THE QUESTION MARK

Volume XIII

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THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The new personnel classification, we are told, has been in effect "in principle" since January 1, 1958. Some of us are pleased with some of it, some are pleased with most of it. Some are not pleased with particular provisions. Each has had an opportunity to make his likes and dislikes known and to have suggestions, if any, considered.

Many have asked, "How is this going to affect the Association?" "If I am a Non-Professional how can I belong to the Professional Staff Association?" It need not change the composition or the aims of the Association. Heretofore most of the individuals in the Sub-Professional Library Service belonged to the Professional Staff Association. They were not excluded because of the name of the association. The "Professional" in the name of the organization has been felt to reflect more the aims of the organization than the personnel classification of its membership.

The aims have not changed, the personnel has not changed (at least, not a great deal since December 31st), the need for representation has not changed--in other words, the same organization can serve the same people. If some minor changes in terminology are required in the Constitution, that presents no great problem.

We have never before had an organization which could speak for so many of us on matters affecting our careers in the Library. It behooves us to keep it and keep it strong and healthy.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Charles L. Cragin - Book Stack Service
Donald B. Homer - Book Stack Service
Peter Poulimenos - Open Shelf
David T. Sheehan - General Reference (formerly in the Cataloging & Classification Dept., Division of Reference & Research Services)
Bertha S. Smith - East Boston (formerly at the Kirstein Business Branch)
Mrs. Bridgit T. Lewis - Information Office (formerly part-time in the same department)
Edward J. Montana, Jr. - Periodical and Newspaper
Frederick E. Danker - Rare Book (formerly in the Book Stack Service)
Marie A. Kelley - Book Stack Service
Mary A. Garland - Roslindale

Resignations

Mrs. Martha C. Sproul - to remain at home
Doloris T. McLean - to return to college
Mrs. Catherine D. O'Halloran - to remain at home

Transferred

Caperton Rosenberger - from Bookmobiles to South Boston
Columba Bartalini - from Central Book Stock - Branch Issue Section to North End
Aline B. O"Neill - from Charlestown to North End

Marriages

Linda M. Pagliuca - North End, to Carlo Tramontozzi, December 22, 1957

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At its January meeting the Executive Board accepted the resignation of Miss Veronica Yotts as chairman of the proposed seminar on the future of the Boston Public Library. The Board also voted to appoint Miss Isabel Martino of the Hospital Library Service to fill the position on the Board left vacant by the resignation of Miss Mary Roberts from the Library.

In considering plans for the reception to the new officers of the Association, the suggestion has been advanced that a film program be arranged as part of the festivities. This has been done before and was quite successful. In this connection, Mr. Peltier, Chief of the Audio-Visual Department is contemplating a program of older films designed to show the development of the industry and would welcome any suggestions or comments from Staff members.

When preparing a list of Association members for the election committee it became apparent that a great many eligible staff members were not members of the Professional Staff Association. Possibly, through some oversight they were never invited to join. If this is the case, I now extend a personal invitation to all eligible members to join for 1958. To those staff members who refrain from joining because they do not feel that the Association can accomplish everything it should let me repeat what has been said earlier, that the strongest weapon for accomplishment is the unified action of the greatest possible number of people.

William T. Casey
President

N.B.

Membership is conditioned upon the payment of dues of fifty cents per year.

Please see your staff representative or pay your money directly to Louis Ugalde of the Rare Book Dept.

Reception to Mr. Lord

The old year closed with a well-planned reception in the new Lecture Hall given by the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library to Mr. Lord in honor of his twenty-fifth anniversary as Director and Librarian (Dec. 30 at 4:00 p.m.).

Members of the staff who have worked with Mr. Lord in the past were present and had a chance to renew old acquaintances. George Gallagher, senior member of the staff, presented Mr. Lord with a gift of a sterling silver coffee service from the staff members of the Boston Public Library.

Those who attended the reception were given a copy of the printed Resolution of the Trustees on the Director's Twenty-fifth Anniversary. This Resolution was designed by Rudolph Ruzicka and is a very fine example of excellent printing. It contains a portrait, which is an excellent likeness of Mr. Lord wearing a four-in-hand tie. A copy of the text of the Resolution follows:

MILTON EDWARD LORD

For a quarter of a century, Milton Edward Lord has rendered to the people and to the Public Library of the City of Boston the distinguished services a great institution requires if it is to maintain and enhance its usefulness. Longer than any of his able predecessors, and through exacting years, he has shown the high administrative ability, imagination, courage, and cultural discernment which his post requires. The Trustees of the Library rejoice on this occasion to express to Director Lord their appreciation for past services and their confident expectation of many more years of notable public achievement.

This quarter century has been a period of multifarious responsibilities to which he has resolutely faced up; of serious difficulties which he has resourcefully overcome; and of many substantial activities in this city and country and abroad. For the skill and character which have marked his services the Trustees are grateful.

The citizens of this city and the uncounted thousands who come from far and near—erudite scholars, engaged in research; school and college students; the old and the young; the under-privileged in particular and those who are quietly educating and re-educating themselves—all these owe him the salute due to a faithful and talented public servant, a matured career man in the best sense of the words. As Trustees of this institution of which he is the administrative head and animating force, we are grateful to him. And we think that we bespeak the thanks of not only these but of the hundreds of members of Examining Committees, the various Mayors and Council members and, most important of all, the people, for whom this great free library was established. This silver anniversary seems to us to deserve the hearty recognition which we are giving it.

Annual Banquet - Arvavets

On Thursday, December 5th, sixty-five members of the Arvavets gathered at Eddie's Steak House on Stuart Street for their annual banquet. James P. J. Gannon and his wife were the guests of honor and were presented with a gift in recongnition of the members' gratitude for Mr. Gannon's twenty-four years of service as Adjutant and Quartermaster.

Louis Polishook, Vice Commander, made the presentation and read a letter from Mr. Lord congratulating Mr. Gannon and expressing his regrets that he could not be present.

A. L. A.

Join A. L. A. Now!

Secure membership blanks from: Mildred C. O'Connor, A.L.A. Membership Committee, General Reference Department.

Calendar of Events

January 18, 1958, Saturday, Catholic Library Association meets at The Library Club of St. Agnes Parish, Arlington at 2:00 P.M. This first meeting which promises to be a real bell-ringer, features a talk by the Librarian of Providence College Father Casey on Censorship, and a talk by Ruth Sawyer Durand, noted story teller and author of Roller Skates.

January 27, 1958, Monday, Boston Chapter of Special Libraries Association meets at Insurance Library Association, 89 Broad St. Boston at 7:30 P.M. William W. Woodland, Editor of The Standard will speak. A private room has been reserved at Patten Restaurant Court Street for the usual dinner. A choice of menu is available at 6:15 P.M.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Brace, Gerald Warner
The World of Carrik's Cove. N.Y., Norton 1957

Buck, Pearl
Letter from Peking. N.Y., J. Day Co.,1957

Carroll, Gladys (Hasty)
Sing out in glory. Boston, Little, Brown, 1957

Costain, Thomas Bertram
Below the salt. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Dudintsev, Vladimir
Not by bread alone. N.Y., Dutton, 1957

Kaufmann, Myron S.
Remember me to God. Phila., Lippincott, 1957

Macken, Walter
Sullivan. N.Y., Macmillan, 1957

Marquand, John Phillips
Life at Happy Knoll. Boston, Little, Brown, 1957

Rand, Ayn
Atlas shrugged. Random House, N.Y., 1957

Shulman, Max
Rally round the flag, boys! Garden City N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Smith, Robert Paul
"Where did you go?" "Out." "What did you do?" "Nothing." N.Y., W.W Norton, 1957

Non-Fiction

Keel, John A.
Jadoo. N.Y., J. Messner, 1957

Maxwell, E.
How to do it. Boston, Little, Brown, 1957

Ross Williamson, Hugh
Enigmas of history. N.Y., Macmillan, 1957

Codman, Charles R.
Drive. Boston, Little, Brown, 1957

Holiday
Holiday in France. Boston, Houghton-Mifflin, 1957

Michener, James Albert
Rascals in paradise. N.Y., Random House, 1957

Rosenberg, Bernard, ed.
Mass culture. Glencoe, Ill., Free Press 1957

Baruch, Bernard Mannes
Baruch. N.Y., Holt, 1957

Crow, John Armstrong
Mexico today. N.Y., Harper, 1957

Wylie, Philip
The innocent ambassadors. N.Y., Rinehart, 1957

Schindler, John A.
Woman's guide to better living 52 weeks a year. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice Hall, 1957

Ayer, Frederick
Yankee G-man. Chicago, H. Regnery Co., 1957

Armour, Richard Willard
Twisted tales from Shakespeare. N.Y. McGraw-Hill, 1957

Atlantic monthly
Jubilee. Boston, Little, Brown, 1957

Cerf, Bennett Alfred ed.
Reading for pleasure. N.Y.Harper, 1957

Cadiman, Clifton
Any number can play. Cleveland, World Pub. Col., 1957

O'Neill, Eugene Gladstone
A touch of the poet. New Haven, Yale Univ. Press, 1957

Chigpen, Corbett H.
The three faces of Eve. N.Y.McGraw-Hill, 1957

Boston Catholic Book Week

The annual celebration of the Boston Catholic Book Week, will be held this year on Saturday, February 15, at 2:00 P.M. in New England Mutual Hall. This book program, which represents the opening of Catholic Book Week, will feature the following speakers:

Mr. Edward Weeks-Editor of Atlantic Monthly
Sister Maria del Rey - Author of Her Name is Mercy
Miss Dorothy Thompson - Author of The Courage To Be Happy
Mr. Joseph Dever - Author of the forthcoming novel Three Priests

The following members of the staff of the Boston Public Library are serving on the Catholic Book Week Committee: Miss Anna Manning, Miss Mary Alice Rea, Miss Martha Engler, Miss May MacDonald, Mr. Paul Moynahan, Mr. Richard Waters, and Mr. William Casey. The program is sponsored by the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association in collaboration with the Mass. League of Catholic Women.

William T. Casey

West End Branch

On Thursday evening, December 19th, some 200 people gathered at West End Branch Library as Miss Fanny Goldstein gave her annual Christmas-Hanukkah Good Fellowship party. This proved to be far more than an ordinary party, however, because Miss Goldstein took this occasion to annouce her retirement from the Boston Public Library after Thirty-five years of unparalledled service as Librarian of West End Branch. Her private collection of Judaica books, acquired during her many years of service, was purchased through the courtesy of the Jacob Ziskind Trust Fund and presented to the Boston Public Library. Mr. Sidney Rabb, vice-president of the Board of Trustees, accepted the gift on behalf of the Library and at the same time electrified the audience by announcing that a special trust fund, to be known as the Fanny Goldstein Judaica Trust Fund, was to be set up as a tribute to Miss Goldstein by Boston's Jewry. The newspapers picked up the story and spotlighted it, as an important news item. Mr. Milton E. Lord and Mr. Patrick McDonald both expressed the Library's great surprise at Miss Goldstein's retirement, along with their best wishes to her for many happy and fruitful years ahead. Those who know Miss Goldstein were struck by her apt phrase, "I am not retiring - I am commencing a new life". Miss Goldstein will be sorely missed by those who have worked for and with her, as well as by the Library itself. She has given a lifetime of devoted service to the Library, and the quality of this service is truly irreplaceable.

On Friday evening, December 20th, Miss Goldstein gave a Christmas supper-party for her staff at West End. Much food was consumed, gifts were exchanged, and a general air of Christmas festivity prevailed.

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 of the Soap Box:

I would be the first to admit that I have often been critical of the administration and, in particular, of the Director, but on the occasion of Mr. Lord's twenty-fifth anniversary as Director, I thought it only fair to reflect a little on the other side of the picture, and to give credit where credit is due.

And I am amazed to realize how much there is on the "plus" side that I had never given much notice to.

I have never met Mr. Lord that he was not smiling, gracious and courteous. I have seen Mr. Lord receive with good grace harsh criticism, much of which had little basis other than spite or prejudice. I have never known Mr. Lord to be vindictive or to hold against an individual any opinion expressed which may have been contrary to those of the Director.

I have seen grow under Mr. Lord's direction, a system of promotions based on objective achievement and which minimize favoritism.

I have seen Mr. Lord practice real democracy, encouraging staff expression of opinion, participating in the give and take of the conference table and staff meeting, and never showing anything but profound respect for an honest opinion honestly expressed.

Never has anyone in the Library been more interested or given more encouragement to staff activities. Many of us fondly recall the square dances which he actively promoted and led as a caller. And rare is the staff funtion that will find Mr. Lord absent - and then only for the most pressing reasons.

Mr. Lord has from his early days with us made strong efforts to improve the quality of the library personnel, but at the same time has shown the greatest consideration for those already in the library service. By providing free training courses, he made it possible for the ambitious employee to qualify for promotion when without this opportunity many would have been stymied because they could not spare the money for college studies or could not meet entrance requirements for college. How many among us, indeed, how many of us who have gone on to greener pastures, completed higher education because of his encouragement to study and the liberal rearrangement of working schedules permitted by Mr. Lord'

Yet I cannot recall Mr. Lord ever boasting of what he has done or tried to do. I m sure that I speak for many when I say: You have done a fine job. I don't know ow anyone could have done better. God less you, Milton Lord!

Old Timer

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o the Editor of the Soap Box:

Two or three years ago, the Subcommittee n Personnel of the Examining Committee ecommended that a Staff Manual in loose eaf form be issued to replace the preiminary edition of the Staff Manual. evelopments since the manual was pubished in November 1947, have made much f the information contained therein bsolete, misleading, and incorrect. It s true that since that time a thousand otices and directives have been promulated by the administration.

Do you think it is any easy task to find he official policy on any given matter y consulting these notices? No wonder here is often confusion over what should e done in a given situation.

How about giving us a new "bible" that an easily be kept up to date?

Annoyed

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o the Editor of the Soap Box:

The present arrangements, or rather lack f arrangements for articles lost or found n the Library are the cause of much conern to many of us.

Sometime ago there were rumors that new egulations about "Lost and Found Produres" had been submitted to the departent and division heads for comments and uggestions, and that new rules and regulations were soon to be issued. We are till waiting.

Nothing has been published on this atter since the Staff Manual (trial edition) was issued about ten years ago.

And no matter how valuable an item has been turned over to Lost and Found, no receipt is issued to the finder. Surely, good business practice alone would require that a receipt be given the finder for goods or money he has turned over, even if there were no concern for the person as an individual. And if any individual has been unfortunate enough to lose something of value to him, does it not seem most inconsiderate to tell him that we are sorry, but Lost and Found is closed at 5 P.M.? If this happens on Friday night, it is a long wait until Monday morning at 9 A.M. Good public relations?

Found and Lost

Editors Note:

The above matters are under consideration. In the case of the Lost and Found there are legal matters that have to be resolved.

Library Science

Francis P. Keough, former BPL'er graduate of Harvard College and Columbia University Library School is giving the following course in library science:

Public Library Information Resources and Techniques*-Francis P. Keough, Librarian, Framingham Town Library. 15 lectures, 3 SH. Thurs., 7-9:30 p.m., Feb. 20, Sever Hall. Credit students, $30 (NR, $45); auditors, $22.50.

The public library as an information center; indexes; encyclopedias and supplementary works; books of curious facts, customs, folklore, and mythology; sources of biographical information; dictionaries; sources of geographical information; books about books; sources of information in special fields.

AVE ATQUE VALE

Mary R. Roberts, Office of Home Reading nd Community Services, resigned from the ibrary on Dec. 31, 1957. Mary had work-d at Central Charging Records since its eginning in 1953 and previously had work-d in the Open Shelf Department, and in he branch libraries. Her friends in the ibrary presented her with a purse of oney and their best wishes for success in er new position as Senior Library Assist-nt at State Teachers College at Boston. Mary was very active in the professional nd social activities of the Library. Mary ill be missed by all of us. Her immense apacity for work, her ready wit, and elightful sense of humor made her a alued member of the staff and fellow orker. We wish Mary all of the best and ope that she will visit us often.

* * *

On January 3, Mrs. Gilda Barrett was iven a surprise coffee party to bid her fond goodbye upon her leaving the lib-ary to begin a maternity leave. The taff presented her with a gift and all he good wishes of her North End friends.

Wedding Bells

On December 22, at an afternoon cere-ony at St. Leonard's Church in Boston, iss Linda M. Pagliuca became the bride f Mr. Carl G. Tramontozzi of Rome, Italy. iven in marriage by her father, the bride as attired in an Italian silk lily-white ouffant gown with a scoop neckline and ull skirt ending in a short train. It as fashioned with iridescent wheat earls and French sequins. A wreath of earls and crystal orange blossoms held n place her finger tip length illusion eil. She carried a spray of white roses nd holly leaves. The bride's attendants ore red and white gowns. After the cere-ony, a dinner reception was held at the rand Ballroom of the Sherry Biltmore otel with many of the B.P.L. staff as uests. The couple spent the Christmas olidays in Rome with the groom's family. n extended wedding trip throughout Europe is now being enjoyed by the happy couple. After their return Mr. and Mrs. Tramontozzi will live in Brighton.

Thanks

The Boston Globe paid a very fitting tri-bute to Fanny Goldstein which included the following thoughts about our profession:

A Gentle Reminder

It is pleasant to read that hundreds of patrons of the West End Branch of the Bos-ton Public Library turned out to honor their librarian on the occasion of her retirement. Miss Fanny Goldstein has serv-ed her community ably these 35 years past. The episode might well prod citizens in other cities and towns of the commonwealth to pause for a moment and appraise the immeasurable services performed for them by local librarians such as she.

These public servants have little vis-ibility, apart from their desks among the bookshelves. Usually underpaid, courteous, faithful in their duties, they are friendly guides to the children, councilors to grownups, enthusiastic in response to every indication of interest in reading at all stages. Every mentally alert town owes them a debt, for they are its most selfless stimulant to reading and knowledge.

Sick List

We are pleased to hear that our fellow staff members who are ill, according to latest reports "coming along pretty well":

Mrs. Marjorie G. Bouquet, 148 Marlborough St., Boston
Ronald Conant, 113 Southern Ave., Dorchester 24
Abraham B. Snyder; Harley Hospital, 6 Windermere Rd. Dor.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1958

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Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 2 February 1958

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, Nacy P. Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J.Obear, Esther Leonard, Chairman

Publication date:
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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Many of us remember with pleasure the final ceremony in the observance of the Library's Centennial year. The simple dignity of that event marked the rededication of the Library's staff to the ideals of service which have always distinguished this institution.

Now we have an opportunity to pledge ourselves anew to the furtherance of an old ideal. National Library Week is to be celebrated during the period March 16 - 22. This observance is the joint effort of the National Book Committee, Inc., and the American Library Association. Its purpose is to awaken the interest of non-readers and to stimulate the more active participation of all citizens in the programs offered by their local public libraries. Marchette Chute's statement of the objectives of the program emphasizes that "we cannot afford a country of lazy minds and the boredom that comes from knowing little and caring less. We cannot afford a nation of non-readers."

Certainly "Sputnik" has awakened us to the need for scientific education. And it is equally necessary that we emphasize the need for an awakened interest in the humanities. Here is an opportunity in which we can all share and a program to which we can devote our best efforts. In the final analysis the program of National Library Week is only an affirmation of our purpose since the founding of the Library in 1852. The noble sentiments of George Ticknor need to be repeated again and again until they become a kind of credo to guide our actions. It is a truism, but one that bears repetition, that we lose sight of the forest for the trees. Dealing with books every day we are perhaps prone to forget their meaning to so many and certainly we forget that in 1852 books were not so easily available to all of us. We can remember with profit Mary Antin's amazing statement "that I who was brought up to my teens almost without a book should be set down in the midst (the Boston Public Library) of all the books that ever were written was a miracle as great as any on record." That miracle is being repeated every day and we are all a part of it.

During the coming weeks we can all help to contribute to National Library Week. Suggestions for programs, for publicity releases, for reading lists are needed. The Boston Public Library, as befits the first great public library, will play a leading role in the observance in this area. The success of the program

will depend upon the contribution we make and our individual participation. If each of us will give his earnest support to the program, we shall have done our part to make this a second rededication and, in doing so, we shall have the inner satisfaction of knowing that we are fulfilling our obligation to this noble "treasure house" and to those who founded it.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE,
for
National Library Week

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Kenneth R. Brown - Adams Street
Martha A. McDermott - Bookmobiles (formerly at Brighton
Peter G. Tzamalas - Central Charging Records (formerly part-time in the Fine Arts
Edward J. Montana, Jr. - Periodical and Newspaper
Jane B. Yanulis - Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research
Mrs. Diane F. Overbey - Charlestown

Transferred

Marie R. Kennedy - from South End to Mt. Bowdoin
Mrs. Margaret E. Lewis - from Children's Section, Open Shelf to South End
Gertrude E. Stuhl - from Central Charging Records to Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services
Christine J. Umano - from Mt. Bowdoin to Children's Section, Open Shelf

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

N.B.
The following pearls of wisdom emanating from our Ex-president "Father" Bill Casey will have to serve as February President's notes. Mrs. Sarah Flannery, our new president, is at home taking care of her husband who has had a serious operation.

To the Editor of the Question Mark:

Dear Ed:

Having doffed the ermine (synthetic) robes of state and reverted to the role of private citizen I can now seek in the public print for the answer to a long perplexing question. Namely (and to wit) where are the letter writers of yesteryear? Have they left these hallowed halls to answer the siren lures of other institutions or have they been unable to get refills for their ball points? Where are those prolific correspondents who used to sign themselves "Indignant", "Frustrated" or "Disturbed"? Where is "Fireman's Wife"?

The average reader of our esteemed "House Organ" when he first receives his Q.M. turns first to the last page like an impatient reader of "who-dun-its" hoping to find there some rare pearls of wisdom. To often this poor soul has found naught but empty oyster shells. Is there no one left to vent a little honest spleen or express a little rightous indignation?

It might be possible to arouse some interest by sponsoring a letter writing

contest on the subject "How I Would Run The Library" or a similiar topic. The first prize could be an all expense tour of Stack 1. This is just a tentative suggestion advanced for purposes of discussion. I am certain that the fertile minds that congregate in the Coffee Shop can develop the tremendous potential of this idea.

William T. Casey
Ex Majesty

P.S. DON'T FORGET TO PAY THOSE 1958 DUES

Dear B.P.L. Friends and Associates:-

Inasmuch as it is physically impossible to thank each and every one of you who gathered at that gala luncheon on February 4th, I am taking this means of reaching out to you. I am deeply grateful to all who came to break bread with me on this auspicious occasion.

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to have so many library people come, and it warmed the very cockles of my heart to see you all there.

In the excitement of the moment I am afraid I even forgot to say "Thank you", especially for that beautiful billfold and the Century note which was enclosed. This I shall use to buy some luxury to remind me always of the days spent in the Boston Public Library and of all my friends to whom I do not say "Good-bye", but "God bless you all," and I hope to be with you for a long time.

Very faithfully yours,

Fanny Goldstein
An Ex -
now crowned "Emeritus"

West End Branch

Miss Goldstein's retirement was the focal point of activities at the West End Branch during most of January and February. On Sunday afternoon, January 19, a tea was given by both present and former staff members in her honor. Some two hundred friends, colleagues, patrons and alumni gathered to wish Miss Goldstein well. The informal program included the reading of many congratulatory messages and the recitation of a poem by its author, Harry H. Fein, which he composed especially for the occasion. Mr. Erwin D. Canham and Mr. Patrick F. McDonald, representing the Library's Board of Trustees, paid tribute to the guest of honor. Mr. Abram Berkovitz, president of the Jacob Ziskind Trust Fund for Charitable Purposes which purchased Miss Goldstein's personal collection of Judaica books and presented them as a gift to the Boston Public Library, emphasized Miss Goldstein's contribution to the field of Jewish letters. A beautifully illustrated copy of the Old Testament, personally inscribed, was a gift to Miss Goldstein from the H. R. Hinckley Co., Bible publishers. The West End Branch alumni presented her with an illuminated scroll. The Branch was beautifully decorated with gay flowers, and the sumptuous repast added the final touch to a notable occasion.

On Tuesday afternoon, February 4, Miss Goldstein was guest of honor at a luncheon tendered her by the Branch Librarians at the Hotel Vendome, at which many of her friends from Central were present. Entertainment was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Munroe, who sang a group of lovely songs, accompanied by Mr. Khoury from Audio-Visual. A monetary gift enclosed in a beautiful gilt wallet was presented to Miss Goldstein with the best of wishes for her future plans for travel and leisure.

The SEG'S (Saturday Evening Girls), members of a club which was founded many years ago in the North End by Miss Edith Guerrier and which is still an active

organization, held a luncheon for Miss Goldstein at 1200 Beacon Street on Saturday, February 8. A lovely clock-radio was given to Miss Goldstein by her friends.

STAFF IN PRINT

Simmons College Bulletin, Vol. LI, No. 4, February 1958, is aimed at guidance directors and high school principals. It gives "a list of some of the jobs a Simmons' graduate might take, right out of college, followed by more advanced positions that come with greater experience and maturity."

In the second group is Supervisor of Personnel, Boston Public Library, Boston, and also Chief Librarian, Home Reading and Community Services Division, Boston Public Library, Boston. The first of the above is expected in a list of alumnae that have made good but the second seems a little out of place in a bulletin entitled College Women on the Job.

LATE FLASH!

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Miss Virginia Dalton, Codman Square Branch, to Mr. William John Pettipas, Nova Scotia, Canada. Virginia has just received a lovely pearl solitaire engagement ring.

Miss Judith Prindle, children's worker at West End Branch, became the bride of Mr. Kenneth A Tollackson on Friday afternoon, February 14, at 4:00 P.M. at Trinity Church, Boston. The Valentine Day wedding was followed by a reception in West Newton.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
S.L.A.

Monday, February 24, 1958 at Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston. Dinner is scheduled at 6 P.M. in the Simmons Cafeteria. (Chicken Pie - $1.95, tax included). The program is as follows: "Recruitment - Our Personal Challenge." Miss Pearl M. Steinmetz of Div. of Child Guardianship will discuss the recruiting program of the social work careers program in Boston. Mr. Kenneth R. Shaffer, Dean of School of Library Science, Simmons College, will discuss problems of recruiting and suggest ideas for a good recruiting program.

MEN'S LIBRARY CLUB

The Spring Meeting will be held on Wednesday Evening, March 5, 1958, at the new Nonantum Branch of the Newton Library.

The Waltham caterer, whose roast beef dinner was so satisfactory at the last meeting, has been engaged to repeat. The price will be about $2.00.

The Speaker of the evening will be Clarence Sherman, Librarian Emeritus of the Providence Public Library, whose subject is "A Librarian Looks at Censorship of Youth."

ACCIDENT REPORT

Esther Leonard, 1958 Chairman of Publications Committee, met with an automobile accident on Sunday, February 9. Her right arm was broken in three places.

Esther is still at the Anna Jacques Hospital in Newburyport and would like to hear from her many friends in the Library.

PROGRESS REPORT

Abraham B. Snyder is home from the hospital and is entertaining friends at his home, 66 Bernard St., Dorchester.

LATE, LATE FLASH!

Word has been received of the engagement of Mary McGah (Business Office) and Walter A. Robinson of Stock Room). Best Wishes extended to both young people.

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 is 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 Comittee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words wil be accepted.

Dear Editor of Soap Box:

As the " reconnaissance survey " of various areas of the Library's operations is under way, it is interesting to note that the staff, in general is readily accepting the idea. Indeed, we have nothing to hide, but we may profit by having the spotlight play on our problems. The difficulties of providing library service in a very unfunctional palace, of attempting to give adequate service to a growing metropolitan area with a shrinking staff, of attracting and keeping qualified personnel when our salaries have lagged so far behind other comparable institutions -- we, the staff and the administration, have been coping with these formidable obstacles for many years and seeking ways and means to secure the necessary remedies. But always we have been vulnerable to a suggestion that we were not disineterested, that we had an "axe to grind ", when we recited our tales of distress.

But now we have a reputable recognized firm of experts looking at us with a skilled objective eye, what they see and report may be more readily accepted by the City Council, His Honor, the Mayor, and other interested parties. Indeed, maybe these findings will serve as a catalyst to bring into being the necessary improvements and reports.

Hopeful

Dear Soap Box:

When the new classification scheme was first being discussed, it was indicated that the philosophy underlying this distinction between Professional Library Service and Non-Professional Library Service was whether the positions required graduate professional library training. If the position required a person with graduate professional library training then the position belonged in the Professional Library Service. If it did not require such training, then it belonged in the Non-Professional Library Service. In illustrations of this practice in other libraries, there were cited examples of Personnel Officer, and Business Office Manager being classified as Non-Professional.

In the preliminary reclassification, the Chief Executive Officer, and personnel of most of the General Administration Offices and of the Division of Business Operations, among others, were classified in the Non-Professional Library Service. This was a logical classification, if the basic premise were accepted, i.e., that only positions requiring library school training were to be in the Professional Library Service. With the exception of the titular positions in the Book Purchasing Department, little necessity for graduate library school training could be demonstrated for these positions, and very few had such training.

Now it seems that special pleading from several directions has modified the original plan so that now only the merest handful are to be reclassified from Professional to Non-Professional.

Since the original basic principle, or philosophy, appears to have been abandoned, on what theory have the few been reclassified? If the original idea were sound, it should have been possible to defend it against any special pleading. If it were not sound, why apply it to an unlucky few? Are they to be the scapegoats in the new classification plan?

It does not seem that any classification scheme which applied a rule to one portion of the staff but not to another without giving a sound reason for this different treatment will be built on a sound foundation.

Persona Non Grata

To the Soap Box

When the original idea of creating a Non-Professional Library Service was introduced, it seemed to be a logical method of classifying individuals by the jobs they were performing. It was for the most part based on the type of work engaged in, and regardless of the rank, individuals were to be placed in the appropriate service. This was acceptable, even though it would deprive some individuals of their Professional status.

However, after the latest changes were announced, allowing to remain in the Professional status those individuals holding the position of Department Head or higher, along with a great many others for various reasons, but leaving about 25 former Professional employees in the new Non-Professional category, it appeared that the logic of the whole idea was vitiated.

The only philosophically tenable criteria for placing a former Professional in a Non-Professional category are: 1. the individual is employed in an area of library activity generally recognized as Non-Professional, or 2. the individual is not personally qualified to be designated as "Professional".

If the first criterion is employed, then it follows that all individuals working in a "Non-Professional area must be classified as Non-Professional. If the second alternative is employed, then all those who formerly qualified and were regognized a Professional must in all fairness retain that status.

Are we to have a classification of position, or a classification of personnel?

Is it proper to have both?

P B P

To the Soap Box

If my information is correct, andI have every reason to believe that it is, then without exception each and every one of the twenty odd individuals qho are being transferred from the Professional Service of this Library to the Non-Professional Service, has at least twenty years of service. Some have as much as thirty or more years.

Is this the reward for all of these years of devotion and work?

Seems to add up to more than 500 years of Professional Service.

OLD PRO.

Dear Editor:

In the matter of reclassification of persons from Professional to Non-Professional, it would seem that every effort should be made to study individual cases, especially in those instances when such reclassification would set aside the Professional "status" of those who have over a period of years accomplished professional work or who are still in positions which would seem to be on the borderline. It is possible that scrutiny will reveal that the word "Professional" has been misinterpreted in some instances. Surely a professional person is not one who relies on others for decisions of a technical nature. For instance a "professional" cataloger would not be one who depended entirely on Library of Congress printed cards. On the other hand it is possible that some of those working in departments not classed generally as "Professional" do indeed fall within the classification of "Professional" in the true sence of the word, in that they exercise initiative involving highly specialized knowledge.

