hospital, Fatehpur, U. P. India, spoke of her work among Indians of all sects and castes. The charm and pathos of these people and their response to the competent ministrations of Dr Smith and her staff were vividly shown by the slides.

She also showed very lovely pictures of Kashmir and the beautiful Taj Mahal. The librarians in her audience probably felt

the drabness of their hospital surroundings in contrast with the exotic setting of Dr Smith's work. They at least had this consolation--in Massachusetts there is no need to carry a big stick to ward off the ubiquitous and aggressive monkey.

Mrs Mary G. Langton

Music Librarians

At the first meeting this season of the Boston-Cambridge Chapter of the Music Library Association, Dr Randall Thompson, Chairman of the Music Department at Harvard, spoke informally about the new Music Library Building now under construction. His account of the time and effort that go into planning and fund-raising brought an added perspective to the architect's plans which lay spread before us. Dr Thompson's modesty and humor found a warm response from his large audience. One left with the impression that the new library will indeed be an outstanding one.

George M. Pahud

Caroline M. Hewins Lecture

Those who attended the annual Hewins Lecture were privileged to hear Mrs Ruth Hill Viguers, author, teacher, and former children's librarian, speak in tribute to Laura E. Richards. It is not often that the personality of the speaker blends perfectly with the personality of the subject. When this happy marriage of kindred spirits occurs, it is a treat to the audience. Laura E. Richards' friendliness, vitality and humor were given tangible form through Mrs Viguers enthusiastic and thoroughly delightful presentation of her long service to children's literature.

Mrs Richards' motto, "Give the children the best there is," keynoted her attitude toward children and reading. Author, guiding spirit in the move toward more and better free libraries, founderess of literary clubs for boys, she was a true daughter of Julia Ward Howe and Samuel Gridley Howe, both distinguished for their literary and philanthropic achievements. Her prolific writing career began when her children were small. The warm and charming picture of her family life conjured up by Mrs Viguers' interpretation makes it obvious that Mrs Richards indeed "understood children and recognized them as individuals." "While our children are enough for us, we are not enough for them." Mrs Richards once remarked upon her belief that adults owe children the opportunity to acquire the rich heritage of the past through careful and loving guidance. She herself possessed a talent for giving children beautiful things to remember. And her influence on children whom she met is measured in part by the distinguished roster of writers and other intellectual leaders who numbered themselves among her friends--among them Edwin Arlington Robinson and Ogden Nash.

The children of the present generation will also learn to know and love Mrs Richards for Tirra Lirra, a delightful collection of her nonsense rhymes--rhythmic and rollicking--has once more been made available.

Mrs Mary E. Burns

Luncheon Meeting

Frank W. Rounds, Jr., who was the United States Attaché in Moscow in 1951 and 1952, was the main speaker at the luncheon. He provided a most stimulating and informative resumé of his experiences in Russia during his diplomatic service. He emphasized that the Russians should be judged only by what they do and not by what they say at peace conferences and over diplomatic tables. He also emphasized Russia's great potentials as a world power and the enormous resources at her control. He warned his audience of complacency and the necessity of keeping our country strong in domestic as well as foreign affairs. As a final warning, he gave statistics on the number of scientists and engineers who are graduating from Russian universities today--far exceeding our quota of university graduates in those fields. He described the mass hunger for knowledge and the printed word among the Russian people and the high standards of their television, theatre, and concert programs. Into this serious discussion, Mr Rounds inserted many of his personal experiences with the Russian secret police and with the Russian people in general whom he met on various excursions--most of them unauthorized. This provided some hair-raising as well as very amusing episodes as a background to his lecture.

THE S.E.G.'S

Every once in a while the pages of The Question Mark casually mention the Saturday Evening Girls!

Have you ever wondered about them and their activities? Currently their sphere of activity seems to be only social but did you know that they established a flourishing pottery business in the North End earlier in their career? Irene Armstrong, in an article on A SCHOOL OF POTTERY, tells us that:

"In July, 1908, the Saturday Evening Girls, who had been accustomed to meet for educational purposes at the library in the North End, took up a new enterprise --that of pottery-making. The idea was conceived by their leader, Miss Edith Guerrier...as an occupation during the summer for these girls who were busy through the winter with their school duties. Miss Edith Brown became their teacher, quarters were found on Hull Street and it was there, in the very shadow of the church from which the memorable lanterns were hung, that the potters started their craft—and chose the name of Paul Revere for their handiwork.