To the Editor of the Soap Box :

Many Library Employees have been in the Professional Service for as many as twenty years. Some hold college degrees and have qualified for promotion in several departments by passing the requisite qualifying and promotional examinations in professional subjects. These same employees have been registered by the State as being in the Professional Library Service.

Are the Library Officials now willing by their summary decision to deny some of these employees their professional status by transferring them to the Non-Professional Service?

Baffled

-7- Dear Soap Box:

Now that the Mayor has put the freeze on making any appointments to fill vacancies, we wonder if someone should not have studied the system used in Civil Service. Civil Service may not be perfect, but when the Senior Accountant in the Accounting Department retired a few months ago, the Civil Service authorities appointed a replacement in a matter of weeks. Contrast this with the three years it took to appoint a Supervisor of Reference and Research Services.

Too Patient?

DON'T

FORGET

THOSE

1958

DUES

LOUIS
UCAIDE

IS

THE

MAN

TO

SEE

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

will hold a
Reception for the
1958 Officers

Friday evening · February 28 · 1958
at 8 o'clock
in the Lecture Hall
Central Library

Film Program
Refreshments

Mildred Adelson – Chairman
Program Committee

Euclid Peltier – Chairman
Entertainment Committee

WAKE UP

Have you seen the suggestion box in the Coffee Shop?

WAKE UP

Do YOU know why it is there?

WAKE UP

Do you know YOU have a chance to participate and voice your opinion on what should be done during National Library Week, March 16 through 22?

So -- o - o, **WAKE UP AND READ**

the sign on the suggestion box in the Coffee Shop. It says just that: SUGGESTION BOX.

Let's hear from you, You, and YOU!

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

for

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

March 16 - 22, 1958

Please Post

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 3 March 1958

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, Macy P. Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J. Obear, Esther Leonard, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

The New York Times had an interesting editorial on March 9, 1958 entitled "Library Services Act" which not only gives a brief story of the Bill but also pays a fine tribute to libraries. The Library Services Act, as passed in 1956, called for the expenditure of $7,500,000 a year for five years to enable the states and territories to set up and to develop public library programs in the rural and sparsely populated areas of their states with funds supplied on a matching basis. The full amount was not allowed in the fis cal year July 1956 to June 1957; instead $2,050,000 was allowed. During the period of July 1957 to June 1958, $5,000,000 was allowed with an allocation of funds based on the percentage of rural population of the State as against the rural population of the country as a whole. The average family income of the State was also taken into consideration.

It is very interesting to see what Massachusetts did with its money. This State rece ived $78,487 and opened up a new State Regional Library Center serving the northeastern corner of the State in the Merrimack Valley; a total of twenty-five towns with a population of under 10,000 there being served. A Bookmobile with its attendant expenses of garage and operating costs plus three staff members were hired. It further allowed additional staff at headquarters to take care of the technical processing of a book appropriation that was tripled. Furthermore, a new field supervisor was appointed to take care of the area east of Worcester. The area west of Worcester being taken care of by the present supervisor.

Because of possible lack of pressure on the part of librarians this full amount of $7,500,000 is not going to be allowed during this present year. Instead the allocation has been reduced to $3,000,000. Because it is to the advantage of this country that all education institutions work at maximum efficiency, we who are members of such an important facet of the educational system as libraries should be aware of this failure to provide. In view of the fact that this state has used the money so wisely and so advantageously to enlarge the library service, we should be conscious of this need and if opportunity presents itself should not be at all reluctant to advocate the appropriation of the full sum of money allowed under the Act.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Edith A. Wright - Rare Book

Transferred

Columba Bartalini - from North End to Central Book Stock-Branch Issue Section

Resignations

Audrey E. Hunter - Bookmobiles, to be married and live in Connecticut.
Mrs. Janet Krauss - Uphams Corner, to remain at home
Mrs. Margaret L. Morrison - Information Office, to remain at home

Marriage

Judith Prindle - West End, to Kenneth Tollackson on February 14, 1958.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Thanks to "Ex Majesty" William T. Casey for manning the breach in February and writing the "notes" for me, and apologies to all of you for not having been able to write them myself.

From the emptiness of the "Soap Box" of late, one would assume a state of contentment and satisfaction with life in general on the part of everyone, which is little short of miraculous. Such conditions do not exist in this uncertain world.

A recent decline in membership is also somewhat disturbing. Perhaps some of us have forgotten, and perhaps some of the newer staff members are not aware, that the staff association is YOUR association. It is your means of becoming acquainted with Branch people, if you are in Central, and with Central people if you are in the Branches.

Through the Association we exchange ideas, we gain a more clear idea of our common goals, we express our opinions of what we should do for the advancement of our welfare both as librarians and as members of a group which though diverse in its individual occupations is yet homogeneous in being all of it part of a fine and intrinsically noble institution.

In short this is a group of all of us. Let us support each other; write your opinions in the Question Mark, attend meetings. If you are dissatisfied in any way with what we are doing - remember that only by participating can you hope to have your ideas and your aims made known and considered.

The officers of the Association are your representatives, elected to serve you and we all wish to keep this organization truly representative and truly striving for the good of all. We cannot know what you want unless you tell us!

Thank You
Sarah W. Flannery

ARE YOU GOING TO ALA IN CALIFORNIA?

If so, I should like you to get in touch with me. I am hoping to lead a group of librarians to the A.L.A. Conference. If you are interested in broadening your horizons and would like to make a professional pilgrimage en route to California, this is it.

I am planning to stop over at important Public Libraries for visits en route where we may gather information and professional comparisons as to how other libraries work.

In addition to the professional visits we shall make stopovers at all the scenic wonders with which our country is studded and which lie in the path of our pilgrimage.

All aboard who are interested!
Fanny Goldstein
AS 7-9637 14 James St., Brookline

Spence's Hotel, Calcutta
March 9, 1958

Dear Miss Swift:

The temperature reached 93° here yesterday, and I even went without a jacket. Still, I didn't know how hot it was till I read the paper this morning. However, having had a suit tailored here, I'm better prepared.

My feelings about Calcutta are mixed. It is, I can say, a den of thieves, and even at the Library nobody trusts anyone else. I am watched lest I steal any books (I'm obviously expected to want to). My chief accomplishment at the Library--the National Library of India, that is--may have been that of finding live book worms scattered throughout a gift collection temporarily stored in what is my office.

As you may know, I'm in the midst of a spate of lectures. How does one cope with preservation problems in a country too poor to use air-conditioning, where pastes and glues attract all sorts of insects, where the poisons one could use are dangerous? Laminating machines are also an answer, but they are expensive, and require foreign exchange, etc., etc. I try not to say that it is all hopeless, but it's certainly tough on the Indians. The answers which we have found in America solve our problems (or w ould); but here there just aren't the resources, and I feel as though I were a voice crying in the wilderness. The Indians expect quick, easy answers, and there aren't any. What is more, the cleavage between the intellectuals and the craftsmen is so great that the people I can meet and talk to feel themselves far too superior to the people who will do the work. Ah well! I do what I can. My talks here in Calcutta will probably be printed in pamphlet form. In addition to the lectures I'm giving at the Library I've also given one to the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture. Ramakrishna (I'm told) was a 19th century incarnation of God. The Secretary of the Institute is one Swami Nityaswarupananda. But Ralph Bunche, Grayson Kirk, Stephen Spender and Karl Shapiro have also spoken to the group. There will be a talk to the Govt. Sanskrit College; and an interview over All-India Radio (Calcutta).

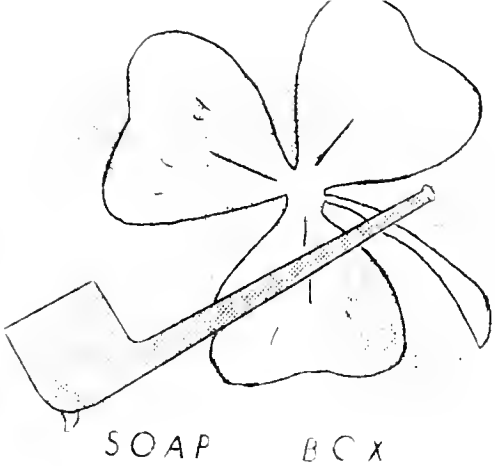
On the 20th I go up to Patna, to see the Khuda Buksh Oriental Mss. Library, staying with the Governor of the State of Bihar. On the 22nd I go down to Madras, and spend 3 weeks in a complicated tour of southern India, reaching the very tip at Cape Comorin: seeing Mipore, Tanjore, Trivandrum, Bombay, the Bilora and Ajanta Caves, and Hyderabad. I hope then to return to Calcutta to work on plans for a rare book dept. for the National Library, and may go up to Assam, before returning to Delhi, when I also intend to go down to Agra, for the Taj Mahal (which I saw briefly from my train en route from Delhi here); and perhaps also to Jaipur and Simla. I probably start back to the States on 16 May, via, I hope, Athens, Rome, Munich, Amsterdam, and London (to address the Society of Typographer Designers, perhaps).

I've had fun putting stamps on this envelope. Sorry to have to repeat one. Since two different systems of currency are involved, the mathematical calculations required tax my arithmetic. I have to take air mail letters to the Post Office and see the stamps cancelled lest the letters be "lost" in the post (for the sake of the stamps). I hope that there will be no fights in the Department over these!

With all good wishes for yourself and the staff---Sincerely,
John Alden

WANT A JOB?

EXCEPTIONAL POSITION for elementary librarian, for a 750 pupil school district. Rural, suburban, professional community twenty minutes from Boston. Beginning salary $5,000-$8,400. It is a new position. Write: Supt. of Schools. Lincoln, Mass. (Lib. Journal page 120, March 15, 1958)



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Dear Soap Box:

How long will it take before we get decent lighting in the Library? If excuses were kilowatts, we would have enough power to give proper light to the Library and have enough left over to illuminate Fenway Park all night. "Not enough circuits;" "old wiring;" "new building;" "interim program;" "budget cuts", etc.

But how important is proper lighting considered? As important as a tile roof?

Or is it more important to have the lobby, the exhibit cases and the paintings brightly lighted while the reading rooms, the stacks and the behind-the-scenes departments, get along with poor lighting?

It is disconcerting, to say the least, to have the lights go out for several minutes at a time, as they have been doing recently in some areas of the building; particularly when a situation exists which necessitates our invoking the help of another city department.

Wake up and read? It can be done in poor light, but it isn't recommended, you know.

In the Dark

Dear Soap Box:

We invite non-residents to use our Library, to borrow our books. We celebrate National Library Week by advertising our services and urging more people to "Wake up and Read."

Yet under the "no fire - no hire" policy imposed by the city administration, our already decimated staff continues to dw indle. Even extra-service assistants upon whom we depend for page service may not be replaced.

Who is going to provide all this service we advertise? We have already been robbing Peter to pay Paul. You can postpone certain work. You can try to do a makeshift job by using untrained personnel in professional jobs. You can suspend professional services while your professional assistants shelve books, type cards, do page work.

But sooner or later we must face the facts. You can't do it with mirrors. You have to have the personnel. If you can't get the personnel, you can't provide the service!

It does seem somewhat ironic that we should devote so much energy to selling the Library's services if we must then either curtail the services or dilute them.

Or perhaps we can move in opposite directions at the same time?

Confused

)ear Editor:

It has often seemed to be utter ;utility to train new people in their jobs when so many would leave for new jobs elsewhere after serving their apprenciceship here. But now frustration has eplaced futility! When they leave now, hey may not be replaced. They are gone, one, gone! But the backlog of work coumulates. And we can't just sweep it nder the rug.

When the staff realizes that they just can't hope to get sufficient help to o a job, who can blame some if they throw p their hands in despair? Unfortunately, uch an attitude can spread very fast, nd provides a ready excuse for all sorts f failings and lack of effort.

Maybe the representatives of the anagement consultants firm, when they ake their report to the Board of Trustees, ill have some suggestions to turn the ide. In the meantime, I'm

JUST SWAMPED

o the Editor

)ear Ed:

In these times of travail and strife, t behooves us of the Boston Public Libary Professional Staff to put ourselves bove petty feelings and endeavor to work or the common good of the citizens of air Bostonia.

The pursuit of this goal leaves us any avenues of approach but in this the ra of Sputniks, Muttniks and Whatniks, e also should use the scientific approach o obtain our goal. Thus my humble nowledge of the Queen of Science, Mathmatics, or rather by the use of that avorite library tool, Statistics, I offer o the Director, the Board of Trustees, is Honor the Mayor and that prophet of oy abounding, Brother Gabriel, my plan o alleviate the critical shortage of ibrary employees.

This venture into the realm of statistics is based on the magic number 565. Starting with this figure, 565 multiplied by 5 we have the result, 2,825 or the number of man hours we can gain if the Library work week is increased by 5 hours or what the average worker has, a forty hour week. 2,825 hours is the equivalent of 403 days, thus by adding five, we have an extra year in which to work and perform those little extra tasks that come our way.

Next, if the morning and afternoon relief periods are eliminated, we will gain roughly 312 hours to devote to our adoring public. This has two hidden features. First, the liquid consumption of the average individual will decrease and thus eliminate two to three handwashing expeditions per employee, more time for work. The second feature is this; with no relief periods, no need for the Coffee Shop and that space can be utilized for critically needed shelf space.

It has been proven, that the average person only needs 15 minutes for lunch, and 15more minutes in which to wash their hands, we can gain another 312 hours of valuable work time by limiting the lunch hour to thirty minutes. As the Coffee Shop would be closed and thirty minutes is not enough time to go out to lunch, people would be forced to carry their lunches...by two adroit measures, more valuable time can be gained. First, if both the men and women's lunch rooms were closed, workers would be forced to eat at their desks, and as it has been proven, you only need one hand or only use one hand for eating, they could use the other hand for filing or sorting. Thus both time, work done, and space have been gained. Time gained totals about 312 hours. Now the sum total of man hours gained for work is the equivalent of to an additional 565 employees.

However, this plan now runs into its one stumbling block, the strict limitation of personnel put into effect by Mayoral Decree. Thus, we would have to

ubtract, detract, or otherwise dispose of those 565 extra employees. The results should then warm the cockles of Brother Gabriel's heart! For then the Library would be operating economically and efficiently on -6 employees at no cost to the taxpayers of Boston.

Rica Sos Neroulos

Ed. note: The pen name is Greek to us as is the above note.

IN MEMORIAM

MARY FLORENCE CUFFLIN

With the death of Mary Florence Cufflin on February 21, 1958, a truly valiant and upright spirit has passed from our midst. Even in the ten years since her retirement Mary Florence Cufflin exerted a continuing influence on the subsequent careers of the many former members of her "official family". For us, her uncomprising integrity will ever remain her most impressive characteristic. In her more than fifty years of devoted library service Miss Cufflin worked in both the Reference and Home Reading units so hers was a well-rounded understanding of the Library's problems and potentialities. She entered the service of the Boston Public Library in December, 1892. She was Stack Supervisor in the Central Library until 1914 when she was transferred as Branch Librarian at Codman Square, where she remained until 1917 when she became Librarian at South Boston. In 1937 she was assigned to Allston, remaining there as Branch Librarian until her retirement in 1947.

Possessed of unusual talents for organization and detail, her libraries were models of system and discipline. Quick to perceive latent aptitudes in staff-members, Miss Cufflin was rigidly conscientious in making formal acknowledgment of a staff-member's contribution towards library activities. Travel abroad and at home and regular attendance at library conferences were essential features of her busy life. She always maintained a keen interest in changing trends in the library world. With dignity and generosity she gave of herself to the Library, the public, and to her always beloved staff. After her retirement she continued many of her previous activities. She assisted in the organization of the patients' library at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Happily her final illness was of brief duration. She suffered a sudden heart attack and died shortly afterwards at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. It is intriguing to imagine that Mary Florence Cufflin took flight to the Libraries of Paradise where, it is conceivable, her keen eye immediately noted a book out of place on the celestial shelves.

How many in the Library today owe their achievements in large measure to her persistent urging to study and to progress. For those of us who share the strenuous, stimulating experience of being one-time members of her staff, her name and memory will long serve as a bond, and a synonym for justice, fortitude, prudence, and kindliness.

VALE TO AN ILLUSTRIOUS LIBRARIAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL!

IN APPRECIATION

Miss Priscilla MacFadden, the Committee, B.P.L. Friends and Associates:-

I cannot thank you enough for the tea you gave in my honor on that memorable day March 11th. Words are inadequate.

It made me happy to see so many of my friends present and sharing in the festivities; the handsome and fabulous gift of a Hi-Fi record player, the flowers, the music, the goodies, the handsome men wearing white carnation boutonaires, who poured and served, thrilled me.

It was a great show of affection, and having the men pour certainly was a most novel innovation - as only Miss MacFadden and her staff could think up.

I fully realize how much time and effort went into the preparations and I am deeply grateful and appreciative.

As it would be quite a chore for me to write a personal letter to each of you, I will have to send this general letter, which I hope you will consider as personal because that is the way I mean it.

I'll miss seeing you all at the 11 A.M. coffee-break in "Sam's Hide-away."

The Hi-Fi will be a great satisfaction to me in the years to come. Thanks a lot!

And now - to all my good friends and pals--I do not say "Good-bye" but "Au Revoir".

Gratefully and affectionately,
Julie Zaugg

St. Petersburg, Florida. March 24

JULIE ZAUGG SAYS "AU REVOIR"

As attested by Miss Zaugg's enthusiastic 'danke' printed above, the tea given in her honor on March 11, upon the occasion of her retirement, was a gala success, thanks in great part to Julie's own gaiety and exuberance. Library alumni, past and present, far and near, rang the welkin with acclaim and good cheer to the musical accompaniment of Frances Freedman, a former member of Fine Arts.

Richard G. Hensley, Chief Librarian of the Reference and Research Services Division, made a most gallant and appropriate presentation, on behalf of the staff, of a hi-fidelity, four-speed record player.

The refreshments were served by the 'gentlemen of the staff', who also formed Miss Zaugg's guard of honor upon her grand entrance to the festivities.

It has been reported that it is Miss Zaugg's stated opinion that life's most important ingredients are love and music. We know that both were abundantly provided on this occasion and we are heartily assured that both shall continue to surround her.

MARRIAGE

Mary Elizabeth Castellano, formerly of Rare Book, has announced her marriage to Thomas Robert White of New York on September 21, 1957.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Ronald C. Conant, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, who has passed the necessary examinations and is now Specialist Third Class (Corporal) in the Army National Guard. He is a member of Battery 704 Missile Battalion (NIKE).

NEW ARRIVALS

Announcements have been received of the birth of a daughter, Mary Louise, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Canavan of Hyde Park. Mrs. Canavan is the former Mary Louise Hart, who worked both in the Office of Records, Files, Statistics and the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services. Little Mary Louise, who has two brothers and two sisters, was born on January 30.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Armstrong, of Avon have announced the birth of a blond, 7-lbs--5 ozs. daughter, Maureen, on March 18, 1958. George was formerly a member of the staff of the Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

B.P.L. FELINE CURTAILMENT

They (cats) suffer all the vicissitudes of salaried employees too. Lately the Mayor of Boston, in a drive for economy, slashed the salaries of the cats employed in the Public Library from $10 apiece to $9.85, for which relief Boston taxpayers were presumably grateful."

Clarke, Frances E., Cats and men. p.7
(Thanks to B.P.L.'s felinologist, Esther Lissner)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

S.L.A. Monday, March 24, 1958 at Treadwell Library, Mass. General Hospital.
N.B.
The April meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 26, 1958 at the Library of the Essex Institute. Lunch at Hotel Hawthorne, Salem.

M.L.A. Annual Meeting, Friday and Saturday, June 6-7 at Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham, Massachusetts. Rooms American Plan are $16 per day. (In season European plan is $22 per day) An interesting program is being planned.

MORE SOAP BOX

Dear Soap Box:

Are we going to have an opportunity to help fill Fenway Park on opening day? If the city and library officials permit those who can be spared without detriment to service to the public to attend the Red Sox-Yankees game on that day, every one who can should make an effort to attend the game. We should appreciate that encouraging an institution like major league baseball in Boston is good for business. It is only in a healthy business climate that Boston's financial condition will improve to a degree that will allow the Library to flower as it should.

Help fill Fenway on opening day! !

SICK LIST

Our Editor, Esther Leonard, is making satisfactory progress. She is working on a book on sinister calligraphy (left handed writing to you). Samples of her work may be seen on the bulletin board. Esther is still at Anna Jacques Hospital.

SICK LIST

John Sullivan (Paint Shop) is still at the Carney Hospital recovering from a heart attack. He needs plenty of rest and expects to go home in a few weeks.

Abe Snyder (C.C. & R.) is very anxious to get back to work. He is still at home recovering from an operation.

George W. Gallagher, (retired - Binding Dept.) is recovering from an attack of ulcers. He is at home, 201 Eliot Street, Milton 86, Mass.

Joe Conway, (retired - Printing Dept.) is at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea.

NEW ARRIVALS

Paul W. Smith, formerly of Book Purchasing, now with the A & P., is very proud of his new son, James Walter Smith. Jimmy arrived on the fifteenth of March at the Faulkner Hospital.

Congratulations to Paul and June.

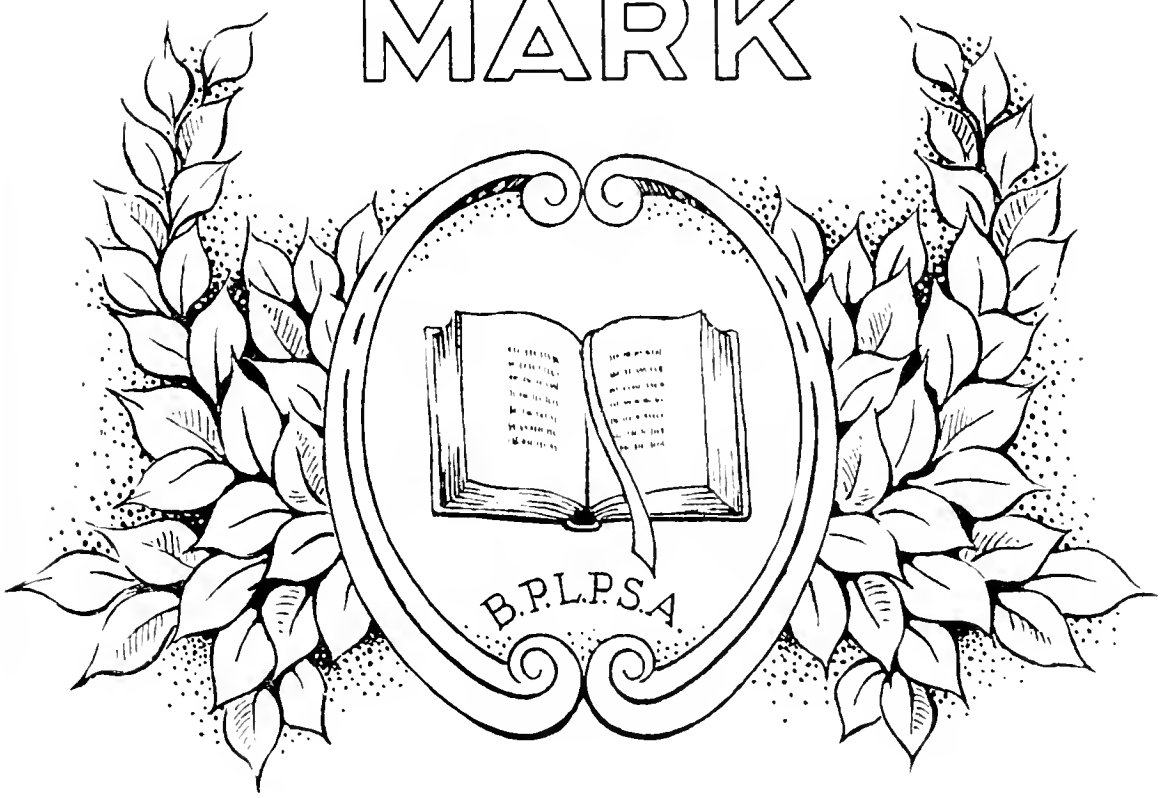
MEN'S LIBRARY CLUB.

On March 5, 1958 the B.P.L. "chain gang" along with fifty other librarians and bookmen visited the new Nonantum Branch of the Newton Public Library System , where they were graciously greeted by our host Harold Woos ter . An economical sumptuous repast of top grade roast beef was served. Seconds and even thirds we were available.

A fter the meal Clarence Sherman, Librarian Emeritus, Providence Public Library told how Providence and Rhode Island endeavored to keep salacious litera ture out of the hands of those under 18. Mr. Sherman ans w ered a barrage of questions ranging from the academic to the legal.

Mr. Wooster then told some of the problems of building such a branch and show-the members the building.

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 4 April 1958

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The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Annual Report of the New York Public Library, as printed in the March bulletin of that great institution, makes very interesting reading. Their problems are very similar to our problems and one would feel in reading about the shortages of space that one were reading the report of the Boston Public Library. Personnel problems were very similar but it is hoped that during the forthcoming year they will not suffer from the stringencies that seem in store for us. It is disheartening to see good people go elsewhere during prosperous times because we are unable to meet the salaries paid elsewhere and it is doubly disheartening to find that when our salary scale is satisfactory during the times of recession, or whatever the apologists choose to call it, we are likewise unable to add available good people to our staff because of executive directives which not only limit the number on the payroll but require a diminution in that number.

One phase of the report interests us very much. It is the increase by that Library in the use of duplicating and copying mechanisms for purchasing and record duplication. In Boston we have used the Recordak for charging procedures, have a small Contura in the Patent Room and this year added a Thermofax. All of these have proven very useful. However, these are but a step to cut down the throttling effects of the ever increasing amount of paper work that seems inevitable to present day library administration. Because of the rising costs of clerical help we should not only investigate but make greater use of these copying machines which have proven very practicable in the business world. The saving in valuable executive time is great.

Evidence of this is seen in a report that in 1957 they sold $125,000,000 worth of such apparatus, which represented an increase of 500 percent over the past five years. Their low copying cost, error free copies, speed, freedom from routine paper work, have sold themselves to the business world. It is recommended that, inasmuch as we are to have a cut in clerical help, we should take advantage of whatever efficiencies may be effected by these machines because it is quite possible that the city fathers, while requiring us to cut down help, would be pleased to vote the appropriation for such machines.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

All of us are probably waiting with considerable interest to see what will be the ultimate effect of the current slash in the Library's budget. Rising costs of civic administration, a rising tax rate, and no new sources of revenue place the Library, as a whole, in a poor position and cause in us as individuals increasing feelings of frustration.

How can we get the books we need for our voracious public, how can we get the new books we have catalogued in a reasonable length of time, are we going to be faced with shorter hours of service to stretch a diminishing staff? These are the questions one hears asked in the coffee shop. When will our annual increases come through? For the next month or so none of us will know the answers, and probably even then the picture will not be complete. One thing, however, does seem reasonably certain, and it is that we must be prepared to use our minds, imaginations, and energies to use what resources we have to the best of our present capacities and to do all we can so that this temporary, we hope, period of stringency will have the minimum ill effects not only on our service to the public but on our satisfaction in our work and our relations with each other. It is all too easy for us to think that other departments have it easier than our own and that we are having an undue share of any hardships, when really we are all in the same position and shortages in one department are reflected in the work done in others. At the moment let us hope for the good old supplementary budget.

On an entirely different theme, it has seemed to us, for some time, that there might be room within the Association for organizing small social groups of persons with the same interests.

Not everyone is interested in the larger programs the Association sponsors, in spite of efforts made by all program and entertainment committees to provide what we would like. However, there are people scattered throughout the branches and in central who have similar interests and yet have little opportunity to get acquainted with others on the staff with the same bent. There are many enthusiastic card players for instance who might like informal evenings together. Dedicated gardeners might like to exchange notes, the expert knitters are a large group, and how about those who are fond of dancing? The Executive Board would welcome suggestions from anyone interested in organizing or joining social groups of this nature - or others which you might suggest. And, of course, the pages of the Question Mark are open to anyone who would like to canvass ideas of this sort, or to serve as a clearing house for ideas on general staff activities.

S. W. Flannery

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 26	Catholic Library Association meets at Mt. Alvernia Academy in Newton.
April 26	S.L.A. April Meeting at the Essex Institute.
May 26	S.L.A. Spring Meeting will be at the Arnold Arboretum. If weather is good, the group will meet at the Bussey Institute on South Street before embarking on a tour of the beautiful grounds. However, if there is rain, the meeting will be held in the spacious Administration Building, which may be reached through the Jamaica Plain Gate behind the Poor Clare's Monastery.
June 6-7	M.L.A. Annual Meeting, Friday and Saturday, June 6-7 at Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham, Massachusetts. Rooms American Plan are $16 per day. (In season European plan is $22 per day) An interesting program is being planned.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

eck, H.P.
The folklore of Maine.
Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1957

renan, Gerald
South from Granada.
N.Y., Farrar, 1957

adoux, Jean, and others
One thousand metres down.
N.Y., Barnes, 1957

ottrell, Leonard
Lost cities.
N.Y., Rinehart, 1957

ischer, Louis
Russia revisited.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

rimble, Sir Arthur
Return to the islands
N.Y., Morrow, 1957

echt, Ben
Charlie.
N.Y., Harper, 1957

ighet, Gilbert
Talents and geniuses
N.Y., Oxford, 1957

olbrook, S.H.
Dreamers of the American dream.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

ing, E.H.
Guide to glamor
Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, 1957

ajdalany, Fred
The Battle of Cassino.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1957

iller, Arthur
Collected plays.
N.Y., Viking, 1957

orton, H.C.
A traveller in Rome.
N.Y., Dodd, Mead, 1957

Snow, E.R.
Legends of the New England coast.
N.Y., Dodd, Mead, 1957

Thomas, Caitlin
Leftover life to kill.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1957

Wallace, Irving
The square pegs.
N.Y., Knopf, 1957

Vanderbilt, Amy
Complete book of etiquette
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

FICTION

Allen, Ralph
Peace River country.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958

Barnes, M.C.
Isabel the Fair.
Philadelphia, Macrae Smith, 1957

Blixen, Karen
Last tales.
N.Y., Random House, 1957

Braine, John
Room at the top.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1957

Chase, M.E.
The edge of darkness
N.Y., Norton, 1957

Druon, Maurice
The poisoned crown
N.Y., Scribner, 1957

Furcolo, Foster
Let George do it!
N.Y., Harcourt, Brace, 1957

Le May, Alan
The unforgiven.
N.Y., Harper, 1957

Lytle, A.N.
The velvet horn
N.Y., McDowell, 1957

Mauriac, Francois
Lines of life.
N.Y., Farrar, 1957

Stevenson, Janet
Weep no more.
N.Y., Viking, 1957

Troyat, Henri
The red and the white.
N.Y., Crowell, 1956

Tuohy, Frank
The animal game.
N.Y., Scribner, 1957

Woodruff, Douglas
The Tichborne claimant.
N.Y., Farrar, 1957

WEST END BRANCH NOTES

After a hectic round of dinners, eas, receptions, testimonials and eddings, the dust is slowly settling nd we are once more becoming acclimated o a routine. The customers still ask or "Please Don't Eat the Babies" and The Brothers", by Karamazof.