"the Work rapidly developed into a real industry and in 1915 it had outgrown the Hull Street quarters. A beautiful group of buildings was erected by a kind friend for the workers on a hilltop in Brighton. By 1926, having demonstrated its ability to pay its own way, it passed from the hands of the friend who had helped it through all its struggles to those of Miss Guerrier and Miss Brown, who had brought it up, so to speak. They assumed full responsibility and Miss Brown continued as the director. The early ideals had been held to all through this 'business' period; and to them the establishment of the school in 1926 was a distinct adherence....

"For twenty years the Paul Revere Pottery has been sold all over this country and abroad and in 1926 the establishment of a school in pottery-making seemed a natural expansion. It was likewise a fulfillment of the early purpose--namely, that of helping others to find a use for the work of their hands. ...In the school are taught hand-built and wheel-thrown pottery, commencing with the American Indian pottery (using a clay very similar to that which the American Redmen used and so far as is possible reproducing the finish of this early ware) and progressing through the other stages of early Egyptian, Greek, Chinese, Persian, and lastly the Modern...."

(OUR BOSTON, September 1928, p. 17-20 2358.1928 No. 3)

What has happened to the School? Maybe some of the present Saturday Evening Girls could enlighten us!

AN EVENING OF GOOD FUN

The Lecture Hall took on a charming new face and dynamic new sound for the Bridge-Whist-Dance on Friday, December 2. A winter wonderland effect was produced by the decorating efforts of Genevieve Moloney, Louis Rains, Mary Brigante, Frances Landrigan, and Dick Waters. Frankie Myers' men, with Martin Waters at the piano, provided wonderfully danceable music for those who could stary away from Jean Watson's punch bowl and refreshment table long enough to trip the light fantastic.

The Elliot Room competitions ended with prizes for whist going to Mr and Mrs Aaron Starr. At bridge, Dave Sheehan came out first, Joan Morris second and Paul Mulloney third. Richard Burns received the gift certificate door prize. Honorable mention goes to Ed Peltier who sparked the evening with novelty dances, everyone participating until exhaustion separated the men from the boys.

Those who enjoyed the evening were only sorry that more of the staff did not attend to share the fun.

ST. JEROME GUILD

At a meeting, November 25, officers were nominated and elected as follows:
President--James P. J. Gannon, Binding
Vice President--P. Joseph Reilly, Buildings
Secretary--Mary T. Sands, Buildings
Treasurer--Paul F. Mulloney, Science and Technology.

Paul F. Mulloney

SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The Readers Advisors for Children and the Readers Advisors for Young Adults have been participating in the "Institutes on Youth Problems" being held by the Massachusetts Department of Education's Office of American Citizenship. At Milford High School on December 7 and at Everett High School, December 15, Miss Winnick and Miss Haviland spoke to teachers on what the library offers action-minded youth, with focus on books which are selected to appeal to "low-voltage" readers.

BPLPSA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Laura M. Bondi, Director's Office
John J. Brauer, Audio-Visual
Arden M. Brook, Book Stack Service
Cornelia M. Harrington, Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services
Jane Cohen, West Roxbury
Irenemarie Cullinane, Washington Village
Virginia A. Dalton, Central Charging Records
Ann M. Flaherty, Bookmobile I
Robert P. Goldman, Central Charging Records
Aloma C. Jackson, Central Charging Records
Audrey V. Jewell, Cataloging and Classification (HR and CS)
Catherine Lewis, School Issue
Sebastian C. Lima, Book Preparation
Patricia M. Nolan, Book Preparation
Mildred Picone, Cataloging and Classification (HR and CS)
Elaine R. Sherer, Mt. Bowdoin

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction -- Library Science

Gardiner, Jewel. Administering library service in the elementary school. Chicago, American Library Association, 1954
Landau, Thomas, ed. Who's who in librarianship. Cambridge, England, Bowes & Bowes, 1954
Marshall, John D., comp. Books, libraries, librarians. Hamden, Conn., Shoe String Press, 1955
The PLD reporter, no. 1. Sept., 1954 Public library use of paper-bound books. Chicago, Public Libraries Division, American Library Association, 1954
The PLD reporter, no. 2. Feb., 1955 TV--how public libraries use it. Chicago, Public Libraries Division, American Library Association, 1955
The PLD reporter, no. 3. June, 1955 Friends of public libraries; how they work. Chicago, Public Libraries Division, American Library Association, 1955
The PLD reporter, no. 4. Oct., 1955 Book Selection. Chicago, Public Libraries Division, American Library Association, 1955

Fiction

Cary, Joyce. Not honour more. New York, Harper, 1955
Chamberlain, Anne. The tall dark man. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, 1955
Finletter, Gretchen (Damrosch). The dinner party. New York, Harper, 1955
Taylor, Kamala (Purnaiya). Nectar in a sieve. New York, J. Day Co., 1954

Non-Fiction

Barton, Roger. How to watch birds. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1955
Boston. Public Library. Cooks in print; favorite recipes of the staff. Boston, Public Library, 1953
Bridgeman, William. The lonely sky. New York, Holt, 1955
Chayefsky, Paddy. Television plays. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1955
Corbett, Scott. Cape Cod's way. New York, Crowell, 1955
Fine, Benjamin. 1,000,000 delinquents. Cleveland, World Publishing Co., 1955
Higgins, Marguerite. News is a singular thing. Garden City, New York, Doubleday, 1955
Lustgarten, Edgar M. The woman in the case. New York, Scribner, 1955
Morton, Charles W. A slight sense of outrage. Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1955
Piersall, James A. Fear strikes out. Boston, Little, Brown, 1955
Tenzing, Norkey. Tiger of the snows. New York, Putnam, 1955

BRANCH NOTES

Adams Street

Julie Lenzi, who has been transferred to East Boston, was the guest of honor recently at a luncheon held at the Toll House in Whitman on Saturday November 19.

The surroundings at Toll House are particularly attractive at this time of year when a Christmas Fair is in progress, and as always the dinner was delicious. Miss Lenzi was presented a gift from the staff with our best wishes for a successful future. When those wonderful Toll House desserts arrived there was an additional one for her, a lovely cake decorated with a miniature suitcase filled with Toll House cookies to help sustain her on the long journey from Adams Street to East Boston.

Mary V. Doyle

North End

Our branch has received its annual Christmas gift from Pietrina Maravigna, 146 Richmond Street, a beautifully illustrated edition of Italian painters of the Renaissance, by Bernard Berenson.

Miss Maravigna, who is a special feature writer for THE BOSTON GLOBE, walks to work in good weather and, with the accumulated carfare thus saved, buys a book each year which she presents as her Christmas gift to the Library.

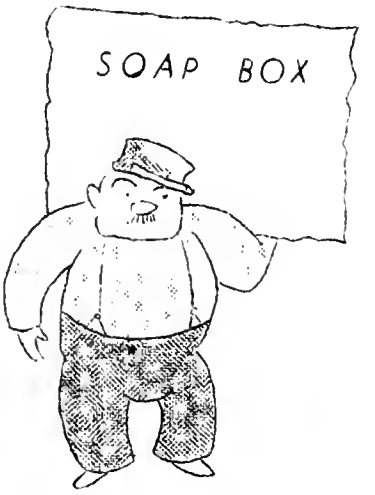
South Boston

Her many friends wish Mrs Dorothy B. Clark, a speedy recovery from injuries received in an automobile accident while visiting in Maine recently. Mrs Clark is still under treatment at the York Harbor Hospital, York, Maine.