At the start of National Library eek all the patrons at the Branch woke p and started to read, and on the last ay of the week they promptly fell asleep gain. In fact, we have been tip-toeing round the Branch so as not to wake them ntil the same time next year.

In all seriousness, we would like to eartily welcome aboard our new skipper, iss Sarah Richman, who comes to us by ay of Mattapan Branch.

NOTE OF THANKS TO CARE

I should like herewith to give thanks or your esteemed gift. It is to me a reat joy that our old people who are ithout work and who have many children re helped with this. The war has made any of us poor not only materially but piritually as well. Again, a Berlin ouple sends to you many thanks and riendly greetings.

Marie Kallane

BPLSA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Frank Benoit, Audio-Visual
Jean Babcock, Central Charging Records
Josephine Del Longo, Print
Margaret G. Francis, Teachers
Corrine Henderson, Central Charging Records
Evelyn Kornmuller, South End
Edmund Mietzner, Open Shelf
Edward J. Montana, Jr., Periodical
Nancy Settles, Central Charging Records
Patricia M. Tracey, Personnel Office
Janet E. Ustach, Office of Records, Files, Statistics
C. Allan Viden, Periodical and Newspaper
Betty Wilburn, South End

WELCOME BACK

Abraham Snyder returned to work on April 8, with the surprising news that he intends to retire on May 31, 1958. We are glad to see Abe back on the job and sorry to hear that he intends to leave.

SICK LIST

Esther Leonard, the Chairman of our Publications Committee, is home from the hospital and is making fair progress. She is at home, 103 Homer Street, East Boston.

Bradford M. Hill met with an automobile accident on April 12, 1958 and was injured severely. He is at home, 577 Baker Street, West Roxbury, after repairs in the Faulkner Hospital.

William (Bill) A. McGowan, after a long stay in the Faulkner Hospital is at home, 15 Burwell Road, West Roxbury, recovering from an operation.

Patrick "Parker" Kennedy, is still at the Malden Hospital. His condition is "Good".

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 500 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The Administration has gone and done it again. Another titular position has been filled with a high school graduate. It is rumored that the other five candidates held college degrees.

If we are going to be or become an educational institution with comparable pay, then we must stick to our educational qualifications! How long are exceptions going to be made? From the circumstances in this case is it again the case of appointing someone to block the person already on the job and qualified to fill the position? Because the position this time happened to be in the Division of Home Reading and Community Service it does not make the transgression less heinous.

We are discouraged and complain bitterly about the number of repeats that the Administration makes in this regard. And then the Administration wonders why staff morale is so low. This is one of the reasons why.

THE COLLEGIANS

NORTH END BRANCH

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barret of Roslindale announce the birth of a son, Earl Vincent, on April 4 at Richardson House. Mrs. Barrett, the former Gilda Tecce, was Assistant in charge of the Children's room at North End Branch.

LIBRARIAN.

Boy's boarding school. Separate library building, 35,000 volumes. Single male preferred. Library experience necessary. Salary $4,000-$5,000 plus board, room, etc.

Inquire: Ronald J. Clark, Director of Studies, St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H. (Lib. Jr. Vol. 83, No. 8, pg.55)

(Ed. note - Even without the "etc" the position is worth at least $6700.

BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL

The seventh Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture sponsored by the Professional Staff Association will be held on Friday evening, May 23, 1958, at eight o'clock. The speaker will be Mr. Jack Dalton, Director of the International Relations Office of the American Library Association. Mr. Dalton's subject will be "The Common Denominator".

Elinor D. Conley, Chairman of Comm.
Dorothy P. Shaw
Beatrice P. Frederick
Christiana P. Jordan
Charles Gillis

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

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*--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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**Catherine A. Glavin	Accounting
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Shirley-Jo Chilcoat	General Reference
Charles J. Gillis	Central Charging Records
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Daniel J. Koury	Music
Mrs Marion D. MacWilliam	Fine Arts
Anna L. Manning	Teachers
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William C. Slemmer	Memorial

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Rosalie A. Lang	General Reference
Mrs Lydia A. Palladino	Open Shelf
William C. Slemmer	Memorial

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Max Anapolle	Periodical and Newspaper
Abraham B. Snyder	Cataloging and Classification, R. and R. S.

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

INVITES YOU TO

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture

Friday May 23. 1958 at 8 o'clock

THE SPEAKER

Jack Dalton, Director

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

THE SUBJECT

The Common Denominator

THE PLACE

THE WIGGIN GALLERY - CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING

Refreshments

THE BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE COMMITTEE

Elinor D. Conley, Chairman

Dorothy P. Shaw — Beatrice M. Frederick

Christiana P. Jordan — Charles J. Gillis

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

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- - - - - -

It has been an active Association in the past.

J O I N N O W

Take advantage of its benefits and, at the same time, help to build a stronger Association.

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Paul B. Swenson
Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

JOIN NOW

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MAY 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 5 May 1958

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, Macy P. Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J. Obear, Esther Leonard, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

Of special interest to library employees is a resolution that has been presented in the General Court of the Commonwealth, providing that:

"SECTION 1. All meetings of the governing bodies of all municipalities "located within the state of Massachusetts, boards of county commissioners "of the counties in the state of Massachusetts, school committees, and all "other boards, bureaus, commissions, committees or organizations in the "state of Massachusetts, excepting grand juries, and committees of the "legislature, in part or completely supported by public funds or expending "public funds, shall be public meetings."

Naturally penalties are provided.

"SECTION 2. Any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this "act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished "by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county "jail for a period not exceeding ten days, or by both such fine and imprison-"ment."

"SECTION 3. This law shall not conflict with any law or part of any law in "conflict herewith."

If enacted, this would establish in the Boston Public Library the democratic custom in effect in other large libraries. In Minneapolis, for example, the agenda of the Trustees' meeting is posted on the staff room bulletin board, the press and committee members attend meetings, and minutes are printed and published. This open-door policy has worked rather well elsewhere. There is a feeling of confidence in the staff on the part of the administration, and a sense of sympathy and cooperation on the part of the staff who are aware of the functions and the objectives of the library in any situation.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

Transferred

Jane M. Barry, from Connolly Branch Library to Mattapan Branch Library.

Columba N. Bartalini, from Central Book Stock - Branch Issue Section to Memorial Branch Library.

Albert J. Brogna, from Central Charging Records to Bookmobiles.

Joel A. Holmberg, from Bookmobiles to Connolly Branch Library.

Rose Moorachian, from Uphams Corner Branch Library to South Boston Branch Library.

Suzanne N. Mosher, from East Boston Branch Library to Bookmobiles.

Peter Poulimenos, from Open Shelf Department to Central Book Stock - Branch Issue Section.

Irene J. Wadsworth, from Charlestown Branch Library to Mattapan Branch Library.

Resignations

Donald B. Homer, Book Stack Service

Jane B. Yanulus, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, to accept another position

Mrs. Anita N. Ross, Open Shelf Department, to remain at home

Mrs. Irene M. Shea, South Boston Branch Library, to remain at home

Mrs. Marcia Goldfarb, Charlestown Branch Library, to remain at home

Virginia A. Dalton, Codman Square Branch Library, to be married and live in Nova Scotia

Sheila St. Arnauld, Parker Hill Branch Library, to be married

Helen R. DeSimone, Book Stack Service, to remain at home

Gerard LaCentra, Jr., Kirstein, to accept another position

Mary E. Heller, Parker Hill Branch Library, to return to Washington

Married

Judith M. Kaufman, Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library, to Myron Kornitsky, March 9.

Mary J. McGah, Business Office, to Walter A. Robinson, Stock and Supplies Section, May 3.

BIRTHS

Dr and Mrs Thomas Brigante have announced the birth of a son, David, on April 13. Mrs Mary Ellen Brigante was formerly Children's Assistant at Allston.

*

Mr and Mrs James E. O'Neill have announced the birth of a daughter, Christine Ann, on April 18. Mrs Mary Mannix O'Neill was Branch Librarian at City Point and is on leave of absence.

*

Mr and Mrs James Anderson have announced the birth of a daughter, Ellin Greer, on April 18. Mrs Anderson is an assistant in the Children's Room at Hyde Park.

*

Mr and Mrs Oliver Porter have announced the birth of a daughter, Daulphine Elizabeth, on April 17. Mrs Porter was formerly with Book Stack Service.

WEDDING BELLS

On March 9, Judith M. Kaufman, Mt. Bowdoin, became the bride of Myron Kornitsky at a very colorful wedding ceremony held at Spraycliff Inn, Marblehead. Rabbi Stephen Swartzschild of Lynn was the officiating clergyman. The bride wore a white silk gown. Her veil was topped by a crown of pearls. Her bouquet of stephanotis was caught by a cousin. The young couple made a motor tour of the Eastern seaboard as far south as Norfolk and saw all the sights of Williamsburg, Baltimore, and Washington.

*

On Saturday, May 3, Mary J. McGah of the Business Office and Walter A. Robinson of the Stock and Supply Section were married at a Nuptial Mass at Saint Francis DeSales Church in Charlestown. The bride wore a ballerina length gown of white silk and carried a white orchid

n her missal. The bride was attended by er sister, Margaret, as maid of honor. ollowing the double ring ceremony, a eception was held in the Charlestown emorial Hall. After a wedding trip to ew York, the couple will make their home n Jamaica Plain.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ay 15.	10:00 a.m. Round Table of Children's Librarians, Lecture Hall, Central Library
ay 23.	9:15 a.m. BPLSA business meeting, Lecture Hall, Central Library
ay 23.	8:00 p.m. Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture, Wiggin Gallery, Central Library. Jack Dalton, on The Common Denominator
une 6, 7.	MLA meeting, Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham, Cape Cod
une 8-12.	SLA Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois
uly 13-19.	ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco, California

KEEPER OF PRINTS HONORED

On Tuesday, May 20, Arthur W. Heintzelan, Keeper of Prints, will be awarded he Cross of Officer of the Legion of onor by the French Government, in recogition of his unceasing efforts to aid rance, both culturally and educationally, y way of the exchange exhibitions of rints and drawings between France and he United States.

Mr Heintzelman has been Chevalier of he Legion of Honor since 1947.

RECENT VISITORS

ugenie Bibawi, U.S. Library of Information, Cairo, United Arab Republic (Egypt).

am Singh, U.S. Information Service, Patna, India.

llen Power, Librarian, University College, Dublin, Ireland.
(Note: Miss Power purchased a copy of Whitehill's History of the BPL, and entered a subscription to the Quarterly.)

BPLSA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Joan Allan Ames, Division Office, R and R. S.
Robert G. Bailey, Book Purchasing
Helen N. Bickford, Dorchester
Victoria Bradford, Mattapan
Bernard L. Breskin, Egleston Square
Kenneth R. Brown, Adams Street
Albert Bryant, Fine Arts
William Callahan, Central Charging Records
M. Phyllis Campbell, Egleston Square
Paul S. Cawein, Hyde Park
Shirley-Jo Chilcoat, General Reference
Elena Conlin, Director's Office
Frederick E. Danker, Rare Book
A. Kay Decker, Central Book Stock--Branch Issue
Elizabeth A. Drane, General Reference
Winifred Frank, Central Charging Records
Mrs Renee Frederick, Division Office, R. and R. S.
Richard Fritz, Bookmobiles
Edith Gordan, Jamaica Plain
Doris E. Gray, Book Selection, H R and C S.
Joel A. Holmberg, Connolly
Mrs. Bridget T. Lewis, Information
Arvid W. Lextrom, Audio-Visual
Mrs Roslyn F. Mateles, Charlestown
Martha A. McDermott, Bookmobiles
Miriam Mendelsohn, Central Charging Records
Myra Anne Morse, Dorchester
Mrs Aletha D. Munro, Music
Helen J. Nicholas, Washington Village
John J. O'Neil, Open Shelf
Herman O. Peterson, Open Shelf
Helen V. Rothwell, Adams Street
Mary L. Shea, Bookmobiles
David T. Sheehan, General Reference
Bertha S. Smith, East Boston
Rose E. Stinson, Washington Village
Ann S. Taber, Dorchester
Mrs Nanella J. Warren, Roslindale
Edith A. Wright, Rare Book

The BPLSA welcomes also all those who forgot to join in 1957 but have come back in 1958. It reserves a special welcome for all who will pay their 1958 dues before the business meeting on May 23, at which time it would be very happy to be able to report 100% membership for 1958. As of the QM's date of publication, May 15, dues have been received from only 67% of the 439 who are eligible to join.

MEMBERSHIP AND
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

IN MEMORIAM

MARION K. ABBOT

If it were necessary to choose one sentence to describe the life and character of Marion Abbot, it would be "She was the salt of the earth". In this one tribute are included all the qualities that should be ascribed to her: her personal integrity; her sense of responsibility and dependability; her loyalty to friends, to business associates, and to the institution which she served so devotedly for thirty years. In all probability Marion was one of the hardest workers the Library ever had. She never spared herself, even after her strength began to fail. For her, there was no compromise: you did everything thoroughly and correctly or you might as well not do it at all. Never one to magnify the errors of others, she nevertheless demanded perfection of herself. Perhaps this was the result of her New England background, a heritage of which she said little, but of which she could be justly proud.

Conscientious in the extreme, it was all too easy to impose on her unthinkingly; and yet despite this, she had a good sturdy will of her own. She was not easily, if at all, turned from any course she considered right. At work, she was businesslike, intent on her job and apt to be quite serious. But on reliefs, at lunch time or at staff parties, she was a different person. She could relax and enjoy thoroughly the jokes and banter that might come into the conversation, and more likely than not, she would contribute a funny story or experience, during the telling of which her face would light up and she would laugh that soft laugh of hers, and one would think, "How pretty she is!"

I never knew anyone who could give a better resume of a book. With her slight hesitancy of speech which denoted a searching for exactly the right words, she could make a story completely real, and this was one of her talents which she gave freely to those of the public who needed her help and guidance in book selection.

Although the Library was her chief interest and her life work, Marion had many avocations; her music, her church, her friends, her vacation trips all meant much to her too, and she gave the same meticulous care and attention to these as to her duties on her job.

Marion will be missed by the Library, by her public, her co-workers and her friends. There must be a special place in Heaven for the Marion Abbots of this world.

Elinor Day Conley

* * *

I first met Marion Abbot at a long-ago supper party, given by Miss Edith Guerrier to survivors of one of her courses. All were settled down to eat when Marion appeared, breathless and apologetic. In later years, when she was often my concert companion, I was to learn that this was the pattern. House lights would be dimmed, the audience hushed, musicians ready, and the doors all but closed. In would slip Marion, breathless but present. She rarely missed a note.

Should she now be arriving at the pearly gates, hesitant and a little tardy, none would deny entrance to so gentle a spirit. Books and music were her loves, but especially music. Taking up the cello as an adult, she never gained a technical proficiency commensurate with her musical understanding. It was a joy to play with her. In our trio music sessions, it was always Marion to whom we turned for interpretation of a difficult passage. Politely, almost apologetically, for she had no wish to appear more knowledgeable than we, she would gently set us right.

We vacationed as a trio, and she performed the unusual feat of somehow always being in agreement with both of us, while we other two were differing violently with each other.

She was country bred, and a good companion on a country walk. She it was who first identified for me the purple finch, on a beautiful October weekend in New Hampshire.

She never dodged what she felt to be her duty, whether to her job, her church, or her family. When she thought it part

of her job to address a group, a thing probably not easy for her, she enrolled in a public speaking class, gave the talk, and was asked again.

One of a large family, she had many nieces and nephews, each one equally doted on. From time to time, they would appear at her apartment, and were always royally entertained. Her Christmas shipping was prodigious, and must have wearied her.

No one ever heard Marion speak ill of another. She was incapable of bearing a grudge. It would have been an impossibility to be angry with her. Her sympathy for any of our small woes was always ready and sincere. Many of us will be the better for having known her.

Winifred F. Root

Editor's Note: Miss Abbot, Adults Librarian at Dorchester, whom we all loved and admired, died in her sleep Wednesday morning May 7, 1958.

BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

The members of the JUNIOR SCIENTISTS CLUB were quietly seated in the auditorium listening intently to a noted Doctor of Chemistry expound on rockets and space travel. After a rather lengthy but clear delivery, and sure that he had convinced his audience of the greatness of the space age, the learned man ended his talk with the comment, "And maybe some of you will one day travel to the moon!" In the front row of the hall sat two fifth grade boys who had listened carefully to all that was said. At the Doctor's closing remark they turned to one another and quickly exchanged a few remarks. Suddenly one of them fell on his feet and asked the speaker this question, "If we had rockets now that could take you to the moon, would you go?" With a nervous laugh, somewhat exaggerated in the suddenly still room, came the answer (hoping to be humorous), "Well,...I'm too fat." With the satisfied air of one who has received exactly what he expected, our budding scientist sat back in his seat, poked his friend none too gently in the ribs, and spat out "I told you he wouldn't go."

G.V.L.

West End

The spring and summer social season opens with a bang as Dr. and Mrs. Tollackson (Judy Tollackson is our children's assistant) invite the staff to a combination tea and pizza party before the Tollacksons leave for the state of Washington where the doctor is going to continue his studies.

*

Diane "Salty" Farrell, well-known aquatic sportster (at least well-known at the Branch) is now out to conquer the briny deep in a sail boat. She starts her sailing lessons in early May, and we hope that she will be capable enough to take a few guests out in a month or two. Diane is an expert water-skiier, having skied both in Mexico and New England, so we don't think she'll have too much trouble with a boat. If it gets out of hand, she can always say, "If you don't behave, out of the library you go."

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Kirstein

On April 28, the staff held a farewell party for Gerard LaCentra, Jr. who is entering the Investment field. The staff presented Jerry with a modern classical recording as a departing gift. Good luck from all of us, Jerry.

George Pillion

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

For membership forms

apply to

Mildred C. O'Connor

General Reference Department

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Through rain and sleet and snow, etc., intrepid BPL-CLA-ers made their ways to Buffalo to attend the 34th Annual Conference of the Catholic Library Association. By train and by plane, Anna Manning, Chief of Teachers' Room, Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing, Alice Waters, Open Shelf, Martha Engler, South Boston and Diane Farrell, West End, came to the City of the Beau-Fleuve, undaunted but somewhat damp--it continued to rain all week. Appropriately, Miss Manning, who is the President of the New England Unit of CLA, traveled with the Archbishop!

Historio-maniac Bostonians were surprised to discover that Buffalo also has a past which rivals ours. The seat of the fur trade, this was the scene of the struggles of three countries, England, France, and the United States, for the possession of Canada and the United States. The city could also be called the "City of Presidents:" Millard Fillmore's home stood on the present site of the convention hotel, the Statler; Grover Cleveland lived and practiced law in Buffalo; William McKinley was shot there. However, we were most impressed, naturally, by the fact that Mark Twain wrote HUCKLEBERRY FINN in the Buffalo Public Library!

The Conference theme, The Formation of Life-time Reading Habits, proved an especially satisfying subject to the children's librarians in the party. Every discussion seemed to begin or end in a consideration of children's reading. And every group in the Association (even the College and University Librarians) emphasized the importance of supporting and encouraging children's library work. The topics under discussion ranged from nursery rhymes to epics, from methods of using children's encyclopedias (with Ruth Tarbox of World Book, Nancy Hoyle of Compton's, and Alice Richardson of Brittanica Jr.) to methods of effectively employing student assistants. Ways and means to arouse in the child the desire to read were sought.

With Anne Thaxter Eaton to tell us, "Wonder makes the world new every day; imaginative literature keeps alive the power to wonder;" with Mary Perkins Ryan, author of THE CHRISTIAN ORIENTATION OF READING, to describe for us the book-world in which she spent her childhood; with the Rev. Harold C. Gardiner, S.J., literary editor of AMERICA, to analyse the kinds of pleasure we derive from literature; and with the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., to discourse on the philosophical implications of the "freedom to read," sufficient mind-and-spirit-filling fare was provided for everyone.

Of course we visited Niagara Falls and dined in the famous Rainbow Room at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel in Canada. We also visited a number of college and university libraries in and around Buffalo, as well as the Buffalo Public Library, where we were especially attracted by ingenious posters and displays. The remarkable assemblage of children's homes, schools, and hospital and the beautiful Basilica of Our Lady of Victory, built by the late, beloved "Father Baker" in Lackawanna, was the object of another of our excursions.

We are happily indebted to our hosts, the members of the Western New York Conference of Catholic Librarians and the City of Buffalo for their gracious hospitality. And the weather wasn't really bad. If we remember correctly, Boston inflicted a blizzard on the CLA when it met here two years ago!

Diane G. Farrell

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Meyer, E. P.
Go it alone, lady! New York, Harper, 1957.

Fiction

Barnsley, A. G.
In the time of Greenbloom. New York, Morrow, 1957.

Kelley, Welbourn
Alabama empire. New York, Rinehart, 1957.

Thompson, Kate
Mandevilla. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1957.

Library Science

Ball, M. O.
Subject headings for the information file. New York, Wilson, 1956.

John Cotton Dana. the centennial convocation. New Brunswick, N.J., Rutgers University Press, 1957.

Meigs, C. L.
A critical history of Children's literature. New York, Macmillan, 1953.

Metcalfe, J. W.
Information indexing and subject cataloging. New York, Scarecrow Press, 1957.

Perry, J. W.
Documentation and information retrieval. Cleveland, Press of Western Reserve University, 1957.

Taylor, Archer
Book catalogues: their varieties and uses. Chicago, Newberry Library, 1957.

MAYOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET

The May 10, 1958, issue of the CITY RECORD carries the welcome news that His Honor Mayor John B. Hynes included the following items in the supplementary budget sent to City Council on May 5, 1958:

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT. $114,200
The Trustees of the Boston Public Library are of the opinion that the above amount should be restored in order that their department will not have to curtail its operations or restrict any of its services. The requests are as follows:

Personal Services.	$48,000
Contractual Services	1,200
Supplies and Materials . . .	35,000
Equipment	30,000

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Hartzell Lecture which will be given Friday evening the twenty-third of this month should be more than ordinarily interesting. Jack Dalton, the lecturer, is a man who is well known for the freshness of his ideas and for the vigor and liveliness with which he presents them. Formerly Librarian of the University of Virginia, he is at the present Director of the recently established International Relations Office of the American Library Association. This office, organized under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, has as its prime functions the study and investigation of the state of library development and the need for library education in various parts of the world, and the giving of advice and information to government and private agencies interested in advancing the state of libraries and librarianship abroad; most particularly, we understand, among our non-European neighbors.

Mr. Dalton has travelled extensively to survey the situation among libraries and librarians in other parts of the world and should have much to say to us that will be both interesting and outside of the customary discussions of library problems. We believe the Hartzell committee is to be congratulated on having procured for us what bids fair to be an unusual treat, one that we feel sure few will want to miss.

SARAH W. FLANNERY

B.P.L. ALUMNI

Our old friend Fanny Goldstein is still in the news. On Sunday, May 4, she was feted at a tea at the Newton Centre estate of Mrs. Albert Salter. Judge Jennie L. Barren paid a very eloquent tribute to Miss Goldstein stressing her work with the young and her role in bringing Jewish books to the foreground.

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 of the Soap Box:

It is interesting to note that recent issues of the ALA bulletin (May 1958) and the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension publication "News Letter" (December 1957) carry numerous ads asking for librarians with college education, Library School credits, and/or library experience. Some call for library experience alone.

What a sad commentary on the Boston Public Library Administration, where experience is pushed into the background!

Is there a department in the bibliothecal service where the "old-timers" aren't called upon again and again to tackle difficult problems which our "qualified librarians" cannot begin to understand? And - strange as it may seem - most of those who "save the day" time and again belong to that tiny group of lowly "third-steppers" who were not considered worthy of a 4th step during the Administration's "step-give-away" program of 1938.

Methuselah

Dear Soap Box:

In the SORT Bulletin for January 1958 under NEWS FROM STAFF ASSOCIATIONS there appears this provocative item: "UCLA Library S.A. compiled an entirely new and complete staff manual, soon to be published under staff-administration joint auspices".

Is this the answer as to how we are going to get a new staff manual for the Boston Public Library? The Staff Association many years ago offered to help in revising our trial edition of the Staff Manual (1948). It has been on trial long enough now to make us realize it is horribly out-of-date. Bearing in mind that in addition to this offer of the Staff Association, the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Examining Committee recommended an up-to-date loose-leaf staff manual, that the 1954 report prepared for the Mayor's Citizens Committee by the Municipal Research Bureau and the Boston Finance Commission stated that "The Library Department has already experimented with such a manual. One was prepared in 1948 but not finally adopted. It did not however encompass all personnel items and had no subject matter applicable to sub-professional and non-bibliothecal personnel". "...It should be emphasized, however, that in a department which spends more than three out of four dollars on personnel, every opportunity for utilizing all techniques of effective personnel administration should be adopted", it seems inconceivable that we will muddle along with our Staff Manual (Trial edition) (1948).

Incidentally, copies of this are becoming increasingly rare, and maybe it is just as well, because, oftentimes, it might be better to be ignorant than to be misinformed.

BLISSFUL

Dear Soap Box:

How much longer are relatively expensive professional assistants going to have to be used for page work, shelving etc.? If ever there was false economy, this is it. The backlong of work which

can be done only by professionals continues to pile up; professionals do page work, because the freeze has been put on hiring extra assistants. Surely an appeal can be made to someone. The Trustees? The Mayor? The City Council?

Common Sense.

Dear Editor:

Having heard that it was intended to move the public catalog into the Abbey Room, it appeared at first that this might be a good idea. But after considering the difficulties it might be better to allow the plan to remain a dream.

CONSIDER:

1. THE LIGHTING: In spite of the desecration of the ceiling by numerous spotlights and floodlights, and the monstrous hanging fixture which holds lights totalling 7000 watts, the room is very poorly lighted even though there has been some improvement in the light projected on the paintings themselves. To add the light that would be needed to illuminate the catalogs and the general area, numerous holes would have to be drilled in the marble floor. A costly defacement.

2. THE HEAT: This room is very poorly ventilated, and in summer is a veritable oven, hot and humid. Add the heat from the additional necessary lighting and the body heat of scores of patrons and we could have the first Turkish bath in a public library.

3. THE ADVANTAGES: Would there be additional space to permit an expansion of the overcrowded catalog trays? No! There would not be enough room to accommodate the trays now in the public catalog. Would the public have more space in which to work? No! It would be necessary to route the books being delivered from the stacks to Bates Hall right through the Abbey Room. Would there be certain economies and advantages to be gained from new catalog trays? No! Because there are no plans to use any except the same old trays - the same ones that have been splitting, cracking, falling apart, and being patched up for a half century and more.

4. THE ALTERNATIVES: The Abbey Room was successfully used as a delivery room for books for home reading. It might be again so used to relieve the congestion and confusion at Centre Desk. The money required to move the catalog into the Abbey Room might be used to purchase catalog trays and to extend the catalog area to a small extent into Bates Hall.

G. ABBY

QUOTES

STAFF SPECTATOR (San Francisco Public Library Staff Association, April 1959).

"The Staff Association of our library will hold open house in the Commissioners' Room, with refreshments served from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18. Members of the staff will be on hand to greet the visitors and make them feel welcome."

Editor's Note: So that BPLers attending the ALA Conference will not get homesick for the afternoon relief in Sam's Hideaway, we pass on the above information.

". . . Only 'paid' Staff Association members can vote, so check on yourself and if you haven't paid this year's dues send your $3.00 to . . ."

Editor's Note: And we still pay 50¢!

N P L NEWS (Newark, New Jersey, Public Library, April 1958).

The Pheonix Rises? "The future of the Staff Association has recently been questioned. . . Chairman of the Association's Professional Committee here sums up the problems that beset the Association."

Editor's Note: This should be "required reading" for all interested in the future of Staff Associations in general. It is on file in the Staff Library.

TAKE A BOW

The new reading list put out by our Young Adult Group, entitled "Congratulations Graduates" is very timely and should prove very useful to our current crop of cap and gowners.

MISS HAVILAND REPRESENTS A. L. A. IN ITALY

Virginia Haviland, Reader's Advisor for Children, recently flew back to Boston after a brief but very exciting stay in Italy. There, as Chairman of the Children's Services Subcommittee of the A.L.A. International Relations Committee, she represented the United States at the Biennial Conference of the International Board on Books for Young People at Florence, May 7-11.

At the pair of meetings devoted to national reports Miss Haviland reported on children's books in the United States, 1956-58. At another session she read a paper, Television and Children's Books in the U. S., prepared on the invitation of the International Board.

The final session of the Conference was given over to the awarding of the Hans Christian Andersen Medal. Entries from eighteen countries were considered for this biennial international children's book award which was finally presented to Astrid Lindgren of Sweden. Miss Haviland received from the President of Italy two Certificates of Merit for American authors Meindert DeJong (THE HOUSE OF SIXTY FATHERS) and Fred Gipson (OLD YELLER) both of whom were runners-up.

The meetings were held in the Palazzo Vecchio, the present City Hall of Florence, formerly the palace of the Medicis. Following the Award Ceremony, a cocktail party was given in the Medici rooms which are now a museum. B.P.L. staff members will be interested to know that Jack Dalton, Director of the A.L.A. International Relations Office and Speaker at the coming Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture, attended the final sessions of the Conference on his way back to this country from the Middle East.

ETHEL L. HEINS

ROUND TABLE OF LIBRARIANS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The third meeting of the 1957-58 season was held at the Greenfield Public Library on May 1. Mrs. Hester McKeage, Librarian, graciously showed the visitors through the enlarged and imaginatively redesigned library. Especially noted was the Young Adult Room, centrally located, with facilities for serious and recreational reading.

Pauline Winnick, Deputy Supervisor, in charge of Work with Young Adults, BPL, was the speaker. The president, Rose Moorachian, South Boston, in introducing Miss Winnick pointed out that she was from a large public library where twenty-seven branch library situations presented many of the same problems found in the small public library. The talk highlighted the importance and objectives of developing service to young adults and provided specifics in planning staff, space, and book budget for the realization of effective work with young adults.

About forty-five persons were present, and although many were from the Greenfield area there was a good representation from the BPL and the eastern part of the state.

The first meeting of the 1958-59 season will be held in conjunction with the New England Library Association Conference at Swampscott next October and will feature the dynamic Dr. Harold Martin, Director of General Education, Harvard University, speaking on What Young People Should Be Reading in Their High School Years.

MORE SOAP BOX

Dear Soap Box:

It is reported that the Centennial Gift Committee met recently and turned over to the Trustees of the Library "in trust", in commemoration of the employees of the Library, the funds raised for the gift.

The committee rejected a proposal that the Centennial Gift be presented in memory of the Library's war dead, even though similiar proposals had been twice endorsed by the Executive Board of the Professional Staff Association and by the presidents of the five staff organizations. A proposal that the committee take no action until the staff members were polled on the matter was also rejected.

Since the committee was appointed by the staff organizations and was charged by them only to make all arrangements for raising the funds and selecting the gift to be presented by the staff . . . (underlining added), it is my considered opinion that they exceeded their power and prerogative when they went beyond

this in presenting the gift and in specifying it in commemoration of the employees without going back to the parent organizations for instructions and directions.

Could a committee of eighteen, which had dwindled to fourteen because of resignations, retirements, etc., and which had only eight or nine present, speak for all the employees of the Library in matters they had not been directly charged with? I seriously question that the action they have taken is binding on the staff.

For the employees to give a gift in commemoration of themselves seems to me to be lacking in significance. Do the employees need a memorial so that all would know that the Library had employees?

To give a gift in memory of those who gave their lives that we and our institutions might be free would seem to be more fitting by far.

Since I was president of the Professional Staff Association when the idea of the Centennial Gift was presented to the Executive Board, invited the other organizations to participate, and gave it every encouragement, I was keenly disappointed when the committee took it upon themselves to present this gift in commemoration of the employees. From this commemoration I would like to disassociate myself.

B. JOSEPH O'NEIL

Dear Editor:

When someone asks, "What is he?" or, "What is she?", generally what is meant is, "What does he or she do for a living?"

A person is identified with his occupation or profession. Some callings cast an aura of glamour on its followers, others inspire respect or awe, but some occupations may generate only apathy or indifference. Very often the attitude of those persons who are members of a given profession or occupation is responsible, in large measure, for the opinion which others have for this profession.

Too often, because the profession may be generally underpaid or because those associated with it have had only imperfect or dimly understood ideas of its functions and purposes, there is a tendency of some professional men and their colleagues to belittle or deprecate the importance of their life work. Because they are not paid rewards commensurate with the importance of their services should not cause a feeling of apology and self-depreciation, but should inspire those affected to convince the layman of their worth, to spread the gospel of the value and significance of their calling.

We who are associated with the Library have the same obligation to ourselves. For identified as we are with the Library and with librarianship we may well prosper as the general public realizes and appreciates the value of the services of the Library, and, by the same token, if the public at large looks upon the Library with indifference or disdain, we may well suffer.

We, who are a part of a truly great Library, have a continuing obligation not only to contribute actively through devoted service but also as expert witnesses to testify to the value and need for good library service and all it entails.

Our attitude and activities can and should be our own memorial.

B. JOSEPH O'NEIL

Dear Editor:

Will you please print something in the QM concerning non-members of the Staff Association who insist on grabbing the Question Mark when it eventually arrives, and hog it. I know that it is not a classified document limited to a certain few favored people but I do believe that those who see fit to pay out good money to become members of the Association should have first crack at it.

DISMAYED

Editor's Note
"Nuf sed!"

To the Soap Box:

Query: When is an experiment not an experiment? That's what the women who have to eat lunch under the glare of the two flourescent lights which were placed in the lunch room, we understood, on "an experimental basis" last June would like to know. Appeals have been made to all authorities up to but not including the

Director. Results? The lights still glare, the women still grumble, the experiment still goes on. Why? Why? Why?

THIRTY WHO DON'T LIKE 'EM

LUNCHEON FOR ABRAHAM SNYDER

Nearly fifty years of library service are soon to be terminated for Abraham Snyder. "Abe", who entered the Boston Public Library on October 2, 1908, as a member of the Shelf Department, and ultimately became filer in charge of the Bates Hall and later Official Catalogue, was honored by his colleagues at a roast beef luncheon given at the Du Barry Restaurant on May 14.

Sitting beside his attractive wife, Celia, who wore an orchid corsage given her by his co-workers, "Abe" looked very like a bridegroom with his white carnation--aptly enough, as the Snyders will celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary on May 21.

About fifty people were present at the luncheon, and close to one hundred names were inscribed on a ribbon accompanying the gift of one hundred dollars presented by Richard G. Hensley. A floral centerpiece ornamenting the head table was also presented to the Snyders.

Esther Lissner, who headed the committee in charge of the luncheon arrangements, gave a witty and original resume of "Abe"'s career as a "card sharp". Following his presentation speech, Mr. Hensley cast "Abe"'s horoscope. Knowing his warmly friendly and somewhat sybaritic nature, "Abe"'s friends were not surprised to hear that he is at his happiest when surrounded by "glamour," nor, aware of his love for the golden sands of Nantasket and Miami, did they wonder that his element is "fire" and his ruler "the sun."

FLASH!

The cover of JUNIOR LIBRARIES, May 1958, carries the reproduction of this library's National Library Week Bookmark designed for Young Adults. The Boston Public Library Young Adult Committee for National Library Week was responsible for its content and Mrs. Roslyn Mateles, committee member, (Charlestown) is the artist.

REMINDER

The tenth annual awarding of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes will take place at the North End Branch Library, on Thursday evening, May 22, at eight o'clock. Dr. Girolamo Vitelli, Italian Consul General in Boston, will be the speaker. The presentation of the awards will be by the Director, Milton E. Lord.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 6 June 1958

Publications Committee: Gerald L. Ball, Macy J. Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J. Obear, Esther J. Leonard, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

The "Raison d'être" for THE QUESTION MARK

It is the official organ of the Boston Public Library Staff Association. As such it reports on the professional and social activities of its members and their associates, it notes the arrival and departure of staff members, on its editorial page the Publications Committee has its say, and the President's Notes provides a regular means for frequent reports from the President to the Staff Association members.

But the feature which we believe is unique among library staff publications is the Soap Box section of THE QUESTION MARK. Many have expressed the opinion that the Soap Box is the "best part" of THE QUESTION MARK.

What is there about this feature that makes it so unusual? Any member in good standing in the Staff Association may have published in the Soap Box letters not exceeding three hundred words provided certain very liberal provisions are met. The material may not be libelous, it may not offend good taste, and the letters when submitted must be signed with the name of the writer. However, the writer's name will be withheld at his or her request, and the identity of the writer then is known only to the Editor. The Publications Committee is charged with the responsibility for checking that there is factual basis for statements purported to be facts. But wide latitude has been given to expression of opinions as long as it is pertinent. We are proud to state that never has there been a hint of a leak as to the identity of one who would remain anonymous.

It is a tribute to the Trustees, the Director, and the Staff that letters critical of the Administration and of the Officers of the Staff Association have been published in the Soap Box.

There is no doubt that this feature has served all concerned. The Soap Box has acted as a sounding board for the ideas of the staff, providing an escape for some, a channel of communication for others, but serving as well the Administration. For many ideas that ordinarily might not be expressed for fear of reprisal (whether unfounded or not) or because of personal considerations, find the light of day in the Soap Box. The Soap Box can guarantee that a minority, even of only one, may have its say.

We may not agree at all with the writers, but we may well take pride that the Staff and the Administration, in participating or in permitting, have an established organ for expression of opinion, a truly "free press".

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

ransfers

Suzanne N. Mosher, from Bookmobiles to oslindale

esignations

Robert J. Anglin, Book Stack Service, o continue education
Jeanette M. Breslin, Book Stack Service, o seek other employment
Charles L. Cragin, Book Stack Service, o accept another position
Marie S. Devlin, Cataloging and Classi-ication, Division of H. R. and C. S.
Mrs Mary M. O'Neill, Office, Division f H. R. and C. S., to remain at home
Mrs Diane F. Overbey, Charlestown, to emain at home
Mrs Nancy L. Settles, Central Charging ecords, moving to California
Mrs Judith P. Tollackson, West End, to emain at home

etirements

Eleanor E. O'Leary, South Boston
Abraham Snyder, Cataloging and Classi-ication, Division of R. and R. S.

MARY U. NICHOLS AWARDS

The 10th Annual Award of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes was made at the North End Branch Library on Thursday evening, May 22. Milton E. Lord, Director, awarded the coveted book prizes, handsomely bound, and each bearing a book plate designed by Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints, and worthy of being handed down in the family of the winners. Mr. Lord congratulated Sandra De Luca and Francis Anthony Segadelli, this year's winners, and gave some interesting information on the eighteen other North Enders who have received the Awards since its inception, many of whom were present.

The principal address of the evening was given by Dr. Girolamo Vitelli, Consul General of Italy in Boston. He stressed the importance of knowing one's mother tongue and deplored the general tendency to be careless in speech as well as in dress.

Father Francis J. Donoghue, S. J. of St. Mary's Church pointed out the value of the library as a means of assisting people to achieve self education.

Robert Castagnola was program chairman. Students from Christopher Columbus and the Julie Billiart High School furnished the musical portion of the evening.

Mrs. James Snyder, sister of the late Mary U. Nichols, came from Auburn, Maine, to be present at this 10th Annual Program.

After the formal events of the evening, a social hour followed with punch and cookies for our 200 guests, served by the North End Staff, and members of the Young Adult Council.

BERTHA V. HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

On Friday evening, May 23, 1958, the seventh Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture was given before an audience of about seventy persons in the Wiggin Gallery of the Central Library. The lecturer, Jack Dalton, was formerly a teacher and librarian at the University of Virginia, and is at present the Director of the International Relations Office of the American Library Association. His topic was The Common Denominator. At the beginning of his talk, Mr. Dalton stressed the fact that he had purposely chosen a rather ambiguous title for his lecture since he wished it to cover the many things he planned to say about his work and to point out the differences in the concept of librarianship which he had found throughout the world.

Mr. Dalton described his various trips to points all over the world for the purpose of studying libraries of other countries, comparing them with our own, and offering whatever assistance was possible in the circumstances. He mentioned the fact that most libraries in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East are repositories for the culture of the country, not free libraries as we know them, and that for this reason, the professional standards of the librarians are not the same as ours. Thus, when Mr. Dalton receives a request for help in supplying a librarian in a foreign country, the request is simply for "a librarian", with no specification as to required knowledge or training.

He spoke with rueful humor of the fact that wherever he went, it seemed as though he left the country just before some major catastrophe; for example, the burning of the libraries in Lebanon; the riots in Paris; and the Nixon episodes in South America.

Mr. Dalton spoke of the need of more nowledge in this country of the languages nd cultures of other countries, especial- y in the matter of graduate school work. ften a foreign graduate student is handi- apped in the universities of this country ecause there is no one qualified to exam- ne him because of language barriers, nor s the material he needs in a form which e can use.

These were some of the highlights of Mr. alton's talk, but perhaps the most impor- ant part of the lecture lay in the "food or thought" which he left with his audi- nce: the intimation of wide differences mong libraries the world over and the ex- remely fortunate position in which li- raries and librarians of the United tates find themselves.

Ending with an informal reception for r. Dalton and his wife, and the serving f refreshments, the evening was one to be ong remembered.

Elinor D. Conley

NEW GIFT TO LIBRARY

At a meeting marking the 25th Anniver- ary of the Wedgwood Club, international rganization for the study of early Eng- ish ceramics, held in the Elliott Room, aturday, May 24, Charles P. Gorely Jr., resident of the Club, presented a gift of 1000.00 to the Library for the establish- ent of THE WEDGWOOD CLUB FUND in Memory f Mrs. Marcus A. Coolidge. The income rom this fund is to be used to develop he Library's collection of books and ma- erial in the field of ceramics. Milton . Lord, Director, accepted the gift on ehalf of the Trustees.

At the same time, Mr. Gorely presented o the Library a Wedgwood Queen's ware ontieth, or punch bowl, decorated with he first arms of the U. S. Navy within a hain-ring of 13 links bearing the names f the first states.

SEEN ON TELEVISION

Dancing a lively oberek before a capac- ty audience, Mildred Kaufman, Branch Li- rarian, Memorial, appeared with the rakowiak Polish Dancers in the final num- er of the First International Spring Folk estival televised from the courtyard of he Boston Museum of Fine Arts on May 23. n addition to serving as a member of the rogram committee for the festival, Miss aufman was also the stage manager for the estival program which featured songs and ances of many nationalities.

BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY to

Bill Sullivan, Binding, who is in the Carney Hospital recovering from an operation.

Elizabeth G. Barry, Statistical, who, recently hospitalized on account of a broken bone in her ankle, while recuperating, is with her sister, Mrs. Thomas McInerney, 83 Hunnewell Avenue, Brighton 35.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The pitifully small attendance at the May business meeting of the BPLSA can be only partially explained by the shortage of help. It would seem that the apathy and lack of interest of the members is really the true cause. Don't sit back and wait for action. Let the Executive Board know what you think the Association's program should be!

We hope that this apathy will not extend to the vote on the Centennial Gift. Let's get the votes in on time!

LOUIS RAINS

WELCOME BACK

John Alden, Rare Book, returned June 9 from a four-months' tour of service in India. He had been selected by the State Department to advise on the preservation of books and manuscripts in that country. John saw numerous libraries, some good, some bad, some mediocre, and has quite a number of reports to write on his experiences.

It is interesting to note that this tour was part of the India Wheat Loan Program. It seems that in the early 50's, the U. S. Government loaned India money to buy wheat. The interest on the loan has been used by the U. S. Government to strengthen relations between India and this country; a program very similar to that used after the Boxer Rebellion when the indemnity was used to send Chinese students to America to study in the interest of improving Chinese-American relations.

BOWLING LEAGUE SEASON ENDS

The Bowling League season ended on May 20 when its annual banquet was held at Steuben Vienna Room. There the League members and their friends enjoyed a delicious dinner accompanied by a very entertaining floor show. A most enjoyable evening was had by all. The bowling season ended for this year but we are hoping that many more will join us next year.

For the record, high scores for the year went to Arthur Mulloney, Statistical, and Rita Callen.

Barbara Ashe

PART-TIMERS CELEBRATE

The season for library outings got into full swing again with the outing on May 30, which like last year was held at Whalom Park, just beyond Fitchburg and Leominster. We filled one chartered bus, and by 10:15 in the morning we were on our way. While it was arranged by part-timers, everyone was welcome.

There was one suggestion to go to Revere instead, in order to keep down the cost, among those who showed up; but almost all of us wanted to stick to Whalom.

At the park, most of our party played ball until three and later went on merry-go-rounds. For a while I went bowling with five others, and then went to the beach, which I would never miss. However, because the water was unusually cold, only about five of us were there.

We spent the afternoon and left for home at 5:00 P. M.

Of the many places chosen for library outings, Whalom Park seems to be one of the best with its large layout and wide variety of entertainment. This includes, beside the lake with bathhouse facilities, a large field for golf, and a miniature electric train for children which makes a round-trip around the edge of the park, which considerably adds to the attraction.

Henry Bowditch Jones

C., C., AND M. S. DOES IT AGAIN

The force of tradition, combined with the lure of $1.50 paid in advance, brought a goodly clutch of the faithful to Duxbury on Tuesday, June 17, to celebrate Bunker Hill Day, rumored to be the last time that librarians were ever driven out of Boston. As with virtually all gatherings, the theme might well be, "there is always one who..." And there was one who got there first, to wait in the icy blasts for the others to come doubtfully across the dunes to the fire. And there was one who, entrusted with the most vital supplies, delayed his arrival until despair was near. And one who tried to forge a new trail to the site to avoid the 50-cent parking fee, only to be mired in sand. There were the ones who didn't bring enough clothes, or brought too much appetite, and even one or two who didn't like steamed clams. There were the crafty ones who brought chairs, only to find sitting that high was too drafty; there were the ball players, the shell gatherers, the zealous firebuilders and those unsung heroes and heroines who seem to be broiling everyone else's hot dogs or finding the melted butter. There were the pretty girls, the mighty athletes, and the children to be found; and in the center of all this the mighty tub of clams, steamed in just the right amount of sea water, ladled on plates by the shovelful, to be opened and dipped in melted butter. In more ways than one, the annual picnic was a great success, and not the least of these was in the field of costume. The full range from brevity to comfort was represented, but in keeping with the traditional nature of the event, not a sack was seen.

Editor's Note: For those who have never been introduced to this select body, the intriguing initials are interpreted thus: Chatter, Chowder, and Marching Society.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Ayer, M. H.
The three lives of Harriet Hubbard Ayer. Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1957.

Morris, C. H.
The illustration of children's books. London, LA, 1957.

Packard, V. O.
The hidden persuaders. New York, McKay, 1957.

Weston, George F.
Boston ways: high, by, and folk. Boston, Beacon Press, 1957.

Fiction

Burnett, H. S.
The brain pickers. New York, Messner, 1957.

Library Science

Association of College and Reference Libraries. Committee on Standards. College and university library accreditation standards, 1957. Chicago, ACRL, 1958.
Conference on the Practical Utilization of Recorded Knowledge - Present and Future, Western Reserve University, 1956. Documentation in action. New York, Reinhold, 1956.
Fess, Margaret
The Grosvenor Library and its times. Buffalo, Grosvenor Reference Division of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 1956.
Hastings, H. C.
Spoken poetry on records and tapes. Chicago, ACRL, 1957.
McColvin, L. R.
Public Library services for children. Paris, UNESCO, 1957.
Poole's index: date and volume key by Marion V. Bell and Jean C. Bacon. Chicago, ACRL, 1957.
Walker, Elinor, ed.
Book bait. Chicago, ALA, 1957.

BON VOYAGE TO A. L. A. CONFERENCE ATTENDANTS

Milton E. Lord--Director, and Librarian
Anne E. Armstrong--Open Shelf, Children's Section
Anne F. Coleman--Mt. Bowdoin
Helen A. Connell--South Boston
Elizabeth M. Gordon--Division Office, H. R. and C. S.
Cornelia M. Harrington--Division Office, H. R. and C. S.
Virginia Haviland--Open Shelf, Children's Section
Ruth M. Hayes--Adams Street
Kathleen Hegarty--General Reference
Madalene D. Holt--Washington Village
Mrs Muriel C. Javelin--Division Office, H. R. and C. S.
Marie R. Kennedy--Mt. Bowdoin
Ethel Kimball--Brighton
Rosalie A. Lang--General Reference
Edna G. Peck--Book Selection, H. R. and C. S.
Euclid J. Peltier--Audio-Visual
Mrs. Felicia L. Peltier--Open Shelf
Theodora B. Scoff--Mattapan
Pearl Smart--Personnel Office
Minna Steinberg--Cataloging and Classification, R. and R. S.
Mrs Bridie P. Stotz--Adams Street
Ruth E. Winn--Open Shelf
Pauline Winnick--Division Office, H. R. and C. S.

BRANCH NOTES

Mattapan

June welcomed a happy group of graduates from among the staff.

Irene Mains was graduated cum laude from Boston College on June 10. The occasion was celebrated by the staff at a pre-graduation luncheon at the Salmagundi Restaurant with many toasts, a staff gift, and merriment.

The part-time staff included the following high school graduates: Susan Doyle, Herbert Golub, Bette Lofchie, James McDevitt, and Lillian Saia. Herbert Golub was honored by a $100 award for his further education at the University of Massachusetts. That University will also claim Bette Lofchie in the fall, while James McDevitt will enter Boston College.

North End

The staff held a coffee party in honor of Mary L. Dennison to wish her BON VOYAGE. She sailed on May 30, from Montreal for Liverpool, on the Cunard Liner, Sylvania, for a vacation in Europe.

West End

We are pleased to announce that another of our girls has gone and done it. Catherine Hannon just got her ring (engagement, that is) last weekend. Percentage-wise, we will stake our Branch against any in the system when it comes to our girls getting their men. The engagement, shower and wedding parties, have been coming thick and fast. No sooner does the excitement of one calm down than we have a new announcement to make. There must be something about the air here, so you girls who are eligible had better get on the ball and make application for transfer to our Branch real quick.

*

It was with regret that we bade good-bye to Dr. & Mrs. Judith Tollackson (they were

arried while she was children's assist-nt). After much shedding of tears, they inally forced their way into their auto-nobile, overcrowded with household fur-nishings, for their trip to the West Coast, where the doctor will do his ad-vanced study.

*

In the midst of all this social activi-y we still manage to find a little time for library work. An exhibit of art by local talent is being sponsored. A con-tinuous showing of painting, sculpture, and sketches will be open to the public from the first of June until September 1. All styles, from naturalism to abstrac-tion, are represented, and many West End artists have been invited to show their work. Jewish religious themes play an important part in this exhibition.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Kirstein Business Branch

On Monday, May 26, the staff attended a dinner at the Union Oyster House in honor of Isabella Elder, who left May 30, for a month's tour of Europe. Miss Elder plans to visit Germany, Austria, and Italy. In addition to the best wishes of the staff, Isabella was presented with an air travel trip book. Bon voyage! Isabella.

GEORGE L. PILLION

MAYOR'S CHARITY FIELD DAY

The Business Office is happy to report that once again the Library staff has done an excellent job in supporting the "1958 Mayor's Charity Field Day." Pro-ceeds from ticket sales totaled $305.00. We are certain that His Honor the Mayor and the other sponsors of the event will be deeply appreciative of the Library's contribution.

SAMUEL GREEN

THE MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Welcomes New BPLSA Members

Jane M. Barry--Uphams Corner
Judith Kornitsky--Mt. Bowdoin
Mrs Marian M. Leibsohn--Hospital Library Service

Congratulates the 100%ers

All eligible members of the staff of the following units are paid-up members of the BPLSA for the current year:

Branch Libraries:

Allston	Mattapan
Codman Square	Memorial
Connolly	Mt. Bowdoin
Dorchester	Mt. Pleasant
Egleston Square	Parker Hill
Faneuil	South End
Hyde Park	Washington Village
Jamaica Plain	West End
Lower Mills	West Roxbury

Hospital Library Service

Departments:
Audio-Visual
Book Selection, H.R. and C.S.
Book Selection, R. and R.S.
General Reference
Open Shelf (including Children's Section)
Periodical and Newspaper
Print
Science and Technology
Statistical

Offices:
Director's and Trustees'
Division, H.R. and C.S.
Division, R. and R.S.
Information
Personnel
Records, Files, Statistics

And Hopes That All Other Eligible Persons Join Before Going on Vacation

EAST BOSTON OPEN HOUSE

The thirteenth annual Open House and Arts Festival was held on Wednesday eve-ning, May 14, from seven to ten o'clock. As has been customary in recent years, the Library again highlighted the function by displaying during the month of May the painting, sculpture, and handicraft work

of this district's citizens. The exhibition included several fine works representative of this area's artistic talent. Expressive portrait studies, some in oils, some in watercolors, animal life, still life, and various outdoor scenes were shown. Theodore C. Barbarossa, a noted sculptor, presented two expertly modeled representations of the Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul. The two most interesting statuettes, scale models for full-size six-and-one-half foot figures for the Baltimore Cathedral, Baltimore, Maryland, lent dignity to the exhibition. Also on display were excellent photographic studies, ceramics, leathercraft, weaving, wood and needlework.

Nearly two hundred people attended the evening program which included music, classic ballet, and dramatic readings, held at eight o'clock in the auditorium. Two brilliant vocalists, Estelle Terramagra and John Vacirca, and Frank Zarba, trombonist--all students at the New England Conservatory of Music--gave distinguished interpretations of both classical and contemporary composers. Marilyn Mombourquette, classic ballet student, performed well-patterned and rhythmic executions to tunes of Provost and Berlin. Characters created by Shakespeare and Robert Frost were brought to life by the distinctive dramatic readings of Celeste MacDonald and Liborio Salamone. The performers were all accompanied by Mrs. Mario Umana, wife of our local State Representative.

Through the combined efforts of the Friends of the East Boston Branch Library and the library staff, a delightful social hour followed the program. Symbolising the month of May, the colors of green and yellow were carried out in the punch bowls, floral decorations, cakes and cookies. These were donated by local merchants and members of the staff. A pleasant surprise was the appearance of our Chief Librarian, John M. Carroll and Mrs. Carroll. The artists and performers who attended the social hour were enthusiastically making plans for next year's Open House and it was evident that East Boston Branch is the cultural as well as educational center of the community.

"TWO YEARS AFTER"

Reverend Patrick A. Sullivan, S.J., in the JESUIT SEMINARY NEWS (Volume 28, No.1., P.10) tells the story of its rebuilding of the Shadowbrook Library. He pays an excellent tribute to our fellow librarian, . Father Brendan Connolly, S.J.,"who worked out a new and faster method of cataloging that proved to be so efficient and economical that even now we have trouble convincing librarians that 20,000 books were really processed in the year and a half."

Father Sullivan also mentions the BPL: "I recall an answer to our prayers for the Congressional Card Index without which we could not even begin our cataloguing. There were absolutely none for sale, and we could not borrow one. At the height of this crisis, a letter arrived from the Boston Public Library offering us the use for the two years of our work, the only such card index in New England."

Congratulations on an excellent job!

ALUMNAE NOTES

And Still Another Citation

On May 14 last, in New York, Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, Emeritus, and Curator of Judaica, Emeritus, scored another hit. She was awarded a citation and a reception by the National Jewish Book Council, a subsidiary of the Jewish Welfare Board. The citation was in recognition as Founder of Jewish Book Week more than a quarter of a century ago and for her work these many years in the field of Jewish culture and better human relations through her Judaica work.

Attends Sixtieth Reunion

Just a little message from the one-time Fellowes Athenaeum Branch of the Boston Public Library!

When the old Roxbury Library closed its door, the Branch Librarian was made a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fellowes Athenaeum, which still carries on in its attractive small Library in the Norfolk House building, occupying the street floor. An attractive place to visit, if you can! It began its good work during the first World War, and I was its Librarian for eight years before

being called to the Athenaeum at 46 Millmont Street, the Fellowes Athenaeum Branch of the Boston Public Library.

After attending the 1958 annual meeting of the Trustees, the next June event for the old Librarian was the sixtieth (60th!) Reunion of the class of 1898 (a Class of 150 members, originally), at Wellesley College. Twenty-seven of the New England members gathered for greetings, a grand banquet, and very gay reminiscences of our college days. The reunion closed with a beautiful drive through all the old haunts and ever-increasing loveliness of the campus. The Sixtieth Reunion is always the last. We made the most of it!

MARY E. AMES
Belmont
June 23, 1958

S.L.A. NATIONAL CONVENTION - 1958

The theme, "Creativity", was stressed in all the lectures and panel discussions as the underlying note. The keynote address was delivered by James C. Worthy of Sears, Roebuck and Co. He spoke on the freedom to make mistakes and declared that all initiative should not be taken away from employees. As proof of his belief he said that while a tremendous machine could be built to completely inventory all the stock of the thousands of Sears' stores, they prefer that branch managers retain their own initiative.

The Documentation Division meetings were interesting, in showing how involved and costly documentation is today and how difficult it is for special libraries or even public libraries to use.

Dr. Robert Medina, Research Psychologist of J. Walter Thompson Co., talked about Self-Awareness and the Creative Process and gave many examples of how peoples' potentialities may be brought out.

The panel discussion on the Biological Effects of Radiation was most enlightening. It was composed of a staff of men from the Argonne National Laboratory. The Book and Author Luncheon was highlighted by Ruth Moore, author of THE EARTH WE LIVE ON, who talked on her debt to libraries, and by Studs Terkel, former radio commentator, who discussed the snob appeal of Jazz. This seems to work both ways, some people looking down on Jazz while others regard it almost in the manner of chamber music where one may almost not breathe while the Jazz theme is being cooly played.

All in all the trip to Chicago was most delightful. The lake front of Chicago was really something to see, as well as the Chicago Art Museum, the Field Museum of Natural History, and the John Crerar Library with its fine classified catalog. The Prudential Building with its "Top of the Rock" observation platform and cocktail lounge, was of special interest since Boston is looking forward to something equally outstanding here.

M.L.A. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at the Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham, Massachusetts, on June 6 and 7.

At the afternoon meeting on Friday, Gilbert Seldes, author of THE PUBLIC ARTS and THE GREAT AUDIENCE spoke on the subject of the session, The Library in an Age of Conformity. Mr. Seldes said the libraries should be like leaven and should help raise the cultural level of the community. His comment on the New York radio program, which is heard on the air at 6:30 in the morning and attracts thousands of listeners, was interesting. Many of us have been delighted at the response to this program. Mr. Seldes pointed out that it was just another example of conformity.

Emerson Greenaway, Director, Free Library of Philadelphia and President-elect of the American Library Association, was the second speaker on the afternoon's subject. He, too, believed that the library should be a meeting place for leaders of the community who would express their opinions pro and con regarding the various cultural offerings of radio and television and literature. He felt that the library should take its true place as an educational institution and not be regarded as a place of recreation. He believed that more non-fiction should be bought and less fiction and said that such was done in Philadelphia.

At the banquet in the evening the speaker was Hermann Field, author of ANGRY HARVEST. He told of his experiences, imprisoned in a cellar in Poland for five years, and gave numerous side lights on how it affected his life. It was interesting that his son's chums regarded him with a special air of reverence because he was an "ex-jail bird".

His Polish cellmate during most of the period could not speak English and Mr Field could not speak Polish, but they both knew German and that became their language of communication. It was interesting to note that Mr. Field was unspoiled as a result of his horrible experiences.

At the general session on Saturday morning Judith E. Stromdahl reported on the constitutional changes recommended to provide for more continuity in conducting the affairs of the Association. The recommendations were adopted.

Mrs George R. Wallace reported on the progress of the Massachusetts Library Development Committee. In her remarks following the report she restated her strong conviciton that there should be more cooperation between librarians and trustees, and left the group with two statements to ponder: "You have got to use a library to know what it means", and "The Library should be the heart beat of every town and city."

In the Scholarship Committee report it was recommended that instead of making scholarships as loans, as heretofore, they would be given as outright gifts. The members, after being warned that if this was adopted, it would cost the Association more money, went along with Ruth Hyatt's motion that the report be adopted.

Mrs Galick announced the availability of 10 scholarships of $75 each, offered to personnel in small libraries for study at a summer institute.

Lucile Wickersham presented the report of the Planning Committee which set forth the changes that the Committee recommended be made in the report accepted in February 1958. These changes had to do with minimum salary standards and after extensive discussion the report was accepted, with a rewording of the section having to do with certification and a provision for further study of the certification law.

The meeting ended with the handing over of the gavel to Francis P. Keough (former BPLer), the incoming President, by John Humphry, the out-going, and by the introduction of the other officers for 1958-1959.

IN MEMORIAM

LEE JOSEPH DUNN

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Lee Joseph Dunn on June 15. Lee was Librarian at Boston Latin School, where he was also Senior Adviser to the students. While he was on the staff of the Boston Public Library from 1922 to 1928, he was one of its most popular members, working in Periodical and Newspaper at the time when he left to take over his duties at Boston Latin.

While at Latin School Lee kept in close touch with all his friends at the B.P.L. and was always willing to help sons of former fellow workers over their troubles at a very difficult school and to advise parents as to the best choices of colleges for their offspring. That this service has been appreciated over the years is evidenced by the fact that a scholarship fund has been set up in his memory at Boston Latin.

Lee was a graduate of Boston University, Teachers' College, and Harvard. He leaves his wife, Irene Brown Dunn, who worked in Branch Issue before her marriage, a son, and a daughter.

SAM AND DOT'S CLUB OASIS TO VACATION

The COFFEE SHOP will be closed from June 30 to July 5 while the proprietors are on vacation. It will re-open for business on July 7.

H A P P Y V A C A T I O N S

to

ALL STAFF MEMBERS

AT HOME

AND 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 Editor:-

It is not too likely that the managers of the coming ALA spread in San Francisco will overlook the enticing natural of a visit to the fabled castle of San Simeon. Perhaps it has been mentioned somewhere already. But in case it has been overlooked, I hope that BPL'rs who plan to attend will read the very interesting article in the Travel section of today's NEW YORK TIMES(May 25). The place has been given to the state of California by Hearst's family, and is now open to the public. In the past we would have had to be an Aga Khan or a movie queen or some other member of the world's elite to enter that incredible domain and look at the splendors stripped from castles, churches and chateaux, walls removed entire from Roman temples, famed Gothic tapestries, and giant Egyptian sculptures. Today we can do all that for $2.00 plus the cost of a 200-mile bus trip from San Francisco.