*

The staff Christmas party on Thursday afternoon, December 8, was in honor of Jennie D. Lindquist, Editor of the Horn Book. Miss Lindquist had expressed a desire to meet personally those members of the South Boston Imagination Club who were also members of the Horn Book League, and Mrs Irene Tuttle, Branch Librarian, took happy advantage of the situation to invite Miss Lindquist, as well as Miss Gordon and Mrs Andelman, to have refreshments at the branch before the informal talk to the children. Approximately 55 boys and girls listened intently while Miss Lindquist explained to them how the illustrations for several outstanding children's books had been made, and she showed them the original drawings by Marie Hall Ets for MR T. W. ANTHONY WOO. In honor of Miss Lindquist's recent book, THE GOLDEN NAME DAY, a corsage of tiny golden rosebuds was presented to her by Suzanne Muir, a member of the Horn Book League. The children freely asked questions and sang Christmas carols for their honored guest. Miss Lindquist graciously gave her autograph to all who requested it.

Martha C. Engler



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanies by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is know only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

FOR THE YOUNG MAN WHO DOUBTED THAT I ATTENDED THE LECTURE HALL MEETING ON MY DAY OFF:

1.

Seasonal the coughing,
The tardy added noise,
But we all attended
With courtesy and poise.

2.

Promises were tendered,
We all will watch for proof;
Red will be the tiles
On our singing roof.

3.

Lecture Hall improvements
  Will celebrate the arts;
Foam rubber kindness
  Will soothe the softer parts.

4.

Hall commemorating
  Nostalgic Mr Bates,
Soon will look resplendent
  As in its early dates.

5.

Lights will be refurnished
  To help in every need,
Them who gaze at ceilings,
  And them who come to read.

6.

Titular appointments
  In Library at large;
Salary adjustments
  For not-quite-chiefs in charge.

7.

Plan for new insurance,
  Affecting every home;
Non-extensive English
  Of Magistrate of Rome.

8.

Library enlargement?
  At that we sat on edge;
BPL will honor
  The Deferrari pledge.

9.

Closing of some Branches?
  Will our wages soar?
End of meeting left us
  No wiser than before.

Harry Andrews

To the Soap Box:

For those of you who may be finding some difficulty in choosing a Christmas gift for the person who has everything, we offer a few suggestions:

1. Adjustable-tone crow call permits reproduction of the calls of young crows as well as lower tones of older crows...
2. A McKendree Chicken Picker.
3. A swimming pool vacuum cleaner.
4. A brass sundial that signals the noonday with a connonade.
5. New hydro-jet pan washer.
6. Heavy duty beak cauterizer which both cuts and cauterizes in one operation.
7. Dr Naylor's dehorning paste.

These items really exist. Names of manufacturers may be obtained by applying to the Science and Technology Department.

A FLY ON THE CEILING

There was once a fly named Jule
Who lived on the ceiling of the vestibule.
He loved to roam without a care
In the semidarkness of the upper air--
But suddenly he found his privacy
Destroyed by lights of great brilliancy,
Five thousand incandescent watts made the ceiling vie
With the noonday brilliance of the summer desert sky.

Poor Jule was a retiring sort of guy
Who shunned the limelight and public eye
So he left his shining friends on the mosaic
And looked for a place dark and prosaic.
He found a place with the proper gloom,
Dim and dusty, the Periodical Room.
Where there are no lights upon the table
And where the students strainedoptics must be able
With the one candlepower or two allowed inside
To read the fine print of the Readers Guide.

Now Jule, the fly, is content once more
Secluded and sheltered as of yore.
And if I were a fly upon the wall
Maybe I wouldn't care at all;
But if we don't get decent lighting soon,
  I have the feeling
That I'm going to find out how to levitate
And take my humble self among the great
Upon the well-lighted vestibular ceiling.