Our more sensitive ladies should be warned about using the elevator Hearst had made out of a confessional booth, but no doubt more secular means of getting to the upper reaches will have been installed by July.

HARRY ANDREWS.

To the Editor:

To those who wonder where the courtyard got its new look, who wonder why, at last, the grass is lush and green, why the geraniums flourish, and why the other plants are so verdant, look to one Michael Sullivan, Buildings Department, whose tender loving care and "Know-how" have added luster to the fame of the Library courtyard as one of the most delightful spots anywhere.

A few short years ago David McCord in his pamphlet on the Centennial celebration of the Library recalled the quotation "the competent loam, the probable grass" as an apt description of the grounds.

Probable no longer, the grass is worthy of adorning the Emerald Isle. Thank you, Mr. Sullivan!

NATURAL LEE

Dear Editor:

I do not think it was fair of the Centennial Gift Committee to require signatures of donors on the ballots for the memorial to the war dead.

Why could they not have used the same system employed in the absentee ballots for the election of officers? In the absentee ballot using two envelopes, only the outside envelope carries the name of the voter which permits a check-off of those voting without revealing the manner in which they vote. After the check-off these outer envelopes are destroyed. The inner envelope containing the unsigned ballot is sealed and blank. This assures the voter that he may vote without offending anyone.

The Centennial Gift Committee has many officers of the Library. Some of us who knew the feelings of most of the Committee were reluctant to submit signed

ballots which might be contrary to the expressed feelings of members of the Committee who also happened to be our superiors in the Library hierarchy.

PRESSURED.

Dear Soap Box:
When the Lord said "Let there be light," did he mean to exclude the Division of Reference and Research Services? We always thought we were God's "Chilluns" too.

SQUINTY DINTY

To the Soap Box:
To clarify a common misconception arising out of the proposal that the Centennial Gift be presented to the Library on the occasion of its centennial in memory of the Library's war dead, there is no intent or necessity to change the nature of the gift. Many apparently have the idea that the gift would have to be in the form of a bronze plaque or granite monument. It would not. All it would mean is that the gift, whether it be a scholarship fund, a mural, a doorway, or staff lounge, would be presented to the Library on the occasion of its centennial in memory of the Library's war dead.

It would require only that we add to the presentation: "in memory of the Library's war dead."

Is that so much to ask for those who gave their very lives that we might live in freedom?

B. JOSEPH O'NEIL

Dear Soap Box:
It is difficult to understand why the "no hire - no fire" rule has been applied so strictly in the Library when the City Record reports scores of appointments being made in other City departments. The Hospital Department, the Administrative Services Department, the Boston Traffic Department, the City Planning Board, the Penal Institutions Department, the Public Works Department, the Welfare Department, all reported appointments in the City Record of June 7, 1958. But in the Library the "freeze" is on. Why?

CONFUSED

Editor's Note:
The explanation of the above lies with the quota set by the Administrative Services and the Mayor. The other city departments apparently have not exhausted their quota while the Library department has. Until the end of May there were commitments in excess of the 560 allowed by the often-referred-to White Paper.

Possibly in view of the large number leaving the library service recently, replacements will be made.

Dear Soap Box Editor:
What was the purpose of last month's editorial? Were you in favor of open Trustees' meetings or not? Were you in favor of having agenda and minutes of Trustees' meetings published to the Staff or not? For goodness sake, stop pussyfooting around. Stop quoting and start taking a stand.

BELLYFULL

Editor's Note:
The Publications Committee wishes to thank "Bellyfull" for taking time to write. It shows that the apathy referred to by the Vice President in his notes is not 100%.

The editorial was submitted for the purpose of information rather than propaganda. It merely gave the terms of an Act proposed in the General Court of Massachusetts, and a brief comment. It was not felt necessary to make any stronger statement than the final paragraph.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

O F F E R S

Strength of united action in times of professional crises.

A recognized direct approach to the Administration.

Membership in a professional association for only 50¢ a year.

Increased buying power through discounts allowed to Association members by a wide range of businesses.

Active participation in the important C A R E program through voluntary contributions.

Professional inspiration through workshops and lectures such as the Hartzell Memorial Lectures.

Opportunities to meet your fellow workers through committee work and social get-togethers.

- - - - - -

It has been an active Association in the past.

J O I N N O W

Take advantage of its benefits and, at the same time, help to build a stronger Association.

MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Mrs Dorothy B. Ekstrom
Nura Globus
Mrs Corrine Henderson
Mrs Margaret E. Lewis
Paul V. Moynihan
Mary C. Robbins
Dorothy P. Shaw
William C. Slemmer
Paul B. Swenson
Sarah M. Usher, Chairman

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JULY 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 7 July 1958

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The Boston Arts Festival has now drawn to a close. For a few weeks the concentrated spirit of the best in the community has combined to create a thing of beauty and excitement. Here!, we can say with a surge of pride, THIS is Boston. And despite municipal problems and economic difficulties, we have that "something" that many cities which boast lower tax rates and greater economic potential do not now have and never will have.

These June days at the Public Garden are but a crystallization, a tangible blooming of an attitude and a spirit that flourishes here throughout the year. Do we not take for granted the great feast that surrounds us in our universities and research centers, our museums and orchestras and theaters.

And do we not also take for granted our own institution. Do we realize the privileged position that we at the Boston Public Library hold, so close to the heart and mind of our city. Do we see the Library only as the place where we answer a telephone five days a week, or catalog so many books per day or recommend two or three books per inquiring child. Or do we see the whole, living institution as one which has been given one of the most important roles within the power of a community to give.

Boston is indeed fortunate in its wealth of institutions dedicated to the good life. And we are fortunate in being part of one of those institutions.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

We welcome back with pleasure Esther Leonard after her long illness following her automobile accident, and are very glad to see her looking so well. It is with regret, however, that we announce her resignation as chairman of the Publications Committee although we can well understand that she does not wish to carry on any extracurricular activities at this time. We also wish to thank Gerald Ball for carrying on so ably in her absence and for agreeing to take over as chairman of the committee for the rest of the year. Miss Sarah Usher who attends to the mimeographing and distribution of the Question Mark deserved the thanks of all of us for her efficiency in seeing that we all receive this paper although she has been obliged to put up with trying circumstances.

These humid days we envy those travellers who have crossed the country to attend the A.L.A. convention and certainly wish we were with them when the postcards they send back appear on our desk.

The troubles in the Middle East are a most disturbing development to contemplate on a peaceful summer's day and seem to put all thoughts of future planning out of our head. One wonders what will develop almost from hour to hour and can only hope that things can be settled quickly and definitely without spreading into a major conflict.

Thinking of the Middle East makes us (being in the "reserve") think of the Navy, and, by further association of ideas, of this Library's Audio-Visual Department. Until our Navy group started using some of the Library's films we had not realized what a great ambassador of good will for the Library the film section is. We receive spontaneous compliments every time a film if shown, running from "What a wonderful service!" to "The Library should receive state aid for maintaining a service like that". It gives one a very pleasant feeling, as though the compliments were personal, though, as everyone knows, the films are far from our sphere of activity.

Now that the letters defining each individual's status in the new system are coming out, the Personnel Committee is anxious to receive correspondence from anyone who feels a clarification or alteration of status is called for. Some correspondence on the matter has been received and it is desired to investigate all cases at once.

For you "ex" professionals now "pre"-professionals we have a brief word. A committee of the executive board has made inquiries of the Library administration and we understand that the situation is being thoroughly reviewed and a final decision should be forthcoming before too long.

The situation with regard to the NP's is not yet decided. The whole classification is being worked on. In the meantime your executive board and your personnel committee are alerted and waiting to see what action may be possible or necessary.

Sarah W. Flannery

WEDDING AND SHOWER

Our congratulations to Arvid Lextrom of Audio-Visual! Mr. Lextrom was married to Jacqueline de Lemperiere of Paris, France, at Our Lady of Victory Church on May 14. Mrs. Lextrom was attended by Amy Merrill. Ronald Hebert, also of Audio-Visual, was the best man. Mr. and Mrs. Euclid J. Peltier held a shower for the newlyweds which was attended by the staff of Audio-Visual and friends of the couple. May Arvid and Jacqueline have the best of luck, health, and prosperity in the coming years.

RECENT VISITORS

Rusina Pamuntzak, Library of Political and Social History, Djakarta (or Jakarta) Indonesia.

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Trocki have announced, for the second time, the arrival of twins--Edward Robert (6 lbs., 13 oz.) and Edith Mary (6 lbs., 10 oz.), born on June 20. Jackie and Joey, five years old, and Bill, 2 years old, are aiding in the welcome. Mrs. Trocki is the former Edith Sliney of Records, Files, Statistics.

*

John and Monica McCafferty of Santa Monica, California, have welcomed a second son, Anthony Neil, born on July 12. John formerly worked in General Reference and Monica in Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1959-1960 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN LIBRARIANSHIP

The Special Libraries Association offers four $1,000 scholarships for the academic year 1959-1960, to be used for graduate study in librarianship leading to a degree at an accredited library school.

Value - $1,000 each.

Eligibility - College graduates working in a special library, or with experience in a special library OR recent college graduates or college seniors wishing to enter the special library profession.

Qualifications - Definite interest in, and aptitude for, special library work and a sincere intent to contribute to the profession.
High scholastic standing throughout college.
Financial need.
Provisional admittance to an accredited library school.

Applications - May be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Special Libraries Association, 31 East 10th Street, New York 3, New York.
Must be received by March 1, 1959 by the Chairman of the Scholarship and Student Loan Fund Committee, Special Libraries Association, 31 East 10th Street, New York 3, New York.

***

A Student Loan Fund is also available to provide financial assistance to individuals who wish to carry on professional study in librarianship at college or university level.

BOSTON ARTS FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, June 18, 1958, Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints gave a Fine Arts Lecture at the Boston Arts Festival, and also gave a talk on the Graphic Arts on radio station WEEI.

BRAVO FOR WILLIAM ARTHUR REILLY!
"Word for City Employees"

"It seems to me that if you mentioned a raise in pay for city employees you might just as well promptly leave the town and avoid the reactions you would receive from our nonresident friends and absentee owners of Boston real estate. I maintain it would help our economy if 20,000 employees could receive an extra $5 each week. as I am certain that little could be saved by employees, with the cost of living rising as it is. I am probably alone in this thinking but I feel certain that the spending of $100,000 a week additional would help to contribute not only to the economy but towards the restoration of property that is being neglected. But forget it. The money must go to pay MTA and MDC deficits, while outside towns scoop up State income tax money for new schools and avoid their just share of deficits."

City Record, pg.559
July 5, 1958

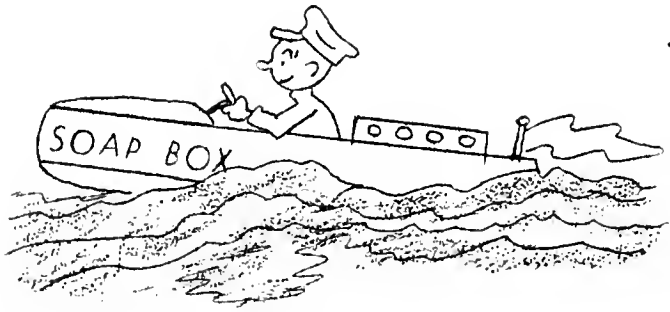
Ed. Note: We appreciate very much the sentiments expressed by Boston's able Deputy Mayor and sincerely hope that they will not be forgotten but will receive the attention they deserve.

IN APPRECIATION

"July 4, 1958

"The Question Mark,
Boston Public Library
Boston, Massachusetts.
To the Committee:
"Thank you for the tribute to my husband Lee which appeared in the June issue of your publication.

Sincerely yours,
Irene Dunn
45 Stockton Street
Dorchester"



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.

Dear Soap Box:

The results of the poll of employee donors of the Boston Public Library as to whether or not the Centennial Gift would be presented in memory of its war dead not only shocked me but also left me a little saddened and ashamed.

After World War I the then existing library organizations remembered the dead of World War I in the plaque in the Library courtyard. But thirteen years after the end of World War II, there have been no effective efforts to remember those few of us who made the supreme sacrifice that we might be free.

Would we now have free institutions including public libraries if these men, and those like them, had not laid down their lives that we might live in freedom?

Apparently some were opposed to such a memorial because it was to the "veterans." As a veteran I want no remembrance or recognition from the staff and I am sure the other veterans feel the same way. But objections to this remembrance of the war dead of the Library on the basis that they were veterans has little foundation. For they were part of the staff first, and we proudly hung out the service flag to show how we were participating. Then they were citizen soldiers, and as such they were killed. Not as "veterans," because they never had the opportunity to become veterans.

Couldn't we afford to add these few words to the presentation of our Centennial gift to the Library: "in memory of the Library's war dead?" Would we have been especially noble, generous or self-sacrificing to have done so?

What they have done will live forever. We could offer only the merest token of the honor they deserve. But that I feel we should have done.

B. Joseph O'Neil

*

Dear Soap Box:

Were we trying to be coy when the announcement of the A.L.A. conference grants were made? Two people from General Reference received grants but the announcement associated only one of these with General Reference.

Has it become necessary to try to hoodwink the staff or were we just a little careless.

Observant Kitizen

Ed.Note: Probably an inadvertance.

*

To the Editor of the Question Mark:-

Most of us will agree with the statement in last month's editorial about the fair way in which the Soap Box column has been conducted by various Publication Boards since the inception of the paper. It is true that some of us have used it for escape and others for a channel of communication, but it was probably purely coincidental if the Administration was served by the criticisms. Administration baiting is a popular and often necessary sport, and in speech and in print a good many of us indulge in it. And most of it is not generally of the constructive variety. The following example of the latter is less than 300 words long, and does not, I hope, offend too grossly against the other prohibitions enjoined by the Publications Committee.

Grand are all the stories,
They tell of our past,
Super super supers
Are starred in every cast.

First there was a Ticknor,
A Vattemare and Bates,
Corresponding heavies
Emote on later dates.

Gradual inertia,
Decay on every hand,
Knelled the near extinction
Of giants in the land.

Thin were some successors
Of our quondam great;
Thinner, thinner, thinner
The later second rate.

Current movers, shakers,
Let's not describe in haste;
Else QM will charge us
With libel and bad taste.

Harry Andrews

*

Dear Editor:

The much vaunted new classification has gone through and as usual, a whole group has been left out in the cold, from the looks of things. I would like to think that it is not so and when the NP2 information is released all those who took examinations and courses would be placed in that classification. However, past experience with library procedure will not let me believe it, since it is well known that whenever changes are made, it is usually to the disadvantage of a number of people. For years now, we have been urged constantly to take courses and exams for our financial betterment, yes, but also to qualify us for better positions. Now it would appear that time was wasted which was put into these examinations and that the library will take no cognizance of the fact that a fairly large group of people, having taken courses in the Library's own training system, should be presumed to be qualified for NP2 positions, since they have knowledge of subjects and types of work that those who have not had this training would not have. Many of these people are already working at one or more of these subjects. Should they not automatically become NP2??? What is an NP2?? Is it to be some rare and little-mentioned creature which we read about only in literature put out by Personnel???????

If this apparent injustice is indeed only apparent, I apologize for this diatribe. But my optimism does not extend as far as hoping that this is so. When improvements are made in the positions of some library personnel, it always appears to be to the detriment of some others. Let us hope that this is not so this time!

In any event, the furor caused by this seeming injustice could have been avoided by making public what if anything is to be expected by those who put in time and effort taking courses and exams. Instead of a series of notices apparently written by a Philadelphia lawyer, let's have some facts, ma'am!

Low man on the totem pole

*

Dear Editor:

Isn't it ironic that the Director, of all the professional staff, is the only one who is not getting an anniversary increase? It does not seem just that the Director who worked longer and harder than anyone on the staff in establishing the "grid" as a desirable goal and making it possible for the staff to get some long overdue increases, should not be included among those to whom an increase is coming.

Fair Play

*

Dear Soap Box:

A note of thanks to the Director and the Trustees for obtaining anniversary increases for the staff. Gracias, senores

Old Timer

BRANCH NOTES

ORIENT HEIGHTS

Frank R. Susi, part time assistant at the Orient Heights Branch and younger brother of Rita Pennacchio, who formerly worked at East Boston, was graduated from Boston College on Tuesday, June tenth. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree, Magna Cum Laude, from the College of Arts and Sciences. Frank was on the dean's list during his four years at college, maintaining an average of over ninety percent. He will enter Harvard School of Dental Medicine in the fall.

ANOTHER 100%ER
(membership in BPLSA)

Roslindale

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

olume XIII Number 8 August 1958

Publication Date:
he fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

In the July 6, 1958 Boston Sunday Globe in an article, "A Plan for Boston or Else" y Norton Long, visiting professor of political science at Harvard University, there ppeared this assertion, "The government of Boston has become the highest cost in he country."

In the Boston Sunday Globe of August 17, 1958 Mayor Hynes was quoted as citing hree possibilities which could lower the Boston tax rate:

1. A metropolitan form of government recommended by the Boston College Seminars.
2. An additional source of income such as a sales tax.
3. A drastic $20 million reduction in city expenditures with the possible elimination of one or two city departments such as the Library and the Hospital.

That this possibility was cited shocked many of us even though His Honor was mmediately quoted as asking, "But how can we discontinue vital services and reduce he budget by such a vast amount? So far we have not been able to top off $2 million, et alone $20 million."

Professor Long in his article stated that Boston's services are "insuffiently rofessional" and as a prerequisite to any program of metropolitan cooperation, "Boston's municipal house must be put in order by exercising the most searching conomy in the reduction of service costs and by restoring morale to its employees hrough professionalization of its municipal services."

These statements emphasize the importance of an adequate and truly professional ibrary staff. The continuing effort in the Library to establish professional tandards, and to attract and retain professionally qualified personnel is essential ot only for a more efficient institution but because our continued existence as a ity department may depend on our success in attaining a truly professional service.

This professionalization of service is not defined by any narrow sense. It should ot include only that portion of the employees classified specifically as "profession als. ut it should embrace all levels and varieties of library services. The "professionalization" should be based on a sound system of employee selection, training and lassification together with respectable salary scales and promotional opportunities.

(continued on page two)

nd this must be achieved at the same time that rigid economies are being affected.

That these goals are of paramount importance is quite evident, but to achieve them is going to require patience, sympathetic cooperation and leadership for the staff and administration. We have made very substantial progress towards this "professionalization." The continued interested efforts of the staff can bring this to a high degree of perfection. It is to our interest as staff members and as citizens of the community to bring about this high degree of professionalization. The Executive Board, Personnel Committee and Administration cannot succeed without active support from the staff. Let us all help !

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The mid-summer doldrums seem to have affected all of us to some degree, and it has been almost impossible to get a quorum of the Executive Board during the vacation season. However, beneath the seemingly placid surface is a seething caldron of inactivity. Seriously, we have been informed by the Administration that the situation regarding the "ex" now "pre"-professionals is receiving very thorough reconsideration and a decision can be expected soon.

In answer to many of the criticisms we hear from some employees in the non-professional group, it might be well to review the position of the Staff Association. In the course of the many meetings of the Administration and the combined Executive Board and Personnel Committee it was argued by the representatives of the Association that the then sub-professionals be given non-professional ratings in direct proportion to the number of examinations passed by each individual. It was also the recommendation of the Association that all qualified members of the former sub-professional staff be considered for appointment to any and all of the more highly rated positions. This remains the position of the Staff Association. Until the Administration announces its decision there appears to be no opportunity for further constructive action by the Executive Board. However, the non-professionals may be assured that their problems receive all possible consideration by both the Executive Board and the Personnel Committee.

Louis Rains

Ed. Note: We are happy to announce that the situation referred to in the first paragraph has been happily resolved. The "pre's" are no longer "ex's, in fact their former true status has been restored. They are now receiving the pay scale as per grid, retroactive to July 2, 1958.

We are appreciative of the administrations prompt attention to this difficulty.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Staff Members

Kathleen T. Briano, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, (formerly part-time in the same department).

Annette S. Cutler, Book Stack Service.

Joanne M. Jordan, Central Charging Records.

Margaret M. Larkin, Book Stack Service.

Elaine M. Niland, Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services.

Judith G. Silver, Book Stack Service.

Patricia A. Chinotti, Central Charging Records, formerly part-time at Dorchester Branch.

Phyllis M. Ferrant, Codman Square Branch, formerly part-time at Dorchester Branch.

Thomas F. Gaines, Fine Arts Department, (formerly part-time in the same department.)
Elsie K. Brainard, Hyde Park Branch.

Transfers

Roslyn F. Mateles, from Charlestown to North End.

Resignations

Mrs Mean M. Anderson, Hyde Park Branch, to remain at home.
Mrs Gilda T. Barrett, North End, to remain at home.
Mrs Edith P. Cohen, Jamaica Plain, moving to Springfield.
Miriam Mendelson, Central Charging Records, to be married.
C. Allan Viden, Periodical & Newspaper Department, to accept another position.
Mrs Joan C. Richard, Mt. Bowdoin, to remain at home.
Lawrence T. Doherty, Central Charging Records.
Caperton Rosenberger, South Boston.
Mrs Anna H. Parziale, Cataloging & Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, to remain at home.
Thomas W. Killilea, Book Stack Service, to accept another position.
Pearl I. Brown, Book Purchasing, to accept a teaching position.

Marriages

Edith P. Gordon, Jamaica Plain.
Jeanette L. Dellano, Book Stack Service, to John R. Stow, July 19, 1958.

*

ALUMNI NOTES

George E. Earley, who left General Reference in April 1956 to become Assistant Director of the Freeport Memorial Library, Freeport, Long Island, on August first of this year assumed his new duties as Head Librarian of the Hastings Public Library in Hastings, Michigan. This makes the third man from General Reference to switch from the B.P.L. to Michigan libraries--Francis Scannell and Charles Higgins having gone before.

STAFF IN PRINT

John Alden is the author of an article "Deception Compounded: Further Problems in Seventeenth Century Irish Printing" published in the latest volume of Studies in Bibliography, issued by the University of Virginia Bibliographical Society.

CONGRATULATIONS

B. Joseph O'Neil, D.S.D.R.R.S., C.P.N.R.* and Second Floor Manager of Central Library, is now Commander O'Neil, U.S.N.R. He wears the "scrambled eggs" very well.

It is regretted that his course on Small Boat Handling on the turbulent waters of Lake Bacchante in the courtyard has been postponed pending clearance by the Law Department.

The Library is to be congratulated on having such good managers as Mr. O'Neil on the second floor and Clarence "Boutonniere" Fuller on the first floor, but it should appoint a successor to the very efficient, attractive and capable third floor manager Miss Julie Zaugg who is now retired.

*Deputy Supervisor, Division of Reference and Research Services and Chief Newspaper & Periodical Room.

DEPARTMENT NOTES - TEACHERS' ROOM

Summer always brings to the Teachers' Department a new crop of summer-school students. This year they presented us with the following unusual requests:
Please have you an aspirin
A band-aid for a finger which is blistered from writing
A Coke machine
A place to eat lunch
A place to lie down and rest
Please may I turn the table lights off- There is too much light here
A boy 8 years old asked for a Greek grammar. This year he will learn to write Greek, next year to read it.
An encyclopedia for Kindergarten children- not one just pictures
A veterinary school in South America which might be a market for tranquillizer pills for animals going to market
The number of Ph.D.'s living

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To the Editor of the Soap Box:

What ever happened to the Reconnaissance Survey that was ballyhooed so much earlier in the year? The staff were supposedly told all about it at a series of staff meetings with the Director. We were led to believe that this survey was the most important event since the founding of the institution. And what happens? Utter silence!

It is rumored that far reaching recommendations were made by the survey team. If there were, then the staff has a right to know. If we were told, perhaps we would be in total agreement; who knows? As it is, each draws his or her own conclusions.

Only the upper echelon were interviewed; the rest of the staff would like to know the score. We will not have the vicuna pulled over our eyes. Let's have the facts!

The SHEEP

*

Dear Editor:

I have worked for the Boston Public Library nine years, all told, seven of those years as a sub-professional assistant. I have worked in a number of branches, and I believe I can say in all honesty that I have absorbed as much about books and library procedure as anyone else, professional or non-professional, in a comparable length of time. To my knowledge the Branch Librarians under whom I have worked have been fully satisfied with my work.

Having passed eight examinations and the entrance examination, I now earn a grand total of $62.45 per week, before Uncle Sam and the Retirement Board take their share. It was therefore somewhat of a shock for me to discover that under the new re-classification system, the wheat having been separated from the chaff and all the chaff lumped together, I am overpaid $1.02 per week. Perhaps the Administration would like to make arrangements to have the money returned. I could work an extra hour a week, or even have another payroll deduction. However, I do not believe that I am overpaid, and I resent very much being told so.

I am not a griper by nature, but I firmly believe that this reclassification should not have been put into effect until injustices of this sort were ironed out. I prefer to think that this was not a deliberate insult, but a blunder on the part of the Administration. If so, I think that the In-Service Training Program this fall should include a course on tactful dealing with personnel.

Strange as it may seem, there is such a thing as non- professional pride, and mine and that of others like me has been badly hurt. The next move is up to the Library.

Catherine M Hannon

Euclid J. Poltier, Chief of the Boston Public Library's Audio-Visual Department, will offer a course on "The Film: A Modern Art" at the Boston YWCA this fall.

The course will consist of the works and the techniques of some of the famous documentary film artists; discussion of

the experimental film, the art film and the travel film; and information about the newest techniques in film-making.

Mr. Peltier will illustrate each of his lectures with motion-picture films, which will include some of the work of Robert Flaherty, Arne Suckesdorff, Norman McLaren and others.

The class will meet on Thursdays from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. for a period of ten weeks beginning October 2.

*

BRANCH NOTES

Kirstein Business Branch

On July 17, the staff of the Kirstein Business Branch were guests of Rita Desaulniers at her summer cottage at Humarock. Also invited were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lovett. Mrs. Lovett was the former Branch Librarian at Kirstein. The guest of honor was Mrs. Sona Jelalian who was leaving on a maternity leave of absence starting August 1, 1958. Mrs. Jelalian was presented with a silver cup for the prospective heir or heiress.

Mrs. Rose Cimmaruta and her spouse were also present. Rose who is currently back at work was on maternity leave. It was a delightful evening and Miss Desaulniers with the help of her kind father was a perfect hostess.

*

WELCOME BACK

Mrs. Rose Cimmaruta recently returned to the Kirstein Business Branch after a six months maternity leave of absence. Rose became the mother of a baby boy Joseph on April 2, 1958.

*

CONGRATULATIONS

It's a baby boy for Mrs. Margaret T. Cameron of Memorial, born at eighteen minutes past midnight on July 22. This is the first issue resulting from a "library romance" between Paul Cameron, teacher at Memorial High School, and the then Peggy Brassil of Memorial. The baby's name? Paul, Jr., of course. Mother and son are doing fine, but papa has not quite recovered as yet.

WEDDING BELLS

On July 19, Jeanette L. Dellano of Book Stack Service became the bride of John Stow at a Nuptial Mass celebrated at St. Patrick's Church in Cambridge. The bride looked very lovely in a white organza embroidered gown carrying a white orchid with orange blossoms and prayer book. She was attended by her sister in yellow and three bridesmaids in green organza. A reception was held at Cabot Farms in Somerville where a delicious dinner was served and where an exquisite wedding cake was cut for over a hundred relatives of the bride and groom. Her honeymoon was spent on an automobile trip to Canada where she visited Niagara Falls.

*

COMING EVENTS

September 22	SLA MEETING State Library 7:30 P.M.
SPEAKER	Dr. Dennis Dooley
DINNER	Purcell's 6:00 P.M.
October 17	New Ocean House
Topic	"Cooperation among Libraries--Public, Special, University"

Laurence Kipp (Harvard Business School) will represent the College Libraries; Magnus K. Kristoffersen (Hartford) the Public Libraries; Samuel Sass (General Electric) the Special Libraries. Ralph T. Estorquest (Harvard Medical School) is to be the Moderator.

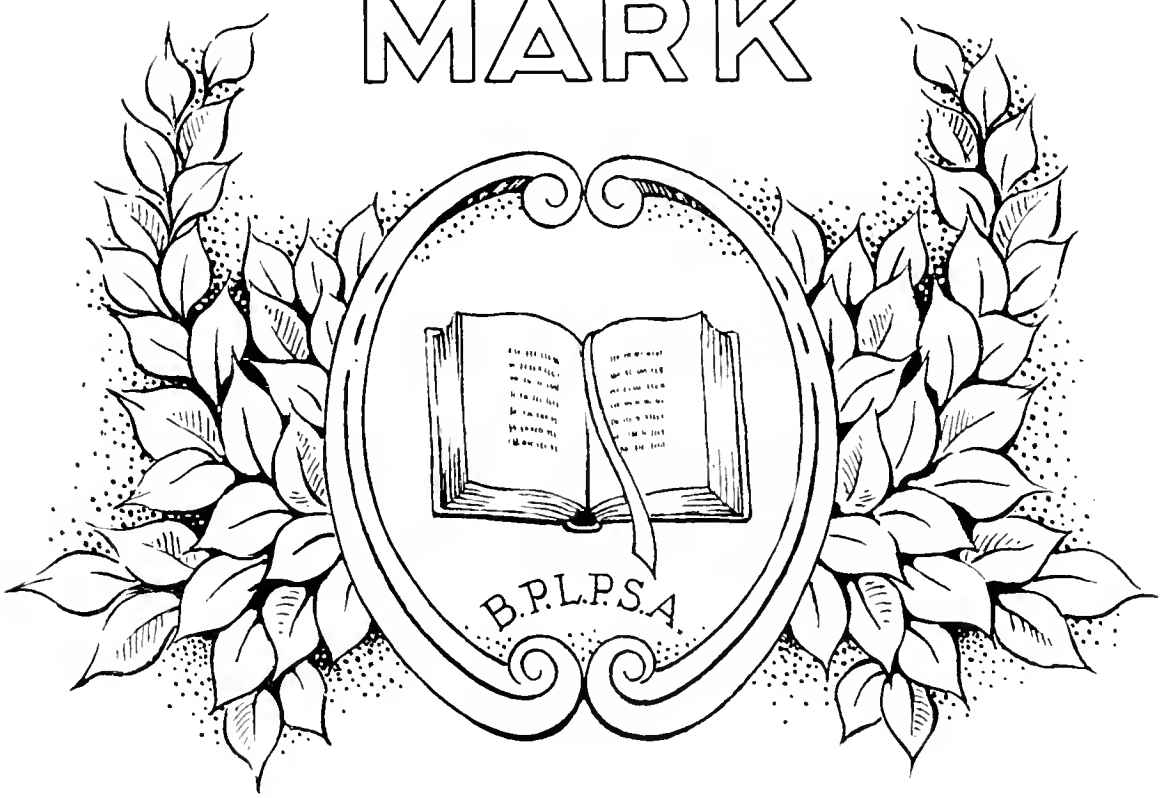
CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Sat., September 27-FALL MEETING at 2:00PM
Assumption College Library
Worcester, Massachusetts
Rev. Amie Deschamps, A.A., is the host-librarian

Transportation: Bus will leave Copley Square, BPL, at 10:00 A.M. Fare: $2.00 per person, round trip. Please notify Harry Fletcher, Catalog Department, BPL, (KE6-5400, Ext. 291) before Tuesday, September 23.

Topic: "Book Purchasing"

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 9 September 1958

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

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EDITORIAL NOTES

We were all saddened by the announcement that His Excellency, Archbishop Richard James Cushing, would be serving no longer on the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library. That he could find the time to be active as a Trustee of the Library for so many years was truly amazing in view of his tremendous responsibilities as spiritual head of the Archdiocese of Boston. That he was willing to give of himself to help direct the affairs of the Library was a testimonial to the worth and value of the Boston Public Library.

He will be sorely missed. His Honor, Mayor Hynes, will have a difficult time trying to select a man to take the Archbishop's seat at the Trustee's table. But no one will miss him more than the staff. His genuine concern for librarians and his keen appreciation of their importance to the community gave us the feeling that he had a sympathetic understanding of our problems.

The Library and the staff profited from his tenure on the Board. We are grateful that he did serve so long. He came to us on November 7th, 1952, succeeding Monsignor Robert H. Lord, who had served on the Board since 1936, and who resigned because of the pressure of church work.

We regret that His Excellency could not continue longer as Trustee of the Library. We are sure that he will always be a good friend of the Boston Public Library, and we could never want a better one.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 27. Catholic Library Association, fall meeting, Assumption College Library, Worcester

October 15-18. New England Library Association, New Ocean House, Swampscott

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Naomi A. Bernbaum, Egleston Square
Mrs. Juanita Blakely, Mt. Bowdoin
William C. Conway, Central Charging Records
Mrs. Marion C. Dugan, East Boston
Joseph L. Finkel, Jamaica Plain
Josephine F. Foster, Kirstein
Mrs. Charlotte Hartwig, Washington Village
Janice C. Incrovato, Cataloging & Classification, Div. of Reference & Research
John C. Lambert, Kirstein
Margaret E. Lyons, Allston
Mrs. Lenore C. Marvit, Parker Hill
Edward M. Nee, Book Stack Service
Magnhild Norstog, Uphams Corner
Marilyn A. Podgurski, Mattapan
Mrs. Carole W. Rosenshein, East Boston
Martin Segal, Music
Robert L. Sennott, Book Stack Service
Louise J. Ulrich, Central Book Stock-School Issue Section,(formerly part-time in same department)
Akiko Yamagawa, Cataloging & Classification, Division of Reference & Research

Transferred

William T. Casey, from Central Book Stock, Branch Issue Section, to Charlestown
Irene M. Mains, from Mattapan to South Boston
Harry Andrews, from Allston to Central Book Stock-Branch Issue Section
Rose E. Stinson, from Washington Village to Roslindale
Veronica T. Yotts, from Office, Division of Home Reading & Community Services to South Boston
Helen A. Brennan, from Mount Pleasant to Dorchester

Married

Mary T. Crosby, Bookmobiles, to Robert Jackson, September 6, 1958

Resigned

Paul E. Cawein, Hyde Park, to teach in Canada
Mrs. Marian Leibsohn, Hospital Library Service, moving to Arizona
Mrs. Suzanne N. Mosher, Roslindale, to remain at home
Mrs. Aline B. O'Neill, North End, to remain at home
Frank Benoit, Audio Visual, to attend Northeastern University
Victoria Bradford, Mattapan, to attend the University of Michigan Library School
Mrs. Catherine N. Lewis, Central Book Stock-School Issue Section, to remain at home
Irene J. Wadsworth, Mattapan, to accept the position of Supervising Children's Librarian at the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy
Shirley-Jo Chilcoat, General Reference, to accept a teaching position
Frederick E. Danker, Rare Book, to accept another position
Douglass M. Green, Music, to accept a teaching position
Robert E. Graham, Central Charging Records, to accept another position
Margaret M. Kelleher, Central Charging Records, to be married
Peter G. Tzamalas, Central Charging Records, to further his education in New York
Allen Sevigny, Parker Hill, to attend Simmons Library School
Ann S. Taber, Dorchester, to attend the University of Michigan Library School

VISITORS

Book Purchasing Department had a charming visitor this month, Nancy L. Bradfield, the new Acquisitions Chief of the Government of the District of Columbia Public Library.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Mr. Hafeezur Rahman, Director
United States Information Center
Quetta, West Pakistan

Mr. Bushara
United States Information Agency Press Service
Sudan

Mr. Rodolfo Ruz Menendez
Head of the Department of Libraries and Professor of Literature
National University of the Southeast of Mexico
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

At the 49th Annual Teachers' Institute of the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of Boston, held at Mechanics Building, August 26-29, 4,000 lay and religious teachers from 340 elementary and secondary schools in the Archdiocese gathered to discuss subjects ranging from the place of science in education to a program for the Christian development of teen-agers. The New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association, under the chairmanship of Miss Anna Manning, Chief of Teachers' Department, played an active role in the Institute.

On Tuesday, August 26, Miss Manning led a panel discussion on the subject, "How Much Does the Teacher Need to Know About What Johnny Reads?" The panel members included Sister M. Macrina, C.S.J., librarian at Regis College; Sister Regis Marie, C.J.C., sixth grade teacher at St. Peter's School, South Boston; Sister Mary Alice, S.N.D., English teacher at St. Mary's High School, Cambridge, and curriculum consultant in English for the Archdiocesan Department of Education; and Miss Martha C. Engler, children's librarian, South Boston Branch Library.

The panelists stressed the value of a knowledge of children's literature to every teacher and advocated the inclusion of courses in children's literature in teacher training programs. Miss Engler discussed the services which children's librarians in public libraries offer to schools and to teachers and urged every teacher to take full advantage of these services and of the resources of the public library.

On display at the C.L.A. booth in the exhibit area was a collection of books recommended for elementary school reading. The books were chosen by Miss Engler and made available to the New England Unit of C.L.A. through the courtesy of the New England News Co. Booklists and other C.L.A. materials were distributed. Children's librarians, both lay and religious, were in attendance at the booth each day to answer the questions of a steady stream of visitors.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

Boston Public Library personnel is taking an active part in a Series of Lectures on the Basic Principles of Library Science sponsored by the Catholic Library Association. These will be held in the Training Classroom in the Central Library Building on successive Saturdays starting September 27, 1958. The program includes the following:

Introduction to the Library-Sep. 27, 1958 Mary Alice Rea	
Book Selection Alice Marie Buckley(ex BPL)	October 4
Book Purchasing Gerald L. Ball	October 11
Book Preparation Mary M. McDonough	October 18
Cataloging Mildred O'Connor	October 25
Classification Mildred O'Connor	November 8
Reference, General Ruth M. Hayes	November 15
Reference, Education Anna L. Manning	November 22
Children's Literature, History - Dorothy Becker	November 29
Children's Literature, Current books· Martha Engler	December 6
Storytelling Martha Engler	December 13
Storytelling Martha Engler	December 20
Periodicals B. Joseph O'Neil	December 27
Examination	January 3,1959

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is with pleasure that we note that the matter of those professionals in professional departments who had been reclassified as pre-professional under the new scheme of things has been satisfactorily adjusted and their former status regained. We must report, however, that we have as yet no further word on the overall situation within the non-professional ranks although it should be forthcoming before too long. At the moment, there is little the Association can do in the matter of individual cases until we have a clear picture of everyone's place within the scheme of things. When this is before us we will be better able to judge any grievances on their merits and attempt to make presentations for an equitable solution.

We have read with great interest General Administrative Notices 58 through 65, especially those portions which establish committees of the Board of Trustees, each charged with the affairs of a different division, and providing for membership of the division heads on the committees for their respective divisions. This it seems should assist the flow of communications all along the line. We, as individual staff members are in free communication with our department heads who in their turn lay their problems before the division head. Now our division heads will be offering direct assistance to the Trustees on matters of direct concern to us all, and these Trustees in their turn will gain a more intimate knowledge of the workings of various segments of the library body. This is a development which should help the Library as a whole, as well as we individuals who will have a better chance of feeling ourselves a useful part in the whole, each giving his own contribution.

We hate to groan about staff shortages and being busy,-our chronic complaints these days. However, we are all busy, all shorthanded. It becomes increasingly difficult for the Publications Committee to find time and persons for the mechanics of typing and stencil cutting that are involved in issuing the Question Mark, not to mention the time consuming task of calling people and urging them to send in notes of their activities either professional or social, or to write up events of staff wide interest. Don't just say "Why doesn't someone write up such-and-such for the Question Mark?" If it is an event concerning your group-write it up yourself or persuade your best friend. It is the only way in which the editors can be sure of getting full coverage, and in which you as readers can be sure of presenting events in which you are interested. We thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah W. Flannery

AU REVOIR

At 11:30 on Friday, September 12 in the Reference Division Office a presentation was made to Paul Moynihan of the General Reference Department in recognition of and appreciation for his years of courteous and friendly service. Bradford Hill, Supervisor of Reference and Research Services, represented the staff in a short address and presented Paul with a wallet, a recording of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" and a sum of money. The latter accepted with an unusual and gracious expression of thanks to the staff. He was later the guest of honor of the General Reference Department at Jimmy's Harborside Restaurant. Paul resigned after 10 years of service to accept the position of Assistant Librarian for Reference at Boston College Library, Chestnut Hill.

ELIZABETH GRACE BARRY

On September 10 the many friends of Elizabeth Grace Barry gathered together in the Staff Room of the Library to honor her and to present her with tokens of their appreciation.

Mr. Hensley, in his presentation address, told of her experiences in the library and the esteem in which she is held. Miss Barry was presented with gifts, which included scarf, gloves, and handbag, well filled with bills.

Mr. Carroll, who worked in the Statistical Department under the direction of Miss Barry in his early days in the Library, also paid tribute to her.

AN EMERITA ALUMNA WRITES

"Miss Usher has told me that you are looking for news, and has suggested that I send my old friends and associates a short report of my new activities.

"I never expected to be working in a hospital, but after a few months of volunteer work at the Treadwell Library in the Massachusetts General Hospital I decided that maybe I would like to be working in such an institution.

"I have been working a four day week at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford since last April. The library in the School of Nursing had been established, but required professional work to put the books in proper catalog and shelf list form, according to the specifications of the National League of Nurses. Then there was a vacancy in the teaching of freshman students, Sociology and Psychology, and so I was persuaded on the strength of my previous studies and the use of the outline and syllabus, I am teaching two hours a week. I am a Medfordite, and enjoying the double job, at least at the end of the first week of teaching. I am also planning to study the two same subjects at Boston University as a means of improving my teaching. So I believe that the retiree can help the hospitals, small or large, by assisting the students in their educational training."

Marion C. Kingman

SICK LIST

We are pleased to hear the Margaret M. Morrissey of the Book Purchasing Department is coming along fairly well after her unfortunate automobile accident last month. She is still confined to her home, 43 Gerry Road, Chestnut Hill 67. We hope she will have a rapid recovery so that she will be back with us soon.

*

BRANCH NOTES

West End

On Wednesday, September 10, Miss Nura Globus, former Adults' Librarian at West End, was given a transfer party with all the staff participating. The get-together was held at Joe Tecce's Italian Plate on Salem Street. The genial host Mr. Tecce, one of the better food purveyors in the North End, did an artist's job in preparing one of the most elaborate antipastos-for-nine in the history of food consumption. This noble gesture was well appreciated by the trenchermen present - second to none in Boston - so much so that as far as this writer could see, only one little lonely anchovy was overlooked by anyone--only because it had fallen under a plate.

The main courses were as good as the pleasant conversation that went round the dinner table. Formal speechmaking was kept to a minimum, except for a few words of thanks from Miss Globus for a gift of a calf handbag more in the line of a small steamer trunk. On looking at the bag it would seem that Miss G. were transferring to the Honolulu or Tokyo Public Library, but she's only going to Mattapan Branch. "Bon voyage, Miss Globus, and good luck from all of us."

West End

Miss Globus has been transferred to Mattapan.

I first met Miss Nura Globus when I was a youngster in the eighth grade, coming into West End Branch for my first adult books; she was competent, efficient, and a good disciplinarian. Her love of and feeling for books superceded all else, however. As far as I was concerned, she gave me the feeling that a library was a place of joy and study. To her it was a library in the old-fashioned, European tradition - not formidable, but still a place to be approached with reverence.

When I went to work at West End, she was the one who checked on what I had learned from my instructors - and woe be it to me if I had not learned my lesson well, and the same for my instructor if he or she had not taught me well.

People like Miss Globus make up the backbone of the library system. Mattapan is getting a jewel.

Frank Lavine

West End

A well-planned, mammoth surprise shower was a secret to none at West End except the very surprised and happy bride-to-be, Miss Catherine Hannon. Plans had been in the works for weeks, with many whispered consultations similar to a large-scale army manouver, and the intrigue resulted in an evening of gift-giving and reminiscing by almost all of Miss Hannon's present and former associates. The blushing groom, who was in on the secret, took it like a trooper and remained calm, cool and poised all through the feminine chit-chat, coming out only to take photographs.

Our thanks go to Miss Diane Farrell and her mother, Mrs. Helen Farrell, who instigated and planned this lavish affair. Last but by no means least, a big vote of thanks to Mr. Joseph Farrell who groom-sat with Phil Richmond, Miss Hannon's fiance.

Dorchester

Friends and co-workers of Mrs. Ann Hamer Smith will be interested to learn that she and her husband and little son, Stephen, are now located at the American Baptist Mission in Hongkong. The Rev. Hugh Smith and Mrs. Smith had been assigned to this mission late in 1957 and arrived there last February. Mrs. Smith was formerly a children's assistant at Dorchester Branch and at Neponset Branch.

The following excerpt from one of her letters speaks for itself:

"There are so many adjustments to make to living in a foreign country. We've discovered that the Chinese are wonderful people and it's a real adventure getting to know and understand them. The condition of the refugees is indescribable. We can neither close our eyes to it nor let it break our hearts, but try to work out a middle course and do everything we can to help. We have a lovely apartment in a new building close to all our churches. Our teachers come daily (four hours a day and no cutting classes!) No heat relief, either--the hot season started in April and hasn't let up since. But we do hope for a cold winter. I have been homesick and for that reason would welcome any letters from you all, so do write."

Mrs. Smith's address is 106B Boundary Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

West End

Though it hasn't been too successful at the start, West End has almost perfected a system for pushing the new five-dollar non-resident fees. The only reason that our new method hasn't been more successful is that those who make inquiries about these new fees just turn on their heels and run out whenever we mention five dollars in one lump sum.

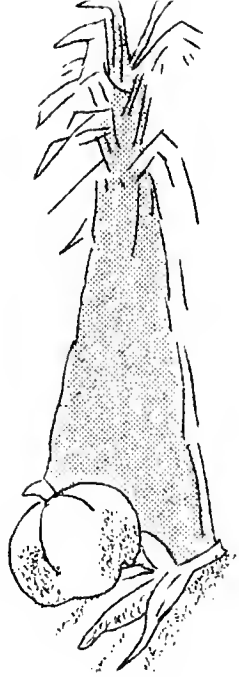
Our foolproof system may entail the use of a few more staff members; but, as soon as an inquiry is made about a non-resident fee, a special buzzer is rung at the desk while the patron is told that the doors have been broken and can't be opened for fifteen minutes. Thereupon two of the most loquacious staff members play the poor patron like a game of tennis or ping-pong. As soon as one of the staff gets a little tired of selling, the other immediately takes over. The benefits of a cheap classical education are pointed out, the price being only a little over a penny a day for the knowledge of the world, etc., etc., etc.

All the arguments, however, must be thought of beforehand and thoroughly rehearsed by the staff or team, if you will. The result is that before the start of a workday, the staff have to be worked up to a fever pitch by means of songs, dances, and, of course, snappy patter. To those who sell the most fees, prizes should be offered; say for instance, a free trip to Central for the first winner and a tour through the stacks for the runner-up.

In short then, we firmly believe this campaign with all its infinite possibilities to be foolproof. It remains for us to get our first customer before we fully realize the outcome. In any case, we will let you know the results.

WELCOME BACK

We welcome back from a maternity leave Mrs. Mary Ellis Lebert(Ref. Cat.&Class.) Her daughter, Mary Cecelia Lebert, born June 23, is doing so well that plans are being made to have her in the next Bunker Hill parade.



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 of the Soap Box:

It took literally years to achieve uniformity of hours for all open departments of the Library. Now the Rare Book Department has been set aside as an exception. If we don't have enough employees to staff the open departments for complete coverage, then let's curtail the hours of service, but please make it uniform.

Scholars come from a distance to use the research materials in the Boston area. In the past, these scholars used the facilities of the Massachusetts Historical Society and other organizations that are open only during the day, and reserved the Boston Public Library for use in the evening. Now these scholars have to stay for a longer period in order to use the Rare Book Department during the day; but most scholars are too polite to complain in writing.

It has been argued that other libraries having rare book collections are not open at night. But the argument is fallacious for the Boston Public Library is not a private or collegiate institution; we serve ALL the public including scholars. Let's have uniformity of hours come October 1st.

UNIFORMITY

Dear Soap Box:

I agree with the sentiments expressed by "Fair Play" in July's Soap Box. I feel strongly that the Director should have been included among those receiving anniversary increases as of July 1, 1958. He should have received at least as much percentagewise as the average received by the professional staff.

Sauce for the Goose

Dear Editor:

It is a fairly well established principle in administration that in inaugurating a new system the present incumbents are protected by a "grandfather's clause." If there are to be any provisions which might cause any loss in remuneration, prestige or other benefits, those currently employed should be protected against this loss; and these provisions would apply only to those employed in this capacity after the effective date of the new system.

Those in the Professional Library Service who were subsequently assigned to the Pre-Professional Library Service, stand to lose something. Very definitely their years of service will be as Pre-Professionals rather than as Professionals. This might be a very significant factor in seeking future employment. It might be a factor in determining tenure of employment, vacation, salary, etc.

In case of doubt shouldn't we give the staff members the benefit of the doubt?

Semi-Pro

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Now that the initial shock of the General Administrative Notices Nos. 58 thru 64 has subsided and we are able to review the matter calmly, we submit the following comments:

1. The B.P.L. Hierarchy is already top heavy, so why add to the superstructure? Will it get heavy enough to fall and bury its creators?

2. The net result will be an overworked and harassed staff; discouragement and illness will follow as sure as night follows day. We can expect to see signs reading "Dept. A closed for the day", "Dept. B closed for the week", etc.

3. As a morale builder, the new creations and inventions are a total flop. Is this a recession or a regression?

4. These notices should be bound and a copy given to each member of the City Council; the title should read: "How to Lose Friends and Discourage Employees."

PAGE CARNEGIE

*

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The published results of the Reconnaissance Survey have left us stunned and dismayed. With so much talk about reducing the budget and the personnel, it would seem the height of folly to increase positions at the top while cutting off those at the bottom.

Who is going to do the work? Professionals are already complaining because they have to do most of the non-professional routine jobs, such as shelving books in subject departments.

The Extra Service quota was cut as of July 1st and a further cut is anticipated. How does the Administration expect the Library to function at all, let alone efficiently?

Every move made in recent years has seemed to underline the attitude "the public be damned." What will the City Fathers think of all of this? Where oh where are our McDonough's? Will no one raise a voice or a hand to stay the execution? If no one will come to our rescue perhaps the public will. We will not be led to the slaughter!

THE LAMBS

(Editorial Note:
From all accounts there should be many more letters forthcoming. We earnestly request that the written reaction be more temperate than the verbal explosions that have been heard.)

AVE ATQUE VALE

On September 30, 1958 the Chief of the Statistical Department, Elizabeth Grace Barry, retired from Library Service. Miss Barry's service in the library was a long and very happy one. She started to work in the library in 1913 as a member of the staff of the Catalog Room, where she was in charge of card work and became a Cataloger. While in that department she studied law at Portia Law School, received her law degree and passed the Massachusetts Bar Examination. She resigned in 1924 and for the next seven years was associated with one of the larger law firms in the City of Boston. However, the call of library work was too much for Miss Barry to resist and in 1931 she returned to work in the Statistical Department. She served as assistant in charge and in 1940 was appointed chief of that department. Miss Barry's keen and logical mind made her an ideal choice to fill the work required in that extremely practicable department. Her duties brought her into contact with many business concerns and her efforts in their behalf were widely known throughout Boston.

Miss Barry was very proud of the services rendered to Mr. Deferrari, which pleased him to the extent that he later saw fit to leave a very substantial sum of money to the Library.

Under Miss Barry's direction the Statistical Department has grown and developed and has become an important element in all social science activities in the community. In fact the large growth of the department is truly a memorial to her.

We are pleased that Miss Barry will have time now to pursue her favorite studies, the history of Boston for one, and we all wish her long years of health and happiness.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 10 October 1958

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Esther Josephine Leonard, Macy Joseph Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J. Obear, B. Joseph O'Neil, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication Date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

Recently there has occurred the resignation of several much-beloved members of the staff. We are very pleased to see our old associates entering their "new life" and extend to them our best wishes for their health and happiness.

However, their departure leaves a void both in their lives and to a great degree in our lives. They have broken the ties with those with whom they have spent more hours each week than with the members of their own families. We who remain miss the little familiar ways and meaningful asides that were exchanged. When events happen we cannot readily reminisce without making extended explanations to newer members of the staff who could not possibly know what we are talking about.

Therefore, it seems most imperative that something be done to keep in touch with our friends and permit them to keep in contact with fellow retired members. We talk about "Auld Lang Syne" but fail to practice it. Accordingly, from now on each month an effort will be made to print some news about our friends and hope that they will send us little bits of news. Plans should be made for an informal get-together at least twice a year for tea so that the yearly Yule card will not be the only contact.

Just as a prominent news broadcaster says "if you can't take part in a sport, be one anyway." So we exhort our alumni along the same lines. If you aren't still a librarian, please keep up your interest in the library because we are very much interested in you.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 13. Men's Librarians Club. The Fall meeting will be held at Weston College (6 p.m.)

November 21. BPLSA fall business meeting, 9:00 a.m. in the Lecture Hall at Central Library.

BPLSA fall professional meeting, 8:00 p.m., in the Lecture Hall at Central Library. SEE BACK COVER.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The summer lull (what there was of it) is certainly over with a vengeance and once more the Library is taking on its accustomed crowded air. Between the public and the gentlemen from Cresap, McCormick and Paget a harried look is coming onto many faces.

Mrs. Keswick has some very interesting literature about unbelievably inexpensive round trip flights to Europe from a line which charters planes to groups. Ninety-six people are needed to go at one time, and of course with schedules to cover not that many of us could take a vacation at the same time. However, it is possible that some other group such as SLA might be willing to co-sponsor a trip with us, in which case it would be within the realm of possibility. A report on the matter will be made at the November meeting, at which time anyone interested in the idea will have a chance to hear more about it.

The Executive Board has received many communications from unhappy NP's. However, we have seen no cases of individual injustices which would be cause for complaint. At the moment there just are not enough jobs that require an NP 3 rating.

The Nominating Committee, under the chairmanship of B. Joseph O'Neil, is preparing a slate of officers for next year's term. This should be published before the November 21 meeting so that all will have a chance to see it, and of course prepare to make further nominations from the floor. Anyone who knows of likely candidates for any office be prepared to speak up.

Sarah W. Flannery

B. P. L. S. A.

JOIN NOW

Special Offer
for those who have joined the staff since June 1, 1958

50¢ paid now makes you a member for 1958 and 1959

SEE YOUR STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs Edith R. Friedlander, Bookmobiles
Mrs Rosetta P. Martin, South End
Ann D. Venable, Mt. Bowdoin
Donna L. Rosenbauer, Bookmobiles (formerly part-time at Faneuil)
Robert F. McHugh, Periodical and Newspaper
Netta A. Buonasera, Central Charging Records
Robley F. Carr, Hyde Park
Charles W. Long, Central Book Stock - Branch Issue Section
Susan R. Smith, Parker Hill
Ann H. Van Vleck, Mattapan
James A. Monahan, Central Charging Records
Barbara L. Posner, Mattapan
Carolyn A. Christle, General Reference
Deborah A. Veinott, General Reference
Mary J. Marsh, Jamaica Plain

Transferred

Cornelia M. Harrington, from the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services to the Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services
Mrs Laurelle W. Cole, from Washington Village to Allston
Jennie M. Femino, from South Boston to Washington Village
Nura Globus, from West End to Mattapan
Mary L. Shea, from Bookmobiles to West End
Betty Wilburn, from South End to North End
Mrs Winifred C. Frank, from Central Charging Records to Codman Square
Mildred E. Presente, from Codman Square to Bookmobiles

Married

Catherine Hannon, West End, to Philip Richmond, September 26, 1958

Resigned

Paul V. Moynihan, General Reference, to accept the position of Assistant Librarian for Reference, Boston College
John C. Lambert, Kirstein Business Branch, to do graduate work at Harvard
Peter Poulimenos, Central Book Stock - Branch Issue Section, to continue his education
Marilyn Podgurski, Mattapan, to enter the Carmelite Sisters' Novitiate in Hamilton

Resigned (cont.)
Joseph L. Finkel, Jamaica Plain
Mrs Joanne Steele, Book Preparation, to remain at home
Mrs Ellen M. Gurney, Book Stack Service, to remain at home
Mrs Joan Richard, Mt. Bowdoin previously reported incorrectly. Mrs Richard resigned to become librarian of the Town of Stowe, Massachusetts
William J. Lee, Kirstein Business Branch, to continue his education
Richard D. Fritz, Bookmobiles

DEPARTMENT NOTES

BOOK PURCHASING

Book Purchasing recently lost three members of its staff. Pearl I. Brown resigned to return to her former profession of teaching. She is now hammering the Three R's into first graders in the Framingham School System. Robert Gardiner Bailey resigned to continue his education. He is now at Huntington Preparatory School. Daniel S. Jasinski, whose avocation of the ballet caused him to resign to seek a job in New York in order to give him an opportunity to be near the theater. Book Purchasing is pleased to see that Danny has made an important step toward his avocation as he is now Captain of the ballet at the Roxy Theater doing four shows a day, five on Saturday. All three were given presents and Best Wishes for Success extended to them.

BINDING DEPARTMENT

Miss Frances V. Ferson of the Binding Department was honored with a Retirement Party on October 9th. She was presented with a gift of money and a blue morocco book containing the good wishes of her many friends. Miss Ferson was in the Library service for twenty-one years.

GENERAL REFERENCE

Announcement has been made of the marriage in Providence, Rhode Island, of Jeanne Elizabeth Staples to Mr. Norbert Aloysius Busch on September 17, 1958. Jeanne was formerly on the staff of General Reference. The couple will make their home in St. Louis, Missouri.

WEDDING BELLS

On Saturday, October 18, 1958, at a nuptial Mass in St. Theresa's Church in West Roxbury, Patricia Tracey of the Personnel Office staff was married to Thomas Reardon. Her gown was a lovely combination of white silk taffetta and lace and she wore a finger-tip length veil. Her flowers were white orchids with stephanotis.

The attendants wore identical ballerina-length gowns and hats - the maid of honor in peach with green asters; the bridesmaids in emerald green with rust-colored asters. One of the bridesmaids was Louise Ulrich of the Central Book Stock - School Issue Section.

A reception followed the marriage at the Beaconsfield Hotel in Brookline. Mr. and Mrs. Reardon are now on a wedding trip to Florida and upon their return will be living in their new home in West Roxbury.

BRANCH NOTES

WEST END

Mary Shea is her name; she stands five foot two in her high heels, has a bright smile and a cute turned up nose that could only be attached to a true daughter of Hibernia.

Miss Shea is the new Children's assistant at West End, transferred from the Bookmobiles. She hasn't commented as yet on the sedentary life at West End, but we would be willing to bet that she does more moving about in the Children's room in one hour than she did in a week at the mobile library. It's all part of the routine.

We note without comment that our last two children's assistants were married within eight months of their transfer to this branch.

Three young firemen visited West End. It was time for the annual inspection of the building; they looked the house over, gave the library a clean bill of health, and as they were about to leave, one of them turned and said, "Please arrange to have Miss Farrell and Miss Shea come to the firehouses so that we can have a nice story hour, too."

AND STILL THEY COME

"The John Rylands Library,
Deansgate,
Manchester, 3.
8th July 1958.

Miss Fanny Goldstein,
est End Branch Librarian Emeritus,
oston Public Library,
4, James Street,
ookline, 40, Massachusetts

ear Miss Goldstein,

"We are sorry to learn of your retirement from a post which you have adorned or so long. I should like to add my own ongratulations to the very many which you ave received from your wide circle of riends.

"I am very pleased to know that your ork has been so appreciated and with ery good reason. I am glad to think hat the collection of Judaica which you ourself have formed has found a suitable esting place in the library in which you ave so faithfully laboured for so many ears. I am so glad to think that you ave found time in the course of your erm of office to visit this country and n particular this Library. I remember ith particular pleasure your visit along ith two fellow librarians to our Library. am glad to think that you had an opportunity of seeing it and seeing some of the reasures it holds.

"We hope that you will have a happy eriod of retirement although I am quite sure it will not be one of inactivity. t is impossible to imagine you sitting around doing nothing.

"With kindest regards and good wishes from the members of our staff,"

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Edward Robertson

Librarian

Firenze,24.VII.1958

Gentile Signora,

mentre mi congratu-lo con Lei per il meritato riconoscimento del Suo instancabile lavoro La prego di gradire i miei auguri cordiali e sinceri per la Sua "nuova vita" nella quale Ella, ne sono certa, con la Sua inimitabile cortesia aumen tera ancora il numerosissimo gruppo dei Suoi amici."

LA DIRETTRICE

Gentile Signora Fanny Goldstein
Curator of Judaica
14 James Street
Brookline 46, Massachusetts

NEWS FROM SOUTH BOSTON

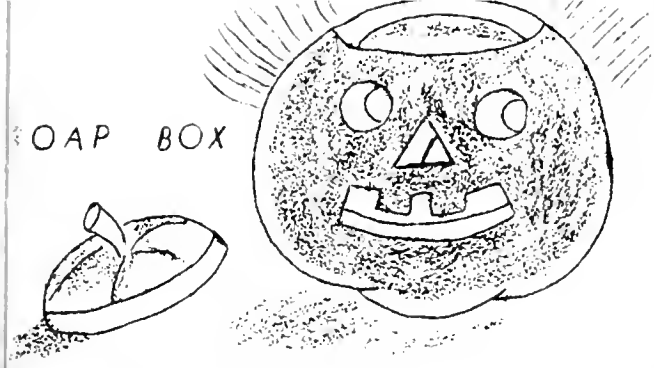
The staff of South Boston held an informal get-together with Eleanor O'Leary in the All-Purpose room of the Branch (after working hours) on Friday evening, October 24. Refreshments were served, recordings were played on the Hi Fi, news of what has been happening was bandied back and forth, and a good time was had by all. Miss O'Leary, who had resigned from the library service last June, looked wonderfully rested and relaxed. She was presented with a gift of a large box of imported bulbs to plant in her garden in the fond hope that the extended coverage of the gift would keep the staff in her memory for many months to come. Miss O'Leary was also highly delighted with her lovely corsage of yellow roses and orchids, the special token of love from the extras of the staff. Miss O'Leary in turn presented the Branch with a beautiful silver platter to be used upon festive occasions. She will always be remembered with affection and respect by both staff and public of South Boston Branch Library.

FIRE DRILL

Although the Fire Alarm System gongs did not function properly during the Fire Drill held on October 6th the members of the staff and the public did remarkably well in evacuating the building. There were 365 people in the building at the time of the sounding of the alarm and in three minutes and six seconds the library was cleared.

Assistant Chief John F. Howard of the Boston Fire Department commented that the drill was well carried out and he made particular mention of the efficient manner in which the Monitors performed their duties.