Ol' Mole

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Professional Staff Association

December 14, 1955

Special Committee on CARE
Chairman, Walter Bluhm
Diane Steinberg
Marie T. Hastie

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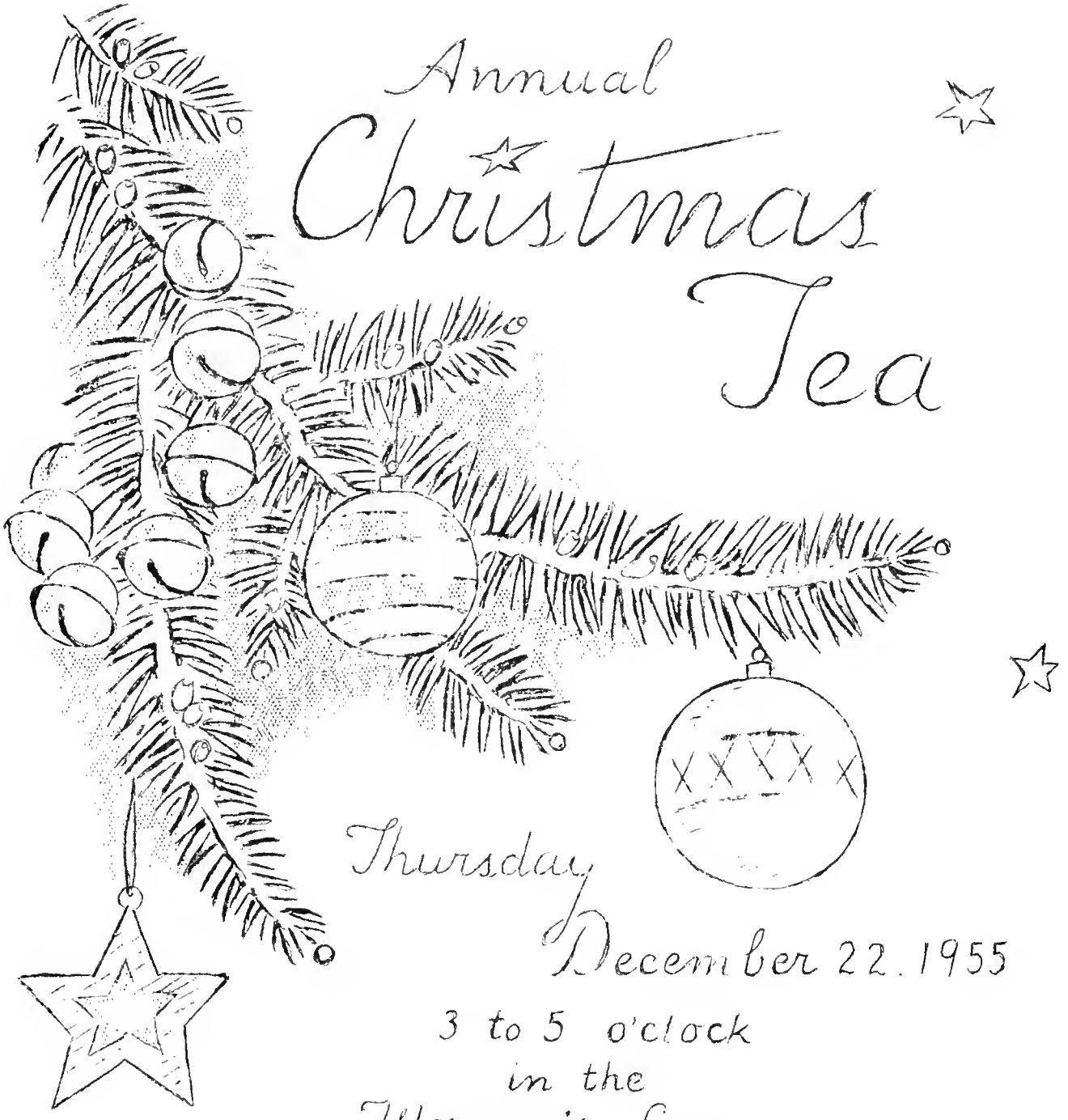

Annual Christmas Tea

Thursday

December 22. 1955

3 to 5 o'clock

in the

Women's Lounge

COMMITTEE FOR CHRISTMAS TEA

Barbara Feeley, Chairman

Phyllis Adams	Mary Lebert	Claire O'Toole
Geraldine Coyman	Dorothea Morgan	Sheila Pierce
Mary Curado	Margaret Morrison	Mary Scanlon
Catherine Duffy	Ethel O'Brien	Josephine Waldron

13 December 1955

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