John W. Tuley



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 of the Soap Box:

The human race never ceases to amaze this writer. How can some of our co-workers who are noted for their lack of production the year round produce such a fruitful "average day" for the survey?

Veritas.

*

To the Editor:

In regard to the letters which appeared in September's QM slashing out at the survey in progress and the results of the preliminary just published, may I interject these thoughts.

We have been bemoaning the lack of disinterested inquiry, the lack of voice in a change, the lack of change itself. Have we, in fact, become such chronic complainers that we cannot wait to see the over-all results of this attempted inquiry before we start to wear the pout and snarl?

It would seem more reasonable to hold our fire, to cooperate despite temporary inconvenience, (trying to shake off the habit of sweeping the dirt under the carpet) and hope that although a cure-all is unlikely, we may yet see within this cumbersome system some tangible adjustments for our benefit.

If, after the final recommendations have been made, we see no improvement, then, and only then, our cry of "waste" will be valid.

DIOGENES

*

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The latest series of staff meetings seemed to have produced an attitude of sullen resistance.

The favorite current pastime seems to be quoting passages out of context from the "secret" report of the late Reconnaissance Survey. It would be better if the report could be seen in its entirety.

As a point of departure, we are apparently moving in new directions, for the former terminology of "pertinent" experience now becomes "apposite" experience other things being equal. How we love words!

We are told that there will be "multiple opportunities", but it is not stated for whom these multiple opportunities will exist or in what categories. These words have little meaning in view of the recent return to the practice of filling vacancies and creating new positions without prior announcement or competition.

It is stated that "a report to the staff will be made from time to time", but must it always be a "fait accompli"?

A Division of Personnel has been established "to permit increased top-level attention to personnel policies and practices and the maintenance of morale." Comment: the present low state of employee morale will certainly be maintained by such procedures.

It is further stated that "the current policies and practices in recruiting, classification, review of performance, and promotion policies and practices were analyzed. Comment: the analysis seems to have been very superficial since two problems were apparently eliminated only to create further and additional

problems of more staggering proportions. The solution does not stand up under the acid test of a "detailed and penetrating study in depth."

DEPTH CHARGE

*

Dear Editor:

It is interesting to see that the new Personnel Director is a male. We hope that he is also a man.

One definite improvement would be to see a more androcentric library personnel rather than the highly gynecentric one that has been inflicted upon us for the past quarter century.

HOPEFUL

Ed. Note: So far it appears that "Hopeful" has nothing to worry about. Our new Assistant Director in charge of Personnel has made a very favorable first impression. Maybe one day we will see a male branch librarian!!

A.L.A. CONFERENCE 1958

The following comments of staff members are printed because some have suggested that the Question Mark include something about the A.L.A. Conference held in San Francisco, July 13-19, 1958:

GENERAL COMMENT: "Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of attendance at any conference is the realization of an esprit de corps. Certainly if size of conference can provide it, the large registration of over 4,000 should have helped at this one. This feeling of participation in a common cause comes not only as a result of formal meetings but at odd moments when one gathers information of one sort or another connected with the subject of books and libraries. If one frequents drug store counters and hash joints for a light breakfast or lunch, he sometimes gets reactions from library users that never show up in a panel discussion. This happened to me one morning over toast and coffee. A man on the next stool handed his paperback to the counter girl with the remark that she might keep it, that he got more variety in books at his branch library!"

GENERAL SESSION: "After attending four General Sessions, several shorter meetings, three library tours of the important libraries in the San Francisco area, an adult-young adult luncheon meeting with speeches, a library school dinner with a main speaker, and several solid hours of viewing the exhibits (all within five days), my lasting impression of the Conference is that it was a bit too concentrated and crowded in time. One of the things which made the Conference seem so crowded was that for several months before it took place many interesting articles appeared in different library journals on the quaint bookshops and literary places one should visit while in San Francisco, but with the meetings so close together this was not humanly possible, giving one a feeling of frustration.

"The four General Sessions all had important speakers who touched on the general conference theme from different angles. The theme was 'International Responsibilities of the A.L.A.' The first speaker, Luther H. Evans, spoke on UNESCO and its aims; the speaker at the second session, Dr. O. Meredith Wilson, spoke as an educator; at the third session, Mr. Quincy Howe gave the commentator's point of view; and the last session had as its speaker Emerson Greenaway, incoming president of the A.L.A., who spoke as a librarian. They were all most interesting, but I believe that three General Sessions should be the maximum at one Conference."

EXHIBITS: "The exhibits were beautifully displayed and were well worth all the time spent browsing among them. They not only showed the new books, but also gave one ideas on poster and pamphlet material which could be used to good advantage. Also, the place was so large that they not only displayed printed material, but also three large bookmobiles, several booths of the most modern business machines, and library furniture. There were over 250 exhibitors in all. Besides these commercial exhibits, most of the libraries and universities in the area had special exhibits of rare books and art."

SPECIAL SESSIONS:

Committee on Accreditation. "The proposed standards for 1958 are to serve as self-evaluation material for library schools. For undergraduate library degrees there must be from 12 to 18 semester hours in library science without cutting general field courses. Another meeting in the field of personnel was the one on Librarianship as a Career, under the chairmanship of Eunice H. Speer of the State Normal University Library, Normal, Illinois. The subject was library recruitment as evaluated by commercial guidance standards. Dr. Robert J. Darling of the California Test Bureau, had as his main theme that librarianship must be considered as a relationship of one person to other persons. Professionalism, he said, tends to develop distance between advisor and youth. The recruiting officer should describe his vacancies in relation to persons and things rather than appear as an official handing out information. In some way the public must be made aware of librarians as much as it is aware of firemen and policemen as individuals."

Audio-Visual Committee. "The Audio-Visual Committee and the Adult Services Division jointly sponsored a film program which was based on Julien Bryan's new film on Russia. In addition to Mr. Bryan's new film there was an ante-revolution film on Russian life which Mr. Bryan had had given him in exchange for some photographic materials. This picture belied some of the Soviet Union's propaganda about the Russian Empire. A panel of high school students from the appropriate city of Sebastopol, California, discussed the film and later a panel of librarians discussed its use in the community. Their suggesion was to get someone from the World Affairs Council or some other organization to co-sponsor such a film program."

Visits to other libraries. "I visited the main buildings of the Denver, Oakland, and Richmond Public Libraries. We were conducted through the Denver Public Library with such thoroughness that we were afraid of missing the train. It is a beautiful, modern building of four floors. It provides space for the regional Bibliographic Center. The Reader Interest arrangement is being given up except for one small section because of difficulty in locating the books. Their personnel classification includes (1) Professional, (2) Pre-Professional, and (3) clerical. The status of clerks is the same as those in other municipal and county positions. They do office work and desk work. Part-time personnel are called pages for runners' work and clerks if used in typing jobs. Pages get books in stacks on roller skates. The work of the Personnel Office seems very simple compared with that of the Boston Public Library--time records are kept by department heads, who are responsible for sending information once a month to Personnel. The staff of the Personnel Office consists of the head and a secretary. But the staff of the whole library is only about 270, including part-time equivalence.

"Oakland also has three personnel grades: (1) Professional, (2) Sub-Professional and (3) clerks. The part-time clerical workers are called clerks. The time records are kept in the auditing department after being checked by the Personnel Office.

"We were entertained at a coffee hour at Oakland before being shown the building. A silver service and lovely china cups, together with the homemade cookies and sandwiches, made this a delightful affair. This building is also a modern one, built in 1951, with a great deal of glass going from top to bottom.

"The Richmond Public Library is a pleasant new building situated in the Civic Center and with its four branches serves a community of 72,000. Everything in the building is movable except the pillars that support the roof. In other words, the shelving arrangements may be changed at any time to suit new needs. Films may be borrowed by individuals as well as groups, though only groups may borrow the machines. The children's room was particularly attractive and offered many activities.

"To sum up some of my impressions of these public libraries, I would say that they were all cheerful, light, and comfortable to use, partly due to their modern architecture. They all offered public typewriter facilities at 10 cents

per 30 minutes - a very good service, I should say. A directory of the building located near the information desk seemed a good idea also, one which the Boston Public Library might copy."

TOURS: "The tours were most interesting, giving one a well-rounded view of all types of library service in the San Francisco area - Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Richmond, Oakland, Berkeley, and the Merced Development in the city itself; but distances are so great there that it took three solid afternoons from 1:30 to around 6 p.m. to cover them all. Most of the public libraries had the same system as ours, but one fact which stood out was that in many of them they still use the hand-charging system. The Main Library, which I visited briefly, has been characterized in one article as being of the Grand Central Bahnhoff School of library architecture. It is truly that and a monstrosity, but the branches of the system are some of the most functional and attractive in the United States. One interesting side-light on the Main Library is that many of the enlightened public who are trying to improve the usefulness of the Main Library went about the city during the week asking the delegates if they had any ideas on the subject. It will be interesting to observe in the future whether this bears fruit."

FINAL COMMENT: "However, with all its drawbacks, the Conference was a success because San Francisco is one of the most stimulating cities in the world and an ideal place to hold a convention. Having attended several National Conventions, I believe they are valuable not only because they take one out of their provincial rut (an experience which makes one appreciate their own surroundings more), but also because they are a means of becoming acquainted with librarians from other parts of the country and even the world, truly a worthwhile and valuable experience."

***

SORT: "Another special session worthy of note was that of the Staff Organization Round Table which met on Friday afternoon, July 18th, at 4:30 p.m. William H. Jesse of the University of Tennessee Libraries gave a realistic appraisal of the limitations of democratic administration. While advocating staff participation in administration as a general principle, he indicated that there were certain actions such as policy planning and evaluation of personnel for assignment purposes in which staff participation proved harmful rather than helpful. Miss Frankie Castelletto, Los Angeles Public Library, urged the use of "Madison Avenue" techniques in library recruiting."

S.L.A.

The Boston Chapter of the Special Libraries Association will hold a meeting devoted to the subject of "Recruitment" on Monday, November 24, 1958.

As a feature of this ambitious program, three freshmen students from each of four local colleges, plus the vocational counsellors from these colleges, will be taken to lunch at the M.I.T. Faculty Club. There they will be addressed by Kenneth R. Shaffer, Director of the School of Library Science, Simmons College.

Afterward they will divide into groups to be taken to various special libraries in the area.

In the evening the students will be taken to dinner at the B.U. Faculty Club, where they will be addressed by Mrs. Margaret Fuller, the President of the Special Libraries Association. Mrs. Fuller, who is librarian of the American Iron and Steel Institute, has for many years been interested in recruiting talented young people to the field of libraianship, and she has written articles about careers in special libraries.

The evening dinner and meeting will be open to all members and friends of the Boston Chapter.

Editor's Note:

The A.L.A. notes printed above were culled from the reports written by Kathleen Bernadette Hagerty, General Reference; Madelene D. Holt, Washington Village; and Pearl Smart, Personnel.

JOIN THE ROUND TABLE OF LIBRARIANS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

1958-1959 Programs

N.E.L.A. Conference, Swampscott, Mass.
October 16, 1958

Dr. Harold C. Martin, Director of General Education, Harvard Univ.
"What the High School Student Should Read"

Massachusetts Library Association Mid-Winter Meeting February 1959
Program based on "West Meets East" theme adopted by A.L.A.

Spring Meeting - May 1959
Miss Betty Cavanna, author of The Boy Next Door
"Writing for Teen Age Girls"

Members will receive a resume of the program of each meeting beginning with the program of the N.E.L.A. Conference, and copies of our selected lists of adult books for young people as they are issued.

Members in good standing are allowed the necessary time to attend meetings without loss of pay.

1958-1959 Dues Now Payable

50 cents

may be sent to

Rose Moorachian
South Boston Branch

BARGAIN!

Join the American Library Association now and enjoy membership privileges through December 1959. The names of those who join before December 1 will appear in both the 1958 and the 1959 ALA Membership Directory.

Membership blanks may be secured from Mildred C. O'Connor, A.L.A. Membership Committee, General Reference Department.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Probably no young lady who will celebrate her eighth birthday on November 15 has more friends in the Boston Public Library than Margaret Ann Kelley, daughter of Bill and Frances (McGonagle) Kelley of Brighton. All these friends wish HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Margaret Ann and best wishes for a specially happy day for her and her friends at the Massachusetts Hospital School in Canton.

*

ENGAGEMENTS

The engagement has been announced of Janet E. Ustach, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, to Bobbie R. Swoitzer of Maryland and currently of the U.S. Navy.

*

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Annette S. Cutler, Book Stack Service, to Barry L. Scott, of Chelsea.

*

SICK LIST

We are pleased to hear that Mrs. Helen Harrington, of Book Preparation, is home from the hospital following an operation, and is recuperating at her home, 81 Richfield Street, Dorchester.

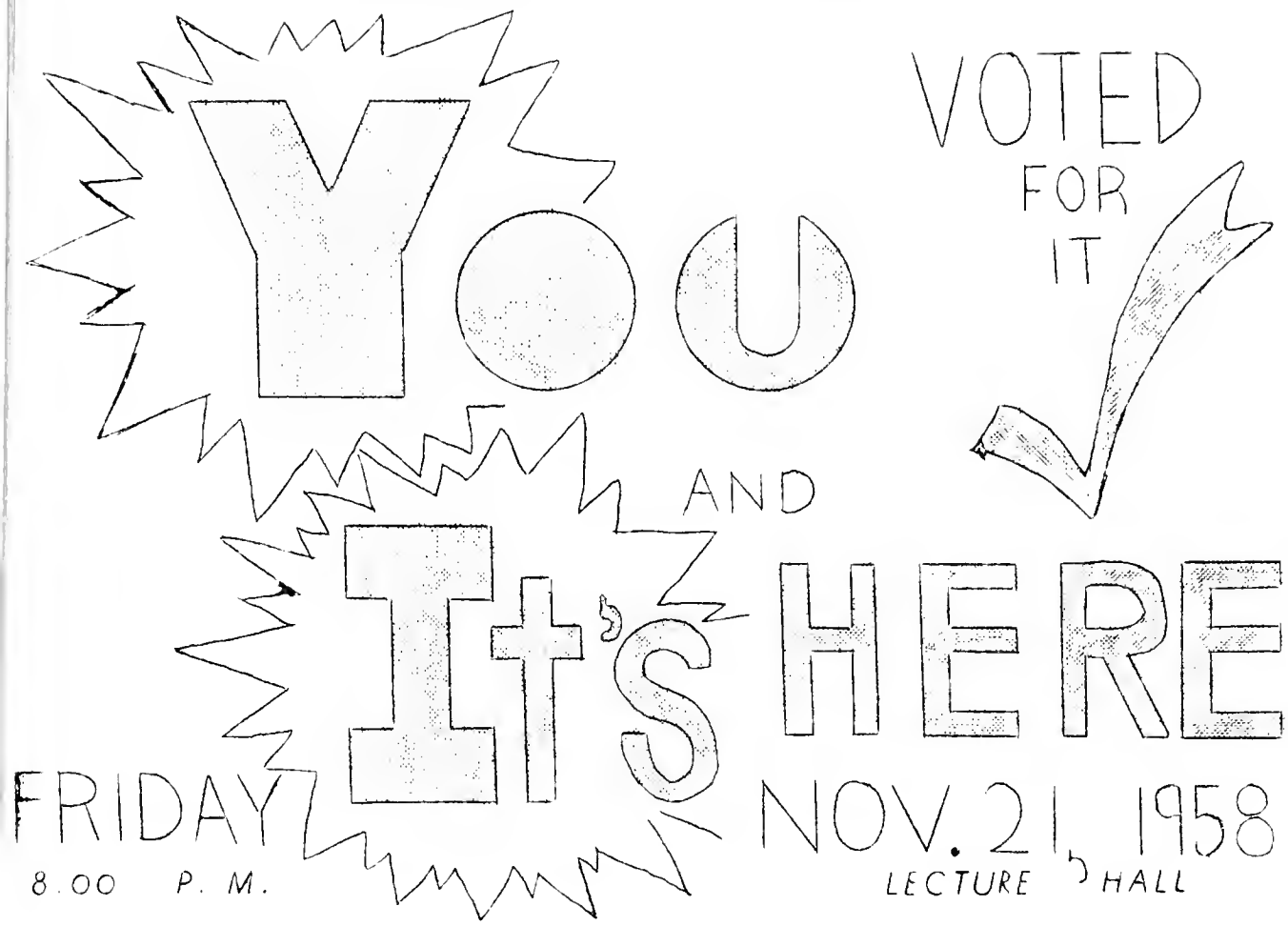
*

DON'T

FORGET

CARE

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION



NEW SOCIOLOGICAL TRENDS IN BOSTON

SPEAKERS:

FRANK C. SWEETSER, Associate Professor of Sociology, Boston University

JOHN B. DAVIS, JR., Executive Secretary, New England School Development Council

REACTORS:

DONALD T. CLARK, Librarian, Baker Library, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University

MIRIAM PUTNAM, Librarian, Memorial Hall Library, Andover, Massachusetts

(REFRESHMENTS SERVED)

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 11 November 1958

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Esther Josephine Leonard, Macy Joseph Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J. Obear, B. Joseph O'Neil, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

All change is not progress. But how much progress can there be without change? Basic changes in an institution such as ours do not come about easily. The hierarchal structure of the administration, the oligarchic nature of the Board of Trustees and the status of the Library as a municipal department supported by taxes make significant changes in the organization of the Library difficult. Yet, upon the recommendations of management consultants two new divisions have been created.

The growing recognition of the need for increased emphasis and attention to personnel and public relations has not been restricted to the Library or to libraries, but is a part of a pattern that has been developing in business administration for a half century. But the final accomplishments envisioned in the creation of these two new divisions are dependent on something much more difficult to develop and maintain--personnel morale.

For personnel morale is not some nebulous feeling of well-being, but is more accurately defined as the measurement of the staff's willingness to do the tasks assigned to it. And this willingness is brought about by the staff's awareness that the administration is providing an adequate program for the development and promotion of the individual, just salary and wage schedules, and fair administration. Good will may take years to establish but can easily be lost overnight. It is not enough that the administration be fair; the staff must also be convinced that it has been treated fairly. So that good public relations begin at home.

Public relations in its usual sense, the presentation of the Library in a favorable light to the community at large, is necessary since we must go beyond the actual users of the Library to gain the wide support needed to provide an adequate program for the maintenance and development of such an institution. In a sense the Library is competing with other city departments for its share of appropriations. And many of the other departments have an initial public relations advantage. No one is legally required to use a library as they are to attend a school. And the cessation of library service would not have the immediate and drastic effect as the abolition of police and fire protection. So that the story of the value and services of a great public library system needs telling. But the basis of good public relations is the service provided by the individual staff member. And the quality of this service will depend largely on the level of personnel morale.

So that the success of the programs undertaken by these two new divisions ultimately will rest upon the good will and cooperation of the individual staff member--you!!!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ovember 21. BPLSA fall professional meeting, 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall at Central Library. SEE PAGE 4 AND BACK COVER.

ecember 5. BPLSA fall business meeting, 9:00 a.m. in the Lecture Hall at Central Library.

PERSONAL NOTES

ew Employees

ames J. Ford, Teachers
oan M. O'Leary, Central Book Stock--School Issue Section
atricia M. Maxwell, Central Charging Records
rs Abigail W. Field, Rare Book
rs Claire V. Doubrovsky, Statistical

esignations

rs Margaret T. Cameron, Memorial, to remain at home
rs Rosemary D. Colarusso, Central Book Stock--School Issue Section, to remain at home
obert Stone, Book Purchasing
rs Mary C. Mannion, Central Charging Records, to remain at home
harlotte Hartwig, Washington Village, to accept another position, that of music supervisor in the Quincy school system.

etirements

lizabeth G. Barry, Statistical, on September 30, 1958
oraine A. Sullivan, Science & Technology, on October 31, 1958
rs Grace C. McGovern, Faneuil, on October 31, 1958

arriages

hyllis M. Ferrant, Codman Square, to Joseph A. Carr, October 18
atricia M. Tracey, Personnel Office, to Thomas P. Reardon, October 18

NEW ARRIVAL

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tramontozzi of righton announce the birth of a daughter, aura Marie, on October 30 at St. Elizaeth's Hospital. Mrs. Tramontozzi is the ormer Linda Pagliuca who was employed at orth End.

CARR--FERRANT

On Saturday, October 18, 1958, Phyllis Ferrant of Codman Square became the bride of Joseph Carr. The ceremony took place in the Holy Rosary Church in Winthrop, and a reception followed at the Elk's hall, also in Winthrop. The day was a beautiful one, and the bride lovely in her ballerina length gown of white lace over taffeta and her finger-tip veil with lace cap. She carried a prayer book with white flowers. Her bridesmaids wore blue taffeta gowns with blue velvet bows and veiling as head-dresses. The maid of honor wore a similar gown of blue velvet, and all carried roses.

After a wedding trip to Bermuda, Mr. and Mrs. Carr are planning to live in Winthrop.

MRS GRACE McGOVERN RETIRES

On Saturday afternoon, October 25, the Staff of Faneuil met at the Colonial Country Club to honor Mrs. Grace McGovern who was retiring after nearly twenty-five years of service in the district.

Despite the inclement weather, it was a gay and "do you remember?" time. Florence B. Darling who retired six years ago was present as was Joseph P. Farrell who retired two years ago. Mrs. McGovern was welcomed by these busy and happy people into their fraternity.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious luncheon and gay banter. As a token of affection, Mrs. McGovern was presented with a necklace and matching earrings.

We shall miss our Gracie but know that she will pause often in her busy rounds to drop in and catch up on library news.

E. LINDQUIST

At Thanksgiving time—

Remember

CARE

IN MEMORIAM

EDITH GUERRIER

On Friday, November fifteenth, as quietly as she had passed the last few years of her life, Edith Guerrier started on her last great adventure. Her approach to every challenge which had presented itself to her in her long and very active career was that of an adventurer embarking upon a new and exciting experience. She would have her passing thought of in no lesser way.

She was born in New Bedford in 1870, the daughter of George and Emma Ricketson, and granddaughter of Daniel Ricketson, the well-known Quaker and New Bedford historian. She was educated in private schools in New England. Her early years included winters on Cape Cod and a period on the Kansas prairies before she finally came to settle in Boston and Brighton.

One of the outstanding achievements which marked her success as a Branch Librarian in the North End was the introduction of storytelling "with the dual purpose of developing in the children a taste for good literature and of encouraging them to complete a story which they had begun." The first club group, because of its meeting time, became known as the SEGs (Saturday Evening Girls), a group which—after more than a half century—still meets periodically. In a endeavor to find ways by which many of the girls in the clubs might earn money enough to further their education, the Paul Revere Pottery was started, with the aid of Mrs James Jackson Storrow, and carried on first in the North End and then in Brighton. This developed later into the Paul Revere School of Ceramics of which Miss Guerrier was at one time president.

During the war years of 1917, 1918, and 1919, on leave of absence from the Boston Public Library, Miss Guerrier was in Washington serving as Director of Library Information Services, Director of Exhibits in the United States Food Administration, and Director of the National Library Service in the Department of the Interior, under the leadership of Herbert Hoover. In recognition of this service her name is among those inscribed on the walls of the Hoover Memorial Library at Stanford University. One of the exciting adventures in her life was joining many of the Food Administration staff in reserved seats to witness the inauguration of "The Chief" as President of the United States. The war years' experiences were related in a book she titled WE PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE, A librarian's intimate story of the United States Food Administration, which was published in 1941 under authority of the Hoover Library of War, Revolution, and Peace.

When she returned to the Library, she served first as Supervisor of Circulation and then as Supervisor of Branch Libraries, until her retirement in 1940. As she went about her work as Supervisor, she was often characterized as a "human dynamo" and that is undoubtedly a most accurate description—as far as it goes. But, to it should be added the qualities which made her a great leader—contagious enthusiasm, honesty of purpose, fairness of judgment, belief in team work, devoted loyalty, promptness of action, foresight in planning, understanding and warmth in personnel relationships, unswerving adherence to the highest professional standards, a mellow and ready sense of humor, respect for authority, and a deep faith in God. Those who worked under this leadership were fortunate indeed and asked for no greater reward for their efforts than to receive an "O.K. E.G."

Her creative years in the Boston Public Library found her busy working toward the fulfillment of such dreams as an open shelf room where hitherto inaccessible books might be made available to the public on open shelves; the assembling of government documents in one room and their promotion as reference tools; the carrying of books to the people by means of bookmobiles, which service was given an initial trial under her direction in the form of a banana cart filled with books and preceded on its route by a bell ringer announcing its approach; the improving and enlarging of the branch library system; and the introduction of periodic meetings for the exchange of ideas amongst branch librarians.

In order to keep in touch with the branch librarian who had retired before and after her retirement, Miss Guerrier was hostess each year for ten years at an Alumnae Tea in her home, an event looked forward to with great pleasure and back upon with satisfying warmth by all who participated, including her special caterers, The 8-8.

One facet of her love for books was her nterest in collecting miniature volumes. n 1954 Miss Guerrier presented her collec-ion to the Library in honor of its Cen-ennial Observance. Her name had earlier een perpetuated forever in the institution o which she gave devoted service when, at he time of her retirement in 1940, her ssociates presented to the Library THE DITH GUERRIER FUND, the income "to be sed for the purchase of books of sound iterary and ethical value for adults, to e placed in the branch libraries of the oston Public Library System."

For some years Miss Guerrier edited a ibrary column in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ONITOR. She was active in the American nd Massachusetts Library Associations, erving as president of the latter from 934-36.

Many memories are being recalled by riends in these days immediately following er passing, and will continue to be ecalled from time to time as long as there emain those who had the privilege of nowing Edith Guerrier, and this will but mphasize anew that

"To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die."

SARAH M. USHER

WILLIAM ALEXANDER SWAN

William Alexander Swan, a retired employee n the Binding Department died November 12, 958. A large delegation from the Boston ublic Library attended the funeral ser-ices in the Boylston Congregational hurch on November 15. His wife Mrs Helen llen Swan and two daughters, Mrs Louise S. rown of Elgin, Illinois, and Mrs Barbara . Anderson of Warwick, R.I., survive.

Bill Swan, or "Duckey" as he was more amiliarly known, worked in the Library rom August 6, 1917 to August 3, 1954 when e was retired. He was a very capable orker and considered an accomplished inisher. In addition, he was held in the ighest esteem by his fellow workers who dmired his very kindly smile, his hearty augh, his unaffected manner, and his very ooperative spirit. The consensus of opin-on, in brief, seems to be "if you had your hoice of a fellow worker, you couldn't ossibly pick a better all-round fellow han William Alexander (Duckey) Swan."

NEW SOCIOLOGICAL TRENDS IN BOSTON

Who is an "ex-exurbanite"? And what does he mean to you? What are the dis-proportionate population segments of Boston? And what difference do they make to you? A discussion of these questions and other new trends that are taking form in Boston will be held at the Boston Public Library Staff meeting on Friday, November 21 at 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Frank C. Sweetser, Associate Professor of Sociology, Boston University and John B. Davis, Jr., Executive Secretary, New England School Development Council will speak on New Sociological Trends in Boston.

To help you as a staff member of the Boston Public Library understand the implications of new trends in relation to your work, now and in the near future, two guest librarians will point up pos-sible directions. Donald T. Clark, Li-brarian, Baker Library of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Har-vard University, will relate the new trends to reference and research ser-vices, and Miriam Putnam, Librarian, Memorial Hall Library, Andover, will relate the new trends to the general services of a public library.

You and other staff members of the Boston Public Library will be invited to express your reactions and make your suggestions in relation with the Divi-sion of Home Reading and Community Ser-vices and the Division of Reference and Research. The recorders will include: Mildred Adelson for work with children, William C. Slemmer for work with young adults, Pauline A. Walker for work with adults, Mildred C. O'Connor for work in reference and research, and Louis Rains for work in reference and research.

A brochure with maps and charts, spe-cially prepared for this meeting by Morton Ruben, Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University, will be distri-buted to all attending the meeting.

CCMS SALUTES LAS

On Saturday, November 1, the Chowder, Chatter, and Marching Society met in the Club Room (China Star) in Merrymount to pay tribute to Loraine A. Sullivan, long-time member of the Society and incidentally Chief of Science and Technology. After much loose talk about reference problems and the like, our congenital master of ceremonies and spiritual leader, Louis Rains, delivered the invocation and the Oriental Orgy was on! Aided and abetted by dim lighting and numbed taste buds, the Chinese food was almost nice.

Directly we had offered up our last Celestial belch, the heir apparent to Sully's throne and chief PETTY officer (already drunk with anticipated power) expressed the sentiments of all present when he observed that this was the largest (61 strong) and most successful party we had ever had--a wonderful tribute to Miss Sullivan's popularity! He then presented to Miss Sullivan a transistor radio, apparently the one thing she lacked. After her warm expressions of gratitude to all who had made her evening so pleasant, Science & Tech's own patent experts, Ed Munro and Maurice Carbonneau, burst into an old song "Daisy, Daisy" with new words "Sully, Sully". Eventually everyone joined in despite the musical counterforce provided by Maestro Koury and his mentor, Don Louis Ugalde.

Hardly had the din subsided when Frank Moran rose to pay tribute to Loraine Sullivan and incidentally to express overdue appreciation to Louis Rains for all his duties as Chief Chowderhead. Others rose in protest, saying that the Society had made him what he is and that nowhere else would he have had so many opportunities to do so much work. However, since the nickels and dimes had already rolled in and the phonograph records bought, the presentation was made and for the first time in his life he couldn't think of anything brash to say. Another old song "Wunderbar" with new lyrics ("Louis Rains, Louis Rains, what a gorgeous hunk of man!") was rendered this time by Maurice and his lovely bride Gay. They volunteered in anticipation of a rise in the tax rate in Weymouth.

The evening was replete with all kinds of special songs for Miss Sullivan: "Summertime", gorgeously sung by Aletha Munro; "Serenade" from the Student Prince and "Danny Boy" by Ed Munro, who is not especially gorgeous. Miss Sullivan even got to dance with several of the Arthur Murray types in the Society.

Long after our guest of honor had said her goodbyes, we acceded to the kind invitation of Maurice and Gay and repaired to the Carbonneau homestead (Rains Realty) for Dunkin Donuts and coffee, most of us making it home about 2:30.

MEN'S LIBRARIANS CLUB

The Men's Librarians Club met at Weston College on Thursday, November 13. Following pre-prandial libations, more than generously dispensed by the hospitable Brothers Finn and McLean, and the usual welcome get-together of old and new friends in the profession, the group sat down to dinner. The piece de resistance was prime roast beef with all the fixings, with thirds and fourths available to accomplished trenchermen and gourmandisers.

Phil McNiff spoke briefly of Harold Wooster and reminded the group about the Memorial Fund. It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at Malden Public Library. Then Father Brendon Connolly welcomed the group and introduced the Rector, Fr. John V. O'Connor.

Father explained about the Jesuit course of studies and the scientific facilities at Weston, particularly the seismograph. His hospitality was of such extent that he even promised an earthquake for the benefit of the group. Later a small group took the "busman's tour" through the library and a larger group explored the seismograph setup.

All in all a good time was had by clergy, librarians, bookmen and others.

LORAINE SULLIVAN RETIRES

On October 31, 1958, Loraine Augusta ullivan, Chief of Science and Technology, etired from the Library service. Loraine, r "Sully," as she was affectionately nown to her staff and many friends, is ne of those people who seem fated to be a ibrarian. She started as a part-time and ubstitute librarian while a freshman in ogers High School in Newport, Rhode sland, at the People's Library in that own. Later, after graduating from Pratt nstitute, School of Library Service, in rooklyn, New York (her birthplace), she orked at the National Industrial Conference Board and the Boston Elevated Library. he came to the Boston Public Library in 922. Here, after serving as Assistant, xecutive Assistant, she was appointed hief of Science and Technology Department n 1940.

Miss Sullivan has a keen interest in rofessional library matters and takes a ery active part in Special Libraries Asociation. In this association she has erved on practically every committee, eld the office of President (1936) and eaded a special WPA project, sponsored by he association, as technical director, uring the depression.

Boston Public Library's Science and echnology Department, one of the best in he country, is a monument to the breadth f scientific vision of Miss Sullivan. he has helped fill in its gaps, made vailable its historical riches through her cience history file, and arranged it for fficient public service through its class atalogue. The large budget that this epartment enjoys is the fruit of much ffort on her part to show the importance f this work in our Sputnik age.

However, we all feel that important as s her work with books, it is outranked by er encouragement of the young men and omen in the library profession. Every new mployee soon fell under the spell of her arm friendly manner and was impressed by he span of her knowledge which included ot only science and technology but fine rts, music (she is an accomplished pianst), and rare books. These newcomers ere trained along professional lines and ncouraged to advance in the profession. hrough her wide acquaintance she was able o introduce them to leaders in the field ho aided their progress.

To Miss Sullivan we extend our warmest and heartiest wishes for a happy future which not only gives her more time to spend in her garden, and enjoy the company of "Kitty" but will enable her to complete her projects and to help others advance by her wise and friendly counsel.

IN RETROSPECT

As the summer ended, the Teachers Department staff found it had accumulated the following remarks and queries from the public:

A woman asked if the lions beside the main staircase used to be outside at the front door once.

A man wanted to know where Room 200 was. He thought this was City Hall.

A woman complained that for two years she hasn't found a book in the Library. Every time she wants one, it is missing.

A girl asked if there is any department where she could study where there wasn't any typing being done.

When told the Elliott Room contains the Adams Books, a patron asked, "Sherman Adams?"

Others wanted to know:

"Are there any soft chairs in the Library?"

"Who is the Curator of Insects at Harvard?"

"How do you repair a roller coaster?"

"Have you any nail polish to stop a stocking run?"

"How do you say 'Good Morning' in Japanese?"

ANOTHER NEW ARRIVAL

Mr and Mrs Philip Frazier are the proud parents of a daughter, Maryann, born, at St. Margaret's Hospital, Dorchester, in September. Mrs Frazier is the former Mary Brady of the Reference Division Office and of Cataloging and Classification, R and RS. Mary and Phil moved this fall from Springfield, Massachusetts, to Nashua, New Hampshire, with son Joseph and the new baby.

TO LOVE A BOOK

Something there is that loves a printed book,
Some open-mindedness that seeks, to find
An earth or sea or sky upon the page,
And finding, turns to read again a book
That leads one forth to realms yet undreamed.
The mind, awake to life within a book,
Attends its service, joyously and free,
And runs to share the message it has found:--
To love a book. What is it to love a book?
It is to know a book is not a book.
A book is a rare gem, a delicate bloom.
A turbulent sea, quiet stream, or dawn,
A sunset, a far journey, or a friend.
A book is bread and wine of the mind;
Each reader is high priest; each, sacrifice.
For the open eye and the open mind,
There stands the open shelf and open book.
I visit the temple of books with praise,
Give thanks at the altar of knowledge and life.
Let readers come, not because they must,
By compulsion, read, to make a grade;
But because they may, read, by willing choice,
Hence lose themselves to beauty or to truth.
Books are free to all, and so readers come--
The universal human family--
To the fountainhead of type and print,
The Book of Life that gives the soul its skies.

RUTH E. WINN
Open Shelf

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Boulton, Agnes
Part of a long story.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Coakley, Mary L.
Mister Music Maker, Lawrence Welk.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Colum, Mary M.
Our friend James Joyce.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Galbraith, John K.
The affluent society.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1958.
Gallico, Paul
The steadfast man.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Gogarty, Oliver St. J.
A week end in the middle of the week.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Kerr, Jean C.
Please don't eat the daisies.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957.
Leopold, Nathan F.
Life plus 99 years.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
MacLeish, Archibald
J. B.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1958.
Singer, Kurt D.
My strangest case.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Smithdas, Robert J.
Life at my fingertips.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.

Fiction

Baum, Vicki
Theme for ballet.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Chatterton, Ruth
The Southern wild.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Coles, Manning, pseud.
No entry.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Dever, Joseph
Three priests.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Franken, Rose
The antic years.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Hubbard, Thomas L. W.
A baton for the conductor.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1958.
Moore, Donald
Scramble six hurricanes.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Park, Ruth
The frost and the fire.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1958.
Roark, Garland
The lady and the deep blue sea.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.
Russcol, Herbert
Kilometer 95.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1958.

ston, Anya
The Winthrop woman.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1958.
tein, Aaron M.
Sitting up dead.
Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1958.

BRANCH NOTES

righton

The coming together of Children's Book eek and Boston Public School Art Week this ear brought double exhibits and activities ntil this rather abbreviated Children's oom was fairly bursting at the seams! On uesday morning, November 4, the Pre-School tory Hour Mothers' Group heard, at its egular bi-monthly meeting, a talk by irginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for ildren. The program was made all the ore fascinating by the fact that only a uarter of an hour before her whirlwind rrival at the Branch, Miss Haviland had een heard by the assembled mothers over e air on WNAC's YANKEE HOME AND FOOD HOW.

On Thursday evening, November 6, one undred and fifty junior high school girls athered to hear Betty Cavanna tell of her xperiences as the author of many of their avorite books. One of the most prolific riters in the field (as Elizabeth Headley e is equally popular), Betty Cavanna has great gift for meeting girls at their wn level, and our large and enthusiastic udience that evening fell quickly under e spell of her charm and easy wit. At e end of the program, the girls were nited in feeling that the only thing acking to make the evening completely erfect was the presence of Betty Cavanna's wn fifteen-year-old son!

WELCOME

The Library is indeed fortunate having as the newest member of the Board of Trustees, the Right Reverend Edward Murray.

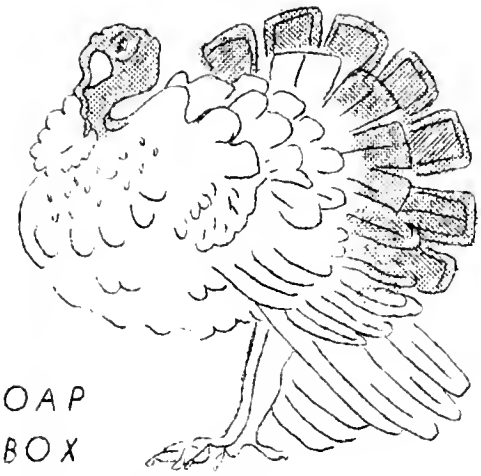
For in addition to eniment qualifications in educational background and in administrative experience Monsignor Murray has long been one of us. He was a member of the staff from May 21, 1915 to October 1, 1921 when he worked in the Catalogue Department and on the Sunday and Evening Service. For many years the Monsignor was a member of the Examining Committee. As a member of the Sub Committee on Personnel, Monsignor Murray has had the opportunity to look closely at the problems of the staff.

So we welcome you, Monsignor Murray, not as a stranger, but as an old friend, and wish for you many pleasant and productive years in the Board of Trustees.

REFERENCE DIVISION SAYS SO LONG!!

A small group of those who did not attend the luncheon given by the distaff members on the top floor or the party given by the CCMS, through the courtesy of Mr. Hensley met in his office on the afternoon of October 31 to say "SO LONG" to Loraine Sullivan. Mr. Hensley made a short speech of appreciation of Loraine and told how he had invited her to attend the Reference Staff Officers meeting as Emeritus. He also presented her with the traditional autographed volume and a treatise on science fiction.(Miss Sullivan is a devotee of the kind of literature so-well-termed "the drawing board of tomorrow.")

Miss Sullivan replied with a few well-chosen words and said that her sentiments were best described by Mr. Heintzelman who very aptly phrased her retirement as "Quitting while still Champion."



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.

Dear Editor:

How can the Boston Public Library hope to keep any promising young career workers when they see desirable positions in our library filled by outsiders without prior notice to the staff that the positions or vacancies exist? Even if the choices had already been made, why could not at least the formality of announcing the positions and vacancies be gone through?

It may not have been intended as such, but this treatment of ignoring interested members of the staff or presuming the staff has no qualified persons has been interpreted by some as insulting.

Desert Flower

To the Editor:

We are told that we must use the established channels of communication, that we must submit requests, recommendations, complaints, etc. by way of the "chain of command." But isn't it equally important that the "channels" down are used. When individuals or offices in the chain of command are by-passed on the way down, there is a tendency for channels on the way up to be similarly by-passed, and the results in both cases may well be confusion, lack of respect for authority, resentment and working at cross purposes.

In the Middle of a
Muddle

Dear Soap Box:

Where there used to be 3 division heads, now there are 5. But will there be an increase in the number of NP 2's or NP 3's? The budget couldn't stand it. Does this make sense? Where is the money coming from to pay the salaries of the two new division heads? Out of the hides of the NP 1's?

Nothing Personal

Dear Soap Box Editor:

How many of the staff really want a staff organization? Enough to work for it? Enough to make a little sacrifice for it?

Or is the Staff Association to be a whipping boy? Complain when the Staff Association has not done this or that, but when the time has come to do some work for the Association, plead work load or personal business.

It often has been said that the people receive the government they deserve in a democracy, but does not the staff have the Staff association it deserves, or more truly, much better than it deserves?

Maybe it would be better if there were no Staff Association. If there were civil service for all the employees? If there were union representation for most of the Staff?

Public Servant

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

General Administrative Notice #58, III B. Development of Personnel Procedures 2. states, "It is recommended that there be re-established in the Library a program of service ratings for employees leading to the development of adequate work-performance records."

Service ratings may be a fine thing for the pre-professional service, but we definitely object to these being applied to the professional service.

The rating sheets of ten years ago wrought havoc with the employees. The amount of favoritism was "out of this world." Everyone was most unhappy and resentment was wide spread. Some wounds were caused that have never been healed. Service ratings have been vastly overrated.

Since appointments to titular positions, we have been told, carries a rating sheet, it would seem that this takes care of the professional staff quite adequately. One way to further the decline of staff morale is to re-establish these rating sheets. "Oh, Ye of Short Memory."

OVERRATED

To the Editor:

The new book by Kathleen B. Stebbins entitled "Personnel Administration in Libraries" recently published by the Scarecrow Press, Inc., makes rather interesting reading. The Appendix II entitled "Personnel Practices, Classification Plans and Salaries" makes interesting reading. All in all, the Boston Public Library compares very, very favorably with other libraries.

However, the old timers on the staff, especially those belonging to the Quarter Century Club, might be interested to notice the vacation allowance of the Newark Public Library on page 258. In addition to the regular vacation of 1/12 of year for each full year of vacation "after 40 years of service employees are allowed one month with pay in addition to regular vacation."

This is not written as a gripe of our present personnel practice, which on the whole is very generous, but something our veteran members of the staff should notice.

OLD TIMER

VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTES

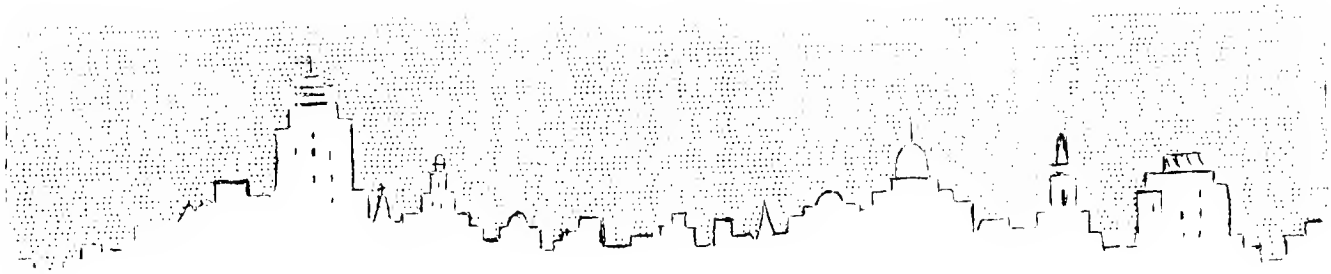
We are sorry to report that our President, Mrs Sarah W. Flannery, is ill. She will be at the Veterans Administration Hospital, South Huntington Avenue, and those who wish to send cards may address her there. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to have her back with us very soon.

The Executive Board has requested the Personnel Committee to make a thorough study of the new classification of Non-Professionals. This action had long been contemplated, but until the arrival of the recent announcements of the various positions there was little of a constructive nature that could be done. For suggestions on your participation in this study please read the forthcoming notice from the Staff Association.

In addition to the items listed in the agenda of the fall business meeting which, by the way, has been postponed to December 5, we suggest that you be thinking about the promised raise for all city employees. Other organizations of city workers have taken action to make their feelings known to the Mayor and City Council. Make your recommendations in person at the business meeting, tell your staff representative, or communicate directly with any member of the Executive Board.

Don't forget, nomination for office from the floor can be accepted only if the individual nominated is present and signifies his willingness to accept. Please attend this important meeting!

LOUIS RAINS
Vice President



The Boston Public Library Staff Association

Cordially invites members and friends
to a discussion of

New Sociological Trends in Boston

migrating populations
extending education
"ex-exurbanites"

SPEAKERS:

FRANK C. SHEETSER, Associate Professor of Sociology, Boston University

JOHN B. DAVIS, JR., Executive Secretary, New England School Development Council

COMMENTATORS:

DONALD T. CLARK, Librarian, Baker Library, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University
MIRIAM PUTNAM, Librarian, Memorial Hall Library, Andover, Massachusetts

RECORDERS:

Work with Children, by MILDRED ADELSON

Work with Young Adults, by WILLIAM C. SLEMMER

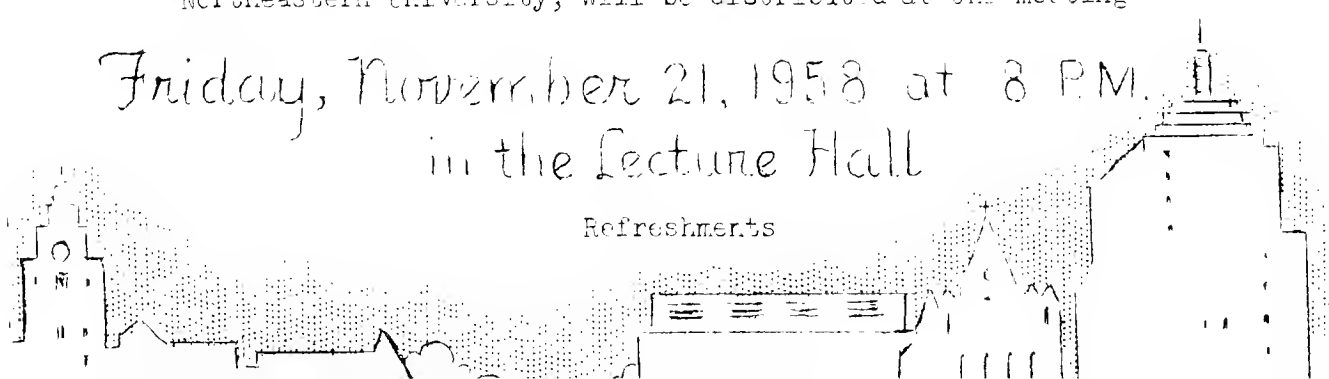
Work with Adults, by PAULINE A. WALKER

Work in Reference and Research, by MILDRED C. O'CONNOR
LOUIS RAINS

A Brochure, specially prepared by MORTON RUBIN, Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University, will be distributed at the meeting

Friday, November 21, 1958 at 8 P.M.
in the Lecture Hall

Refreshments



THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1958

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIII Number 12 December 1958

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Esther Josephine Leonard, Macy Joseph Margolis, Pauline E. Murphy, Elizabeth J. Obear, B. Joseph O'Neil, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication Date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

All of us were appalled at the very disastrous fire in Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago on December 1, 1958. In this conflagration ninety children and three nuns lost their lives. Various reasons for this disaster were given such as, accumulation of trash, inadequate facilities to evacuate, open stairways allowing hot smoke and poisonous gases to mushroom through the corridors, and faulty alarm system. The cry "The blight of fire trap schools" causes us to take pause and check on our library situation.

Here, all in all, our Boston Public Library situation shapes up well. Few of us realize the steps which the administration has taken to protect the staff members and the library property. There are 118 fire extinguishers, 3 sprinkler systems, 14 standpipe stations, a water curtain and a heat detecting system in the building. The building is serviced by a combination Watchman Recording and Fire Alarm System. This system provides Central Station Watchman supervision and fire alarm service by the A.D.T. The system consists of thirty (30) individually coded "live" combination fire alarm and watchman recording boxes strategically located throughout the Central Library building. (There are 3 night watchmen.) There is also a Boston Fire Department - Fire Alarm Box #12 - 1561 located in the main building near the telephone switchboard. The A.D.T. fire alarm system is tested once a week. The following emergency equipment is located in the Fire Control Center: emergency tools, rubber coats, rubber boots, sprinkler heads, all service gas mask; also a tape recording register connected to the A.D.T. fire alarm system.

We should for our own good and the good of the library be fire preventation conscious. No fire door should be allowed to be obstructed. All the existing safeguards will be futile if these doors are blocked. We should smoke only in the assigned areas and even there be extra careful of matches and butts. Lastly, we should be conscious of the accumulation of trash and take steps to have it removed at once. Incidentally, the fire control people are especially effective in having this removed. Remember, it was trash that caused the fire in Chicago.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE EXTENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The holiday season is again upon us and I wish to all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I wish to thank the Staff Representatives for attending so well the November business meeting and am only sorry that I was unable to be there to greet you all.

The Personnel Committee has been working on the problem of the Non-Professionals and has already had one meeting with Mr. Gaines on the subject. A full report can be expected at the January meeting. In the meantime reports from Staff Representatives are coming in from various branches and departments in a very satisfactory manner, and the Personnel Committee is calling on department heads and branch librarians in an attempt to find out how closely the assignment of NP 1, 2 and 3 positions agrees with their individual recommendations. The problem is a complex one, and in any major classification change such as this there are bound to be some individuals who feel unhappy. We hope, however, to be able to clarify the situation to the general satisfaction so that there will be a minimum of unhappiness.

Time spent on committee meetings sometimes seems a burden in these days of staff shortages and busy schedules. We are aware of this and hope to be able to keep them within bounds so that Association business may be carried on without placing too much strain not only on committee members but also on those who must fill in while others are at meetings. We thank everyone for their cooperation.

Sincerely,
Sarah W. Flannery

WE WELCOME BACK

Mrs. Helen Harrington, Book Preparation, after her recent illness.

Dear Friends:

Each issue of the Question Mark brings happy memories to me and I feel that even though many of its members are not as vocal or active as they might be, it does fill an important function, as a clearing house for more questions and fewer answers.

As a retiree I can look back to the days of Mr. Frank Chase, and Mazie Prim and their valiant efforts to keep a staff group in action, and then a long interim occurred when there was no staff association, and really does not every member feel pride in all that has been done by the officers and members of the present one. If everyone was completely satisfied with city, state, or nation, it would be a strange world and only through the continuous efforts of those who object, disagree, and seek compromises does any group progress.

Boston is changing, and the library along with other city departments gradually becomes different from the nineteenth century institution. Let us recognize the importance of our Question Mark, and help the editorial board in its arduous duties of assembling our news, printing our letters and show ourselves as well as our neighboring librarians, that the Boston Public Library has a forward looking staff of workers.

Marion C. Kingman

COMMENCING!

Fanny Goldstein who announced the "commencement" of a new life when she said "au revoir" to the Old B.P.L. and especially the historic West End is now "commencing."

It is a significant new interpretation of her old role as Founder of Jewish Book Week in America more than a quarter of a century ago that Fanny Goldstein, with the advent of Jewish Book Month this year, should blossom out as the Literary Editor of the Jewish Advocate.

The Jewish Advocate is one of the most distinguished weeklies published in America with a wide circulation throughout New England.

She will conduct a column devoted to the discussion and evaluating of Jewish books. The Advocate is to be congratulated upon her addition to their staff and its readers are destined to reap much benefit from this veteran recognized as an authority in the field of Judaica here and abroad.

PERSONAL NOTES

New Employees

Helene Chefitz, Personnel Office
Robert F. Hennessey, Book Purchasing
Rupert C. Gilroy, Kirstein Business
Ernestine Brown, Charlestown
Mrs. Sally Manuel, Bookmobiles
Elizabeth L. Morgan, Washington Village
Mrs Elinor M. Najita, Egleston Square
Alexander T. Soter, Kirstein Business
Norman Licht, Open Shelf

Transferred

Christine J. Umano, from Open Shelf to Bookmobiles
Diane G. Farrell, from West End to Codman Square
Mildred Presente, from Bookmobiles to West End
Richard J. Waters, from Jamaica Plain to Central Book Stock - Branch Issue

Resignations

Annette S. Cutler, Book Stack Service, to be married
Mrs. Sona S. Jelalian, Kirstein, to remain at home
M. Phyllis Campbell, Egleston Square, to accept a teaching position
Sidney Weinberg, Science & Technology to accept a position with the M.T.A.
Mrs Lenore C. Marvit, Parker Hill, to remain at home

Married

Lillian E. Lagamasino, Orient Heights, to Dennis H. Gallagher, November 8, 1958

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Allen, Steve
The girls on the 10th floor. New York, Holt, 1958

Bates, Herbert E.
The darling buds of May. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958

Condon, Richard
The oldest confession. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1958

Cronin, Archibald
The Northern light. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958

De La Roche, Mazo
Centenary at Jalna. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958

Dryer, Bernard V.
The image makers. New York, Harper, 1958

Fleming, Ian
Doctor No. New York, Macmillan, 1958

Forde, Claude M.
Mrs. O'. New York, Rinehart, 1958

Garrett, James
And save them for pallbearers. New York, Messner, 1958

Grau, Shirley A.
The hard blue sky. New York, Knopf, 1958

Household, Geoffrey
The brides of Solomon. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958

Hull, Helen R.
Wind rose. New York, Coward-McCann, 1958

Kober, Arthur
Oooh, what you said! New York, Rinehart, 1958

Lancaster, Bruce
Night march. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958

Lincoln, Victoria
A dangerous innocence. New York, Rinehart, 1958

Mathews, D. L.
The reach of fear. New York, Rinehart 1958

Maxfield, Henry
Legacy of a spy. New York, Harper 1958

McLaverty, Michael
The choice. New York, Macmillan, 1958

Moll, Elick
Seidman and Son. New York, Putnam, 1958

O'Brien, Kate
As music and splendour. New York, Harper, 1958
O'Malley, Mary D.
The Portuguese escape. New York Macmillan, 1958
Pattinson, James
Last in convoy. New York, McDowell, Obolensky, 1958
Renault, Mary
The king must die. New York, Pantheon, 1958
Silone, Ignazio
The secret of Luca. New York, Harper 1958
Weidman, Jerome
The enemy camp. New York, Random House 1958
White, Theodore H.
The mountain road. New York, W. Sloane Associates, 1958

Non-Fiction

American Library Annual, 1957-58. New York, Bowker, 1958
Amoury, Daisy
Father Cyclone. New York, Messner,1958
Armitage, Merle
George Gershwin. New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearoe, 1958
Armour, Richard W.
Nights with Armour. New York, McGraw-Hill, 1958
Bentley, Nicolas
How can you bear to be so humar? New York, Dutton, 1958
Boyington, Gregory
Baa, baa, black sheep. New York, Putnam, 1958
Brooks, Gladys
Grammercy Park. New York, Dutton,1958
Durrell, Lawrence
Bitter lemons, New York, Dutton, 1957
Gassner, John
Best American Plays. New York, Crown Publishers, 1958
Golden, Harry L.
Only in America. Cleveland, World Pub. Co., 1958
Good Housekeeping party book. New York, Harper, 1958
Gunther, John
Inside Russia today. New York, Harper, 1958
Hadley, Leila
Give me the world. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1958
Hale,
Hale, Nancy
A New England girlhood. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958
Heyerdahl, Thor
Aku-Aku. Chicago, Rand McNally, 1958
Keats, John
The insolent chariots. Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1958
Knies, Donald
Walk the wide world. New York, Dodd, Mead, 1958
Lechie, Robert
Lord, what a family! New York, Random House, 1958
Lindemann, Hannes
Alone at sea. New York, Random House, 1958
Look
The decline of the American male. New York, Random House, 1958
Mace, David R.
Success in marriage. New York, Abingdon Press, 1958
Marx, Arthur
Not as a crocodile. New York, Harper, 1958
Mowat, Farley
The grey seas under. Boston, Little, Brown, 1958
Nelson, Klondy
Daughter of the Gold Rush. New York, Random House, 1958
Pinza, Ezio
Ezio Pinza. New York, Rinehart, 1958
Price, Willard
Roaming Britain. New York, J. Day Co., 1958
Robertson, Terence
Channel dash. New York, Dutton, 1958
Roosevelt, Eleanor
On my own. New York, Harper, 1958
The Wall Street journal
Care for a merger? New York, Dutton, 1958

DON'T

FORGET

CARE

TAKE A BOW

QUOTES

"Mr. Zoltan Haraszti, Keeper of Rare Books at the Boston Public Library, deserves special mention with his staff for their courtesy in facilitating my research in the valuable Paul Sabatier collection, where I found almost fifty important items in the great Protestant scholar's unpublished marginal notes." --Raphael Brown in the introduction to his new version of The Little Flowers of St. Francis (Image Books).

"My own imperfect and inconclusive discussions of the subject (early American typefounding) have been superseded by the researches and acute interpretations made by Mr. John Alden of the Boston Public Library, embodied in a series of articles culminating in his "Scotch Type in Eighteenth-Century America," published in Studies in Bibliography ... In this article, the correctness of Isaiah Thomas's assertion ...that the Boston Chronicle type had been imported from an Edinburgh foundry is demonstrated so tellingly as to leave little room for dissent."--Lawrence C. Wroth in the revised edition of his Abel Buell of Connecticut (Wesleyan University Press).

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs Charles M. Kane, of Worcester, have announced the arrival of Joseph Michael, on November 22. Mrs. Kane(nee Catherine M. Doherty) formerly worked in the Office of Records, Files, Statistics and made her stage debut in the musical revue "Free to All" as one of the sailor gals. Young Joseph is a great nephew of James Barry, formerly of Buildings Department.

* * *

A daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hewes on November 2. Mrs. Hewes is the former Marie McCarthy, Branch Catalog and Book Purchasing. The new arrival, Helene, is the grand-daughter of Florence McCarthy

WEST END BRANCH IS A BUSY SPOT THESE DAYS

With a mixture of tears and laughter, the West End Branch staff gathered at one of the better known French restaurants (accent grave) on Beacon Hill. Alas, we are now getting so used to those "transfers are breaking up that old gang of mine" blues that there are almost no tears left.

But as with all things, we too are getting used to the idea of "musical" branches. (Remember the game musical chairs? When a transfer comes through, we just grin and wait for the next move.

Coming back to the happy part of the transfer- the party was a roaring success. Once the menu was translated from French into the commonplace things like Beef Stew, everybody settled down to another session of exchanging memories, gossip, and trade tips.

The guest of honor, Diane Farrell, was launched in grand style with a beautiful blue jersey blouse and a cute little blue fuzzy wuzzy wooly hat.

As usual, all the women were beautiful and all the (2) men handsome.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 10.	Catholic Library Association. Hostess: Mrs. Irene Tuttle Speakers: Miss M. Jane Manthorne. "Teen-Age Fiction Fact or Fairytale" Rev. Ambrose J. Mahoney, S.J. "The National Merit Scholarship" Hon. Elias Shamon. "The Political Situation in Leban on in Historical Perspective"
Place:	South Boston Branch Library
January 26.	January SLA MEETING
Place:	The Boston Globe
Date:	Monday, January 26, 1959
Time:	3:30-5:00 P.M. - Tours 6:00 P.M. - Dinner (At Globe Cafeteria) 7:30 Meeting
Host:	Eugene Elliott, Librarian
Speaker:	Willard DeLue, Globe Historian

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:

Alas, we have come to the end of an era! The "two days earned for each month of the year" vacation setup is no more. Woe unto our already low morale!

Of course, this can be corrected at some future date, just as the "two weeks retirement vacation" fiasco has been corrected--that is, if the proper situation presents itself.

Just Wondering

Dear Editor:

Doesn't anyone have a good word to say in the Soap Box?

If it is a complaint department or gripe department why don't we change its name?

Why no favorable comments on many good things?

The staff has long been agitating in favor of classification by position instead of one by person, so that an individual would be paid for what he does (position) instead of what he knows (examinations passed). That is what is happening in the NP situation. There has been a recognition of skills and responsibilities, and many promotions. Undoubtedly many who felt they deserved promotions did not get them. However, many did. Why not a favorable comment?

It has been a long step in the right direction. May there be many more steps like it.

LAUD

THE STAFF IN PRINT

The recent biography of the first Bishop of Boston, Jean Lefebre de Cheverus by Dr. Annabelle M. Melville (Bruce 1958) mentions many of our fellow librarians as having helped the author in bringing out this most important work. Among those mentioned is Mary Alice Rea (Book Purchasing Department) who is a personal friend of the Author. Miss Rea assisted her in her research.

Mary Reed Newland in Saints and Our Children (Kenedy 1958) thanks Anna M. Manning (Teachers' Room) for her help.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Staff Association

Merry Christmas

"I was hungry
and you gave me to eat,
I was thirsty
and you gave me to drink,
I was a stranger
and you welcomed me,
I was naked
and you clothed me
. . .
I say to you, as you did it to
one of the least of these my
brethren, you did it to me."

CARE

December 15, 1958

Special Committee - CARE
Chairman-Walter Bluhm
Minna Steinberg
Marie T. Hastie

Come one –
Come all
to the

Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 23, 1958
from 3-5 o'clock in the Women's Lounge

COMMITTEE FOR CHRISTMAS TEA

Grace B. Loughlin, Chairman

G. Florence Connolly
Pauline E. Murphy
Shirley A. Gildea
Edna G. Peck
Eleanor F. Halligan
Louis M. Ugalde
Corrine Henderson
Ruth E. Winn

December 9, 1958

I N D E X

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KEY:

XIII:L:L:L	Volume 13, Number 1, Page 1, Column 1
ALA	American Library Association
BCBW	Boston Catholic Book Week
BPL	Boston Public Library
BPLSA	Boston Public Library Staff Association
Bri.	Brighton Branch Library
CCMS	Chowder, Chatter and Marching Society
CLA	Catholic Library Association
EB	East Boston Branch Library
GAN	General Administrative Notice
MLA	Massachusetts Library Association
MLC	Men's Library Club
NE	New England
NLW	National Library Week
NP	Non-Professional Library Assistant
QM	THE QUESTION MARK
R and RS	Division of Reference and Research Services
RTLYA	Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults
SLA	Special Libraries Association
SB	South Boston Branch Library
SORT	Staff Organizations Round Table
WE	West End Branch Library